

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Paired Texts Vocabulary

"The Box That Changed America"

1. assassinate (uh-SAS-uh-neyt) *verb*; To assassinate is to murder someone—usually a political leader or other well-known public figure—in a surprise attack.

2. cultural (KUHL-cher-uhl) *adjective*; *Cultural* comes from the noun *culture*. *Culture* is a particular group's way of life, including the group's beliefs, values, traditions, language, and art. You could say, for example, that Jason wants to learn more about German culture, or that the members of the Girl Scout troop respect each other's cultural differences.

Culture and *cultural* can also be used to refer to artistic activities such as music, art, theater, and dance. If Margaret is a woman of culture, she is someone who appreciates the arts. If Neil went to a museum, a dance concert, and a play over the weekend, you could say that he attended several cultural events.

3. entrance (EHN-truhns or ehn-TRANSS) *noun or verb*; You are probably familiar with *entrance*—pronounced "EHN-truhns"—as a noun meaning "a place where you enter" or "an act of going in."

When *entrance* is pronounced "ehn-TRANSS," it is a verb meaning "to fill with delight and wonder." If something entrances you, it fills you with so much delight and wonder that it's as if you are in a trance. You might be entranced by beautiful music, an interesting person, ants carrying leaves on their backs—anything that fascinates you and brings you joy.

4. obscure (uhb-SKYOOR) *adjective or verb*; As an adjective, *obscure* can mean "unclear, dark, and hard to see" or "mysterious and hard to understand." You might see obscure figures in a dark room. Or, you might find someone's meaning to be obscure. *Obscure* can also mean "not well-known." If your brother likes obscure music, he likes music that most people have never heard of.

As a verb, *obscure* means "to hide, cover, or make something unclear." Clouds might obscure the top of mountains. A friend might obscure the truth about your outfit to avoid hurting your feelings.

"Television Transformed"

1. cast (kast) *noun or verb*; There are several meanings of *cast*; in the world of performance, the noun *cast* refers to the group of performers who play the roles in a production such as a movie, play, or TV show. At the end of a play, the cast usually comes out onto the stage and bows.

To *cast* someone is to choose him or her to play a part in a production. The director of a TV show might cast Kelly in the role of a doctor. Or Kelly might be cast in the role of a patient.

2. commit (kuh-MIT) *verb*; If you commit to someone or something, you fully dedicate yourself to it and promise not to quit or give up on it. You might commit to healthy eating or learning to juggle. When two people get married, they commit to each other. *Commit* can also mean "carry out an action." When used this way, *commit* is generally used to talk about carrying out a bad or illegal action, as in "Martha committed a crime."

3. diversity (dih-VUR-sih-tee) *noun*; Diversity is variety—a range or a mix of something. A diversity of opinion is a range of different opinions. If an area has a diversity of plant life, many different kinds of plants grow in that area.

Diversity is often used to refer to a mix of different types of people, such as people representing a range of cultures, ethnicities, ages, experiences, or genders. You might hear, for example, a college say that it promotes diversity. The college means it encourages students of all backgrounds to attend.

4. point of view (poynt uhv vyoo) *noun*; As a literary term, *point of view* refers to the perspective from which a story is told—whether the story is told from the first-, second-, or third-person point of view. Outside of literature, *point of view* refers to a person's perspective—his or her particular way of looking at or thinking about something. You and your parents might have different points of view about whether now is a good time for your family to adopt a puppy.

5. rural (ROOR-uhl) *adjective*; *Rural* means "related to the countryside." A rural area has farms and forests, and fewer buildings, roads, and people than would be found in a city. A rural road is a road that goes through the countryside; a rural school is a school out in the country.

Directions: On the back of this page, list any other words from the articles whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice

Directions: Below are titles and summaries for imaginary books. Choose the best title for each book. Briefly explain your choices. (There is one title you will not use.)

BOOK TITLES

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. <i>The Obscuration Artist</i> | D. <i>Committing to Joy</i> |
| B. <i>The Assassination</i> | E. <i>Rural Life Today</i> |
| C. <i>My Point of View</i> | |

1. Abby Freeman witnesses the murder of a popular local politician. It's a horrible experience—but it's nothing compared with what happens next.

Title (A-D): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

2. This is the strange and fascinating story of Steven Harpswell, who hid the truth about almost everything he did from almost everyone he met.

Title (A-D): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

3. Painter Lin Fang explains how her unusual background has given her a unique perspective on the art world.

Title (A-D): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

4. Psychologist Walter Simpson reveals the secret to getting happy and staying happy.

Title (A-D): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer to each question.

5. Which would you be more likely to find in a *rural* area?

- Ⓐ skyscrapers
Ⓑ cows

6. Which pet store has more *diversity*?

- Ⓐ Pets Plaza, which sells reptiles, fish, cats, hamsters, and puppies
Ⓑ Pups R Us, which sells puppies and cats

7. Which is an example of a *cultural* difference between Philip and Gregory?

- Ⓐ Philip is 2 inches shorter than Gregory.
Ⓑ Philip grew up in a place where it is considered rude to be late; Gregory grew up in a place where it is considered rude to be on time.

8. Who could be described as *entranced*?

- Ⓐ David, who is so fascinated by the TV show he is watching that he doesn't hear his mom call his name four times
Ⓑ Doug, who is flipping through the channels, annoyed that he can't find anything worth watching

9. Which could be described as a *primitive* mode of transportation?

- Ⓐ a flying car
Ⓑ a wagon pulled by horses

10. Who is more likely to be *cast* in the next big superhero movie?

- Ⓐ Linda, an actor
Ⓑ Laura, a lawyer