

Name _____

Lesson 1

<i>chaos</i>	<i>embankment</i>	<i>fumbling</i>	<i>nestled</i>	<i>torrent</i>
<i>compound</i>	<i>erosion</i>	<i>havoc</i>	<i>salvage</i>	
<i>debris</i>	<i>frenziedly</i>	<i>lunging</i>	<i>saturated</i>	

1. It was a beautiful day, and Ellen was tucked into her favorite tree, _____ between the branches.
2. This was her favorite place on the family's _____, which held the house, business offices, tennis courts, and a private lake.
3. Sometimes, on warm days, she went to the edge of the lake and sat on the _____ at the edge of the water.
4. She noticed that with time, the _____ caused by weather and wear was making parts of the ground near the lake crumble.
5. Suddenly, without warning, there was a crash of thunder and a _____ of rain came pouring down.
6. As fast as she was able, Ellen went _____ out of the tree.
7. She made a mad dash for the door, _____ all the while for the key in her pocket.
8. The green grass was _____ almost as soon as the rain started, and running in it made her shoes quite wet.
9. Happy to be dry, Ellen looked out the window and saw her father's workers running _____ back and forth.
10. They were trying to _____ some of their equipment that would get ruined if it got wet.

The Flood

VOCABULARY

Activity I

11. There should have been confusion and _____ out there, but the workers worked quickly and efficiently.
12. The sudden storm created _____ in the whole area, causing tremendous damage all around.
13. Weeks later, there was still _____ from trees that were blown apart and rooftops that were pulled off of houses.

Lesson 2

assess

devastating

potential

succumbed

capacity

haven

raging

treacherous

conduit

makeshift

strife

turbulence

deflated

multitude

subsided

turmoil

1. Most flights on airplanes are bumpy at some point; _____ is just part of air travel.
2. We all have within us the _____ for greatness; it may require determination and hard work to realize it.
3. Nancy was in a state of _____: should she go to her best friend's graduation or her neighbor's wedding?
4. In order to _____ the value of her lost suitcase, Linda had to make a list of all the items that had been in it.
5. After the storm passed, the rains slowly _____ and the sun came peeking out from behind the clouds.
6. While the forest fire was _____, quickly burning acres of trees and wildlife, the boy who had unknowingly started it was sitting at home eating dinner.

Name _____

7. The family members thought that Marcus had _____ to his illness, but thankfully, he slowly returned to good health.
8. What is the _____ of this bus? Can it seat 54 children?
9. Samantha left the room for a minute and when she came back, found that her toddler had _____ all the balloons she had blown up for the party.
10. When the _____ that carried water from the river to the fields got plugged up, the crops began to wilt.
11. The _____ driving conditions made it very difficult to get to work safely on that icy morning.
12. My home is a _____ of peace, security, and happiness.
13. The ice cream shop offers a _____ of flavors: 50 choices of ice cream, plus 30 types of sorbets and yogurts.
14. The _____ shed worked well until we were able to build a more permanent one.
15. The neighbors had been fighting for years—there was terrible _____ between them.
16. The amount of lost money and energy was _____ to the community.

The Flood

VOCABULARY

Activity II



Circle the correct answer.

- What could be **nestled** under a cliff?
 - A shrub
 - A raging wind
- Who could be seen **lunging**?
 - A small snail
 - A horse that has stepped on a nail
- Where would you expect to find **chaos**?
 - In a parade of soldiers marching down Main Street
 - In a crowded mall where a blackout has occurred
- When might you see a **torrent** of water?
 - During a huge rainstorm
 - During a severe drought
- Where would you find **debris**?
 - In a lawn and garden show
 - At the site of a building that was torn down
- Who would rush **frenziedly** about?
 - A person who has ten minutes to get ready for a ten day trip
 - A person who has ten days to get ready for a ten minute trip
- Why would you try to **salvage** something from a fire?
 - Because it smells of smoke and should be thrown out
 - Because it has sentimental value
- What would wreak **havoc** in a field?
 - A mad bull
 - A team of oxen pulling a plow
- Where would **erosion** occur?
 - Deep in the ocean
 - On the side of a hill
- Why would you build an **embankment**?
 - To hold back water
 - To hold back money
- Who would be seen **fumbling**?
 - Someone watching a football game
 - Someone trying to find a path in the dark
- What is more easily **saturated** with water?
 - A sponge
 - A potato

Name _____

In the following exercise, underline your choice, then, on the line below the question, explain why you made that choice.

Example: Would you rather sail on a raging river or on a calm river?

