from *Ode on a Grecian Urn* (poem)
by John Keats

Thou still unravished bride of quietness!
Thou foster-child of silence and slow time,
*Sylvan* historian, who canst thus express
A flow'ry tale more sweetly than our rhyme:
What leaf-fringed legend haunts about thy shape
Of deities or mortals, or of both,
In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?
What men or gods are these? What maidens loth?
What mad pursuit? What struggle to escape?
What pipes and timbrels? What wild ecstasy?

Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endeared,
Pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone:
Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leave
Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;
Bold Lover, never, never canst thou kiss,
Though winning near the goal—yet, do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!

Ah, happy, happy boughs! that cannot shed
Your leaves, nor ever bid the Spring adieu;
And, happy melodist, unwearied,
For ever piping songs for ever new;
More happy loved! more happy, happy love!
For ever warm and still to be enjoyed,
For ever panting and for ever young;

All breathing human passion far above,
That leaves a heart high-sorrowful and *cloyed*,
A burning forehead, and a *parching* tongue.

Who are these coming to the sacrifice?
To what green altar, O mysterious priest,
Lead'st thou that *heifer* lowing at the skies,
And all her silken flanks with *garlands* drest?
What little town by river or sea-shore,
Or mountain-built with peaceful citadel,
Is emptied of its folk, this *pious* morn?
And, little town, thy streets for evermore
Will silent be; and not a soul to tell
Why thou art *desolate*, can e'er return.

*O Attic shape!* Fair attitude! with brede
Of marble men and maidens overwrought,
With forest branches and the trodden weed;
Thou, silent form, dost tease us out of thought
As doth eternity: Cold *pastoral*!
When old age shall this generation waste,
Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe
Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou sayst,
"Beauty is truth, truth beauty,"—that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

**Exercise 1: Context Clues**

Read the selection, 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.

- cloyed
- *ditty*
- *heifer*
- *pastoral*
- *sensual*
- *garland*
- *parching*
- *pious*
- sylvan
Exercise 2: Using Context Clues

Fill in the form for each of the Master Words listed below with context clues (if any), your definition, and the dictionary definition. If you have difficulty writing a definition, try using the word in a sentence instead.

1. clove
   Part of Speech: adj.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

2. desolate
   Part of Speech: adj.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

3. ditty
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

4. garland
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

5. heifer
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

6. parching
   Part of Speech: adj.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

7. pastoral
   Part of Speech: n.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

8. pious
   Part of Speech: adj.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

9. sensual
   Part of Speech: adj.
   Context Clues:
   Your Definition:
   Dictionary Definition:

10. sylvan
    Part of Speech: adj.
    Context Clues:
    Your Definition:
    Dictionary Definition:
Exercise 3: Using Context Clues

Correct or Incorrect: Write C on the line if the word is used correctly; write I if the word is used incorrectly.

1. Kendall loved New York City for its sylvan atmosphere.

2. Wearing a burlap sack would be a pleasant sensual experience for the skin.

3. My father likes to hum simple ditties when he is cooking.

4. After avoiding salty snacks, Blake found he had cloyed taste buds when he tried eating chips again.

5. The high humidity left everyone with parching skin from excessive moisture.

6. The farmer decided that it was time to heifer his herd of cows.

7. The gym was decorated with garlands of flowers during the spring festival.

8. The atheist was known for his pious belief in God.

9. The campground was so crowded that campers felt quite desolate.

10. The pastoral symphony evokes the feelings of a simple rural life.

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. They prom queen wore a ...?... of flowers in her hair.

2. Rich won a prize in the ...?... category at the county fair.

3. Jan found the ...?... environment in the national forest very restful.

4. The teacher sang a simple ...?... to help the children learn good manners.

5. Angelina had a ...?... mouth after a vigorous workout at the gym.

6. The beach on a cold winter day can have a rather ...?... look.

7. Frozen lemonade on the tongue is one of the ...?... pleasures of summer.

8. After watching two seasons of her favorite TV show in two days, Jo's mind was dazed and ...?... .

9. ...?... scenes were a favorite subject for many landscape painters in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

10. Coming from a ...?... family, it was not a surprise when Wyatt decided to study to become a minister.
Exercise 5: Oxymoron

An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines contradictory ideas. Keats uses an oxymoron at the beginning of the second stanza: “Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard/Are sweeter . . . .” Unheard and melody are contradictory ideas that when put together suggest a theme of Keats’ poem: the life of the spirit, embodied in the Grecian urn, is sweeter than the life of the senses.

