

Name: _____ Date: _____

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read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"What I Really Want for My Birthday"

- 1. burden (BUR-dn)** *noun or verb*; A burden is something that is carried—especially something that is heavy or difficult to carry. *Burden* can refer to a physical object or to something difficult that you have to deal with, such as a responsibility. If you have a lot of younger siblings, you might take on the burden of watching them when your parents are busy.

As a verb, *burden* means "to put a heavy load on something or someone" or "to cause someone to deal with something difficult." If your friend realizes that he has been complaining to you a lot, he might say, "I'm sorry, I don't mean to burden you with all of my problems."
- 2. charitable (CHAR-i-tuh-buhl)** *adjective*; Charity is generosity and help toward those in need. Organizations that help those in need are called charities. *Charitable* is used to describe someone or something that is involved or concerned with charity. If your grandmother volunteers at a soup kitchen and donates money to a local homeless shelter, she is charitable.
- 3. contrary (KON-trer-ee)** *adjective*; *Contrary* means opposite. If Lisa and Jeremy have contrary views on who should be elected class president, they disagree on who should be class president.
- 4. deprive (dih-PRAHYV)** *verb*; *Deprive* means "to take something away from or keep from having." If your smartphone breaks, you may be deprived of texting for a while.
- 5. noble (NOH-buhl)** *adjective*; If someone is noble, he or she acts according to admirable moral qualities, such as kindness, honesty, and courage. *Noble* can also be used to describe an act. For example, it would be noble of your sister to offer to do your chores for you when you are very busy with homework.

Noble can also mean "of high rank." During the Middle Ages, noble families were those that had high status in the king's court because they were related or connected to the royal family. Noble families were usually wealthy and had special privileges.
- 6. waft (WAFT)** *verb*; To waft is to float or be carried through the air. You know the cookies you're baking are almost done when their sweet scent begins to waft through the house.

Directions: On this page, list any other words from the article 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 primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"What I Really Want for My Birthday"

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

1. Which would more likely be considered a **burden**?

- Ⓐ having to take your little brother to his piano lesson every Thursday after school
- Ⓑ receiving free tickets to an Ariana Grande concert

2. Which word is most similar in meaning to **contrary**?

- Ⓐ same
- Ⓑ conflicting

3. Who could be described as **charitable**?

- Ⓐ Hazel, who donates \$5 of her allowance to a cancer research foundation each month
- Ⓑ Emily, who starts her own jewelry-making business

4. Which is more likely to **waft** into a room?

- Ⓐ a couch
- Ⓑ the smell of freshly baked bread

5. Who could be described as **noble**?

- Ⓐ a doctor who volunteers to work without pay once a week at a clinic that offers free health care to people who can't afford to pay
- Ⓑ a criminal who skillfully robs a bank

6. Which sentence uses the word **deprive** correctly?

- Ⓐ After the hurricane knocked down several power lines, the town was deprived of electricity for 3 days.
- Ⓑ "Don't deprive my cell phone!" I pleaded with my mom after she threatened to take my phone away.

Directions: Write two sentences that each include a word or words from the list of vocabulary words on pages 1-2 of this activity (including the words you chose).

7. _____

8. _____
