

WORDLY WISE

3000

Book **5**

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Recommended for grade 8

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Lesson 4

Word List

Study the definitions of the words below; then do the exercises for the lesson.

abhor

ab hôr'

v. To shrink from in disgust; to detest.

[We *abhor* cruelty in all its forms.]

abhorrent *adj.* Disgusting; causing loathing.

[The caste system was *abhorrent* to Gandhi.]

affable

af' ə bəl

adj. Pleasant; approachable; gracious.

[Maribel's *affable* manner brought her many friends.]

affability *n.* Friendliness of manner.

[The counselor welcomed the young campers with such *affability* that not one felt homesick.]

amiss

ə mis'

adv. In a wrong or imperfect way.

[Don't take *amiss* my suggestion for improving your drawing.]

adj. Out of order; wrong.

[Although the door to the school was wide open when we arrived at 7:30, nothing in the office seemed *amiss* at first.]

despondent

də spän' dənt

adj. Depressed from loss of hope or confidence; utterly discouraged.

[Failing my driver's test for the third time left me completely *despondent*.]

entreat

en trēt'

v. To ask earnestly; to beg.

["Please, please, let me have a dog," Augustin *entreated* his parents; "I promise to take care of it!"]

entreaty *n.* A plea or earnest request.

[The umpire ignored the manager's *entreaties* to reverse the call.]

haunt

hōnt

v. 1. To stay in one's mind continually.

[Even though I saw *Platoon* over a week ago, the music continues to *haunt* me.]

2. To visit frequently.

[Ishmael *haunted* the waterfront, hoping to find a job on a whaling ship.]

3. To appear in the form of a ghost.

[The Headless Horseman *haunted* the hollow where Ichabod Crane rode his horse.]

impel

im pel'

v. 1. To drive or to propel.

[A raging current *impelled* their raft downstream toward the waterfall.]

2. To urge or drive by force or moral pressure.

[Hatred of slavery *impelled* Harriet Tubman to return repeatedly to the South to help other slaves escape.]

interminable

in tər' mi nə bəl

adj. Endless; seeming to be without end.

[We had an *interminable* wait at the airport because the heavy snowstorm shut down the runways.]

irascible

i ras' ə bəl

adj. Quick-tempered; irritable.

[My grandfather looked kindly, but he was really quite *irascible*.]

profound

prō found'

adj. 1. Intense; deeply felt.[Parents who had been separated from their children at the beginning of the war felt *profound* joy when they were reunited in the refugee camp.]

2. Having understanding or knowledge that goes beneath the surface, beyond the obvious.

[*Profound* insights from Thoreau and Gandhi influenced Martin Luther King's ideas about nonviolent protest.]**recluse**

rek' loōs

n. A person who lives apart from society and often alone.[Jamie became a *recluse* when his wife died, refusing even to answer his mail.]**reclusive** *adj.* Withdrawn from society.[Our neighbors are so *reclusive* that we hardly see them from one year to the next.]**reverberate**

rē vur' bər āt

v. To be repeated as in a series of echoes or vibrations.[We loved to hear our shouts *reverberate* as we ran through the old tunnel.]**sage**

sāj

adj. Having wisdom and good judgment.[Ben Franklin's *Almanack* offered *sage* advice to the colonists.]*n.* 1. A person known for wisdom and good judgment.[When I need advice, I consult my grandmother, the family *sage*.]

2. An aromatic grayish-green plant used in cooking.

[*Sage* and onion are essential ingredients for a good turkey stuffing.]**tirade**

tī' rād

n. A long, angry speech.[The British soldiers, tiring of the speaker's *tirade* about high taxes on tea, ordered the crowd to move along.]**tremulous**

trem' yōō ləs

adj. 1. Marked by trembling or shaking.[Marie tried to look brave as the nurse prepared to give her an injection, but her *tremulous* lower lip betrayed her.]

2. Timid or fearful.

[In a *tremulous* voice, Alejandro began his first stage appearance as Prospero.]

4A Finding Meanings

Choose two phrases to form a sentence that correctly uses a word from Word List 4. Write each sentence in the space provided.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. (a) If something is interminable, | (c) it changes frequently. |
| (b) If something is amiss, | (d) it is not right. |
| <hr/> | |
| 2. (a) have a vivid memory of it. | (c) To impel something is |
| (b) To haunt something is | (d) to move it along. |
| <hr/> | |
| 3. (a) A profound answer is one | (c) that seems to have no end. |
| (b) An interminable answer is one | (d) that makes a person laugh. |
| <hr/> | |

