This was the Golden Age that, without coercion, without laws, spontaneously nurtured the good and the true. There was no fear or punishment; there were no threatening words to be read, fixed in bronze, no crowd of suppliants fearing the judge's face: they lived safely without protection. No pine tree felled in the mountains had yet reached the flowing waves to travel to other lands: human beings only knew their own shores. There were no steep ditches surrounding towns, no straight war-trumpets, no coiled horns, no swords and helmets. Without the use of armies, people passed their lives in gentle peace and security. The earth herself also, freely, without the scars of ploughs, untouched by hoes, produced everything from herself. Contented with food that grew without cultivation, they collected mountain strawberries and the fruit of the strawberry tree, wild cherries, blackberries clinging to the rough brambles, and acorns fallen from Jupiter's spreading oak-tree. Spring was eternal, and gentle breezes caressed with warm air the flowers that grew without being seeded. Then the untilled earth gave of its produce and the fields whitened with heavy ears of corn. Sometimes rivers of milk flowed, sometimes streams of nectar, and golden honey trickled from the green holm oak.

When Saturn was banished to gloomy Tartarus, and Jupiter ruled the world, then came the people of the age of silver that is inferior to gold. . . . Jupiter shortened spring's first duration and made the year consist of four seasons, winter, summer, changeable autumn, and brief spring. Then parched air first glowed white scorched with the heat, and ice hung down frozen by the wind. Then houses were first made for shelter: before that homes had been made in caves, and dense thickers, or under branches fastened with bark. Then seeds of corn were first buried in the long furrows, and bullocks groaned, burdened under the yoke.

Third came the people of the bronze age, with fiercer natures, ready to indulge in savage warfare, but not yet vicious. The harsh iron age was last. Immediately every kind of wickedness erupted into this age of baser natures: truth, shame and honour vanished; in their place were fraud, deceit, and trickery, violence and pernicious desires. They set sail to the wind, though as yet the seamen had poor knowledge of their use, and the ships' keels that once were trees standing amongst high mountains, now leaped through uncharted waves. The land that was once common to all, as the light of the sun is, and the air, was marked out, to its furthest boundaries, by wary surveyors. Not only did they demand the crops and the food the rich soil owed them, but they entered the bowls of the earth, and excavating brought up the wealth it had concealed in Stygian shade, wealth that incites men to crime. And now harmful iron appeared, and gold more harmful than iron.

War came, whose struggles employ both, waging clashing arms with bloodstained hands. They lived on plunder: friend was not safe with friend, relative with relative, kindness was rare between brothers. Husbands longed for the death of their wives, wives for the death of their husbands. Murderous stepmothers mixed deadly aconite, and sons inquired into their father's years before their time. Piety was dead, and virgin Astraea, last of all the immortals to depart, herself abandoned the blood-drenched earth.

Exercise 1: Context Clues

Read the passage above, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.

Master Words

Place a check by words you feel you know; underline words you don’t know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>base</th>
<th>deceit</th>
<th>indulge</th>
<th>piety</th>
<th>Stygian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>coercion</td>
<td>furrow</td>
<td>pernicious</td>
<td>plunder</td>
<td>suppliant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Directions: Complete the chart for each vocabulary word. Include **at least two** synonyms and **two** antonyms in the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word:</th>
<th>Definition:</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

**Part of speech:**
- Noun
- Verb
- Adjective
- Adverb

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Synonyms:</th>
<th>Antonyms:</th>
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**Sentence and/or Picture:**

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Word: ____________________________

Definition: _______________________

Part of speech: ____________________

- Noun
- Verb
- Adjective
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Synonyms: _________________________  Antonyms: _________________________

Sentence and/or Picture: ____________________________

Word: ____________________________

Definition: _______________________

Part of speech: ____________________

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Synonyms: 

Antonyms: 

Sentence and/or Picture: 

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Synonyms: 

Antonyms: 

Sentence and/or Picture:
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**Sentence and/or Picture:**
Exercise 3: Using Words in Context

Correct or incorrect: Write C on the line if the word in bold type is used correctly; write I if the word is used incorrectly.

1. Mia thinks it is coercion that her psychology teacher requires the class to take part in experiments.

2. A suppliant orders people around.

3. The new tractor allowed the farmer to make uniform furrows when plowing his field.

4. Taylor indulged her love of the movies by limiting herself to one DVD per week.

5. The minister warned the congregation about the consequences of yielding to base impulses.

6. The company was accused of deceit when its product was different from the advertisements.

7. Fruits and vegetables have a pernicious effect on people's health.

8. The bright field was a perfect image of a Stygian landscape.

9. Pirates seized merchant ships hoping to gain valuable plunder.

10. The Puritans were known for their piety and prayerful attitude.

Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences.
Write the word in the space provided at the right.

