

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Stave 1

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Read the following sentences to get the general meaning. Read it a second time, paying special attention to the underlined words. Notice how they are used in sentences. These are Master Words. These are words you will be working with in this lesson.

“I am the Ghost of Christmas Present,” said the Spirit. “Look upon me!” Scrooge reverently did so. (p.58, T)

Its dark-brown curls were long and free, free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanor, and its joyful air. (p. 58, M)

There was nothing very cheerful in the climate or the town, and yet there was an air of cheerfulness abroad that the clearest summer air and brightest summer sun might have endeavored to diffuse in vain. (p. 60, T)

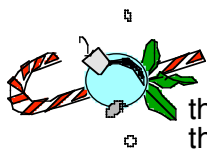
Scrooge hung his head to hear his own words quoted by the Spirit, and was overcome with penitence and grief. (p. 71, M)

“It should be Christmas Day, I am sure,” said she, “on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stinging, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge...” (p. 72, T)

They were not a handsome family, they were not well dressed, their shoes were far from being waterproof, their clothes were scanty, and Peter might have known, and very likely did, the inside of a pawnbroker’s. (p.73, M)

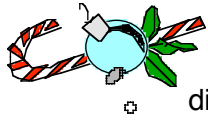
Blessing on it, how the Ghost exulted! How it bared its breadth of breast, and opened its capacious palm, and floated on, outpouring, with a generous hand, its bright and harmless mirth on everything within its reach! (p. 74, M)

“This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow, I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased...” (p. 86, B)



EXERCISE 1 - Self-Test: After reading the above sentences, do the following. Look at the Master Words below. Underline the words that you think you know. Circle the words that you are less sure about. Draw a square around the words you don’t recognize.

MASTER WORDS	
demeanor	ignorant
diffuse	odious
endeavor	penitence
exult	reverently
genial	scanty



EXERCISE 2 - Read the sentences on the preceding page again, this time paying special attention to the ten Master Words. In the (a) spaces provided below, write down what you think is the meaning of the word. After you have attempted a definition for each word, look up the word in a dictionary. In the (b) spaces, copy the appropriate dictionary definition.

1. demeanor (n.)

a. _____

b. _____

2. diffuse (v.)

a. _____

b. _____

3. endeavor (v.)

a. _____

b. _____

4. exult (v.)

a. _____

b. _____

5. genial (adj.)

a. _____

b. _____

6. ignorance (n.)

a. _____

b. _____

7. odious (adj.)

a. _____

b. _____

8. penitence (n.)

a. _____

b. _____

9. reverently (adv.)

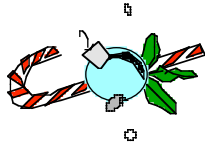
a. _____

b. _____

10. scanty (adj.)

a. _____

b. _____



EXERCISE 3 - Use the following list of synonyms and antonyms to fill in the blanks. One word has no antonym. In that case, the antonym blank has been marked with an X.

admired
adequate
agreeable
behavior
detestable

gave up
informed
intensify
jovial
meager

regret
respectfully
rudely
scorned
soften

tried
unaware
guilt-free
unfriendly

Synonyms

Antonyms

1. **exulted**

2. **odious**

3. **demeanor**

_____ X _____

4. **diffuse**

5. **ignorant**

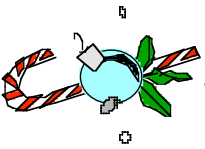
6. **reverently**

7. **genial**

8. **endeavored**

9. **penitence**

10. **scanty**



EXERCISE 4 - Decide whether the first pair in the items below are synonyms or antonyms. Then choose the Master Word that shows a similar relation to the word(s) preceding the blank.

1. convey

: transport

:: manner

:

2. jump

: leap

:: repentance

:

3. bales

: bundles

:: attempted

:

4. tumultuous

: calm

:: pleasant

:

5. hazy

: clear

:: sufficient

:

6. invalid

: patient

:: mellow

:

7. declined

: subsided

:: appreciated

:

8. adversary

: teammate

:: observant

:

9. avarice

: charity

:: mean

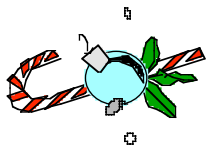
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10. apprentice

: beginner

:: religiously

:

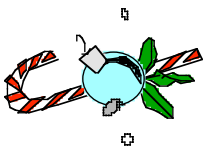


EXERCISE 5 - The Master Words in this lesson are repeated below. From Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the numbered space provided at the right.

the

demeanor diffuse endeavored exulted genial
 ignorance odious penitence reverent scanty

1. An . . . ? . . . smell rose up from the sewer. 1. _____
2. Scrooge tried to . . . ? . . . the light shining from the spirit. 2. _____
3. Everyone gets along with Melissa because she's so . . . ? . . . 3. _____
4. The baseball team . . . ? . . . to defeat their adversary. 4. _____
5. Aunt Teresa went to confession at church each Sunday because she felt such . . . ? . . . 5. _____
6. We could tell by his incredulous . . . ? . . . that he did not believe the news reports about Bigfoot sightings. 6. _____
7. The family . . . ? . . . over the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. 7. _____
8. The game show contestant's . . . ? . . . was obvious when he missed all the geography questions. 8. _____
9. The crowd was very . . . ? . . . as it listened to the Pope give his Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square. 9. _____
10. The emergency supplies were . . . ? . . . following the winter storms. 10. _____



EXERCISE 6 - The invented words below are formed from parts of different Master Words from this lesson. Create a definition and indicate the part of speech for each word. The first one is done for you.

- diffusintence (n.) a feeling of guilt about making something less brilliant
- exultitence _____
- odiomeaner _____
- ignorascanty _____

Now invent your own words by combing parts of the Master Words. Create a definition for each, and indicate the word's part of speech. (You may reuse any of the word parts above in new combinations.)

1. _____
2. _____