

Name _____ Date _____

VOCABULARY LESSON 7

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.

- When I was sick with bronchitis, I had to **bolster** myself up in the bed to sleep. Unless I was in an elevated position, I could not breathe.
- Instead of writing out the cuss word, she used an **expletive** in her journal. She got the point across that foul language was spoken, but she used her discretion when presenting it to the teacher.
- Jaime approached Steve with such a **furor** that everyone cleared out of her way. No one wanted to be close when she interrogated him about going out with her best friend.
- To say, “What’s up?” is **idiomatic** to English. A non-English speaker may take this literally and look up.
- Love, faith, and hope are **intangible**; although you know they exist, you cannot physically touch them.
- Our substitute teacher was **laconic**. He did not give many instructions; he just read from the sheet of paper and did not speak again.
- When someone says hello, it is polite to **reciprocate** with a greeting.
- Having the “flu” was just a **subterfuge** for not turning his research paper in on time.
- When we arrived at the ball, we took particular notice of the tacky, **tawdry** dresses worn by the women at the head table.
- After being gone for so long, Johnny became **wistful** for his home and friends.

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
		Not capable of being touched; not material; vague or not easily defined
		Characteristic of a particular language
		An oath or exclamation, usually profane; a word without meaning of its own, used to complete a phrase
		Using few words; brief in speech or expression
		A long, narrow pillow; anything used as a support; to prop up or reinforce
		To give, do, or take in return; to move with a backward-forward motion
		Frenzied anger; rage; a public uproar or outburst of indignation; great enthusiasm for
		Full of longing; yearning; wishful
		A trick, excuse, or deception used to escape something unpleasant
		Gaudy; showy; cheap

Use the vocabulary words to complete the sentences below.

1. Have you ever had a friend who _____ your self-esteem just by thinking you were special?
2. In Kincaid's story "The Red Girl," the young narrator admires a rebellious, red-haired girl. The girl eventually _____ the narrator's admiration, and the two become friends.
3. The narrator, Annie John, comes from a strict family and isn't allowed to play with children who act improperly. For example, her mother probably wouldn't let her hang around with someone who uttered rude _____.
4. Annie John's mother would respond with _____ if she caught Annie John playing with the Red Girl, who shoots marbles and doesn't brush her teeth.
5. The Red Girl probably would consider the clothes and jewelry that interest some girls her age to be _____; she doesn't seem to care much at all about such glittery items.
6. She doesn't have to wash every day or comb her hair. But even more important than these concrete facts, the Red Girl has a(n) _____ air of freedom that Annie John envies.
7. Annie John has a(n) _____ desire for the sort of freedom that the Red Girl enjoys.
8. Because Annie John can't openly associate with the Red Girl, she resorts to _____ so that she can play marbles with her new friend.
9. Kincaid's _____, precise description captures the character of the Red Girl in just a few paragraphs.
10. Annie John's _____, everyday way of talking helps characterize her as well.
11. Like any good writer with an ear for dialogue, Kincaid creates natural-sounding conversations among her characters, complete with _____, or strong exclamations.
12. Some people have expressed _____ over the fact that West Indian writers have received too little attention. Their anger and indignation might be justified.
13. Often the descriptions have a(n) _____ quality, especially when the narrator longs for the simple world of her childhood.
14. Kincaid tells realistic stories about believable characters---characters who feel and love strongly but whose feeling are not always _____ or returned.
15. Yet Kincaid's unusual style isn't a(n) _____, or trick, used to escape the conventions of storytelling. Her fiction is genuinely experimental.
16. Kincaid acknowledges her roots by using _____ expressions unique to West Indian dialects.
17. Some critics have accused Kincaid of being too _____, or explaining too little in her writing.
18. Jamaica Kincaid's fiction doesn't reinforce stereotypes about Caribbean people; instead it _____ more complex views of West Indian life.
19. Her stories of the lives of ordinary people probably wouldn't appeal to someone who likes _____, flashy, thrill-a-minute story lines.
20. As one critic noted, Kincaid explores the mysterious, indefinable aspects of ordinary experiences. Often, Kincaid captures this _____ quality through poetic repetition of words.