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 4. (a) An entreaty is | (c) a solemn agreement. |
| (b) A recluse is | (d) an earnest request. |
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|---|----------------------|
| 5. (a) is to spend time there repeatedly. | (c) To abhor a place |
| (b) is to have fond memories of it. | (d) To haunt a place |
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- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 6. (a) a long, angry speech. | (c) an angry person. |
| (b) A tirade is | (d) A sage is |
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- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 7. (a) An affable remark | (c) is one that is made spontaneously. |
| (b) is one that causes disgust. | (d) An abhorrent remark |
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- | | |
|---|--|
| 8. (a) one that is intended to confuse. | (c) one that expresses deep understanding. |
| (b) A profound statement is | (d) A despondent statement is |
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- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9. (a) An irascible person is one who | (c) is easy to get along with. |
| (b) A reclusive person is one who | (d) is easily angered. |
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- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 10. (a) Tremulous words | (c) are words that seem to make no sense. |
| (b) Sage words | (d) are words spoken in fear. |
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4B Just the Right Word

Improve each of the following sentences by crossing out the italicized phrase and replacing it with a word (or a form of the word) from Word List 4.

1. What on earth *was it that made* you to talk back to the principal?
2. Rachel *has a very strong dislike of* people who say one thing, but do another.
3. Rumbling thunder *continued to echo* through the long narrow valley.

4. Born in China thousands of years ago, Lao-tzu is still considered a *person who possessed great wisdom*.
5. Tony's first pitch went *in an imperfect way*, almost striking the batter.
6. My sister was *feeling very discouraged* when she was unable to participate in the violin competition.
7. Frederick Douglass *earnestly begged* his audience to work to abolish slavery.
8. In order to think and write, Thoreau lived a *separate and solitary* life for two years at Walden Pond.
9. On that November afternoon, the professor tried to control her *shaking and unsteady* voice as she informed her students that President Kennedy was dead.
10. Garrison Keillor's *pleasant and gracious manner* has made him a popular radio host.

4C Applying Meanings

Circle the letter of each correct answer to the questions below. Questions may have more than one correct answer.

1. Which of the following might be said of *sage*?
(a) It has an aroma. (c) It is burned for fuel.
(b) It is used in cooking. (d) It is grayish green.
2. Which of the following might have a *reclusive* existence?
(a) a politician (c) a hermit
(b) an entertainer (d) a lighthouse keeper
3. Which of the following is true of a *tirade*?
(a) It expresses anger. (c) It offers comfort.
(b) It is concise. (d) It is humorous.
4. Which of the following can be *tremulous*?
(a) hands (c) persons
(b) words (d) books
5. Which of the following might *haunt* a person?
(a) a song (c) a face
(b) a memory (d) a poem

6. Which of the following might an *affable* person say?
 (a) “So nice to see you.” (c) “Leave me alone.”
 (b) “What can I do to help?” (d) “Get lost!”
7. Which of the following might be *profound*?
 (a) a book (c) a thought
 (b) a snowflake (d) a person
8. Which of the following might *reverberate*?
 (a) the beat of a drum (c) a flash of lightning
 (b) the warmth of fire (d) a crack of thunder

4D Word Relationships

Each group of four words below contains two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Circle these two words; then circle the S if they are synonyms, the A if they are antonyms.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| 1. FORGETTABLE
HAUNTING | TREMULOUS
LONELY | S | A |
| 2. WISE
ENDLESS | INTERMINABLE
RECLUSIVE | S | A |
| 3. TREMULOUS
COURAGEOUS | AMISS
HATEFUL | S | A |
| 4. UNEASY
WISE | AFFABLE
SAGE | S | A |
| 5. PROFOUND
DESPONDENT | SILLY
DEEP | S | A |
| 6. IMPEL
ENTREAT | HAUNT
BEG | S | A |
| 7. AGREEABLE
AMISS | IRASCIBLE
TIRED | S | A |
| 8. PROPEL
ABHOR | TEAR
IMPEL | S | A |

Complete the analogies by selecting the pair of words whose relationship most resembles the relationship of the pair in capital letters. Circle the letter in front of the pair you choose.

9. SAD : DESPONDENT ::
(a) glad : ecstatic (c) weeping : tearful
(b) smiling : happy (d) cursory : thorough
10. ABHOR : ADMIRE ::
(a) emulate : copy (c) rob : steal
(b) fix : adjust (d) rebuff : welcome

4E Narrative *Read the narrative below; then complete the exercise that follows.*

THE TIGER'S WHISKER

This folk tale from Korea tells us how love can heal deep wounds, not quickly or easily, but with patience and courage.

Once Kim Soo-Nyung's life was filled with happiness. She and her husband, Liang-Po, one of the most **affable** of men, cultivated the fields of their small farm and raised three children with never an angry word spoken between them. But when war broke out, Liang-Po was forced to serve in the army even though he **abhorred** violence.

