

Name _____

Date _____

Vocabulary: Lesson 12

from "The Red Badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane

1. **ardor** (*n.*)- heated emotion; passion; eagerness
2. **conviction** (*n.*)- the state or appearance of being convicted about an idea; a strong belief; certainty
3. **diffident** (*adj.*)- lacking confidence in oneself; timid; shy
4. **ecstasy** (*n.*)- overpowering emotion, especially joy, that carries a person beyond self-control; rapture
5. **enthusiast** (*n.*)- one who is filled with deep interest in a topic or devotion to a cause
6. **expectation** (*n.*)- a belief that something will occur in the future; anticipation
7. **extravagant** (*adj.*)- very showy; lavish
8. **lurid** (*adj.*)- vivid in a shocking or violent way; startling; sensational
9. **prime** (*v.*)- to make ready; to prepare
10. **prolonged** (*adj.*)- continuing for a long time; extended

Exercise 2: Using Vocabulary in Context

Select **five** weekly vocabulary words to use in your own sentences. You must utilize each sentence pattern at least once (simple, complex, compound, compound-complex).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

LESSON 12

from **The Red Badge of Courage** (fiction)
by Stephen Crane

He had long despaired of witnessing a Greeklike struggle. Such would be no more, he had said. Men were better, or more timid. . . .

He had burned several times to enlist. Tales of great movements shook the land. They might not be distinctly Homeric, but there seemed to be much glory in them. He had read of marches, sieges, conflicts, and he had longed to see it all. His busy mind had drawn for him large pictures **extravagant** in color, **lurid** with breathless deeds.

But his mother had discouraged him. She had affected to look with some contempt upon the quality of his war **ardor** and patriotism. She could calmly seat herself and with no apparent difficulty give him many hundreds of reasons why he was of vastly more importance on the farm than on the field of battle. She had had certain ways of expression that told him that her statements on the subject came from a deep **conviction**. . . .

At last, however, he had made firm rebellion against this yellow light thrown upon the color of his ambitions. . . . Almost every day the newspaper printed accounts of a decisive victory.

One night, as he lay in bed, the winds had carried to him the clangor of the church bell as some **enthusiast** jerked the rope frantically to tell the twisted news of a great battle. This voice of the people rejoicing in the night had made him shiver in a **prolonged ecstasy** of excitement. Later, he had gone down to his mother's room and had spoken thus: "Ma, I'm going to enlist."

"Henry, don't you be a fool," his mother had

replied. She had then covered her face with the quilt. There was an end to the matter for that night.

Nevertheless, the next morning he had gone to a town that was near his mother's farm and had enlisted in a company that was forming there. When he had returned home his mother was milking the brown cow. Four others stood waiting. "Ma, I've enlisted," he had said to her **diffidently**. There was a short silence. "The Lord's will be done, Henry," she had finally replied, and had then continued to milk the brown cow.

When he had stood in the doorway with his soldier's clothes on his back, and with the light of excitement and **expectation** in his eyes almost defeating the glow of regret for the home bonds, he had seen two tears leaving their trails on his mother's scarred cheeks.

Still, she had disappointed him by saying nothing whatever about returning with his shield or on it. He had privately **primed** himself for a beautiful scene. He had prepared certain sentences which he thought could be used with touching effect. But her words destroyed his plans. She had stubbornly peeled potatoes and addressed him as follows: "You watch out, Henry, an' take good care of yerself in this here fighting business—you watch out, an' take good care of yerself. Don't go a-thinkin' you can lick the hull rebel army at the start, because yeh can't. Yer jest one little feller amongst a hull lot of others, and yeh've got to keep quiet an' do what they tell yeh. I know how you are, Henry."

• • Exercise 1: Context Clues

Read the passage above, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.

Master Words				
Place a check by words you feel you know; underline words you don't know.				
ardor	diffident	enthusiast	extravagant	prime
conviction	ecstasy	expectation	lurid	prolonged

• • • Exercise 3: Synonyms and Antonyms

Use the synonyms and antonyms in the word list to fill in the blanks.

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. ardor	_____	_____
2. enthusiast	_____	_____
3. prolonged	_____	_____
4. ecstasy	_____	_____
5. conviction	_____	_____
6. diffident	_____	_____
7. expectation	_____	_____
8. prime	_____	_____
9. extravagant	_____	_____
10. lurid	_____	_____

Word List	
anticipation	extended
avoid	fan
bliss	lavish
bold	prepare
boredom	principle
colorless	shocking
critic	shortened
depression	skimpy
doubt	surprise
eagerness	timid

• • • Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

- The ...?... wedding dress had the longest train I've ever seen. _____
- My own experience has led to my ...?... that hard work is rewarding. _____
- My friend, a health-food ...?..., eats only foods that are naturally grown. _____
- To ...?... himself for the debate, Raphael pored over his notes. _____
- She is a quiet, ...?... woman, uncomfortable around strangers. _____
- The ice-cream lover was in ...?... over the dozens of flavors available. _____
- My visit was one of ...?... agony, for the dentist took more time than usual. _____
- It was (a, an) ...?... tale, full of shocking details and violence. _____
- I brought an umbrella because of my ...?... that it will rain today. _____
- Despite your passion, cool your ...?... and speak more calmly. _____

Exercise 5: Classical Allusions

An allusion is a reference within a work to something outside it, such as a famous person, event, or another work of literature. In the passage from *The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane makes a classical allusion when he speaks of "a Greeklike struggle."

To understand what an allusion means, first check a dictionary or search the Internet for reliable sites that provide possible meanings. Then use the context in which the allusion appears to further clarify its meaning.

Determine the meaning of each allusion in bold print in the sentences below. An example has been done for you.

Example: He had long despaired of witnessing a **Greeklike struggle**.

Meaning: a glorious battle

Origin: battles described in ancient Greek literature, especially Homer's *Iliad*

Where it
comes
from or 1st
use

1. Tales of great movements shook the land. They might not be distinctly **Homeric**, but there seemed to be much glory in them.

Meaning: _____

Origin: _____

2. Still, she had disappointed him by saying nothing whatever about **returning with his shield or on it**.

Meaning: _____

Origin: _____

Exercise 6: Dialect

A dialect is a version of a language spoken in a particular region or by a particular group. Writers often use dialect in dialogue to make it more realistic. To understand a term in dialect, look at the context and decide what the word might mean.

Use the context and, when appropriate, the sound or appearance to figure out the meanings of the terms in bold type from the last paragraph of the passage from *The Red Badge of Courage*. Write the meaning in the blank provided. An example is done for you.

Example: "You watch out, Henry, **an'** take good care . . ."

and _____

* Can conduct
research, if
stuck! *

1. Don't go **a-thinkin'** you can . . ."

2. ". . . you can **lick** . . ."

3. ". . . the **hull** rebel army at the start . . ."

4. ". . . at the start, because **yeh** can't."

5. "Yer **jest** one little feller amongst a hull lot of others . . ."
