

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 9 **CONTEXT: Literary Traditions and Beyond** *More Comic-Book Heroes*

For many years, most people assumed that comic books were for kids. The truth, however, is that many adults follow the exploits of comic-book heroes. Of course, established heroes, such as Batman, tend to be more popular with the older crowd. But don't be surprised if you see an adult eagerly following the adventures of the X-Men.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about comic-book heroes. Below are ten vocabulary words that will be used in these exercises.

- | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| advocate | conspiracy | lethal | misconstrue | preposterous |
| alleged | culmination | manipulate | ominous | uncanny |

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.

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1.

advocate

→

Superheroes advocate traditional national values. They support truth, justice, and the American way.

↓

Your Guess:

↓

Other Forms:

←

Definition:

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

COLUMN B

_____ 11. word: _____

n. secret planning (usually unlawful or harmful); a plot or secret plan

_____ 12. word: _____

adj. deadly; causing or capable of causing death

_____ 13. word: _____

n. one who argues for a cause; a defender;
v. to support; recommend

_____ 14. word: _____

adj. contrary to nature, reason, or common sense; absurd; foolish; ridiculous

_____ 15. word: _____

v. to operate or control with the hands; to handle; to control or influence dishonestly, unfairly, or shrewdly; to trick

_____ 16. word: _____

adj. threatening; foreboding; sinister

_____ 17. word: _____

v. to misinterpret; misunderstand

_____ 18. word: _____

n. the peak; the highest point; the climax; the end result

_____ 19. word: _____

v. to claim or state without proof;
adj. unproven; questionable; so-called

_____ 20. word: _____

adj. mysterious; strange; weird

- (A) Human beings have misunderstood the X-Men and have **alleged** that they are villains. In fact, these mutants are superheroes.
- (B) People who **misconstrue** the X-Men's activities say they are evil. Actually, the X-Men simply seek equal rights with human beings.
- (C) Professor X dreamed of showing society that mutants could play a useful role in society. The X-Men are the **culmination** of that dream.
- (D) Many of the X-Men have **lethal** powers, but they use them to protect human beings, not to kill and destroy them.
- (E) Various villains have tried to **manipulate** the X-Men into supporting their evil deeds, but the X-Men are not easily tricked.
- (F) The X-Men are known for their **uncanny** abilities. For example, Gambit can take any item and turn it into a projectile weapon.
- (G) The X-Men fight **ominous** villains, such as the evil Mr. Sinister.
- (H) The X-Men are aware that all who are different may be persecuted. Sometimes it seems that there is a **conspiracy** among the villains in X-Men comic books to destroy those who are different.
- (I) Although the idea of a group of mutants as superheroes may seem **preposterous**, fans don't think of their heroes as ridiculous.
- (J) The X-Men include both males and females and members of different racial and ethnic groups. They **advocate** human rights as well as supporting mutant rights.

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. Someone has _____ that Batman must be a criminal. Evidently, the accuser _____ Batman's mask and wrongly believes that it indicates dishonesty.
 (A) alleged . . . misconstrues
 (B) culminated . . . advocates
 (C) misconstrued . . . manipulates
 (D) manipulated . . . advocates
 (E) advocated . . . culminates
22. It is easy to _____ Batman's motives because he doesn't explain himself.
 (A) propose
 (B) advocate
 (C) misconstrue
 (D) conspire
 (E) allege
23. Batman's crime-fighting activities are the _____ of the shock of his parents' death and his awareness of urban decay.
 (A) conspiracy
 (B) advocate
 (C) allegation
 (D) manipulation
 (E) culmination
24. As _____ of the court system, Batman never uses _____ techniques when fighting crime. He realizes that he does not have the right to kill even the most evil villain and that everyone deserves a fair trial.
 (A) an advocate . . . alleged
 (B) a conspiracy . . . uncanny
 (C) a manipulator . . . conspiring
 (D) an advocate . . . lethal
 (E) a culmination . . . preposterous
25. Batman is a master of the martial arts and can _____ almost any weapon.
 (A) misconstrue
 (B) manipulate
 (C) advocate
 (D) allege
 (E) culminate
26. Batman chose to dress as the _____ bat because he believed that such a costume would make superstitious criminals fear him.
 (A) alleged
 (B) manipulative
 (C) preposterous
 (D) lethal
 (E) ominous
27. The _____ of his years of research into the criminal mind is Batman's _____ ability to predict the actions of even the most insane criminal.
 (A) conspiracy . . . lethal
 (B) advocate . . . uncanny
 (C) culmination . . . uncanny
 (D) culmination . . . preposterous
 (E) advocate . . . alleged
28. In addition to battling _____ supervillains, Batman also fights political corruption and _____ in Gotham City.
 (A) ominous . . . conspiracy
 (B) preposterous . . . culmination
 (C) lethal . . . culmination
 (D) alleged . . . advocates
 (E) lethal . . . advocates
29. Some fans of Batman think it is _____ to think of the superhero as simply an enemy of evil. They see a darker, more _____ side of Batman.
 (A) lethal . . . uncanny
 (B) preposterous . . . ominous
 (C) uncanny . . . preposterous
 (D) preposterous . . . alleged
 (E) lethal . . . manipulative
30. Bruce Wayne, Batman's civic-minded alter ego, is a strong _____ of programs to help those who are less fortunate.
 (A) conspiracy
 (B) culmination
 (C) preposterous
 (D) advocate
 (E) lethal