1. Gossip can have (a, an) …?… effect on a person’s reputation.

2. My mother loves the sight of the …?…(s) on a freshly plowed field.

3. To my little brother, his bag of treats on Halloween seems like pirate …?… .

4. The …?… begged the coach for another chance to try out for the team.

5. My mother prefers persuasion over …?… when trying to get us to eat better.

6. When Chloe goes to the beach, she …?…(s) in her love of seafood by eating it every night.

7. Members of different faiths show their …?… in different ways.

8. The witness was told he must tell the whole truth and was warned about the consequences of using …?… in the courtroom.

9. The fierce storm on a moonless night created a true …?… atmosphere.

10. Ambitious people sometimes have …?… motives for being nice to others.
Exercise 5: Using Words with Multiple Meanings

The word base has different meanings depending on how it is used in a sentence. Choose the number of the correct definition for base for each of the following sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. n. bottom support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. adj. worthless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. n. main ingredient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. n. starting point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. v. to establish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Paints with a lead base must not be used in day care centers.

2. The metal base for the beach umbrella was firmly anchored in the sand.

3. We base our family vacation plans on my brother’s college schedule.

4. The camp near the lake is a good base for exploring the park.

5. The shiny coins were made of base metals rather than silver.

Exercise 6: Related Words and Meanings

The italic words in the sentences below are related to the Master Words. Write the matching synonym from the list on the line following the sentence.

| deceit | pernicious | piety | plunder | suppliant |

1. The thieves could not wait to see how much loot they had stolen.

2. The petitioner asked the court for mercy because it was his first offense.

3. An investigative journalist uncovered the politician’s trickery.

4. Regular attendance at religious services is a sign of strong faith.

5. Asthma can be a dangerous disease in children.

Write About It: Gold vs. Silver

In this passage from Metamorphosis, Ovid compares the “Golden Age” with the “age of silver.” What differences are there between these eras? Write a brief explanation supporting your analysis with evidence from the text. Use at least four Master Words or related words in your argument.
Guide to Types of Analogies in *Vocabu-Lit*

The chart below contains descriptions and examples of all the types of analogies used in this level of *Vocabu-Lit*. The statement in italics is a template of a sentence you can use with each type of analogy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| action/actor or actor/action| The first word is an action; the second word is the person or thing that does the action. *First word* is what a second word does. This could also be constructed in reverse: *First word* is someone or something who (second word). | teach : teacher :: sew : needle
                                                  teacher : teach :: needle : sew |
| action/receiver of action or receiver of action/action | The first word is an action; the second word is a person or thing the action is done to, for, or with. *First word* is what gets done to/for/with (second word). This could also be constructed in reverse: *First word* does for/to/with (second word). | teach : student :: sew : dress
                                                  student : teach :: dress : sew |
| adjective/related noun or noun/related adjective | The first word is a quality; the second word is a person or thing known for that quality. *First word* is what a second word is. This could also be constructed in reverse: *First word* is known to be (second word). | artistic : painter :: cunning : fox
                                                  painter : artistic :: fox : cunning |
| antonyms                    | The first word is the opposite of the second word. *First word* is the opposite of (second word). | hot : cold :: sunny : cloudy |
| category/item or item/category | The first word is a category or group of things or people; the second word is an item or example from that group. One example of (first word) is (second word). This could also be constructed in reverse: (First word) is one example of (second word). | sports : baseball :: music : jazz
                                                  baseball : sports :: jazz : music |
| cause/effect or effect/cause | The first word is a cause; the second word is an effect of that cause. *First word* causes (second word). This could also be constructed in reverse: (First word) is the result of (second word). | sadness : tears :: exertion : fatigue
                                                  tears : sadness :: fatigue : exertion |
| degree                      | The first word is an especially strong thing or quality; the second word is a less strong version of the same thing or quality. *First word* is more intense than (second word). This could also be constructed in reverse: (First word) is a less intense version of (second word). | downpour : shower :: feast : meal
                                                  shower : downpour :: meal : feast |
| part/whole or whole/part     | The first word is an individual thing or quality; the second word is the whole that the first thing is part of. *First word* is one part of (second word). This could also be constructed in reverse: (First word) is the whole of which (second word) is one part. | finger : hand :: slide : playground
                                                  hand : finger :: playground : slide |
| product/producer or producer/product | The first word is a thing; the second word is the person or thing who made the first thing. *First word* is made by (second word). This could also be constructed in reverse: (First word) is made by (second word). | milk : cow :: vase : potter
                                                  cow : milk :: potter : vase |
| synonyms                    | The first word means about the same thing as the second word. *First word* means about the same thing as (second word). | tired : fatigued :: nervous : anxious |
Glossary

Definitions and parts of speech of these Master Words are based on the usage in the selection in which it appears.

