

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary:

Fly Girl

1. altitude (AL-tih-tood) *noun*; Altitude is how high something is above a particular point. Altitude is usually measured from the level of the sea. An airplane flying at an altitude of 35,000 feet is 35,000 feet above sea level.

2. barrack (BEHR-uhk) *noun*; A barrack is a building or a group of buildings where people in the military live. Barracks are very basic—usually just large rooms filled with rows of beds. (Note: The plural form of *barrack* is more common than the singular form.)

3. expendable (ik-SPEND-duh-buhl) *adjective*; To expend (ik-SPEND) is to use up. You might expend a lot of energy raking leaves from your yard in the fall.

Something that is expendable is not necessary, or it is easily replaced and not worth saving. Paper and pencils are expendable classroom supplies. If an NBA basketball coach says that a player is expendable, he means that the player can easily be replaced—the coach isn't worried about that player leaving for another team.

4. ferry (FEHR-ee) *noun or verb*; A ferry is a boat that transports people back and forth across a body of water on a regular schedule. To visit the Statue of Liberty, you need to take a ferry across New York Harbor to Liberty Island.

As a verb, *ferry* means “to carry or move someone or something on a vehicle between two places.” After a softball game, your mom might ferry your team to a pizza place in her car.

5. grievous (GREE-vuhs) *adjective*; Something that is grievous causes grief, suffering, or pain, or is very serious. A grievous injury is a very bad injury. Grievous news causes intense sadness or shock.

6. malfunction (mal-FUHNGK-shuhn) *noun or verb*; When a piece of equipment or machinery functions, it works. The prefix *mal* means “bad,” so to malfunction is to fail to function or work properly. Your computer might malfunction if it gets a virus.

As a noun, *malfunction* means “a failure to function properly.” You might have to take the stairs if the elevators are closed because of a malfunction.

7. proficient (pruh-FISH-uhnt) *adjective*; If you are proficient in something, you can do it well.

A proficient swimmer is a skilled swimmer. It can take a couple of years to become a proficient driver.

8. rip cord (rip kawrd) *noun*; A rip cord is the cord on a parachute that is pulled to open the parachute.

9. vital (VAHYT-uhl) *adjective*; *Vital* can mean “necessary for life to continue,” as in “The heart is a vital organ.” *Vital* can also mean “full of life and energy,” as in “At 86, Janet is still an active and vital woman.” Or *vital* can mean “extremely important or necessary,” as in “Mark is a vital part of the team” or “The detective discovered a vital clue to solving the mystery.”

Directions: Below and on the back of this page, list any other words from the play 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

Fly Girl

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

vital proficient barracks grievous altitude

1. After a long day of physical training, the soldiers were ready to get back to their living quarters to rest.

2. To protect your privacy, it is very important that you keep your computer passwords secret.

3. There is only one way to become a skilled piano player—practice!

4. Matt's face turned pale when he heard the horrible news.

Directions: Underline the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

5. We drove our car onto a **ferry/barrack** that took us from the mainland to a nearby island.

6. The skydiver pulled the **rip cord/malfunction** and gently floated down the ground.

7. Our toaster was clearly **ferrying/malfunctioning**; it kept spitting out black, smoking toast no matter which setting we used.

8. We stared out the window as the airplane climbed to its cruising **altitude/ferry**.

9. NASA uses **expendable/vital** rockets to launch its spacecraft into space: The rockets are used once and then thrown away.

10. It is **vital/proficient** to wear a helmet while skateboarding.

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