

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 16 CONTEXT: People and Places

Kipling's Just So Stories: Myths of Nature

In *Just So Stories*, Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) creates myths of the world's beginnings. These stories explain how the camel got his hump, why the elephant's trunk is so long, and how the leopard got its spots. Kipling lived and traveled in India in the late 1890s. Some of his other books are *The Jungle Book*, *Captains Courageous*, and *Kim*. The *Just So Stories* are some of his best-loved tales.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about Kipling's *Just So Stories*. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

dramatic	feat	irregular	marvel	satisfy
extraordinary	inaccurate	leisure	numerous	vicinity

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.

dramatic



In "How the Whale Got His Throat," a mariner makes a whale very uncomfortable by jumping up and down. The mariner used dramatic gestures, as if he were on stage.

Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

satisfy

Kipling's whale cannot **satisfy** his hunger even though he eats all but one fish in the sea.

3.

extraordinary

Early readers of Kipling found his stories **extraordinary**. They had never read such amazing tales.

4.

feat

In "The Beginning of the Armadillos," the hedgehog learns how to swim—an unusual **feat**. His remarkable act allows him to escape from a jaguar.

5.

inaccurate

Kipling's story "How the Camel Got His Hump," is **inaccurate**, but these tales do not attempt to be factual.

6.

irregular

A man gives the leopard spots by pressing his fingers against the fur. The spots are not **irregular** but are spaced evenly in groups of five.

7.

leisure

In "The Cat That Walked by Himself," the cat gains the right to live a life of **leisure**. Because a woman is grateful to him, he is fed without having to do any work.

8.

marvel

When the elephant's child returns from visiting the crocodile, his family is surprised by his appearance. They think his wonderful new trunk is a **marvel**.

9.

numerous

A Parsee places **numerous** cake crumbs inside a rhinoceros' skin. There are so many crumbs that the rhinoceros is very uncomfortable and itchy.

10.

vicinity

The hedgehog and tortoise live in the **vicinity** of the Amazon River. In this area, they find lots of food to eat.

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: _____ :
adj. pertaining to drama or theater; having the forced qualities of a drama; striking

_____ 12. word: _____ :
n. something that is wonderful or surprising; *v.* to be amazed at something

_____ 13. word: _____ :
adj. not straight; uneven; not following established rule or method

_____ 14. word: _____ :
v. to fill the needs or requirements of; to free from doubt

_____ 15. word: _____ :
n. free and unoccupied time; spare time; freedom from work

_____ 16. word: _____ :
adj. very many; consisting of many people or things

_____ 17. word: _____ :
n. a remarkable deed or accomplishment

_____ 18. word: _____ :
n. the state of being close by; the area surrounding a particular place; the neighborhood of a place

_____ 19. word: _____ :
adj. markedly different from the usual; amazing; exceptional

_____ 20. word: _____ :
adj. not correct; not exact

COLUMN B

(A) No one should call Kipling's *Just So Stories* inaccurate accounts. Their purpose is to entertain and amuse.

(B) In "The Butterfly That Stamped," a very dramatic, striking thing occurs when the butterfly stamps his foot: The palace disappears!

(C) In "Old Man Kangaroo," the kangaroo is amazed. He **marvels** at the change in himself.

(D) In "The Cat That Walked by Himself," the dog, horse, and cow all stay nearby, in the vicinity of the cave.

(E) The mariner accomplishes a remarkable feat in "How the Whale Got His Throat." He uses his suspenders to tie a set of bars in the whale's throat.

(F) The jaguar is confused by the tortoise and the hedgehog. He is never **satisfied**, or fully sure, about which is which.

(G) The jaguar is also confused when the hedgehog and tortoise act in an **irregular** way. They do not follow the rules that the jaguar's mother had set out for him.

(H) In "Old Man Kangaroo," the kangaroo has no leisure when he is being chased by the dingo. There is simply no time to rest.

(I) When the leopard enters the forest, he thinks the other animals look **extraordinary**. Each is different from the others.

(J) The elephant child is curious about many things. They are too **numerous** to list.

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. a dramatic appearance

- (A) ordinary
- (B) elegant
- (C) striking
- (D) meaningful

24. inaccurate information

- (A) truthful
- (B) unimportant
- (C) incorrect
- (D) unbiased

22. the **feat** of the camel

- (A) remarkable deed
- (B) hump
- (C) original owner
- (D) appearance

25. the **vicinity** of the river

- (A) banks
- (B) village
- (C) fish
- (D) neighborhood

23. the **leisure** to read the stories

- (A) desire
- (B) free time
- (C) request
- (D) requirement

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

26. an **extraordinary** elephant child

- (A) usual
- (B) young
- (C) annoying
- (D) odd

29. **numerous** fishes

- (A) few
- (B) a dozen
- (C) twenty
- (D) very many

27. **irregular** spots

- (A) uneven
- (B) brown
- (C) evenly spaced
- (D) widely spaced

30. to **satisfy** the elephant child's

- curiosity
- (A) frighten away
- (B) laugh at
- (C) decrease
- (D) be shocked by

28. to **marvel** about rhinoceros skin

- (A) be curious
- (B) be bored
- (C) be amazed
- (D) be scared