

Name: _____ Date: _____

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words and
definitions read
aloud at Scope
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Vocabulary:

"Saved From Disaster"

- 1. perilous (PER-uh-luhs)** *adjective*; Something that is perilous is extremely dangerous or risky. Fighting fires is a perilous job. Sailing a small boat in stormy seas would be perilous.
- 2. posthumously (PAHS-choo-muhs-lee)** *adverb*; *Posthumously* is the adverb form of the adjective *posthumous* (PAHS-choo-muhs), which means "happening after one's death." If a soldier posthumously receives an award for her bravery, she is honored after her death—perhaps in a ceremony in which an award is given to her family.
- 3. prestigious (preh-STEE-juhs)** *adjective*; Something that is prestigious is greatly respected and admired; it has a glowing reputation and is seen as impressive or important. J.K. Rowling is a prestigious author. Harvard University is a prestigious school. An Olympic gold medal is a prestigious award.
- 4. pummel (PUHM-uhl)** *verb*; To pummel something is to repeatedly beat or punch it. Pummel can mean to literally strike or punch something, as in "the boxer pummeled his opponent" or "waves pummeled the ship." *Pummel* can also be used more figuratively to mean "defeat badly," as in "We pummeled the visiting team, winning by 20 points."

Directions: In the space below, 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 meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Vocabulary Practice

"Saved From Disaster"

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

1. Which would be most likely to pummel your mom's car?
Ⓐ a burrito that was left in the backseat for three days
Ⓑ a squirrel sitting in a tree next to the car
Ⓒ a hail storm
Ⓓ a vacuum cleaner
2. Which of the following is LEAST similar in meaning to *prestigious*?
Ⓐ impressive
Ⓑ famous
Ⓒ important
Ⓓ ordinary
3. Which would most likely be described as a perilous activity?
Ⓐ reading a book at the library
Ⓑ eating ice cream on your front porch
Ⓒ hiking on a trail where rocks are falling
Ⓓ practicing the piano
4. Which of the following describes a painter whose fame came posthumously?
Ⓐ The painter became famous as an old man.
Ⓑ The painter became famous after his death.
Ⓒ The painter became famous in a funny way.
Ⓓ The painter became famous in many countries but not in the one where he lived.

Directions: Complete each unfinished sentence in a way that makes the meaning of the boldfaced word or phrase clear.

5. Dr. Becker is a **prestigious** scientist. He _____

6. The Portland Pirates **pummeled** the Maple Heights Comets at last night's soccer match. The Comets _____

7. The road conditions are **perilous**. They _____

8. The novel was published **posthumously**. The author _____

