

Name _____

Date _____

Vocabulary: Lesson 2

"The Maize Spirit" A Chippewa Story

1. **arrayed** (*adj.*)- clothed, especially in ceremonial dress
2. **comply** (*v.*)- to follow an order; to obey
3. **divulge** (*v.*)- to reveal
4. **initial** (*adj.*)- first
5. **lithe** (*adj.*)- thin; graceful
6. **ordeal** (*n.*)- a test, especially of strength or endurance; a trial
7. **prescribed** (*adj.*)- recommended
8. **repair** (*v.*)- to go; to journey
9. **secluded** (*adj.*)- lonely; isolated
10. **surge** (*v.*)- to rise; to increase

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 2

The Maize Spirit (myth) A Chippewa Story

A lad of fifteen dwelt with his family in a little lodge. The father was a hunter, but there were times when he could scarcely supply the wants of his family. The lad was of a cheerful and contented disposition and his great desire was to benefit his people.

The time had come for him to observe the **initial** fast **prescribed** for all Indian boys of his age, and his mother made him a fasting lodge in a **secluded** spot where he might not suffer interruption during his **ordeal**.

Thither the boy **repaired**, meditating on the goodness of the Great Spirit, who had made all things beautiful. He prayed that some means to help his fellows be **divulged** to him in a dream.

On the third day of his fast he was too weak to move, and as he lay in a state between sleeping and waking there came toward him a beautiful youth, richly dressed in green robes, and wearing on his head wonderful green plumes.

"The Great Spirit has heard your prayers," said the youth. His voice was like the sound of the wind sighing through the grass. "Hearken to me and you shall have your desire fulfilled. Arise and wrestle with me."

Though the boy's limbs were weak his thoughts were clear, and he felt he could not but **comply** with the gentle youth's demand. After a long struggle the visitor said: "That will do. Tomorrow I shall come again."

The lad lay back exhausted, but on the next day the green-clad stranger reappeared, and the conflict was renewed. As they wrestled, the youth felt himself grow stronger, and before leaving him for the second time the supernatural visitor offered him some words of praise and encouragement.

On the third day the youth, pale and feeble, was

again summoned to the contest. As he grasped his opponent the very contact seemed to give him new strength, and he fought more and more bravely, till his **lithe** companion was forced to cry out that he had enough.

"Tomorrow," said the visitor before he left, "your father will bring you food. In the evening I shall come and wrestle with you. When you have thrown me, strip off my garments and plumes, bury me where I fall, and keep the earth above me moist and clean. In a short time you shall see me again, **arrayed** in my green garments and plumes." So saying, he vanished.

The next day the lad's father brought him food; the youth, however, begged that it might be set aside till evening. Once again the stranger appeared. Though he had eaten nothing, the hero's strength seemed to **surge**, and at length he threw his opponent. Then he stripped off his garments and plumes, and buried him in the earth, not without sorrow in his heart for the slaying of such a beautiful youth.

His fast done, the boy returned to his parents. But he never forgot the grave of his friend. In time he was rewarded by seeing green plumes rise above the earth. When autumn came he asked his father to accompany him to the place. By this time the plant was tall and beautiful, with waving leaves and golden tassels. The elder man was filled with surprise and admiration.

"It is my friend," murmured the youth, "the friend of my dreams."

"It is Mon-da-min," said his father, "the spirit's grain, the gift of the Great Spirit."

And in this manner was maize given to the people.

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.

arrayed

divulge

lithe

prescribed

secluded

comply

initial

ordeal

repair

surge

• • Exercise 3: Using Words in Context

Correct or Incorrect: Write **C** on the line if the word is used correctly; write **I** if the word is used incorrectly.

- _____ 1. The **initial** test is the last one required for graduation.
- _____ 2. The coach forbids you to use the **prescribed** exercise program.
- _____ 3. This **secluded** corner is a good place for a private conversation.
- _____ 4. Going to the movies with your best friend is an **ordeal**.
- _____ 5. I **repair** to the library when I want to study.
- _____ 6. I will not **divulge** the ending until after you have seen the movie.
- _____ 7. The principal requires all students to **comply** with the school dress code.
- _____ 8. It was obvious that the **lithe** students had been eating too many desserts.
- _____ 9. The Olympic athletes were **arrayed** in special costumes for the opening ceremony.
- _____ 10. A decrease in unemployment caused the stock market to **surge**.

• • 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.

1. After the storm, the mayor asked residents to ...?... with a request to boil their drinking water. _____
2. The judges were not allowed to ...?... the names of the winners of the science fair before the awards ceremony. _____
3. Running a marathon is a real ...?... for some athletes. _____
4. All high school freshmen are required to follow a ...?... course of study. _____
5. Rea paced herself during the race and was able to ...?... ahead at the finish. _____
6. The nearest neighbor was a mile away from the ...?... cabin in the woods. _____
7. My friends and I like to ...?... to our favorite pizza place after a game. _____
8. The ...?... model was poised as she paraded up and down the runway. _____
9. Sue changed her ...?... opinion of the book after the class discussion. _____
10. The seniors were ...?... in caps and gowns for the graduation ceremony. _____

• • Exercise 5: Using Words with Multiple Meanings

The word *repair* has different meanings depending on how it is used in a sentence. Choose the number of the correct definition for *repair* for each of the following sentences.

repair

1. v. to restore or renew
2. v. to fix
3. v. to go
4. n. the result of fixing
5. n. the state of being in good condition

1. After a strenuous day, Benjamin likes to **repair** to his room to read. _____
2. Steve asked the mechanic to **repair** the flat tire on his car. _____
3. The reconditioned computer was in good **repair** when I bought it. _____
4. Hannah was satisfied with the **repair** to her bicycle. _____
5. Ava went for a long walk in the woods to **repair** her spirits after a difficult day. _____

• • Exercise 6: Related Words and Meanings

The italic words in the sentences below are related to the Master Words. Write the matching synonym from the list on the line following the sentence.

divulge

lithe

ordeal

secluded

surge

1. Fasting for several days is a real *trial* for most people. _____
2. The advertisement promised that your energy will *increase* after their diet. _____
3. Angela prefers to practice her dancing in an *isolated* spot. _____
4. She does not want to *reveal* the new routine she is practicing. _____
5. People with a *thin* body are suited to be ballet dancers. _____