Explain how each phrase is an oxymoron.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxymoron</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>make haste slowly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor little rich girl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>easy to be hard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>living death</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. You may have to change the form of some words slightly.

cloyed          desolate          pious          sensual          sylvan

1. Working in his garden gives Bill great tangible pleasure. He loves to have his hands in the dirt.

2. The town had a large amount of green space to create a rural atmosphere.

3. Arnelia’s stomach was satiated after eating too many desserts.

4. Just my luck, my car broke down on a lonely stretch of road.

5. The nun’s reverent posture during the service revealed her deep devotion.

Write About It: Allusions and Meaning

This poem by John Keats contains many allusions, or references, to Greek culture, along with words that may be unfamiliar or used in unfamiliar ways. Use a dictionary or other reference work as needed to determine the meaning of these allusions and unfamiliar terms. Then write an essay explaining the meaning of each stanza and of the poem as a whole. Use at least five Master Words in your essay.
### 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>action/actor or actor/action</td>
<td>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].</td>
<td>teach: teacher :: sew: needle teacher: teach :: needle: sew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>action/receiver of action or receiver of action/action</td>
<td>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 a [second word]. This could also be constructed in reverse: [First word] does for/to/with [second word].</td>
<td>teach: student :: sew: dress student: teach: dress: sew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adjective/related noun or noun/related adjective</td>
<td>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].</td>
<td>artistic: painter :: cunning: fox painter: artistic: fox: cunning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antonyms</td>
<td>The first word is the opposite of the second word. [First word] is the opposite of [second word].</td>
<td>hot: cold :: sunny: cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>category/item or item/category</td>
<td>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].</td>
<td>sports: baseball :: music: jazz baseball: sports: jazz: music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cause/effect or effect/cause</td>
<td>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].</td>
<td>sadness: tears :: exertion: fatigue tears: sadness :: fatigue: exertion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>degree</td>
<td>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].</td>
<td>downpour: shower :: feast: meal shower: downpour :: meal: feast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>part/whole or whole/part</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>finger: hand :: slide: playground hand: finger :: playground: slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>product/producer or producer/product</td>
<td>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].</td>
<td>milk: cow :: vase: potter cow: milk :: potter: vase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>synonyms</td>
<td>The first word means about the same thing as the second word. [First word] means about the same thing as [second word].</td>
<td>tired: fatigued :: nervous: anxious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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]
acquiescence n. reluctant acceptance without complaint [27]
adornment n. beautification; decoration [20]
aesthetic adj. related to the study of the arts and of beauty; artistic [25]
affectionate adj. showing fondness; devoted [8]
affronted adj. insulted; offended [5]
aft adv. near the stern or tail, usually of a boat [8]
aggressor 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 short story, usually entertaining and frequently amusing; a short account [14]
anguished adj. distressed; heartbroken [2]
antropologist 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]
asertive adj. related to a life of extreme self-denial; Spartan; austere [8]
assurance n. confidence; calmness [7]
atone v. to harmonize; to adjust [22]
audacious adj. daring; adventurous [2]
avarice adj. miserly desire for wealth; greed [22]
baleful adj. harmful; noxious [16]
bard n. poet [24]
base adj. low; ignoble; sinful [11]
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; nonchalant [37]
cavalier adj. showing a lack of concern for rules or proper behavior; casual [10]
ceremonious adj. formal; befuddling [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; disordered [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 [9]
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 [11]
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 over [15]
delusive adj. giving a false impression; deceptive [26]
demon 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]
dirty n. a simple song [11]
dominance n. power; supremacy [2]
dominate v. to influence; to control [6]
dormant adj. inactive; inert; sleeping [18]
draw v. 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]
efficiency n. ability to work or perform; potency [2]
elite n. people of higher classes; aristocracy [25]
elusive adj. hard to find; intangible [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; enlightening [25]
enact 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 sole rights; belonging to no one else; also, high-class; upscale; select [20]
**Polymath** n. a person with wide knowledge in many subject areas; an academic [19]

