

SAMPLE PAGES FOR

S O U T H C A R O L I N A

6TH GRADE READING

THIRD EDITION

CHALLENGE THE

PALMETTO **A**CHIEVEMENT **C**HALLENGE **T**EST

BY

JANE HEREFORD

CPC

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6001-101 Chapel Hill Road, Raleigh, NC 27607 • (919) 851-8221



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WORD ROOTS, PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

Many new English words have been created by adding prefixes and suffixes to a root word.

EXAMPLES

PREFIX	ROOT	SUFFIX
	doubt	ful
en	light	en
re	new	

PREFIXES

A prefix is a syllable or syllables added to the beginning of a word that changes its meaning.

PREFIX	MEANING	NEW WORD
bi	two, twice	bi annual
dis	away, off, not	dis claim
ex-	former	ex- president
fore	before	fore runner
in	not	in accurate
mis	bad, wrong, not	mis spell
pre	before	pre wash
tri	three	tri cycle
un	not	un cover

SUFFIX

A suffix is a syllable or syllables added to the end of a root word that changes the root word's part of speech and sometimes its meaning.

SUFFIX	MEANING	NEW WORD
-able	worthy of	reasonable
-ful	full of	plentiful
-less	without	penniless
-y	state of being	foxy
-en	resembling, made of	lengthen
-like	similar to	robotlike
-ly	appearance, in a certain manner	homely

PRACTICE

Underline the prefix or suffix and then write the meaning of each word.

1. misrepresent _____
2. bipolar _____
3. preheat _____
4. unearth _____
5. displease _____
6. triangle _____
7. ex-husband _____
8. incomplete _____
9. eatable _____
10. forehead _____
11. misty _____
12. fearful _____
13. painless _____
14. hardly _____
15. dwarflike _____
16. shorten _____
17. discolor _____
18. meaningless _____

MULTIPLE MEANINGS

Many words have more than one meaning.

EXAMPLE

I drank a glass of cold **water**.

Please **water** the plants on the windowsill.

PRACTICE

Write two sentences with each word.

Each sentence should use the word with a different meaning.

1. wind

2. circle

3. ground

4. bark

5. rock

6. house

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7. watch

8. arm

9. pen

10. skirt

11. table

12. fish

13. plant

14. second

15. fly

MEANINGS OF WORDS

In many passages, you will find words whose meaning you do not know. How can you find the meanings of these words without using a dictionary? Look for clues in the sentence.

EXAMPLE

1. Straight ahead, sheer cliffs rose out of the earth, reaching an unbelievable height.

What is the meaning of sheer?

2. Chuck received an artificial limb when he lost his leg in the Vietnam War.

What is the meaning of artificial?

For question 1, you should have answered *steep* as the meaning of sheer. The clue was “an unbelievable height.”

For question 2, you should have answered *made by man* or *imitation* for the meaning of artificial. The clue was “lost his leg.”

PRACTICE

Write the meaning of each word and the clue that helped you find the meaning.

1. The singer strained to reach the high note.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

2. The loud music blared from the radio.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

3. Mary’s father is a pilot, and he flies a large jet.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

4. The flippers of a whale balance the creature and keep it level.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

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5. Rays, sharks, and whales feed on plankton.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

6. The aquarium features fish from the nearby ocean waters.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

7. Inside the apartment, we keep a roaring fire ablaze.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

8. Marlowe had an idea; she gave it much thought.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

9. The sudden gust of wind bent the trees double in the backyard.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

10. The art instructor taught the students about primary colors.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

11. Natalie did not like the ugly, old, antique china her grandmother left her.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

12. Crocodiles inhabit the African waterways and have lived there for centuries.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

13. Many plants were thriving in the fertile soil and had grown 3 inches.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

14. The cork floated on the water waiting for a fish to nibble the worm.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

15. The eruption of the volcano blew out the left side of the mountain.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

16. There was not a building standing among the ruins.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

17. The bitter chocolate tasted terrible to the small toddler.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

18. The carrots had not been cooked, so we ate them raw.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

19. The lemon towels dyed all of my clothes a pale yellow in the washer.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

20. The duck's feathers will be quite warm in the down jacket.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

21. The climate of France is varied with many different temperature ranges.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

22. Our prey knew that it was being hunted and hid.

Meaning – _____

Clue – _____

REVIEW

Read each passage and answer the “vocabulary” questions.

