

VOCABULARY LESSON 5

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.

- She smiled after I finished reading her the **anecdote** from grandmother's journal. It was like hearing her voice all over again as we revisited some of her life's experiences.
- Elizabeth's lie in "The Crucible" was particularly **climactic**; John Proctor's fate went downhill after that.
- In the novel's **epilogue**, he explained his motive for writing such a morbid, depressing book.
- Sue Ellen gave an **extemporaneous** speech since she'd forgotten to do any preparations at home.
- Michael's **fidelity** to his school is commendable; he cheered for them relentlessly even during the most hopeless of games.
- You might say that comedy is Larry the Cable Guy's **forte**.
- Although she considered herself a rising **gourmet**, her dinner guests begged to differ. Her chicken parmesan was barely edible.
- You might say that I'm a **hypochondriac** because if someone even talks about sneezing, I think I'm coming down with a cold.
- The little girl was considered to be a **prodigy** since she could play Beethoven from memory at the early age of four.
- She hoped that cheating on a test in the ninth grade wouldn't be a **stigma** she would have to carry for the rest of her high school career.

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
	A	Of the highest point; of the most intense part of a story or event
	N	Loyalty; faithfulness; accuracy; the degree to which an electronic device accurately reproduces sound or picture
	N	A brief, entertaining account of an interesting incident
	N	An expert on food or drink
	N	A person with extraordinary talents, especially a highly gifted child; an act or thing that causes amazement; a marvel
	N	Something that someone does very well; a strong point
	N	A short concluding section at the end of a literary work; speech at the end of a play
	N	A mark of shame; a stain; in botany, the portion of a flower's pistil on which pollen is deposited for germination
	N	A person suffering from abnormal anxiety about his or her health; one who imagines he or she is sick or has symptoms of a disease
	A	Done, said, or performed with little or no preparation; unrehearsed; offhand

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

1. In her essay, Walker builds up to the _____ moment when she realized her mother was an artist.
2. An interested reader might sample all of her fine works, as a _____ would taste every dish at a feast.
3. Earlier in her career, Walker revealed herself to be a _____ with remarkable gifts.
4. Walker illustrates the creativity of African American women with a brief story; she tells an _____ about her mother's fame as a gardener.
5. Walker encourages African Americans to view their heritage not as a _____ but as a source of pride and inspiration.
6. Walker's description of her mother's gardens may seem _____ at first, but it is actually a deliberate, carefully developed metaphor.
7. There is a difference between a _____ who enjoys complaining about illness and a suffering person who truly seeks a cure.
8. Like an actor giving an _____ at the end of the play, Walker concludes her essay with a poem about women of her mother's generation.
9. It is difficult to say whether Walker's _____ is prose or poetry; she is a master of both mediums.
10. Walker's mother's gardens show her _____ to her artistic gifts---gifts that she could have easily abandoned.
11. Walker values the bond of sympathy between women. In her novel The Color Purple, one of the _____ moments, or turning points, is when the narrator finds a bundle of letters from her sister.
12. Walker points out that the poet Phyllis Wheatley, an 18th century slave, was taught to reject her African heritage as if it were a terrible _____.
13. Those thwarted artists often expressed their creativity in any way they could; for example, if a woman was a gifted storyteller, she may have told _____ to entertain and instruct her children.
14. Wheatley was so frail that she often needed a servant to look after her. Far from being a _____, she suffered from genuine illness that may have been worsened by her inner conflicts.
15. As Walker points out, the lives of those women are not closed books. The artistic achievements of their children and grandchildren serve as inspiring _____ to the women's own stories, a fitting conclusion to their success as mothers.
16. Perhaps Walker imagines that Phyllis Wheatley's mother shared her daughter's _____ to the ideal of art---her willingness to stay true to her life's purpose.
17. Walker mourns the fate of women who might have been artistic _____ if only they had been free to express their creativity.
18. Nettie's letters are a form of art. In her correspondences, she makes meaning out of events that other might only refer to in an _____ remark, offhand and unaffected.
19. A 19th century African American woman whose _____ was poetry or sculpture had little hope of developing her talents.
20. Imagine a _____ who must live on stale bread. Artists who can't practice their art are just as deprived.