**Ponderous** adj. heavy [30]

**Percarious** adj. not certain; delicately in balance; suggesting danger [14]

**Presuppose** v. to assume beforehand; to require in advance [27]

**Prevailing** adj. current; existing [16]

**Profusion** n. abundance; a great amount [7]

**Progenitor** n. parent; originator [18]

**Progeny** n. offspring; children [13]

**Prohibitive** adj. excessive; restrictive [28]

**Propriety** n. the state of conforming to expected behavior; correctness [14]

**Prostrate** v. to throw oneself down in submission or humiliation [26]

**Pulverize** v. to reduce to fine powder; to disintegrate; to smash [4]

**Qualitative** adj. related to the traits, rather than amount, of something [28]

**Quantitative** adj. related to the amount, rather than traits, of something [28]

**Recollect** v. to remember; to give consideration [5]

**Reconnoiter** v. to make observations for military purposes [19]

**Redress** n. compensation or payment for a wrong done; remedy [15]

**Refugee** n. one who flees a country to avoid persecution or warfare [21]

**Regime** n. government [9]

**Reject** n. something of low value; something discarded [23]

**Relieve** v. to free from burden; to remove a pressure [14]

**Remonstrate** v. to complain; to object [26]

**Remorseless** adj. cruel; heartless; inhuman [13]

**Renown** n. the condition of being famous; fame [20]

**Resent** v. to object to something in a strong way; to feel bitter about; to begrudge [6]

**Restraint** n. the act of controlling one’s thoughts or actions; caution; inhibition [5]

**Restrictive** adj. imposing limits; hindering [10]

**Retort** n. a quick reply, as to an accusation; a comeback [5]

**Reverent** adj. respectful; devout; dutiful [3]

**Rhetorical** adj. argumentative; overblown [25]

**Saunter** v. to walk idly with no special concern; to amble [4]

**Scintillate** v. to twinkle; to shine [7]

**Scold** n. a shrew; a mean lady [22]

**Scourge** n. the cause of suffering or a calamity; plague [16]

**Scrupulous** adj. extremely careful; mindful [5]

**Sector** n. a part created by division of something; a faction [10]

**Seductive** adj. alluring; tempting [30]

**Seer** n. a person with profound insight; an oracle [24]

**Sensible** adj. responsible; down-to-earth; practical [3]

**Sensual** adj. having to do with the senses; tangible [11]

**Servile** adj. subjected to slavery; oppressed [24]

**Simultaneous** adj. happening at the same time; concurrent [20]

**Skepticism** n. a questioning attitude; doubt [19]

**Smite** v. to hit; to attack [2]

**Sneer** v. to jeer or scoff; sometimes with laughter or facial expressions of contempt [29]

**Sojourn** n. a visit; the act of living in a place for a while [7]

**Solidify** v. to become solid or compact; to reinforce; to strengthen [29]

**Soliloquy** n. a speech delivered while alone; monologue [20]

**Somnambulist** n. a sleepwalker [13]

**Spurned** adj. rejected; cast aside [26]

**Staid** adj. serious; sober [4]

**Standing** adj. permanent; fixed [10]

**Staple** n. a principal commodity; that which is most important and necessary [29]

**Static** adj. stationary; at rest [28]

**Stygian** adj. related to the river Styx and to hell; dark; somber [1]

**Subcontinent** n. a large recognizable part of a continent [19]

**Subjugate** v. to conquer; to bring under one’s control [2]

**Subtlety** n. nuance; intelligence; intricacy [18]

**Subverted** adj. disrupted; overturned [13]

**Supine** adj. flat on one’s back [26]

**Suppliant** n. one who asks for something; a beggar; a petitioner [1]

**Supremacy** n. a position of power or superiority [29]

**Surcease** n. an end; death [12]

**Surmise** v. to guess; to infer [16]

**Sylvan** adj. having to do with the forest; rural; pastoral [11]

**Symbolic** adj. involving numbers, letters, etc., that stand for something else [28]

**Telling** adj. revealing; striking [13]

**Tentative** adj. not final; provisional; trial [17]

**Theoretical** adj. academic; abstract; hypothetical [10]

**Title** n. an office; a rank or position in an organization or society [6]

**Tolerate** v. to put up with; to accept [20]

**Trammel** v. to hamper; to bind; to enslave [12]

**Tranquil** adj. peaceful; serene; quiet; undisturbed [4]

**Tremulous** adj. shaking; quivering; shivering [17]

**Triangulated** adj. forming a triangle [23]

**Trivial** adj. of no importance; superficial; silly [17]

**Tumult** n. confusion; disorder [30]

**Unbecoming** adj. unworthy; unsuitable [15]

**Undertone** n. a muted tone hard to hear; an undercurrent [24]

**Unmindful** adj. forgetful [10]

**Unprincipled** adj. without any rules of conduct; immoral [27]

**Unsavory** adj. unpleasant; revolting [13]

**Unsuitable** adj. too awful to put into words; horrible [21]

**Unutterable** adj. too horrible to describe; unspeakable [2]

**Usurp** v. to take through force or illegal means; to seize [27]

**Utilitarian** adj. functional; practical [28]

**Utopian** n. a person hoping to achieve an ideal world; a dreamer; an enthusiast [25]

**Valorous** adj. courageous [24]

**Vanity** n. conceit; excess of pride; self-love [29]

**Vaulting** adj. overreaching; ambitious [12]

**Venerable** adj. worthy of reverence and respect [22]

**Vigilant** adj. alert to danger; watchful [26]

**Vouchsafe** v. to give; to grant [30]

**Wheel** v. to fly in a circle [2]

**Zombified** adj. deprived of vitality; robbed of human qualities [25]