Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**VOCABULARY UNIT 6** English 10

A. BEFORE PRACTICE

3 = I know this word and can use it on my own 2 = I sort of know what the word means

1 = I have heard the word before, but don’t know what it means 0 = I’ve never heard it before

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ascertain |  | atrocious |  | compassion |  | composure |  | deteriorate |  |
| insipid |  | lament |  | loathe |  | painstaking |  | repress |  |

B. In the following sentences, underline the context clues. Then make your guess about the word before you move on. *These sentences deal with the Southern author William Faulkner.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. A few years ago I tried to **ascertain** the reason for Faulkner’s reputation as one of America’s best writers. I found out that many consider him a powerful, creative, and original author. | My guess: |
| 2. Faulkner’s formal education was limited because of his **atrocious** attendance at school; he almost never went to class, and he dropped out completely after the tenth grade. | My guess: |
| 3. A friend had **compassion** on Faulkner and let him use their family library. Faulkner loved to read, and his friend’s sympathetic help made it possible for Faulkner to educate himself. | My guess: |
| 4. Faulkner had the maturity and **composure** to work many different jobs at a young age. But he felt the most calm and self-assured later in life writing at home in Oxford, Mississippi. | My guess: |
| 5. Many of Faulkner’s writings are about human relationships that **deteriorate**. *The Sound and the Fury* is about relationships in a Southern family that get worse and worse. | My guess: |
| 6. Faulkner’s writing is lively and interesting. I don’t think it would ever be called **insipid** because the characters are not boring or lifeless. | My guess: |
| 7. Although Faulkner spoke against the federal government’s involvement in racial policies in the South, his writings are often a **lament** for the horrible treatment of blacks there. His sorrow and regret over their situation shows in his writing. | My guess: |
| 8. If you **loathe** having to think hard about what you are reading, Faulkner is not for you, but try him if you like a challenge. | My guess: |
| 9. Faulkner was **painstaking** in describing historical times and places in his writing. His careful attention to detail makes his stories believable. | My guess: |
| 10. Because the library didn’t have a copy and I didn’t have money to download it, I had to **repress** my desire to read *As I Lay Dying* until a teacher could loan me a copy. I’m glad I restrained myself; the novel was worth waiting for. | My guess: |

C. Write the correct word next to its definition and identify any variations of the word.

ascertain atrocious compassion composure deteriorate

insipid lament loathe painstaking repress

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **WORD** | **DEFINITION** | **VARIATIONS?** |
| 1 |  | Flavorless, dull, unexciting, lifeless  *Not interesting, exciting, or attractive* |  |
| 2 |  | Very careful, diligent, requiring great effort, meticulous  *Very careful or thorough* |  |
| 3 |  | To become worse or less valuable, to diminish  *To become worse* |  |
| 4 |  | To regret, to express sorrow or mourning over, to grieve (verb); an expression of grief, a song or poem expressing deep sadness (noun)  *To express feelings of great sadness or disappointment* |  |
| 5 |  | Pity for someone else’s suffering, along with a desire to help, deep sympathy; *Sympathy for someone who is suffering* |  |
| 6 |  | To find out, to determine, to learn, to make certain  *To find out the truth about something* |  |
| 7 |  | To hold back, to keep or put down, to restrain; *To stop yourself from expressing a feeling, remembering something, or doing something* |  |
| 8 |  | To feel intense dislike or disgust, to detest  *To hate someone or something* |  |
| 9 |  | Self-possession, calmness  *A calm feeling you have when you feel confident about a situation* |  |
| 10 |  | Exceedingly bad, wicked or cruel, abominable |  |

D. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

ascertain atrocious compassion composure deteriorate

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1. Although Faulkner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school when he was young, he did like to read.

2. It is not always easy to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what Faulkner means, but reading carefully will help you understand.

3. Faulker stayed calm, showing great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he gave speeches.

4. In my writing I will try to be extremely careful and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with details like Faulkner.

5. I like exciting stories that are filled with life, not dull, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ones.

6. In one of Faulkner’s books a sorrowful family \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the death of a family member.

7. Faulkner wrote about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blacks in the South had to endure.

8-9. Another story is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sympathetic look at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the life of a war veteran whose emotional and mental condition gradually gets worse.

10. In his writing, Faulkner took a stand against the horrible, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acts committed against some Southerners by showing deep sympathy for the victims.

E. AFTER PRACTICE

*Go back to Part A and evaluate each word again. Focus your study before the quiz on those words that you have still identified as a 2 or below.*