Why? I would prefer to sail on calm water because I am afraid my boat would capsize in a raging river.

1. Would you rather that your family be in **turmoil** or in peace?

Why? _____

2. Would you rather have trade with another nation or **strife** with another nation?

Why? _____

3. Would you rather your enemy **succumb** to you or defeat you?

Why? _____

4. Would you rather own a car with a large **capacity** or a small capacity?

Why? _____

5. Would you rather be sent to a **haven** or be expelled from a haven?

Why? _____

6. Would you rather find that your car's tires are **deflated** or inflated?

Why? _____

7. Would you rather have the inspector **assess** your house as having greater value or less value?

Why? _____

8. Would you rather hear **devastating** news or dull news?

Why? _____

9. Would you rather know that the storm has **subsided** or that it has intensified?

Why? _____

10. Would you rather follow a winding, **treacherous** trail, or a smooth, wide path?

Why? _____

11. Would you rather camp out in a **makeshift** tent or in a sturdy cabin?

Why? _____

Name _____

The Fire

At 7:30 P.M., on a balmy summer night, a thin man driving up a winding road dropped a match from his car window onto the green mountainside. He thought, of course, that the match had been extinguished. But he was wrong. With lazy excitement, a small spark leapt from the match and lit up a bed of ragged, dry twigs. It wasn't long before the twigs took on a life of their own, dancing in the light of a newly hatched forest fire. By 9:00 P.M., two acres of forest were burning, and a woman driving on Route 80 alerted the fire department when she spotted a tall column of smoke sweeping across the trees.

Sarah Silver had just finished drying the supper dishes when she smelled the smoke. "Lizzy's burned the dinner again," she thought to herself with a smile. She began preparing lunches for her three children, sound asleep in their bedroom, when she realized that the smell of smoke was becoming stronger. Cautiously, Sarah opened her front door and looked outside. In the semi-darkness, she could make out what looked like an enormous cloud hanging above the trees at the edge of the Silvers' property. It was a fire! Sarah raced for the children's room, grabbing the telephone as she went.

The children were deeply asleep, and it took all of Sarah's nerves and strength to awaken them. Outside, the fire was gaining momentum, swallowing up the trees in its path with a mighty roar, creating even more flames, hungry to destroy. Huge waves of heat rolled off the Silvers as they staggered outside. Flames flew high in the air, just a few hundred feet away, and they glowed brightly in the pale moonlight. The fire gobbled up a small row of stores, shattering glass and throwing furniture into the air as it roared with delight. Sarah could barely see her car, thankfully hidden beyond the fire's reach, and she urged her terrified children toward it as she dared to hope they could flee. Far away, the shriek of a dozen sirens broke in on the bellow of the fire, and the firefighters began their desperate work. The blaze was already three thousand acres strong, and it had claimed fifteen lives so far. It would not be stopped.

The car started on the second try, and Sarah, wiping her stinging eyes, struggled to see through the smoke. The fire was racing towards her on three sides, and the only escape was through a narrow path of overgrown bushes. Sarah held back her tears as her children whimpered in the back seat, and she pressed down hard on the gas pedal. The car surged forward, a tongue of flames pursuing it with hot, angry breath. Flurries of sparks shot up in the air and rained down, scattering heat and starting new fires in the soft, eager brush. The front windshield cracked, and a wisp of hot, choking air blew through the car. Suddenly, a clearing opened up in the bushes, stopping the fire in its tracks for a few moments. Ahead, Sarah could see a ribbon of highway, waiting to lead her to safety.



The Flood

MINI ORIGINAL

Questions

Answer the following questions about *The Fire* using complete sentences.

1. What caused the fire? Can you draw a moral from this simple cause and effect?

2. The author gives us many details: the time that the man threw the match out of his window, the name of the road on which the woman who informed the fire department was driving, what Sarah was doing when she smelled the smoke, etc. Do you think these details add to or detract from the story? Why?

3. In this story, it is the fire that is the main “character.” Most of what we read is about the start, development, and action of the fire. The fire is even described in terms we usually apply to human personalities. Complete the chart by finding the words or phrases in the story asked for in the first column.

how it got started	
how it traveled through the forest	
how it reacted to the trees in its path	
the sound it made when it was at work	
what it did to a small row of stores	
the “emotion” it had when it burned up the stores	
the “emotion” it had as it chased the Silvers’ car	

4. Why does the author describe the fire as though it were human?

Name _____

Most of the animals in *The Flood* allowed themselves to be saved because of affection training. Many who could have escaped came back to their owner after the flood. In the circles below, write what happened to each animal during the flood.

