

Name: _____ Date: _____

Paired Texts Vocabulary

"The Boy Who Found His Smile"

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud!

1. **cacophony (kuh-KOF-uh-nee)** *noun*; A cacophony is a jumble of loud, harsh, unpleasant sounds. Many drivers honking their car horns in a traffic jam would create a cacophony.

2. **cleft (kleft)** *noun or adjective*; The verb *cleave* (kleev) means "to split" or "to divide into separate parts." Paul Bunyan cleaves logs with his ax.

A cleft is a space or opening in something made by cleaving; a split. An eagle might make its nest in the cleft of a rock.

As an adjective, *cleft* means "partly split or divided in two." A cleft chin has a vertical indentation down the middle.

3. **despondent (dih-SPON-duhnt)** *adjective*; If someone is despondent, he or she is very sad, discouraged, and without hope.

4. **environmental (en-vahy-ern-MEN-tl)** *adjective*; As it is used in the article, *environmental* means "relating to or caused by a person's surroundings."

5. **genetic (juh-NET-ik)** *adjective*; Genes (jeenz) are the parts of cell that control the appearance and growth of living things. Our genes are passed down to us by our parents and carry the information that determines our traits. For example, if your mom is tall, you might be tall too, because you inherited the gene for being tall. *Genetic* means "related to genes." For example, you could say having green eyes is genetic, because green eyes are a trait passed down from parents.

6. **palate (PAL-it)** *noun*; The palate is the roof of the mouth. It's what separates the inside of your mouth from the inside of your nose. *Palate* can also refer to a person's sense of taste or appetite, as in "My baby sister has a picky palate—she refuses to eat anything but chicken nuggets."

"Changing Lives, One Surgery at a Time"

- 7. developing country (dih-VEL-up-ping KUHN-tree)** *noun*; A developing country is one in which most citizens are poor and where there is little industrial development. Poor sanitation, hunger, and a lack of access to education are among the challenges people in developing countries often face.
- 8. integral (IN-tih-gruhl)** *adjective*; If something is integral, it is very important and necessary; it is needed to make something complete. If you are an integral part of your band, the band would have a hard time playing without you.
- 9. malnutrition (mal-noo-TRISH-uhn)** *noun*; Nutrition (noo-TRISH-uhn) is the act or process of providing the body with the food it needs to grow and be healthy. The Latin root word *mal* means "bad." Malnutrition is an unhealthy condition that results from not eating enough food or from eating food without the proper nutrients. Someone who suffers from malnutrition is often weak and thin.
- 10. ostracize (AHS-truh-sahyz)** *noun*; To ostracize someone is to exclude him or her from a group—in other words, to not allow that person to be part of a group. If kids at school ostracize Megan, they shut her out; they don't let her join their conversations or participate in group activities.

Directions: Below and on the back of this page, list any other words from either text with a definition you are unsure 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.

Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice

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

1. Which of the following is genetic?

- Ⓐ eye color
- Ⓑ ear piercings

2. Mike is despondent. Which of the following could explain why?

- Ⓐ He aced his spelling test.
- Ⓑ His dog ran away from home.

3. Which would you be more likely to find in a developing country?

- Ⓐ shiny new skyscrapers
- Ⓑ small farms

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

4. **ostracize**

- Ⓐ invite
- Ⓑ shut out

6. **malnutrition**

- Ⓐ wealth
- Ⓑ starvation

5. **cleft**

- Ⓐ separated
- Ⓑ connected

7. **integral**

- Ⓐ unnecessary
- Ⓑ essential

Directions: In each pair of boldfaced words, underline the word that best completes the sentence.

8. **Environmental/Integral** factors such as climate and air quality affect a person's health.

9. Bitter to the **palate/malnutrition**, the lemonade was almost too sour to drink.

10. The first few minutes of marching band practice is always a **cleft/cacophony** of clashing symbols and blaring horns.