LARGE TURTLE

The little village of *Murphy* ... lies at the junction of the Owassa and Valley rivers, and in point of location is one of the prettiest places in the world. Its Indian name was *Klausuna*, or the *Large Turtle*. It was so called, says a Cherokee legend, on account of its being the *sunning* place of an immense turtle which lived in its vicinity in ancient times. The turtle was particularly famous for its *repelling* power, having been known not to be at all injured by a stroke of lightning. Nothing on earth had power to annihilate the creature; but, on account of the many attempts to take its life, when it was known to be a harmless and inoffensive creature, it became disgusted with this world, and burrowed its way into the middle of the earth, where it now lives in peace.

—Charles Lanman

1. What is the meaning of “junction” in the first sentence?
 - (A) mix
 - (B) to deceive
 - (C) where things meet
 - (D) land in the tropics
2. What is vicinity?
 - (A) evil
 - (B) someone injured
 - (C) neighborhood
 - (D) winner
3. What does the author mean when he writes “annihilate the creature”?
 - (A) destroy the turtle
 - (B) annoy the turtle
 - (C) measure the turtle
 - (D) plant the turtle
4. Inoffensive means _____. [1]
5. What is meant by “burrowed his way”?
 - (A) dug a passage
 - (B) covered himself
 - (C) has a burden
 - (D) swam quickly

THE MOUNTAIN AND ITS MUSIC

All sorts of strange things are told about The Mountain, lying astride the dividing line between South Carolina and North Carolina.

For one thing, it is a mountain “bald,” and no trees grow on the top of it. The story is told that the Catawba Indians once challenged all their enemies to come there and fight. Though the Catawbas won in three gory battles, so much blood was shed that the trees withered away and never grew back, and the rhododendron which gradually took hold on the heights had blossoms mostly crimson in hue.

Sometimes the fierce wind pounds the mountain so hard that it blows holes in the northwest side. Or so it is said. On calmer days, after a thunderstorm, a rainbow appears—not a semicircular one, but a completely round one.

And what about the ghostly music that early travelers heard? To some it seemed like the humming of a thousand bees. Others thought it sounded rather like the constant low snapping of one glass jar upon another and was merely an electrical phenomenon resulting from two powerful winds meeting head-on in a narrow gap on the mountain.

Yet no scientific explanation has ever convinced the local folk that it is not the heavenly melody of angels practicing for Judgement Day.

6. What is the meaning of “astride” in the first sentence?
- (A) off the right way
 - (B) sideways
 - (C) with one section on each side
 - (D) athletic

7. Mountain “bald” means _____.
- (A) hairless
 - (B) offensive
 - (C) tailless
 - (D) having no trees

8. Another word for “crimson” is _____.
- (A) criminal
 - (B) red
 - (C) wrinkle
 - (D) deep

9. What is meant by “semicircular”? [1]
-

10. What does the author refer to when he writes “gory battles”?
- (A) beautiful victories
 - (B) large wars
 - (C) bloody fighting
 - (D) hallow trench for fighting

11. What is a phenomenon? [1]
-

THE PLEADING HAND

Anderson County has a restless wraith who frequents the highways. She watches passing vehicles and keeps to paths that are near the main arteries of travel. Strollers on those paths have been known to feel a cold hand laid suddenly on an arm, and turn to see a face, with mournful eyes. Travelers—back in horse-and-buggy days and on into the automobile era—have sometimes been surprised to find a seat beside them—which they had thought empty—occupied by the lovely phantom with the sad face. Such a discovery is made when a cold hand tugs at sleeve or pocket, pleading for something. Never a sound has she been known to utter; so no one knows what it is she seeks.

