

VOCABULARY LESSON 2

Directions: Complete the following exercises on your own. Use context clues from the following sentences to match the **bold** words with the proper definition. Write neatly, spell words correctly, and complete each section.

- Her provocative statement about teens and pregnancy **evoked** many questions from the audience; it seemed they all had something they wanted to know about the topic.
- I never liked the **epithet** “Quicksilver,” but my shiny bathing suit had led my teammates to give me this nickname.
- Instead of being frantic and upset, Melissa was **lucid** in her explanation of the accident to the cop and hardly seemed concerned.
- Bobby was excited to attend the **symposium** on antique cars; three days of discussing them and looking under the hoods was his dream come true.
- My teachers always seem to **scrutinize** my writing by never letting me get away with one tiny mistake!
- I can **infer** from the tears in her eyes that she is not happy with the outcome of the Homecoming election.
- It seems that no matter how hard Kelly tries in school, her grades are never good enough for her **exacting** father.
- When the play opened with a murder and a suicide, I thought that was pretty obvious **foreshadowing** that the rest of the performance would be very dark and heavy.
- The **evasive** student never really gave a reason for not doing her homework; instead she pleaded with Mrs. Black to let her turn it in the next day.
- Sam’s **laudable** performance in front of the class left me with no choice but to give him a 100 on the assignment.

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
	noun	A meeting for discussing a particular subject; a collection of writing on a subject
	verb	To indicate or suggest beforehand; to give a warning of
	verb	To examine closely or critically
	adjective	Avoiding by cleverness; not straightforward; misleading
	verb	To conclude on the basis of reasoning or understanding
	adjective	Easily understood; clear; rational and sane
	adjective	Hard to please; requiring hard work and close attention; demanding
	verb	To call forth; to bring out; to elicit; to produce (a reaction)
	noun	A word or phrase that describes or characterizes a person or thing; a descriptive name
	adjective	Praiseworthy; commendable

Use each of the vocabulary words to complete the sentences below.

1. Because Singer’s writing is so original, critics have had a hard time finding an _____ that can briefly describe his work.

2. Singer was never _____ about his goals as a writer, he made it plain that his aim was simply to entertain his readers with a good story.
3. In his stories, Singer masterfully _____ the sights and sounds of the Polish neighborhoods that he knew as a child. The reader often feels as if he or she has visited the story's setting.
4. Because he had such _____ standards, he often rewrote a story several times before he was satisfied.
5. Sadly, the decline in Singer's Yiddish readership may _____ the eventual disappearance of the language.
6. Singer doesn't directly state his philosophy in his stories, but readers may _____ from his fiction a deep religious faith.
7. Not all of Singer's characters are _____--in fact, some of them are mean and corrupt.
8. Singer wrote _____ accounts of the forces that shape people's lives.
9. Singer was careful not to force his personal interpretations on his readers. Instead, he left it up to us to _____ his characters' motives.
10. Singer's work is always a likely topic for discussion at a _____ on Yiddish literature.
11. Have you ever known someone who was a fatalist? That _____ aptly describes the main character in Singer's story "The Fatalist."
12. Fatalism is the belief that everything is determined by fate or destiny. Thus, you can _____ from the story's title that Singer's character doesn't believe in chance.
13. Benjamin, the fatalist, discusses his strange beliefs at a _____ held by a group of young scholars.
14. Benjamin's philosophy is so _____ that it beings to make sense to some of the villagers.
15. Benjamin's comments about fate _____ the clever plot twists in the story. Even so, the events are sure to surprise you.
16. The fatalist's beliefs _____ scorn in Heyele, the young woman he wants to marry. She doesn't hide her feelings, but he proposes to her anyway.
17. The woman has very _____ standards, and Benjamin clearly doesn't live up to them.
18. Benjamin proposes an extraordinary bet to test whether their marriage is fated. After _____ his offer carefully, looking for any tricks, Heyele accepts his wager.
19. The bet is this: Benjamin will lie in front of an oncoming train, and if it doesn't hit him, Heyele has to marry him. The villagers find his courage _____, but they can't believe he would do something so foolish!
20. Does Benjamin win the bet? I don't mean to be _____, but you will have to read the story to find out!