

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 15 CONTEXT: Reading, Writing, and Performing *Places in the Heart: The Settings of Our Lives*

Home may be, as Robert Frost said, a place where you can't be turned away. Whether home is on the range or in the city, most people agree there's no place like it. Usually home means more than just a dwelling. It means the school or the temple or the park that played a major role in your childhood. It may mean the smell of jasmine or the sound of city traffic. Home may be where we long to go to or where we long to escape from. In any case, home is central to the human experience. As a result, it has been a major topic for writers of all types, and will no doubt continue to be so.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about how writers have approached the topic of home and how you might approach it in your own writing. Below are ten vocabulary words that will be used in these exercises.

- | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| apathy | induction | jaunt | pungent | repast |
| cascade | inverse | nauseate | ravenous | tantalizing |

EXERCISE 1 *Mapping*

Directions. In the item below, a vocabulary word is provided and used in a sentence. Take a guess at the word's meaning and write it in the box labeled **Your Guess**. Then look the word up in your dictionary and write the definition in the box labeled **Definition**. In the **Other Forms** box, write as many other forms of the word, such as adjective and noun forms, as you can think of or find in your dictionary.

Then, following the same procedure, draw your own map for each of the nine remaining vocabulary words. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

apathy

→

Whether their memories are fond or bitter, home is not a topic that is likely to produce **apathy** in most writers. They tend to be quite emotional about it.

↓

Your Guess:

↓

Other Forms:

←

Definition:

HPW material copyrighted under notice appearing earlier in this work.

EXERCISE 2 *Context Clues* 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the vocabulary word on the line preceding the definition.

COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____

n. a short pleasant trip; excursion; *v.* to make a short trip

_____ 12. word: _____

n. lack of emotion or feeling; indifference; lack of interest, concern, or spirit

_____ 13. word: _____

adj. tempting; tormenting or teasing by keeping something in sight but out of reach

_____ 14. word: _____

adj. inverted; reversed; opposite; *n.* the opposite

_____ 15. word: _____

n. a meal; food eaten at a meal

_____ 16. word: _____

n. a small, steep waterfall; something that falls in a manner similar to that of a waterfall; *v.* to fall or drop with a rushing movement

_____ 17. word: _____

adj. extremely hungry; predatory; greedy

_____ 18. word: _____

adj. sharply affecting the sense of taste or smell; sharp; keen; biting

_____ 19. word: _____

n. an act of enrolling or bringing someone into a group, or of formally placing in office; the process of arriving at a generalization from facts or examples

_____ 20. word: _____

v. to make sick or queasy; to cause a feeling of disgust or loathing

COLUMN B

- (A) When writing about home, writers aren't limited to one setting. They may also discuss family **jaunts** to the homes of other relatives.
- (B) Few writers love all the places in their childhood equally. Some they may actively dislike; others may not produce any strong feelings at all, only **apathy**.
- (C) Writers who describe the smells and tastes of a place help readers to experience the place. Who can imagine the South without the sweet smell of honeysuckle, or the Southwest without the **pungent** odor of cooked chili peppers?
- (D) Readers usually enjoy using their own powers of **induction** to arrive at conclusions about a place. They can do this if the writer provides enough facts and details.
- (E) Writers often use the language of their regions when writing about home. A writer from the deep South may refer to the **repast** eaten around noon as dinner, while a writer from another region may call it lunch.
- (F) Humorous exaggeration sometimes plays a role in tales of home and family. The story of a younger brother who innocently ate the last of the macaroni and cheese can become the tale of a **ravenous** beast.
- (G) An author who writes negatively about his hometown may receive a **cascade** of letters from the people who live there—so many letters that he may not be able to answer them all.
- (H) Some writers say that it is easier to write about places that they love. Other writers claim that the **inverse** situation is true, that they find it easier to write about places that they hate.
- (I) Writers who enjoyed holidays with family and friends often write about the **tantalizing** smells that came from the kitchen before a holiday feast.
- (J) Some authors say that, when writing about home, they relive events. Recalling an illness may **nauseate** them, and remembering a childhood nightmare may frighten them once again.

EXERCISE 3**Sentence Completion** 

Directions. In each of the following items, circle the letter of the choice that best completes the meaning of the sentence or sentences.

21. Readers often enjoy an author's memory of the _____ smells of a holiday _____.
- (A) tantalizing . . . repast
(B) ravenous . . . repast
(C) pungent . . . cascade
(D) pungent . . . induction
(E) nauseated . . . inverse
22. Odors can trigger writers' memories. For example, the _____ smell of a harsh furniture polish can remind one of house-cleaning.
- (A) tantalizing
(B) ravenous
(C) pungent
(D) nauseated
(E) inverse
23. If a writer makes a place famous, people may travel to see it. For instance, they may _____ over to the writer's hometown to find the small _____ in the stream the writer mentions in her novel.
- (A) nauseate . . . cascade
(B) jaunt . . . inverse
(C) tantalize . . . inverse
(D) cascade . . . induction
(E) jaunt . . . cascade
24. People who live in New York City wonder how anyone can write about it with _____. It's a city that usually produces strong emotions.
- (A) nausea
(B) apathy
(C) induction
(D) inverse
(E) cascade
25. Some writers report that they felt _____, or sick, when they left home. However, the _____ is also true. Some writers say they enjoyed new adventures.
- (A) nauseated . . . inverse
(B) tantalizing . . . inverse
(C) apathy . . . jaunt
(D) pungent . . . cascade
(E) inverse . . . induction
26. Like the rest of us, writers leave home for many reasons. Some get married. Some go to college. At one time, some male writers received _____ notices and entered the armed forces.
- (A) ravenous
(B) repast
(C) inverse
(D) induction
(E) tantalizing
27. Some writers report that during the first lonely year away from home they became _____ for home cooking.
- (A) ravenous
(B) nauseated
(C) tantalizing
(D) pungent
(E) inverse
28. For some writers, home is a cure for _____. Strong emotions _____ over them as they approach their old home.
- (A) induction . . . tantalizing
(B) apathy . . . cascade
(C) jaunts . . . tantalize
(D) induction . . . jaunt
(E) inverse . . . nauseate
29. A single memory of home can cause _____ of memories. The memory of one family _____ can trigger memory after memory of family gatherings around the dining table.
- (A) a jaunt . . . induction
(B) a cascade . . . repast
(C) a repast . . . jaunt
(D) an inverse . . . inverse
(E) an induction . . . cascade
30. Is it true that we can't go home again, or is the _____ true? Perhaps we never really leave.
- (A) apathy
(B) jaunt
(C) repast
(D) induction
(E) inverse

