Name	Date	Class



Lesson 16

CONTEXT: Reading, Writing, and Performing

Places on the Page: Setting in "The Scarlet Ibis"

A great many high school students have read the short story "The Scarlet Ibis" by James Hurst (b. 1922). This story is very popular with young people for many reasons. One of them is its interesting setting. The story takes place in the early 1900s on a farm near a swamp. The author does a wonderful job of giving readers a keen sense of both time and place.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about Hurst's use of setting. Below are ten vocabulary words that will be used in these exercises.

animated benign buoyant congruent incandescent incessant

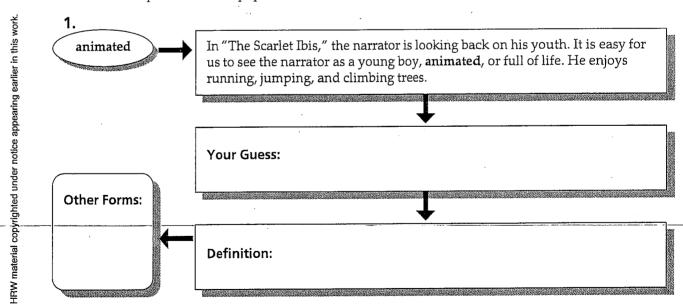
invigorating murky opaque oppressive

EXERCISE 1 M

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.



Context Clues An **EXERCISE 2**

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:
adj. able to float; able to bounce back after a
reverse or setback; cheerful
12. word:
adj. glowing with intense heat; very bright;
shining; brilliant; describing a light bulb
that produces light with a filament in a
vacuum
13. word:
adj. not harmful; gentle; good-natured
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
14. word:
adj. dark; gloomy; misty; hard to
understand
15. word:
adj. unceasing; never stopping
16. word:
adj. giving vigor to; enlivening; filling with
energy
47
17. word:
adj. not letting light through; not
transparent; hard to understand
18. word:
adj. tyrannical; hard to take; mentally or
physically distressing
19. word:
adj. filled with life; lively; seeming alive; lifelike
20. word:
adi in agreement harmonique:

COLUMN B

- (A) The picture of Old Woman Swamp as a magical, life-giving place may not be congruent with some people's idea of a swamp, but the details the author includes will change their minds.
- (B) The boys find Old Woman Swamp a kindly place—both benign and beautiful.
- (C) Sometimes the weather the narrator describes seems oppressive, like a weight bearing down on the characters.
- (D) Both boys are incessant storytellers, but Doodle has the best imagination, and Old Woman Swamp seems to feed his endless supply of tales.
- (E) At the swamp, the boys make necklaces and crowns from wildflowers, and at the end of the day they drop them into the stream. Because the flowers are buoyant, they float away toward the sea.
- (F) The swamp is a sheltering place that makes a kind of tent for the boys, but the roof is not entirely opaque. Sunlight filters through the pine trees.
- (G) One day, the narrator takes Doodle out of the sunlight and into the **murky** darkness of the barn. There they see the little coffin in which everyone had thought Doodle would eventually lie.
- (H) The lightning bolt that strikes the gum tree near the story's climax is an incandescent streak in the dark before the storm. The narrator compares it to a Roman candle.
- (I) At first, the narrator finds his brother's physical fitness program invigorating. Eventually, however, it proves to be exhausting for both of them, especially for Doodle.
- (J) The scene in which Doodle shows the family that he can walk is an animated one. The family exchanges hugs and kisses, and the narrator and Aunt Nicey do a lively dance.

corresponding

EXERCISE 3

Sentence Completion

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

- **21.** When the heat becomes _____, the boys escape to the light, cool air of the swamp.
 - (A) animated
 - (B) oppressive
 - (C) murky
 - (D) opaque
 - (E) buoyant
- **22.** The weather in 1918 is _____ enemy. The father is unable to save his crops in the face of such unending bad luck.
 - (A) an incessant
 - (B) an incandescent
 - (C) an invigorating
 - (D) a murky
 - (E) an opaque
- 23. The behavior of the father in the story is _____ with the behavior of his son. Even when his crops are destroyed, he shows the same _____ spirit that Doodle has, a determination to bounce back.
 - (A) benign . . . invigorating
 - (B) incessant . . . oppressive
 - (C) animated . . . incandescent
 - (D) murky...opaque
 - (E) congruent . . . buoyant
- **24.** At the story's climax, the clouds draw curtain across the sun, and the boys begin to make their way home in the darkness.
 - (A) an invigorating ... buoyant
 - (B) a buoyant . . . incandescent
 - (C) an oppressive ... invigorating
 - (D) an opaque . . . murky
 - (E) an animated . . . congruent
- **25.** Doodle is a gentle, sweet character. He is a _____ being who would do harm to no one.

- (A) benign
- (B) incandescent
- (C) opaque
- (D) invigorating
- (E) congruent

- **26.** It is possible that the narrator's family doesn't yet have electricity; therefore, they wouldn't have _____ light bulbs.
 - (A) invigorating
 - (B) benign
 - (C) incandescent
 - (D) oppressive
 - (E) animated
- 27. Birds seem to sing constantly in Old Woman Swamp, filling the days with their _____ songs. No wonder the boys felt ____ and hopeful.
 - (A) animated . . . opaque
 - (B) invigorating . . . oppressive
 - (C) incessant . . . buoyant
 - (D) benign ... murky
 - (E) congruent . . . incessant
- **28.** Part of the story is set during the dog days of summer—the hot, _____ days in July and August. Few people find this kind of weather _____; most find that it drains them of energy.
 - (A) oppressive ... invigorating
 - (B) invigorating . . . oppressive
 - (C) incandescent . . . opaque
 - (D) murky . . . incessant
 - (E) congruent . . . animated
- **29.** During the hot weather, many people do not have much energy. Even those who are usually _____ may become lazy.
 - (A) incandescent
 - (B) congruent
 - (C) opaque
 - (D) animated
 - (E) benign ---
- **30.** By the end of the story, the reader realizes that the weight of guilt the narrator carries is _____. It is probably always there, an _____ reminder of his brother.
 - (A) animated ... invigorating
 - (B) oppressive . . . incessant
 - (C) benign . . . incandescent
 - (D) opaque...invigorating
 - (E) murky...opaque

Weekly Writing Assignment