

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 14

CONTEXT: People and Places

Just Where Did the Red Fern Grow? Appalachia . . .

Wilson Rawls's (1913–1984) *Where the Red Fern Grows* is a story of love and triumph. A boy forms a deep friendship with two dogs who give their lives to save him from danger. The young-adult novel is set in Appalachia, a region in the southeastern mountains of the United States. This area has some of the country's most beautiful scenery. Every year, thousands of hikers walk along the Appalachian Trail, which runs for more than two thousand miles between Georgia and Maine.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about Appalachia. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

architect	desperate	eternal	realm	victim
betray	district	glimpse	sacrifice	victorious

EXERCISE 1

Wordbusting

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

architect



Special cabins and lodges for hikers can be found along the Appalachian Trail. Architects designed these buildings to be simple and comfortable.



Context:



Structure:



Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

betray

The hounds Old Dan and Little Ann in *Where the Red Fern Grows* would never turn against their owner. They were too faithful to betray him.

3.

eternal

The theme of the book is an **eternal**, or everlasting, one—the close relationships that develop between humans and animals.

4.

victim

The narrator of *Where the Red Fern Grows* is seriously injured when he becomes the **victim** of a mountain lion attack.

5.

sacrifice

Old Dan and Little Ann make a **sacrifice** for their owner: They give up their lives to save him.

6.

desperate

As many young people leave Appalachia for jobs in cities, their hometown citizens may become **desperate**. How will the towns survive without young people?

7.

district

The Appalachian Trail is over two thousand miles long. It passes through many **districts**, running through county after county and state after state from Maine to Georgia.

8.

glimpse

Driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway, one can **glimpse** secluded mountain meadows. A driver should not be tempted to take a longer look, though, because the road is high and winding!

9.

victorious

People concerned about the environment have been at least partially **victorious** in Appalachia. They have won protection for several endangered species.

10.

realm

The Appalachians are a **realm** for wildlife. Bears and bobcats are the rulers of this animal kingdom.

EXERCISE 2 *Context Clues* 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the **boldface** words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

_____ 11. word: _____:

n. a person who designs plans for the construction of buildings or other structures

_____ 12. word: _____:

adj. in a state resulting from a loss of hope; having a great need

_____ 13. word: _____:

v. to glance at; to see briefly; *n.* a brief, quick view

_____ 14. word: _____:

n. something offered to the gods; something given up for something of greater value; *v.* to offer something; to give up something of value for something else

_____ 15. word: _____:

v. to deceive; to turn against someone

_____ 16. word: _____:

adj. existing forever; everlasting

_____ 17. word: _____:

n. a person who is injured; one who suffers from some loss

_____ 18. word: _____:

n. a kingdom; an area

_____ 19. word: _____:

n. a defined area or region; a geographical or political division

_____ 20. word: _____:

adj. having gained a victory; winning

COLUMN B

(A) Out in the woods, the main character in *Where the Red Fern Grows* felt like a king ruling his own small realm.

(B) The boy's grandfather in *Where the Red Fern Grows* would never **betray** his grandson. He always tells the boy the truth.

(C) The red fern grew on the hounds' grave. It was an **eternal** symbol of love that would last forever.

(D) Most **architects** in Appalachia live in the cities, where they can find work designing buildings.

(E) Some people who live in Appalachia give up high salaries to move there. They are willing to make this **sacrifice** to live in such a beautiful place.

(F) Some Appalachian school districts are very large in area but small in population. Such area divisions can make it difficult for families with school-age children to get the children to school.

(G) Poverty is a serious problem in parts of Appalachia. Many people are **desperate** in their need for food and medical care.

(H) In some parts of Appalachia, birds and animals, **victims** of development, have lost much of their home territory.

(I) If you look carefully, you can sometimes **glimpse** a deer as it leaps swiftly through the woods.

(J) Victorious hikers celebrate the achievement of their goal when they reach the end of the Appalachian Trail.

EXERCISE 3***Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings*** 

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

21. the best architect

- (A) high school teacher
- (B) building designer
- (C) shipbuilder
- (D) coal miner

22. a district of West Virginia

- (A) region
- (B) writer
- (C) school
- (D) trail

23. a mountain realm

- (A) lion
- (B) stream
- (C) path
- (D) area

24. a sacrifice for love

- (A) proof
- (B) offering
- (C) prayer
- (D) hope

25. the victim of a fierce attack

- (A) injured person
- (B) mugger
- (C) eyewitness
- (D) root cause

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

26. to betray a friend

- (A) support
- (B) hurt
- (C) describe
- (D) deceive

27. a desperate feeling

- (A) sad
- (B) hopeful
- (C) confused
- (D) angry

28. an eternal flame

- (A) temporary
- (B) enormous
- (C) everlasting
- (D) warm

29. to glimpse a cougar

- (A) run from
- (B) fear
- (C) stare at
- (D) shoot

30. a victorious group of people

- (A) losing
- (B) large
- (C) committed
- (D) bold