While he was away, Soo-Nyung and her three children worked hard to ensure the success of the farm. They took satisfaction in planting and harvesting, caring for the livestock, and keeping the farm buildings in good repair, all without outside help. The war, though, dragged on **interminably**; there were times when Soo-Nyung grew **despondent**, thinking she would never see Liang-Po again. But one day in the early spring, as she was drawing water from the well, she looked up to see him limping along the road toward the farm. Scarcely able to believe her eyes, Soo-Nyung rushed to greet him and welcome him home.

Her joy was short-lived, however, for it did not take long to see that something was **amiss**. There had been a **profound** change in Liang-Po. He, who always had been ready for a joke or a romp with his children, was now **irascible** and snapped at them without cause. He shut himself away like a **recluse**, responding to Soo-Nyung's pleas that he join her and the children for the evening meal with a stony silence. If she persisted, he would launch into a **tirade** that caused her to flee his presence. He took no interest in the farm, no pleasure in his family, and refused to talk about what troubled him. In time, Soo-Nyung, having lost patience with her husband, had no more dealings with him.

Liang-Po's mother, who lived in the next village, was distressed by her daughter-in-law's unhappiness. She persuaded Soo-Nyung to visit a local herbalist, a woman who was famous as much for her **sage** advice as for her herbal remedies. Soo-Nyung's sad story touched this woman's heart. "Your husband undoubtedly witnessed terrible scenes while in the army, for that is the nature of war," she told Soo-Nyung. "He is **haunted** by those memories. Fortunately there is a cure, but it requires a whisker plucked from a wild tiger. When you bring it to me, you shall have the remedy your husband needs."

In a **tremulous** voice, Soo-Nyung thanked the herbalist. The thought of facing a wild tiger filled her with dread, but she loved her husband and this **impelled** her to follow the herbalist's instructions. She made her way to the tiger's lair, where she was greeted with a terrifying roar that **reverberated** through the forest. She fled in a panic, convinced that the wild beast was about to tear her limb from limb. Still, she found the courage to return the next day, this time with a piece of red meat. After smelling it suspiciously, the tiger devoured the meat.

Day after day, Soo-Nyung returned with more meat until the tiger grew so accustomed to her that she was finally able to rub its head and tickle its throat without being afraid. At last there came a day when she found the courage to reach out and pluck one of its whiskers. The tiger drew back and growled, but it did not attack her. Triumphant, Soo-Nyung returned to the herbalist with the tiger's whisker, **entreating** her to prepare the remedy she needed.

The wise herbalist replied that Soo-Nyung had already found the cure. "If you can win the trust of a savage tiger," she said, "surely you can find the patience to regain the affection of your husband, whose heart has been hardened by war."

Soo-Nyung thanked the herbalist for teaching her a valuable lesson. In time her patience was rewarded when Liang-Po was restored to his former self.

Answer each of the following questions in a sentence. If the question does not contain a vocabulary word, use a vocabulary word in your answer. Use each word only once. Questions and answers will then contain all fifteen words (or forms of the words) from this lesson's word list.

1. How do we know that the war kept Liang-Po from his family for a long time?

2. Why would it be inaccurate to describe Liang-Po as **irascible** at the end of the story?

3. Why did Liang-Po's mother want to help?

4. What kind of reputation did the woman have to whom Soo-Nyung went for help?

5. What is the meaning of **amiss** as it is used in the narrative?

6. On what occasions did Liang-Po break his silence following his return?

7. Why would Liang-Po's **reclusive** behavior be very hard for the family to deal with?

8. How do we know that Liang-Po probably got along with his neighbors before the war?

9. What was the outcome of Soo-Nyung's **entreaty** to the herbalist for help?

10. Why was it likely that the tiger's roar startled other animals?

11. Why might Liang-Po have had trouble sleeping after his return?

12. How do we know that farm work was not **abhorrent** to Soo-Nyung?

13. Who **impelled** Soo-Nyung to visit the herbalist?

14. What does Liang-Po's snapping at his children tell you of his disposition after the war?

15. What is the meaning of **tremulous** as it is used in the narrative?

WORDLY WISE

The Latin word *ira*, meaning “anger,” forms the root of several English words having related meanings. *Ire* is a synonym for “anger.” (In a carefully worded letter to the editor, James expressed his *ire* over the plans to build a mall in the center of town.) *Irate*

and *irascible* are synonyms for “angry.” *Irate* suggests a single instance of becoming angry. (Karen became *irate* when she saw that someone had left the gate open to the horse pasture.) *Irascible* suggests a continuing inability to control one’s anger.