

Name _____

Date _____

Vocabulary: Lesson 4

"The Yosemite" by John Muir

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1. **accessible** (*adj.*)- easy to reach; available
 2. **advance** (*v.*)- to move forward or ahead
 3. **attitude** (*n.*)- position of the body; posture
 4. **communion** (*n.*)- an intimate sharing of thoughts and/or feelings
 5. **confiding** (*adj.*)- trusting; faithful; open
 6. **feature** (*n.*)- an attribute of a thing; a quality or trait
 7. **flank** (*n.*)- the side of a thing
 8. **fleeting** (*adj.*)- momentary; brief; passing quickly
 9. **stern** (*adj.*)- serious; unfriendly; strict
 10. **striking** (*adj.*)- beautiful; impressive; noticeable

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 4

from **The Yosemite** (Journal)
by John Muir

The most famous and **accessible** of these canyon valleys, and also the one that presents their most **striking** and sublime **features** on the grandest scale, is the Yosemite, situated in the basin of the Merced River at an elevation of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is about seven miles long, half a mile to a mile wide, and nearly a mile deep in the solid granite **flank** of the range. The walls are made up of rocks, mountains in size, partly separated from each other by side canyons, and they are so sheer in front, and so compactly and harmoniously arranged on a level floor, that the Valley, comprehensively seen, looks like an immense hall or temple lighted from above.

But no temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its walls seems to glow with life. Some lean back in majestic repose; others, absolutely sheer or nearly so for thousands of feet, **advance** beyond their companions in thoughtful **attitudes**, giving welcome to storms and calms alike, seemingly aware, yet heedless, of

everything going on about them. Awful in **stern**, immovable majesty, how softly these rocks are adorned, and how fine and reassuring the company they keep: their feet among beautiful groves and meadows, their brows in the sky, a thousand flowers leaning confidingly against their feet, bathed in floods of water, floods of light, while the snow and waterfalls, the winds and avalanches and clouds shine and sing and wreathe about them as the years go by, and myriads of small winged creatures—birds, bees, butterflies—give glad animation and help to make all the air into music. Down through the middle of the Valley flows the crystal Merced, River of Mercy, peacefully quiet, reflecting lilies and trees and the onlooking rocks; things frail and **fleeting** and types of endurance meeting here and blending in countless forms, as if into this one mountain mansion Nature had gathered her choicest treasures, to draw her lovers into close and **confiding communion** with her.

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.

accessible

attitude

confiding

flank

stern

advance

communion

feature

fleeting

striking

• • 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 entrance to the library has a ramp so that it is **accessible** to people using wheelchairs.
- _____ 2. The **striking** resemblance between Sid and his brother made it easy to tell them apart.
- _____ 3. One **feature** that makes this smart phone popular is the quality of the pictures it takes.
- _____ 4. When Ashley reached the **flank** of the mountain she had climbed all the way to the top.
- _____ 5. Dylan knows that doing well in school will help him **advance** in his future career.
- _____ 6. The dancer's **attitude** was poised yet relaxed.
- _____ 7. My mother uses a **stern** tone of voice when she reacts to my excellent report card.
- _____ 8. Because of their **confiding** relationship, Emily and Madison are comfortable sharing secrets.
- _____ 9. Monuments like the pyramids have a **fleeting** existence.
- _____ 10. True friends have a feeling of **communion** with one another.

• • • 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. Ryan's ...?... good looks made him a natural for the lead in the play. _____
2. The army was open to attack on its right ...?... . _____
3. Hailey's soccer skills allowed her to ...?... to the next level of play. _____
4. The yoga teacher guides her students into the proper ...?... for each pose. _____
5. It takes time for friends to build (a, an) ...?... relationship with one another. _____
6. The game was designed to be ...?... to players of all experience levels. _____
7. Charlotte uses (a, an) ...?... tone of voice when training her puppy. _____
8. One of Ethan's most noticeable ...?...(s) is his curly auburn hair. _____
9. The carefree days of summer are ...?... . _____
10. Olivia and Sophia have a deep feeling of ...?... because they have shared so many important experiences together. _____

• • Exercise 5: Using Words with Multiple Meanings

The words *feature* and *stern* have different meanings depending on how they are used in a sentence. Choose the number of the correct definition for *feature* and *stern* for each of the following sentences. Not all definitions are used.

Definitions of Master Words with Multiple Meanings

- a. feature (*n.*) quality or trait
- b. feature (*n.*) the main event
- c. feature (*v.*) to emphasize
- d. stern (*adj.*) serious; strict
- e. stern (*adj.*) strong
- f. stern (*n.*) rear of a boat

1. My friends and I arrived in time to see the new film that was the ...?... for the evening. _____
2. The paddler who sits in the ...?... steers the canoe. _____
3. The new hybrid car ...?... (s) several ways to use less fuel. _____
4. The principal was known for being ...?... but fair when dealing with students. _____
5. Jason showed a ...?... resolve to improve his grades. _____

• • Exercise 6: Related Words and Meanings

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

accessible

advance

flank

fleeting

striking

1. Our basketball team was able to *move forward* to the state competition. _____
2. During the battle, the horse received a wound in its *side*. _____
3. Vanessa was *noticeable* because of her height. _____
4. Information on state parks is readily *available* online. _____
5. The *brief* shower was not enough to ruin our picnic. _____