

Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selections. Then, complete the activities.

Word List A

chamber [CHAYM ber] *n.* a room in a house, especially a bedroom

The fireplace was the only source of heat in the chamber.

contentment [kuhn TENT ment] *n.* peaceful satisfaction

Once he retired, the general found contentment.

decay [dee KAY] *v.* to decline in health or vigor; to spoil

If you do not brush your teeth, they will decay.

garland [GAHR lind] *n.* a wreath of flowers or leaves

The bride wore a garland of roses in her hair.

renew [ri NOO] *v.* to repeat so as to reaffirm

The couple decided to renew their wedding vows after 25 years.

vain [VAYN] *adj.* excessively proud of one's self; conceited

The vain young man would not stop looking in the mirror.

virtues [VUR chooz] *n.* moral excellence and righteousness; goodness

The plan had three virtues: it was simple, practical, and inexpensive.

weary [WEER ee] *adj.* physically or mentally fatigued

After driving all night, the weary trucker finally slept.

Word List B

deemed [DEEMD] *v.* judged

The voters deemed it was time for a change.

endure [en DUR] *v.* to carry on despite hardships

The explorer learned to endure the freezing temperatures in the Arctic.

fellowship [FEL loh ship] *n.* companionship of peers or friends

College students who join fraternities hope to find good fellowship.

immortalize [i MOR tuh l yze] *v.* provide a memorial to a person or event

The statue of the soldiers was built to immortalize the battle.

prey [PRAY] *n.* One that is defenseless, a victim

The lame sheep was easy prey for the wolf.

subdue [sub DOO] *v.* to bring under control by force or persuasion

They built the levee to subdue the flood waters.

suffice [suh FYS] *v.* to meet needs or requirements; be sufficient

This deposit will suffice until he pays the balance.

tribute [trib YOOT] *n.* an acknowledgment of gratitude or respect

The hospital put up a plaque as a tribute to his generosity.

Sonnet 1, Sonnet 35, and Sonnet 75 by Edmund Spencer

Sonnet 31 and Sonnet 39 by Sir Philip Sidney

Vocabulary Warm-up Exercises

Exercise A Fill in each blank in the paragraph below with an appropriate word from Word List A. Use each word only once.

In Greek myths, transformation was sometimes a substitute for death and [1] _____. Once changed, the human often lived on as a flower in a [2] _____ or a hillside in bloom. That is the case with Narcissus, who was a handsome youth who preferred the woods to the confinement of a house or [3] _____. Narcissus thought very highly himself and was considered [4] _____. Although he lacked many [5] _____, such as compassion and humility, the nymph Echo fell in love with him. Despite her persistence, Echo finally grew [6] _____ of rejection, and died of grief.

One day, Narcissus saw himself in the water. From that moment on, he found great [7] _____ and satisfaction when gazing at his own reflection. In an attempt to embrace his image, he fell into the water and drowned. His body was transformed into a white narcissus flower that can [8] _____ itself each spring.

Exercise B Use a word from Word List B to replace the underlined word or group of words without changing its meaning. Write your answers as complete sentences.

Example: Evergreen hedges are used to control the force of the wind.

Evergreen hedges are used to subdue the force of the wind.

1. Although the student has many expenses, the scholarship will be adequate.

2. Even with environmental changes, the giant redwoods manage to survive for centuries.

3. Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote sonnets to forever honor her husband .

4. Members of the organization were united by friendship and similar goals.

5. The judge decided that the evidence was weak.

6. The police officer received a medal as a sign of respect for her bravery.

7. A distracted shopper makes himself an easy victim for a pickpocket.

Sonnet 1, Sonnet 35, and Sonnet 75 by Edmund Spencer**Sonnet 31 and Sonnet 39** by Sir Philip Sidney**Reading Warm-up A**

Read the following passage. Pay special attention to the underlined words. Then, read it again, and complete the activities. Use a separate sheet of paper for your written answers.

One of the most famous symbols of romance is the winged infant Cupid. Armed with a bow and arrows, he inspires love wherever his darts strike. Rosy-cheeked and chubby, Cupid is the picture of contentment. Artists constantly renew his image, allowing Cupid to reflect the popular taste of the day. But no matter how he appears, no one seems to grow tired or weary of his charms.

