

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

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

# Vocabulary:

## "Climbing Skull Mountain"

1. **dilapidated (dih-LAP-ih-dey-tid)** *adjective*; Something that is dilapidated is in very bad condition because of age, wear, or neglect. A basketball court that has rusty old hoops with no nets and weeds growing everywhere is dilapidated.
2. **mesmerize (MEZ-muh-rahyz)** *verb*; *Mesmerize* means "to fascinate or completely hold someone's attention or interest." A dazzling fireworks show might mesmerize you. Watching paint dry would not. When you are mesmerized, you are so interested or amazed that you don't notice or see anything else.
3. **strewn (stroon)** *adjective*; The verb *strew* (stroo) means "to spread or scatter something all over an area." A storm might strew broken twigs and leaves all over your yard.  
  
*Strewn* means "untidily scattered" as in, "Confetti was strewn about the kitchen table at Kate's birthday party."
4. **traipse (trayps)** *verb*; To traipse is to travel by foot in a slow and sort of aimless way. You may have a purpose for walking—say, shopping around town for a new backpack or exploring a museum—but you're walking without a specific path or plan in mind; you're wandering. You might traipse around a mall all afternoon with your friends. You wouldn't, however, traipse to the bus stop if you were running late. You'd probably run.
5. **transfix (trans-FIKS)** *verb*; If you are transfixed by something, you have become motionless with horror, wonder, or surprise. Your little brother might be transfixed by animated movies, staring at the screen, frozen, as if under a spell. A deer might stand transfixed in the headlights of a car.  
  
Does this definition sound a little familiar? *Transfix* and *mesmerize* are very similar in meaning. Someone who is transfixed is mesmerized, in that they're gripped by something. But someone who is mesmerized is not necessarily transfixed or unable to move.

---

**Directions:** Below, list any other words from the story 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 peers. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

# Vocabulary Practice

## "Climbing Skull Mountain"

**Directions:** Rewrite each sentence using one of the words in the box.

dilapidated    mesmerized    strewn    traipsed    transfixed

1. Eli was amazed by the meteor shower, standing motionless and staring up at the sky long after it was over.

---

2. After the concert, the park was covered with litter.

---

3. Joe was fascinated by the painting, his eyes glued to it as he motioned for the others to come see it.

---

4. The old bridge is falling apart; no one uses it anymore.

---

5. We wandered through the streets of our nation's capital all day, just taking in the sights.

---

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

6. **strewn**

Ⓐ collected

Ⓑ spread

8. **dilapidated**

Ⓐ perfect

Ⓑ run-down

7. **traipse**

Ⓐ stroll

Ⓑ tiptoe

9. **mesmerize**

Ⓐ bore

Ⓑ fascinate

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

# Character Development

Authors reveal what characters are like in many ways. They may tell you directly, as in "Kate hates eggs." Or they may show you through the character's thoughts, speech, effect on others, or actions, as in "Kate wrinkled her nose at the eggs."

**Directions:** Read "Climbing Skull Mountain." Then fill in the graphic organizer with clues the author provides about Jordan's and Eddie's personalities through (1) how they look, (2) what they do, (3) what they say, (4) what they think, or (5) how they affect each other. Then write a character trait that the clues support. We've filled some examples in for you.

Character	Clues	Character Trait
Jordan	"After Mom left for work, Jordan turned to me. 'We're going up Skull Mountain,' he announced."	bossy
Eddie		

**Directions:** Use the notes you took on page 1 to help you answer the question below.

In the story's subtitle, author Kristin Lewis writes of Skull Mountain, "You won't come back the same . . . if you come back at all." Did Eddie and Jordan come back the same? Explain.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Now use what you wrote in this activity to help you respond to the prompt on page 29:**

Write a one-page scene about what happens after the story ends. Stay true to Eddie's and Jordan's characters as you move the story forward.

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

# Character Development

Authors reveal what characters are like in many ways. They may tell you directly, as in "Kate hates eggs." Or they may show you through the character's thoughts, speech, effect on others, or actions, as in "Kate wrinkled her nose at the eggs."

**Directions:** Read "Climbing Skull Mountain." Then fill in the graphic organizer with clues the author provides about Jordan's and Eddie's personalities through (1) how they look, (2) what they do, (3) what they say, (4) what they think, or (5) how they affect each other. Then write a character trait that the clues support. We've filled some examples in for you.

Character	Clues	Character Trait
Jordan	"After Mom left for work, Jordan turned to me. 'We're going up Skull Mountain,' he announced."	bossy
	"Jordan climbed the fence easily."; "Jordan was already six feet tall, and I had to jog to keep up with him."	
		stubborn
Eddie		

**Directions:** Use the notes you took on page 1 to help you answer the question below.

In the story's subtitle, author Kristin Lewis writes of Skull Mountain, "You won't come back the same . . . if you come back at all." Did Eddie and Jordan come back the same? Explain.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Now use what you wrote in this activity to help you respond to the prompt on page 29:**

Write a one-page scene about what happens after the story ends. Stay true to Eddie's and Jordan's characters as you move the story forward.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

## Skull Mountain Contest

Write a one-page scene about what happens after this story ends. Stay true to Eddie's and Jordan's characters as you move the story forward. Three winners will each get *The Lifters* by Dave Eggers.

### Entries will be judged on:

⇒ creativity  
⇒ clarity

⇒ strength of character development  
⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

My home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ My grade: \_\_\_\_\_

My teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_ My teacher's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

School phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

My parent or legal guardian consents  
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Include this form with your entry and send both to: [scopemag@scholastic.com](mailto:scopemag@scholastic.com)  
or mail them to: Skull Mountain Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 15, 2019!**