abstract adj. taking place in the realm of thought; conceptual [28]
abyss n. a deep chasm; a bottomless pit [30]
acclaim v. to praise; to honor [3]
accusation n. a charge of wrongdoing; an indictment [15]
aquiescence n. reluctant acceptance without complaint [27]
adorment n. beautification; decoration [20]
aesthetic adj. related to the study of the arts and of beauty; artistic [25]
affectuate adj. showing fondness; devoted [8]
affronted adj. insulted; offended [5]
aft adj. near the stern or tail, usually of a boat [8]
agitator n. a person who spurs others to rebellion or protest; troublemaker [16]
allusion n. an indirect reference; a hint; an implied reference to something familiar [5]
altitude n. a measure of the height or elevation above sea level [7]
analogous adj. comparable; similar [28]
analytic adj. logical; systematic [17]
ancestral adj. related to those from whom one is descended; traditional [6]
anchor v. to fasten something to keep it from moving; to secure [21]
androgynous adj. of indeterminate sex; partly male and partly female [13]
anecdote n. a small story, usually entertaining and frequently amusing; a short account [14]
anguished adj. distressed; heartbroken [2]
anthropologist n. a scientist or person who studies cultures and societies [17]
apartheid n. a system of racial segregation in South Africa; literally “separateness” [9]
appraisal n. an assessment of value; valuation [15]
artful adj. crafty; cunning [27]
ascetic adj. related to a life of extreme self-denial; Spartan; austere [8]
assurance n. confidence; calmness [7]
attune v. to harmonize; to adjust [22]
audacious adj. daring; adventurous [2]
avarice adj. misanthropic desire for wealth; greed [22]
baleful adj. harmful; noxious [16]
bard n. a poet [24]
base adj. low; ignoble; sinful [1]
bier n. a platform on which a corpse or coffin is placed before burial [23]
blight n. a decline; a withering [22]
capricious adj. given to sudden changes in mood; fickle [6]
casual adj. informal; nondescript; nonchalant [3]
cavalier adj. showing a lack of concern for rules or proper behavior; casual [10]
ceremonious adj. formal; befitting [23]
chafe v. to rub; to irritate by rubbing; to heat by friction [4]
chalice n. a cup [12]
chaotic adj. in a confused state; disorderly [30]
cherubim n. plural form of cherub; angel; celestial being [12]
clarify v. to explain; to make clear [17]
cloyed adj. having too much of a good thing; weary; satiated [11]
coercion n. force; threats [1]
commend v. to deliver; to entrust [12]
commerce n. the buying and selling of goods; business [23]
commodity n. a product that can be bought and sold [9]
compensating adj. balancing; redeeming [29]
compliance n. obedience to; acceptance [27]
compose v. to make up (a whole); to constitute [21]
concur v. to agree; to coincide; to act together [5]
confluence n. junction, especially of two rivers; meeting [4]
consoling adj. comforting; encouraging [22]
contemplation n. meditation; thought [30]
contrive v. to plan; to come up with [29]
conversely adv. In turn; on the other hand [25]
convincing adj. believable [19]
 correspond v. to match or agree; to be equivalent; to be comparable [4]
courier n. a messenger [12]
course n. a movement along a path; a progression of steps [3]
crest v. to reach the highest level; to peak [18]
cumbrous adj. difficult to manage; clumsy [28]
dearth n. lack; scarcity; a shortage [14]
debased adj. reduced in value [15]
deceit n. deception; trickery [1]
deflect v. to turn aside or bounce off course; to divert [18]
degraded adj. reduced in quality; humiliated [24]
deliberative adj. having the function of considering, judging, or carefully deciding; carefully thinking out [15]
delusive adj. giving a false impression; deceptive [26]
demise n. death; end [15]
derive v. to stem from; to originate [9]
desolate adj. dismal; lonely [11]
diabolic adj. evil; devilish [18]
diaphanous adj. see-through; fine [8]
dilapidation n. condition of rot or disrepair [22]
diminutive adj. small; tiny [7]
discount v. to regard something as false or not worthy of examination; to dismiss [19]
dispel v. to do away with; to remove; to get rid of [5]
distilled adj. purified; refined [7]
ditty n. a simple song [11]
dominance n. power; supremacy [3]
dominate v. to influence; to control [6]
dormant adj. inactive; inert; sleeping [18]
draw n. attraction [23]
dreadful adj. awful; fearful [3]
dynamic adj. in motion; changing [28]
eccentric adj. out of the ordinary; strange [14]
economical adj. frugal; thrifty; not wasteful [14]
efficacy n. ability to work or perform; potency [2]
elite n. people of higher classes; aristocracy [25]
elusive adj. hard to find; inscrutable [24]
emerge v. to come out; to unfold [30]
empyrean adj. heavenly; celestial [24]
enamored adj. in love with; captivated by [20]
enfold v. to envelop; to surround [30]
enigma n. a mysterious situation; a riddle; a puzzle [17]
ennobling adj. elevating to a higher degree; dignifying; ennobling [25]
ensure v. to result from; to follow after [16]
establishment n. the ruling class of a society; the authorities in power [9]
evenhanded adj. impartial; balanced and fair [12]
exclusive adj. having side rights; belonging to no one else; also, high-class; upscale; select [20]

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