

VOCABULARY WORKSHEETS - *House on Mango Street*

The House on Mango Street - Laughter

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. For the time being, Mama says. Temporary, says Papa.

2. And since she comes right after me, she is my responsibility.

3. Until then I am a red balloon, a balloon tied to an anchor.

4. Just like that, as if she were a fancy chandelier. That's the way he did it.

5. I have inherited her name, but I don't want to inherit her place by the window.

6. I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees.

7. Cathy's father will have to fly to France one day and find her great great distant grand cousin on her father's side and inherit the family house.

8. I don't tell them about Nenny just yet. It's too complicated.

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. temporary | A. duty |
| 2. responsibility | B. to receive from one who has gone before |
| 3. anchor | C. to give a first or Christian name to |
| 4. chandelier | D. heavy object used to keep a boat in place |
| 5. inherit | E. not easy to understand |
| 6. baptize | F. for a limited time |
| 7. distant | G. far apart in relationship |
| 8. complicated | H. a light fixture that hangs from a ceiling |

Gil's Furniture Bought & Sold - There Was an Old Woman . . .

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Everything is on top of everything so the whole store has skinny aisles to walk through.

2. Or like marimbas only with a funny little plucked sound to it like if you were running your fingers across the teeth of a metal comb.

3. Or like marimbas only with a funny little plucked sound to it like if you were running your fingers across the teeth of a metal comb.

4. It is wooden. Inside the floors slant. Some rooms uphill. Some down.

5. This is the tree we chose for the First Annual Tarzan Jumping Contest.

6. The windows didn't roll up like in ordinary cars. Instead there was a button that did it for you automatically.

7. She is the one who told us . . . if you count the white flecks on your fingernails you can know how many boys are thinking of you and lots of other things I can't remember now.

8. . . . and didn't even stop Refugia from getting her head stuck between two slats in the back gate and nobody looked up . . .

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. aisles | A. done every year |
| 2. marimbas | B. sloped; made diagonal |
| 3. plucked | C. a wooden, xylophone-like instrument |
| 4. slant | D. tiny spots |
| 5. annual | E. done by machine |
| 6. automatically | F. passageways in a store or theater |
| 7. flecks | G. narrow strips of wood or metal |
| 8. slats | H. removed with the fingers |

Alicia Who Sees Mice - A Rice Sandwich

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. That up there, that's cumulus, and everybody looks up.

2. And don't forget nimbus the rain cloud, I add, that's something.

3. The mother's feet, plump and polite, descended like white pigeons from the sea of the pillow, across the linoleum roses, down the wooden stairs, over the chalk hopscotch squares .

4. The mother's feet, plump and polite, descended like white pigeons from the sea of the pillow, across the linoleum roses, down the wooden stairs, over the chalk hopscotch squares

5. It's Rachel who learned to walk the best all strutted in those magic high heels.

6. The special kids, the ones who wear keys around their necks, get to eat in the canteen.

7. I'm no Spartan and hold up an anemic wrist to prove it.

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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|--------------|--|
| 1. cumulus | A. weak; without much energy |
| 2. nimbus | B. a washable floor covering |
| 3. descended | C. a low, dark rain cloud |
| 4. linoleum | D. walked in a pompous way; swaggered |
| 5. strutted | E. went down |
| 6. canteen | F. white, fluffy clouds with a flat base |
| 7. anemic | G. a small cafeteria or snack bar |

Chanclas - Born Bad

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. My feet swell big and heavy like plungers, but I drag them across the linoleum floor . . .

2. Ready and waiting like a new Buick with the keys in the ignition. Ready to take you where?

3. She is the color of a bar of naphtha laundry soap, she is like the little brown piece left at the end of the wash, the hard little bone, my sister.

4. I came home . . . all wet because Tito had pushed me into the open water hydrant . . .

5. Like sticky capsules filled with jelly

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. plungers | A. the switch that turns on a car |
| 2. ignition | B. an upright cylinder for holding water |
| 3. naphtha | C. a kind of soap |
| 4. hydrant | D. a small, oval shaped, jelly-like container |
| 5. capsules | E. rubber suction cups on sticks |

Not tested:

Or merengue, a rapid dance

Or tembleque! a dance; a hair ornament

Your abuelito is dead, Papa says early one morning in my room. Está muerto . . .

Elenita, Cards, Palm, Water - No Speak English

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Golden goblets, sad-looking women dressed in old-fashioned dresses, and roses that cry.

2. Here a pillar of bees and this a mattress of luxury.

3. Here a pillar of bees and this a mattress of luxury.

4. Nobody but an intern working all alone.

5. And maybe if the surgeon would've come, maybe if he hadn't lost so much blood, if the surgeon had only come, they would know who to notify and where.

6. They never knew about the two-room flats and sleeping rooms he rented . . .

7. . . . the weekly money orders sent home, the currency exchanged.

8. Their strength is their secret. They send ferocious roots beneath the ground.

9. ¡Ay! Mamacita, who does not belong, every once in a while lets out a cry, hysterical, high, as if he had torn the only skinny thread that kept her alive, the only road out to that country.

Elenita, Cards, Palm, Water - No Speak English

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. goblets | A. a column or vertical support |
| 2. pillar | B. uncontrolled laughing or crying |
| 3. luxury | C. an advanced student |
| 4. intern | D. money |
| 5. surgeon | E. savage, fierce |
| 6. flats | F. a doctor who operates on patients |
| 7. currency | G. a type of glass with a stem and a base |
| 8. ferocious | H. an apartment all on one floor |
| 9. hysterical | I. comfort and pleasure |

Good, she says, los espíritus are here. *The spirits.*

¿Cuándo, cuándo, cuándo? she asks. *When, when, when?*

Rafaela Who Drinks Coconut . . . - What Sally Said

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. The boys at school think she's beautiful because her hair is shiny black like raven feathers

2. They don't look down at all except to be content to live on hills.

3. I'll offer them the attic, then ask them to stay, because I know how it is to be without a house.

4. . . . But I have decided not to grow up tame like the others who lay their necks on the threshold waiting for the ball and chain.

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. raven | A. a room directly below the roof |
| 2. content | B. satisfied |
| 3. attic | C. an entrance or doorway |
| 4. threshold | D. a large bird with black feathers |

Look at my comadres. She means Izaura whose husband left and Yolanda whose husband is dead.

The Monkey Garden - Mango Says Goodbye Sometimes

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. The monkey doesn't live there anymore. . . And I was glad because I couldn't listen anymore to his wild screaming at night, the twangy yakkety-yak of the people who owned him.

2. She met a marshmallow salesman at a school bazaar, and married him in another state

3. I say, "and so she trudged up the wooden stairs, her sad brown shoes taking her to the house she never liked."

Chapters 1-4

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. twangy | A. walked in a heavy-footed way; plodded |
| 2. bazaar | B. a fair or sale |
| 3. trudged | C. a sharp, vibrating sound |