12. What is a “restless wraith”?
- Ⓐ young girl
 - Ⓑ ghost who is not at peace
 - Ⓒ uneasy story
 - Ⓓ frightening experience
13. What does the author refer to when he writes “arteries of travel”?
- Ⓐ main roads
 - Ⓑ veins
 - Ⓒ bloodlike
 - Ⓓ carry away from the heart
14. Mournful means _____. [1]
15. What is the meaning of phantom?
- Ⓐ king
 - Ⓑ something that appears real
 - Ⓒ queen
 - Ⓓ prince-like
16. Another word for utter is _____. [1]

MYSTERY SHIP

On the cold morning of January 31, 1921, a lookout at the Coast Guard Station reported that a five-masted schooner was stranded offshore “with all sails set.” Two boats went to her rescue, but the breakers were so turbulent that they could get only close enough to call out her name: *Carroll A. Deering*. There was no sign of a crew, and her lifeboats were missing. When she was finally boarded four days later, charts were found in disarray in the skipper’s bathroom, and food, prepared but never eaten, was set out in the galley. The only thing alive was an unhappy, lonesome meowing yellow cat. Three weeks later the *Deering* was dynamited as a danger to shipping. What had happened?

Only a few facts have come to light. The *Deering* sailed from Boston in September, 1920, for Buenos Aires. Off Delaware the captain became sick and was replaced. Months later she began her homeward voyage from Buenos Aires, with Norfolk her destined port. In the West Indies the new captain told a friend he had no confidence in his crew. Later, the schooner lost her anchors in a storm somewhere near the mouth of a river. She was in trouble.

Was there a mutiny? Did the crew murder their unpopular captain and leave the ship in their lifeboats? Perhaps that is what happened. Or was the *Deering* captured by Russian pirates? For a while, rumor said that such was the case. A more likely story is that the disabled vessel, upon being stranded, was abandoned by the captain and her eleven crewman, and that subsequently the lifeboats were wrecked with all lives lost. Maybe so, but why were they in such a hurry that they left freshly cooked food untouched on their plates in the galley?

17. What is a schooner?
 - (A) mast
 - (B) fish
 - (C) mug for drinking
 - (D) ship

18. What is the author referring to when he says “with all sails set”?
 - (A) all sails down
 - (B) no sails
 - (C) sails on fire
 - (D) all sails up

19. Disarray means _____. [1]

20. Another word for confidence is
 - (A) limit
 - (B) proof
 - (C) faith
 - (D) secret

21. What is a mutiny?
 - (A) sheep meat
 - (B) dog
 - (C) deafness
 - (D) rebellion

22. “Anchors” means what in this passage?
 - (A) fasten
 - (B) fish
 - (C) robot
 - (D) metal device to hold a ship steady

CELESTIAL PATTERNS

When we look at the sky today, we no longer see it the way our early ancestors did. We dismiss the sun and the moon as ordinary, commonplace things. When people such as the ancient Egyptians and Sumerians looked at the sky, they saw gods, sources of warmth and light, gods to guide their journeys, gods to foretell the seasons, gods who could be seen and trusted to cycle and recycle through the heavens. It is easy to understand why the sun and the moon were regarded as divine. Human beings receive a large amount of all their information about the external world from the light reaching their eyes. Thus sunlight, either directly or when reflected from the moon, is very important, and the sun and moon can become divine as bringers of light. We still use many of the words and metaphors that once belonged to sun worship. The sky is still referred to as “heaven” or “the heavens.”

23. In the title, what is meant by “celestial”?
- (A) a famous person
 - (B) a plant
 - (C) of the sky
 - (D) observance
24. What are ancestors?
- (A) classic
 - (B) descendants
 - (C) fish
 - (D) orders
25. Commonplace means _____.
- [1]

26. What are “beings of light”?
- (A) sun and moon
 - (B) electricity
 - (C) fluorescent lighting
 - (D) wattage
27. In this passage, what is the meaning of foretell?
- (A) forthright
 - (B) past tense
 - (C) predict
 - (D) in the front

CARL SAGAN

As soon as I was old enough, my parents gave me my first library card. I think the library was on 85th Street, an alien land. Immediately, I asked the librarian for something on stars. She returned with a picture book displaying portraits of men and women with names like Clark Gable and Jean Harlow. I complained, and for some reason then obscure to me, she smiled and found another book—the right kind of book. I opened it breathlessly and read until I found it. The book said something astonishing, a very big thought. It said that the stars were suns, only very far away. The Sun was a star, but close up.

