

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 2 CONTEXT: Literary Traditions and Beyond *More About Legendary Heroes*

All cultures have stories about heroes. Many cultures tell these stories in epics, while many other cultures tell the stories of their heroes through myths and legends. The heroes of epics and the heroes of myths and legends have many traits in common. Unlike many epic heroes, however, the heroes of myth are often semi-divine. Still, they share many of the weaknesses of their mortal counterparts. These human weaknesses often cause the hero difficulty—and teach those who listen to the legend about their own humanity.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading further about the heroes of epics and legends. Below are ten vocabulary words that will be used in these exercises.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------|--------------|---------|
| belligerent | eradicate | havoc | inflammation | meander |
| dexterity | fervent | hideous | manifest | recede |

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.

belligerent

→

Unlike the more **belligerent** heroes, Yudhistira, the hero of the Indian epic *Mahabharata*, is reluctant to fight.

↓

Your Guess:

↓

Other Forms:

←

Definition:

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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: _____

v. to pull up or tear up; to eliminate or destroy completely

_____ 12. word: _____

v. to follow a twisting, turning course; to wander without direction

_____ 13. word: _____

n. destruction; devastation

_____ 14. word: _____

n. skillfulness; expertness; talent

_____ 15. word: _____

adj. easy to see; obvious; *v.* to show; to reveal

_____ 16. word: _____

v. to move back; to move away; to lessen or fade

_____ 17. word: _____

adj. having or showing great emotion; passionate; fierce; strongly devoted

_____ 18. word: _____

n. redness, heat, and painfulness as a result of injury or infection; the act of inflaming or arousing strong passion; the state of being inflamed

_____ 19. word: _____

adj. aggressive; warlike

_____ 20. word: _____

adj. horrible; disgusting; repulsive; ugly

COLUMN B

(A) Bertha, a Hungarian princess, was betrayed by her lady-in-waiting and left alone in a forest in France. Hungry, cold, and exhausted, she found that her thoughts began to **meander** back to her family and homeland.

(B) When night fell, she was surrounded by a pack of wolves with wild, angry eyes and **hideous** fangs.

(C) Bertha is not a typical **belligerent**, warlike epic hero. Instead, she is the strong but gentle hero of a medieval French legend called *Berthe aux grands pieds* (literally, "Bertha with the large feet").

(D) Bertha found her way to a small cottage. The family who lived there took her in, fed her, and took care of the scrapes, cuts, and minor **inflammations** she had as a result of her struggles in the forest.

(E) Bertha decided that she would not make **manifest** her true identity as the daughter of the king and queen of Hungary and the rightful queen of France.


(F) Bertha lived happily in the forest, but her family and her responsibilities as the rightful queen did not **recede** from her memory.

(G) When Bertha was finally reunited with her husband, King Pepin of France, he used his **dexterity** in the arts to design a coat of arms for the family who had taken care of Bertha.

(H) When Pepin discovered that he had been tricked by Bertha's lady-in-waiting, he was furious. His rage caused much **havoc** and confusion in the palace.

(I) The **fervent** wish of the queen of Hungary was to find her missing daughter.

(J) Bertha was such a kind soul that she might have been able to **eradicate** all thoughts of revenge against her lady-in-waiting from her mind. Pepin, however, was not quite so forgiving.

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. The traditional epic hero may seem too _____ to modern readers, but in older times many people admired those who were eager to fight.
 (A) belligerent
 (B) manifest
 (C) hideous
 (D) fervent
 (E) inflamed
22. The heroes of epics and legends often appear in disguise. For example, Odysseus does not reveal his true identity when he returns home; he _____ himself only to Eumeaus, the swineherd.
 (A) meanders
 (B) recedes
 (C) eradicates
 (D) inflames
 (E) manifests
23. Heroes often possess great mental skill in addition to their _____ in battle.
 (A) havoc
 (B) inflammation
 (C) dexterity
 (D) manifestation
 (E) belligerence
24. The anger of a typical epic hero is likely to result in _____ and destruction.
 (A) havoc
 (B) dexterity
 (C) fervor
 (D) recess
 (E) inflammation
25. Almost every ancient hero has to slay a _____ being or monstrous creature of some sort; sometimes it seems that he or she must _____ large numbers of them.
 (A) fervent . . . manifest
 (B) belligerent . . . meander
 (C) manifest . . . recede
 (D) hideous . . . eradicate
 (E) dexterous . . . inflame
26. The hero's strongest desires are not always easily accomplished. Because of the obstacles he encountered, the route that Odysseus took to get home _____ even though it was his _____ wish to sail straight home.
 (A) inflamed . . . manifest
 (B) manifested . . . belligerent
 (C) eradicated . . . manifest
 (D) receded . . . hideous
 (E) meandered . . . fervent
27. Some heroes are less _____ than others. Yudhisthira, for example, has no desire to _____ his enemies.
 (A) manifest . . . eradicate
 (B) belligerent . . . eradicate
 (C) hideous . . . meander
 (D) fervent . . . meander
 (E) fervent . . . recede
28. The qualities that people admired in a hero were made _____ in the epics they composed.
 (A) belligerent
 (B) manifest
 (C) hideous
 (D) fervent
 (E) dexterous
29. Even a hero as fearless as Beowulf might have felt his courage _____ when he saw the _____ he had aroused in Grendel's vengeful mother.
 (A) meander . . . recession
 (B) eradicate . . . manifestation
 (C) manifest . . . dexterity
 (D) recede . . . inflammation
 (E) inflame . . . eradication
30. Loyalty and dedication are important characteristics of all heroes, and they are _____ in their desire to do what is right.
 (A) fervent
 (B) belligerent
 (C) hideous
 (D) manifest
 (E) inflammation

