

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Vocabulary:

## "Nothing Holds Me Back"

**1. advocate (AD-vuh-kit)** *noun* or **(AD-vuh-kayt)** *verb*; An advocate is a person who supports or argues for the interests of another person, group, or cause. Advocates often speak, write, or take action to defend something they believe in. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a passionate advocate for civil rights.

As a verb, *advocate* means "to support, recommend, or argue for something or someone—to act as an advocate." The student council might advocate for a change to the dress code by talking to the principal about what changes students would like to see and why.

**2. daunting (DAWNT-ing)** *adjective*; The verb *daunt* (dawnt) means "to discourage or frighten." Do you know the Dauntless from the Divergent book series? Members of Dauntless could not be daunted—they were fearless and determined.

The adjective *daunting* is used to describe an activity or task that seems difficult or frightening to do. Anything that makes you feel intimidated, discouraged, or overwhelmed when you even *think* about doing it—skydiving, going to a new school, or writing an entire research paper in one night—could be described as daunting.

**3. dwell (dwel)** *verb*; As it is used in the article, *dwell* means "to keep the attention directed on something that is a source of unhappiness or anxiety." Used in this way, *dwell* is often followed by *on*. If you're dwelling on a mistake you made in yesterday's baseball game, you're thinking or talking about it a lot and having trouble letting it go.

**4. forge (fawrj)** *verb*; To forge is to shape metal by heating and hammering it. A blacksmith might forge a piece of iron into a hook. *Forge* can also mean to form or create anything new. You might forge new friendships at summer camp.

**5. paraeducator (PA-ruh-EJ-oo-keyt-er)** *noun*; The prefix *para* can mean "beside" or "next to." A paraeducator is a school employee who works beside teachers, supporting them and the students in daily classroom activities. A paraeducator does things like help teachers plan lessons, provide one-on-one tutoring to students, and assist students with special needs.

**6. petition (peh-TISH-uhn)** *noun or verb*; A petition is a written document that many people sign asking a person or an organization for something they want changed or done. If Parkway Middle School doesn't have basketball courts on its playground, a group of students might start a petition requesting that courts be built. The students will try to get as many signatures on the petition as possible to show the principal that a lot of people want basketball courts.

As a verb, *petition* means "to make a request—and in particular, to make a formal written request to an authority." You might petition the government to change a law, or you might petition your parents for a later bedtime.

**7. tactile (TAK-tahyl, -til)** *adjective*; *Tactile* means "relating to the sense of touch." A museum might have a tactile exhibition, full of objects that visitors are meant to touch. If Jess says she is a tactile person, she means that she likes to get her hands on things and feel them, rather than just look at them or read about them.

**8. tedious (TEE-dee-uhs)** *adjective*; *Tedious* means "long, boring, and tiresome."

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**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 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

## "Nothing Holds Me Back"

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

**1. daunting**

- Ⓐ intimidating      Ⓑ delightful

**2. tactile**

- Ⓐ fragrant      Ⓑ touchable

**3. forge**

- Ⓐ form      Ⓑ neglect

**Directions:** Fill in the circle next to the best answer choice.

**4. Which would likely be more tedious?**

- Ⓐ riding a roller coaster  
Ⓑ putting stamps on 10,000 letters

**5. Someone who is a paraeducator might work in a**

- \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ courthouse  
Ⓑ kindergarten

**6. For which of the following might a doctor advocate?**

- Ⓐ exercising at least three times a week  
Ⓑ eating a diet of mostly candy

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

**7.** The residents of Riverside Heights **petitioned** to have \_\_\_\_\_

**8.** My dad **dwelled** on the restaurant's terrible service. He \_\_\_\_\_

**9.** At the aquarium, there is a **tactile** tank where children can \_\_\_\_\_