

Name _____

Date _____

Vocabulary: Lesson 9

from "Innocents Abroad" by Mark Twain

1. **clad** (*adj.*)- covered; dressed
2. **contemplate** (*v.*)- to view; to look at or study
3. **epistle** (*n.*)- a letter
4. **famed** (*adj.*)- famous; well-known
5. **homage** (*n.*)- respect shown publicly; adulation
6. **masonry** (*n.*)- stonework, such as structures built of bricks or stones
7. **precipice** (*n.*)- a very steep cliff
8. **radiant** (*adj.*)- shining; emitting light; bright with hope or confidence
9. **tedious** (*adj.*)- tiresome; boring; dull
10. **voluminous** (*adj.*)- large; sizable

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 9

from **Innocents Abroad** (informational)
by Mark Twain

Everybody was sent scampering to the deck at seven o'clock this lovely morning of the thirtieth of June with the glad news that land was in sight! . . .

The picture . . . was very beautiful to eyes weary of the changeless sea, and by and by the ship's company grew wonderfully cheerful. But while we stood admiring the cloud-capped peaks and the lowlands robed in misty gloom a finer picture burst upon us and chained every eye like a magnet—a stately ship, with canvas piled on canvas till she was one towering mass of bellying sail! She came speeding over the sea like a great bird. Africa and Spain were forgotten. All **homage** was for the beautiful stranger. While everybody gazed she swept superbly by and flung the Stars and Stripes to the breeze! Quicker than thought, hats and handkerchiefs flashed in the air, and a cheer went up! She was beautiful before—she was **radiant** now. Many a one on our decks knew then for the first time how tame a sight his country's flag is at home compared to what it is in a foreign land. To see it is to see a vision of home itself and all its idols, and feel a thrill that would stir a very river of sluggish blood!

We were approaching the **famed** Pillars of Hercules, and already the African one, "Ape's Hill," a grand old mountain with summit streaked with granite ledges, was in sight. The other, the great Rock of Gibraltar, was yet to come. The

ancients considered the Pillars of Hercules the head of navigation and the end of the world. The information the ancients didn't have was very **voluminous**. Even the prophets wrote book after book and **epistle** after epistle, yet never once hinted at the existence of a great continent on our side of the water; yet they must have known it was there, I should think.

In a few moments a lonely and enormous mass of rock, standing seemingly in the center of the wide strait and apparently washed on all sides by the sea, swung magnificently into view, and we needed no **tedious** traveled parrot to tell us it was Gibraltar. There could not be two rocks like that in one kingdom.

The Rock of Gibraltar is about a mile and a half long, I should say, by 1,400 to 1,500 feet high, and a quarter of a mile wide at its base. One side and one end of it come about as straight up out of the sea as the side of a house, the other end is irregular and the other side is a steep slant which an army would find very difficult to climb. At the foot of this slant is the walled town of Gibraltar—or rather the town occupies part of the slant. Everywhere—on hillside, in the **precipice**, by the sea, on the heights—everywhere you choose to look, Gibraltar is **clad** with **masonry** and bristling with guns. It makes a striking and lively picture from whatsoever point you **contemplate** it.

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.

clad	epistle	homage	precipice	tedious
contemplate	famed	masonry	radiant	voluminous

• • 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 convicted thief received **homage** from the people he had robbed.
- _____ 2. Brigitte made a **radiant** bride with her shining eyes and warm smile.
- _____ 3. The unknown singer was **famed** for her catchy lyrics.
- _____ 4. My mother's genealogy research fills a **voluminous** notebook with details on numerous ancestors.
- _____ 5. The artist painted a dramatic **epistle** depicting the Rock of Gibraltar.
- _____ 6. The **tedious** speaker kept the audience on the edge of their seats.
- _____ 7. Neil used special equipment to scale the **precipice** on his mountain climbing trip.
- _____ 8. The wooden warship was **clad** with iron to make it less vulnerable to attack.
- _____ 9. The **masonry** on the buildings was constructed from local granite.
- _____ 10. After her vacation, Rita couldn't wait to **contemplate** it with all her friends.

• • 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. Alex liked to sit and ...?... the calm surface of the lake when he was upset. _____
2. Tickets to the lecture by the ...?... author were quickly sold out. _____
3. Barry used his skill in working with stone to create a wall of beautiful ...?... in the garden. _____
4. A healthy diet and adequate sleep can promote ...?... skin. _____
5. Maria loves to cook and has several ...?... folders filled with recipes. _____
6. The marching band looked very sharp ...?... in their new uniforms. _____
7. My sister sent me a long ...?... while she was traveling in Europe. _____
8. Speakers paid ...?... to Martin Luther King Jr. at the ceremony honoring his birthday. _____
9. Looking over the edge of the ...?... made Connor feel queasy. _____
10. Grace's summer job is ...?... due to the repetitive nature of the work. _____

Exercise 5: Shades of Meaning

The bold words in the chart below are Master Words. Beneath each is a synonym. Although their denotations (dictionary definitions) are nearly the same, the Master Word and its synonym have different shades of meaning, or connotations. Based on the context, decide whether a Master Word or its synonym would better complete each sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary. Not all words are used.

contemplate	homage	radiant	tedious
study	respect	bright	boring

1. Claire's face was positively ...?... when she learned she had gotten the part in the play. _____
2. Assembly line work can be very ...?... if workers have to repeat the same task for hours at a time. _____
3. Gary loves to ...?... the stars when in the country on a clear, dark night. _____
4. The lights of the stadium are so ...?... that they wash out the light of the stars. _____
5. Rainy days stuck at home can feel ...?... when there is nothing to do. _____
6. The President offered ...?... to the members of the military who had died serving their country. _____
7. Daniel plans to ...?... the shells he found on the beach to learn more about them. _____

Exercise 6: Using Synonyms

The words in bold type in the sentences below are synonyms of the Master Words. On the line below each sentence, write a new sentence using Master Words in place of the words in bold type.

1. My aunt's **letters** are **dull** because she tends to repeat the same details of her daily life in each one.
2. The guides at the museum are **clothed** in authentic historical costumes.
3. The **well-known** singer from England is making her first American tour.
4. In his speech, the President paid **respect** to Abraham Lincoln.