—Carl Sagan in *Cosmos*

28. What “stars” are the author referring to in this quote?
- Ⓐ movie makers
 - Ⓑ heavenly bodies
 - Ⓒ figures
 - Ⓓ fields
29. Obscure means _____. [1]
30. What is meant by “opened it breathlessly”?
- Ⓐ frightened
 - Ⓑ sadly
 - Ⓒ excited
 - Ⓓ seriously
31. Alien refers to _____. [1]

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

At the close of the Civil War, the United States embarked on a new adventure and never looked back. The new adventure was the US version of the Industrial Revolution. The US possessed all of the prerequisites needed, such as abundant natural resources, capital to finance the venture, and a labor force. The United States produced inventors by the dozens and made them American heroes. Immigrants poured into the country to fill its factories and transportation was improved by the expansion of railroads. The growing population provided the markets that were needed.

Captains of industry became new heroes. Cornelius Vanderbilt had an empire of shipping and railroads. Andrew Carnegie became a steel magnate, starting the company that was a forerunner of US Steel. John D. Rockefeller and his brothers started Standard Oil which had a near monopoly on oil in the US. Thomas Edison, often called the Wizard of Menlo Park, became a folk hero due to his many inventions dealing with electricity. His best-known invention was the incandescent light bulb, which converted electricity into light. This stable, controllable light soon light factories all over the US.

Other inventions which helped fuel industrialization were the Bessemer process which provided a method to produce large quantities of steel at a reasonable price. The invention of refrigeration enabled meat packers to ship their product throughout the US and changed the way Americans ate. Chicago became the center of the meat-packing industry. By the turn of the century, the US was fast on its way to being the most industrialized nation in the world.

32. In the opening sentence, what is meant by “embarked”?
- Ⓐ removed bark
 - Ⓑ come home
 - Ⓒ passengers
 - Ⓓ started out
33. What are prerequisites?
- Ⓐ skin
 - Ⓑ rights
 - Ⓒ things that are required
 - Ⓓ exercises
34. Venture means _____. [1]
35. What is a “steel magnate”?
- Ⓐ steel building
 - Ⓑ bird
 - Ⓒ very powerful and influential person
 - Ⓓ ship
36. A monopoly is _____.
- Ⓐ sole control
 - Ⓑ board game
 - Ⓒ train
 - Ⓓ use of all
37. What does the author mean when he says Thomas Edison is the “Wizard of Menlo Park”? [1]
-
-
38. What is the meaning of meat-packing?
- Ⓐ sausage
 - Ⓑ freezer
 - Ⓒ butcher
 - Ⓓ slaughterhouse

SALMONELLA FOOD POISONING

Salmonella is a food-borne bacterium and the microorganism has to reproduce in your intestinal tract to cause illness. Salmonella is found in raw meats, especially poultry, eggs, fish, and in milk and milk products. Salmonella can be destroyed by thorough cooking of foods. After cooking or when storing uncooked foods, it is very important that the food be refrigerated during holding. If a food is not cooked thoroughly or is held at the wrong temperature, a few surviving food-borne organisms can eventually reach your intestinal tract where they can reproduce and thrive. Because these organisms must grow in your intestine, the onset of symptoms is usually 18-36 hours after eating the suspected food. The symptoms of Salmonella poisoning include nausea, headaches, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea. This infection can be fatal in infants, the elderly, and the ill. In healthy individuals, symptoms usually abate after three to five days.

39. Food-borne means _____.
[1]

40. What is the meaning of onset in this article? Write in complete sentences.
[1]

41. What word or words could replace “abate”? Explain using complete sentences. [1]
