

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

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# Vocabulary:

## *The Interlopers*

1. **barbaric (bahr-BAR-ik)** *adjective*; Something that is barbaric is very cruel and uncivilized. In medieval times, a common punishment for stealing was to cut off the thief's right hand—a practice that seems barbaric to people today. *Barbaric* can also mean “rude—not polite or proper,” as in, “His table manners are barbaric.”
2. **canteen (kan-TEEN)** *noun*; As it is used in the play, *canteen* means “a small container for carrying water or another liquid.” Hikers, campers, and soldiers often carry canteens.
3. **contemplate (KON-tuhm-pleyt)** *verb*; To contemplate is to think about something deeply, carefully, and at length. You might contemplate whether you should join the debate team for several days before making a decision. After reading a poem, you might sit and contemplate its meaning.
4. **decree (dih-KREE)** *noun or verb*; A decree is an official order or decision made by a government or someone with power, as in, “The soldiers obeyed the king's decree to release all prisoners.”  
 To decree is to make a command or announce something in an official way, as in, “The President decreed that the third Monday of every January would be celebrated as Martin Luther King Jr. Day.”
5. **feud (fyood)** *noun or verb*; A feud is a long-lasting fight between two people, groups, or families. If two neighbors are in a feud over one of them playing music too loudly, they have been quarreling about the issue for a while, and it doesn't seem like they'll ever come to an agreement.  
 As a verb, *feud* means “to carry on a long-lasting argument,” as in, “My two brothers have been feuding for years over who should get the bigger bedroom.”
6. **intervene (in-ter-VEEN)** *verb*; If you intervene in a situation, you get involved in it in order to have an effect on what happens. If you see two small children shoving one another, you might intervene and help them solve their argument in a more peaceful way.

- 7. plunder (PLUHN-der)** *verb*; To plunder is to steal things openly and by force, as in, “Pirates plundered the ship, taking everything of value while the ship’s crew watched helplessly.”

As a noun, *plunder* means “things that are stolen or taken by force,” as in, “The pirates divided the plunder equally among themselves.”

- 8. smirk (smurk)** *verb or noun*; To smirk is to smile in a way that is not sincere and that is a bit smug and irritating to others. People smirk when they feel like they know something someone else doesn’t know or when they are happy about someone else’s misfortune.

As a noun, *smirk* means “a knowing or self-satisfied grin.” Your brother’s lips might curl into a smirk as he informs you that it’s your turn to do the dishes.

- 9. snare (snair)** *noun or verb*; A snare is a trap used to catch birds or animals. It has a loop on one end that gets smaller when it’s pulled. In the Hunger Games series, Katniss uses snares to catch rabbits and other critters to feed her family.

As a verb, *snare* means “to catch in a snare,” as in, “Katniss snared a squirrel for dinner.”

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**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

## *The Interlopers*

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

1. The hunter **decreed**/**snared** a fox.
  2. I **contemplated**/**intervened** paint colors for my bedroom walls and finally settled on “Twilight Blue.”
  3. In his speech, the emperor said, “I **decree**/**plunder** that no one can wear the color blue!”
  4. The thieves made millions of dollars by selling their **smirk**/**plunder** from art museum.
  5. The **feud**/**smirk** between the two athletes finally ended when one of them apologized.
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**Directions:** Choose the best answer to each question.

6. Which might cause someone to smirk?

- Ⓐ when a rival makes a mistake
- Ⓑ when a rival wins a competition

7. If the aquarium is known for its barbaric treatment of animals, how does it treat them?

- Ⓐ with great care
- Ⓑ with cruelty

8. In which situation might a babysitter intervene?

- Ⓐ when the children are taking naps
- Ⓑ when the children are playing soccer too close to the street

9. Which might someone put in a canteen?

- Ⓐ sandwiches
- Ⓑ apple juice