

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 23

CONTEXT: Ecology and Environment

Jean of the Environment: Jean Craighead George

“Save the whales!” “Recycle your plastic!” Today, the environment is a major topic of conversation, study, and even advertising. Jean Craighead George (b. 1919) helps younger readers learn about the environment while entertaining them with her novels and nonfiction books. George explores the Yu’pik and Inupiat cultures in Alaska and the Seminole culture in Florida. Her book, *My Side of the Mountain*, is the story of a boy who survives in the wilderness by living in a hollow tree trunk for a year.

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

applaud	inexpensive	persuade	remedy	temporary
guidance	issue	protest	revolution	villain

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.

applaud



Book reviewers **applaud** Jean Craighead George’s writing. In fact, *Julie of the Wolves*, a novel about a Native Alaskan girl, received high praise: It was awarded the Newbery Medal in 1972.



Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2. **issue** → In her book, *Who Really Killed Cock Robin? An Ecological Mystery*, George talks about the issue of chemical pollution and its far-reaching effects. The question of pollution and other current environmental topics are often themes in George's books.

3. **temporary** → In *One Day in the Alpine Tundra*, George gives us a glimpse of a meadow in the mountains of Wyoming. Damage to that fragile world of plants and animals may be only **temporary**. How can we be sure the damage will not be permanent?

4. **protest** → Some people **protest**, or demonstrate, against environmental dangers. Others, like Jean Craighead George, have chosen to study and write about nature.

5. **persuade** → George does not try to **persuade**, or convince, people to care about nature. She merely takes us to spend the winter with a pack of wolves or to search for food with baby alligators.

6. **villain** → George avoids blaming **villains** in her stories. Instead of pointing to specific "bad guys," she coaxes her readers to understand the impact of their actions on nature.

7. **revolution** → Some people think it will take a **revolution** to bring about the drastic changes needed to save our planet, but people like George work to bring about change in a peaceful way.

8. **guidance** → Under George's **guidance**, her children carried out projects to learn more about nature. With their mother's advice, one son started his own chemical-free garden.

9. **inexpensive** → Fortunately, there are many **inexpensive** ways to become a naturalist. You can make a bird feeder, study trees, plant flowers, or collect insects. All of these are very low-cost ways of starting an environmental project.

10. **remedy** → Knowledge is a **remedy** for many environmental problems, but knowledge without action cannot cure ills.

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. costing little; low-priced; cheap

_____ 12. word: _____
v. to put forth or distribute; to publish;
n. a question to be decided; something put out in many copies; offspring

_____ 13. word: _____
v. to cause to do something; to convince

_____ 14. word: _____
v. to speak strongly against; to object;
n. an objection; a demonstration against

_____ 15. word: _____
v. to show enjoyment or approval by clapping hands; to praise

_____ 16. word: _____
n. leadership; advice and assistance

_____ 17. word: _____
n. a person who commits great crimes; a wicked or evil person; a criminal

_____ 18. word: _____
n. the movement of an object around another object; a turning motion; the forceful overthrow of a government; complete or radical change

_____ 19. word: _____
n. a cure or correction; *v.* to cure or correct

_____ 20. word: _____
adj. lasting for only a certain time; not permanent

COLUMN B

(A) Dear Ms. George:

Our sixth-grade class plans to issue a video magazine on the environment. We will put the first one out next month and would like to have your opinion on our ideas.

(B) The magazine will be **inexpensive**, because our costs are low. The only profit we seek is a healthier world.

(C) We plan to report on environmental **protests** because we think that people are interested in knowing who speaks out against polluters.

(D) We will ask how the protesters plan to **remedy** the problems that concern them. Then we will compare their solutions with those offered by experts in the environmental field.

(E) Do you think protesters can **persuade** people to change their old habits, or do you think that demonstrating is not the way to convince people to change?

(F) What if everyone started to recycle plastic? We think it would be a real **revolution**, and we hope our video magazine will help bring about this great change.

(G) In the video, we will also offer our audience some **guidance** on recycling. We believe people need some direction and help in this area.

(H) After all, our planet is not a **temporary** home. If we plan on the human race being here for good, we need to care for the earth.

(I) We will also name some of the **villains** in the environmental game, such as people who pollute our air, soil, or water.

(J) We hope that students will **applaud** when they see our video. We hope that adults will be pleased and will clap for us, too.

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. to issue a new book

- (A) publish
- (B) write
- (C) buy
- (D) read

24. to persuade them to change

- (A) begin
- (B) attempt
- (C) wish
- (D) convince

22. a violent revolution

- (A) disaster
- (B) overthrow of the government
- (C) complete stop
- (D) election of the president

25. to applaud her effort

- (A) understand
- (B) watch over
- (C) approve of
- (D) help with

23. helpful guidance

- (A) question
- (B) work
- (C) advice
- (D) knowledge

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 remedy the situation

- (A) correct
- (B) worsen
- (C) explain
- (D) notice

29. the story's villain

- (A) character
- (B) writer
- (C) criminal
- (D) hero

27. an inexpensive product

- (A) necessary
- (B) cheap
- (C) costly
- (D) dangerous

30. a temporary solution

- (A) permanent
- (B) brief
- (C) sudden
- (D) poor

28. to protest the decision

- (A) praise
- (B) object to
- (C) make
- (D) change