

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 26 CONTEXT: Ecology and Environment

Peter Rabbit Would Have Been Proud of Beatrix Potter

Do the names Peter Rabbit, Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail sound familiar? They were all created by Beatrix Potter (1866–1943), a quiet woman who dearly loved both animals and children. Potter also loved the Lake District of England and wanted to preserve it. In her later years she became involved with the National Trust, which bought and cared for land so that the countryside would not be changed by development.

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

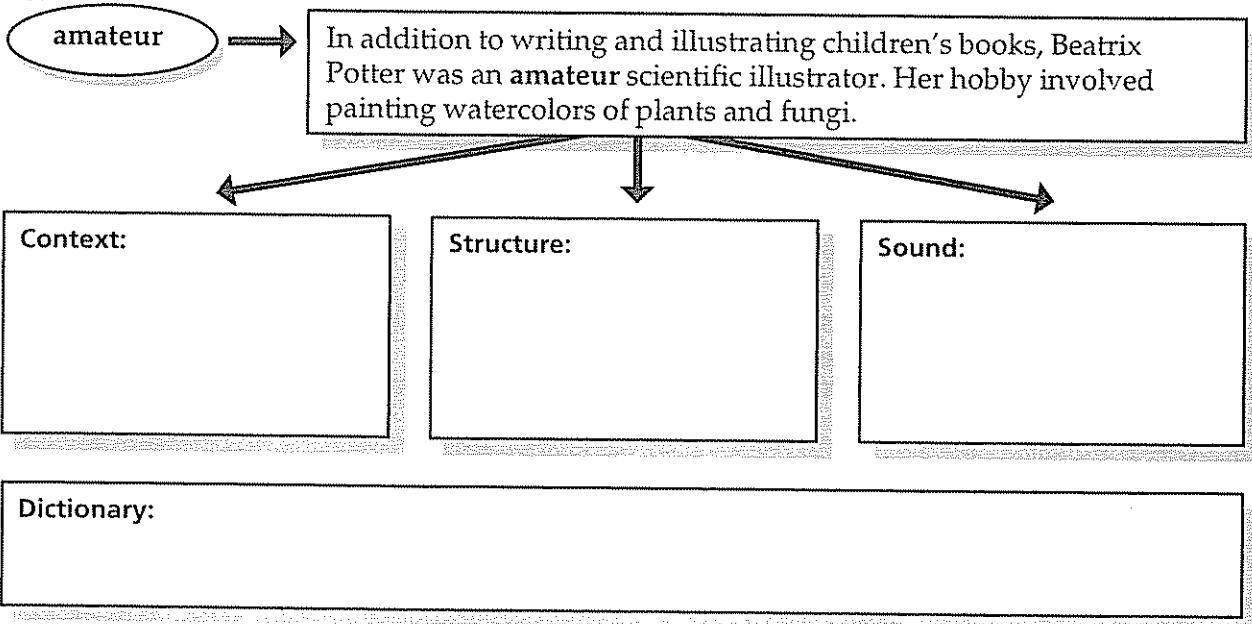
amateur	intrusion	privacy	resident	simplify
duplicate	keen	rebel	self-respect	sympathy

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.



2.

duplicate

In her artwork, Potter tried to **duplicate** nature. She wanted the drawings to look exactly like what she saw.

3.

intrusion

Potter was a very private person who did not want **intrusion**, or interference, in her personal life.

4.

keen

Potter was always **keen** about animals and nature. Everyone around her was aware of her strong feelings on these subjects.

5.

privacy

Potter wrote her journals in code to protect her **privacy**. She wanted to be sure that the details of her personal life could not be made public.

6.

rebel

As a child, Potter always obeyed her parents and other adults; she was never a **rebel**.

7.

simplify

Potter told stories about her pet rabbit, Peter. To make sure the stories would be easy for children to understand, she **simplified** her language.

8.

resident

As a **resident** of the Lake Country, Potter had a special interest in it. She wanted to preserve the area that was her home.

9.

self-respect

Potter had healthy, positive feelings about herself and her accomplishments. She probably developed this strong sense of **self-respect** early in life.

10.

sympathy

Potter was in **sympathy** with the aims of the National Trust. She shared its belief that the Lake Country should be preserved.

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 resists authority; *v.* to resist authority or control

_____ 12. word: _____
adj. exactly alike; *n.* an exact copy; *v.* to make an exact copy

_____ 13. word: _____
v. to make easier or less complex

_____ 14. word: _____
adj. living in a place for a period of time; *n.* a person who lives in a place

_____ 15. word: _____
n. a beginner, not a professional; *adj.* of or done by someone acting for pleasure rather than for pay

_____ 16. word: _____
n. the act of forcing oneself on others; an unasked-for interruption

_____ 17. word: _____
n. a withdrawal from public company; one's private life; secrecy

_____ 18. word: _____
n. a sameness in feeling; a feeling of agreement with an idea

_____ 19. word: _____
n. a high regard for oneself and one's worth as a person

_____ 20. word: _____
adj. sharp; shrewd; strongly felt; enthusiastic

COLUMN B

(A) Potter wanted children to have **self-respect**, to have a sense of their own worth.

(B) Potter first told the story of Peter Rabbit in a letter. **Duplicates** of the story, along with exact copies of her original pictures, were later printed in a book.

(C) Potter had a **keen** sense of pleasure in the way of life in the countryside. She felt a deep connection to the land.

(D) Potter was an **amateur** naturalist. She studied nature for her own pleasure.

(E) Although she enjoyed her **privacy**, Potter also liked the company of others.

(F) Potter had **sympathy** with those who felt it was important to preserve the countryside. She shared their belief in its worth.

(G) As an adult, Potter became a **rebel**. She resisted the control of developers in the countryside.

(H) Potter was concerned about the **intrusion** of developers into the rural Lake Country. By buying land and preserving it, she blocked their attempt to force themselves into the area.

(I) Potter wanted to give the parcels of land she bought to the National Trust. To **simplify** the process, she left all the land to the Trust when she died, rather than hand it over bit by bit while she was still alive.

(J) A **resident** conservationist, Potter picked up litter and planted trees in her own neighborhood during the last ten years of her life.

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 **duplicate** Potter's journal
 (A) copy
 (B) decode
 (C) create
 (D) read

22. an **unwelcome** intrusion
 (A) group
 (B) interruption
 (C) following
 (D) question

23. **keen** about Peter Rabbit
 (A) enthusiastic
 (B) worried
 (C) very friendly
 (D) afraid

24. not lacking **self-respect**
 (A) selfishness
 (B) bravery
 (C) high regard for oneself
 (D) care for others

25. a **sympathy** with children
 (A) shared understanding
 (B) desired result
 (C) playfulness
 (D) a deep sense of loneliness

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 **amateur** writer
 (A) professional
 (B) intelligent
 (C) unknown
 (D) poor

27. a desire for **privacy**
 (A) friendship
 (B) children
 (C) secrecy
 (D) company

28. to **rebel** against nature
 (A) obey
 (B) resist
 (C) speak
 (D) study

29. a **resident** children's author
 (A) popular
 (B) quiet
 (C) young
 (D) visiting

30. to **simplify** the language for children
 (A) newly invent
 (B) listen to
 (C) make harder
 (D) speak clearly