

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary:

"Escape to Freedom"

1. bleak (BLEEK) *adjective*; Something that is *bleak* lacks warmth, life, and cheer. Bleak weather is cold, damp, and unpleasant. A bleak room is empty and colorless. If a situation is bleak, it is bad and seems unlikely to improve.

2. notorious (noh-TORE-ee-uss) *adjective*; To be *notorious* is to be famous for something bad. A movie star is famous; a well-known criminal is notorious. Tourists might avoid a city that is notorious for crime. A restaurant might be notorious for slow service.

3. regime (ruh-ZHEEM) *noun*; A *regime* is a government, especially one that is not democratic, abuses its authority, and takes away people's personal freedoms.

4. ruthless (ROOTH-liss) *adjective*; Someone who is *ruthless* is cruel, heartless, and shows no mercy or compassion for others.

5. undetected (uhn-dih-TEK-tid) *adjective*; To *detect* (dih-TEKT) is to discover or notice the presence of something that is hidden or hard to see, hear, or smell. A smoke detector goes off when it detects smoke.

Undetected means "not detected or discovered." If you slip into a crowd undetected, you slip in without anyone noticing you.

6. vie (vahy) *verb*; To *vie* for something is to compete for it. In a race, runners vie for first place. Kids might vie for their parents' attention. Dogs might vie for a ball.

7. vilify (VIL-ih-fahy) *verb*; The adjective *vile* (VAHYL) means "unpleasant, morally bad, or wicked."

To *vilify* someone is to say or write harsh or unfair things about that person so that he or she seems vile—to spread nasty stories about the person, whether they are true or not.

Directions: In the space below or on the back of 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

"Escape to Freedom"

Directions: For each question below, fill in the circle next to the best answer.

1. Which of the following cities is notorious for its air quality?

- Ⓐ a city known for its clean air
- Ⓑ a city known for its polluted air

2. Which landscape is bleak?

- Ⓐ gray, rocky cliffs covered in fog
- Ⓑ a sunny meadow full of swaying grasses and wildflowers

Directions: Choose the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

3. vilify

- Ⓐ approve of
- Ⓑ criticize harshly

5. bleak

- Ⓐ dreary
- Ⓑ bright

4. regime

- Ⓐ authorities
- Ⓑ citizens

6. notorious

- Ⓐ respectable
- Ⓑ dishonorable

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

undetected ruthless vie detect

7. Finalists on the TV show *The Voice* compete for the grand prize of a record deal.

8. In the wizarding world of Harry Potter, the cloak of invisibility allows the wearer to move about completely unseen.

9. Crocodiles are brutal predators, aggressive toward anything that crosses their path.