Both the Romans and the Greeks regarded Cupid as the god of love, although there were some differences between their views. The Romans usually depicted him as a mischievous baby boy. He was often blindfolded to symbolize that love is blind. Sometimes he was pictured as a cherub, draped in a garland of decorative flowers. Other times he was depicted sleeping peacefully in his mother's chamber. The Greeks called him Eros and described him as a fickle teenage god with flaws as well as virtues. He had a second type of arrow which destroyed love, making even the deepest affection decay when it struck.

Eros performed pranks for his vain mother, Aphrodite, who was consumed with her own beauty. When Aphrodite decided that the beautiful mortal Psyche was her rival, she ordered Eros to make Psyche fall in love with the ugliest man on earth. Instead, Eros accidentally struck himself with his own arrow, and fell in love with Psyche himself. Their happiness was ruined by Psyche's jealous sisters, and Psyche was forced to descend into the underworld in order to prove her love and be reunited with Eros. Eventually, she was made a goddess herself, and resided in Olympus with Eros.

1. Circle the words that describe why Cupid is the "picture of contentment." Explain what contentment means.
2. Underline the phrase that describes why an artist might renew Cupid's image. Use renew in a sentence.
3. Circle the synonym for weary. Give an example something that has made you weary.
4. Underline the words that provide a hint to the meaning of garland. Explain how a garland is used.
5. Underline the words that describe what Cupid did in the chamber. What is a chamber?
6. Circle the antonym for virtues. Then, give one virtue that Cupid might possess.
7. Circle the word that means about the same as decay. What is an antonym of decay?
8. Underline the words that describe how Aphrodite was vain. Give an example of something a vain person might do.

Sonnet 1, Sonnet 35, and Sonnet 75 by Edmund Spenser

Sonnet 31 and Sonnet 39 by Sir Phillip Sidney

Reading Warm-up B

Read the following passage. Pay special attention to the underlined words. Then, read it again, and complete the activities. Use a separate sheet of paper for your written answers.

Poetry existed long before the written word. In early civilizations, poetry was used to immortalize heroes. It was also used to pay tribute to historical figures and events, acknowledging their importance. Poetry was an effective way to make these stories endure, since its rhymes made it easier to commit them to memory. In addition, many of the world's sacred scriptures were composed in poetry rather than prose, possibly contributing to their longevity.

Most scholars believe that poetry had its beginnings in song, with melody, rhythm, rhyme, and repetition helping to establish a variety of musical forms. These elements may have been added to subdue crowds that needed to be tamed. Certainly, they helped the reciter who had to reconstruct the poems from memory each time he presented them.

Originally, poetry was composed for live performance before an audience. That meant the exact wording of poems could change from one presenter to another, depending upon his or her style and memorization skills. After writing was introduced, poems were deemed finished in whatever version was written down.

Once poets began to compose for an absent reader, as well as for a live audience, poems became more personal. Stories of heroes and gods did not suffice any longer. Nuance and imagery became increasingly important, allowing for different interpretations of the symbols and images. This also meant that translating poetry from one language to another was problematic. Connotations and double meanings often fell prey to misinterpretation, and much subtlety and depth was lost in the process.

While writing poetry is generally a solitary act, each culture and time period creates its own fellowship of writers and poets who provide each other with support and guidance. These like-minded men and women serve as supporters and critics of each other's work.

1. Circle the word that tells what was used to immortalize heroes. Explain what immortalize means.
2. Circle the word that provides a clue to the meaning of tribute. Describe a tribute that you have seen.
3. Underline the phrase that describes how poetry allowed stories to endure. Describe something that will endure.
4. Circle the word that is a synonym for subdue. Explain how someone might subdue a crowd.
5. Underline the phrase that describes when poems were deemed finished. Tell what deemed means.
6. Rewrite the sentence using a synonym for suffice. What is an antonym of suffice?
7. Circle the words that explain what could fall prey to misinterpretation. What is a synonym for prey?
8. Underline the phrase that helps explain what a fellowship is. Use fellowship in a sentence.