

VOCABULARY - *Death of a Salesman*

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. . . . she admires him, as though his mercurial nature, his temper, his massive dreams and little cruelties, served her only as sharp reminders of the turbulent longings within him
2. HAPPY: *with deep sentiment*: Funny, Biff, y'know? Us sleeping here again? The old beds. *He pats the bed affectionately*. All the talk that went across those two beds, huh? Our whole lives.
3. HAPPY: Well, you really enjoy it on a farm? Are you content out there? BIFF, *with rising agitation*:
4. You're a poet, you know that, Biff? You're an idealist.
5. BIFF, *with enthusiasm*: Listen, why don't you come out West with me? ...
HAPPY, *avidly*: The Loman Brothers, heh?
6. HAPPY, *enthralled*: That's what I dream about, Biff.
7. . . . *the entire house and surroundings become covered with leaves. Music insinuates itself as the leaves appear.*
8. WILLY, *stopping the incipient argument, to Happy*: Sure, he's gotta practice with a regulation ball, doesn't he?

Salesman Vocabulary Worksheet Assignment 1 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.
If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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|-------------------|--|
| ___ 1. mercurial | A. enthusiastically; with great interest |
| ___ 2. sentiment | B. beginning to exist |
| ___ 3. agitation | C. quick and changeable in temperament |
| ___ 4. idealist | D. disturbance; annoyance |
| ___ 5. avidly | E. held spellbound; captivated |
| ___ 6. enthralled | F. tender, romantic or nostalgic feeling |
| ___ 7. insinuates | G. one who sees the best in things; a dreamer; unrealistic |
| ___ 8. incipient | H. becomes introduced gradually |

Vocabulary - *Death of a Salesman* - Reading Assignment No. 2

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. . . . I can't on a Regents! That's a state exam! They're liable to arrest me!

2. That man was a genius, that man was success incarnate!

3. He is a large man, slow of speech, laconic, immovable.

4. In all he says, despite what he says, there is pity, and, now, trepidation.

5. WILLY, as though to dispel his confusion he angrily stops Charley's hand

6. Is this his reward--to turn around at the age of sixty-three and find his sons, who he loved better than his life, one a philandering bum--

7. I've been remiss. I know that, Mom. But now I'll stay, and I swear to you, I'll apply myself.

8. LINDA, her voice subdued: What'd you have to start that for?

Salesman Vocabulary Worksheet Assignment 2 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.
If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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| ___ 9. liable | A. to rid one's mind of |
| ___ 10. incarnate | B. made less intense; toned down; softer |
| ___ 11. laconic | C. not attending to duty; negligent; careless |
| ___ 12. trepidation | D. likely; at risk of experiencing something unpleasant |
| ___ 13. dispel | E. engaging in many casual love affairs |
| ___ 14. philandering | F. personified; given a human form to |
| ___ 15. remiss | G. a state of alarm or dread |
| ___ 16. subdued | H. using few words |

Vocabulary - *Death of a Salesman* - Reading Assignment No. 3

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. He's heading for a change. There's no question there simply are certain men that take longer to get--solidified.
2. Howard is intent on threading the machine and only glances over his shoulder as Willy appears.
3. I bought it for dictation, but you can do anything with it.
4. If I had a spot I'd slam you right in, but I just don't have a single solitary spot.
5. There was respect, and comradeship, and gratitude in it.
6. WILLY, furiously: Casino! Incredulously: Don't you realize what today is?
7. Well, Bill Oliver . . . wants Biff very badly. Called him in from the West. Long distance, carte blanche, special deliveries.
8. Willy, do you want to talk candidly?

Salesman Vocabulary Worksheet Assignment 3 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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|-----------------------|---|
| ___ 17. solidified | A. concentrating; engrossed |
| ___ 18. intent | B. unbelievably |
| ___ 19. dictation | C. characterized by openness; frankly |
| ___ 20. solitary | D. made strong, sturdy or stable |
| ___ 21. comradeship | E. existing alone |
| ___ 22. incredulously | F. with full permission; unrestricted authority |
| ___ 23. carte blanche | G. to say aloud to be recorded & then written by another from the recording |
| ___ 24. candidly | H. friendship; a friendly spirit of working together for a common purpose |

Vocabulary - *Death of a Salesman* - Reading Assignment No. 4

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. Suddenly raucous music is heard, and a red glow rises behind the screen at right.

2. BIFF, agonized: I don't know, I just--wanted to take something, I don't know. You gotta help me, Hap, I'm gonna tell Pop.

3. The gist of it is that I haven't got a story left in my head.

4. Listen, kid, I took those balls years ago, now I walk in with his fountain pen? That clinches it, don't you see? I can't face him like that! I'll try elsewhere.

5. WILLY, strikes Biff and falters away from the table: You rotten little louse! Are you spiting me?

6. The Woman's call pulls Willy back. He starts right, befuddled.

7. He's just a little overstrung, he'll be all right!

Salesman Vocabulary Worksheet Assignment 4 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.
If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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| ___ 25. raucous | A. stumbles; moves unsteadily |
| ___ 26. agonized | B. main idea |
| ___ 27. gist | C. pushed to one's emotional limits |
| ___ 28. clinches | D. suffering great anguish; struggling |
| ___ 29. falters | E. confused |
| ___ 30. befuddled | F. rough-sounding; harsh; boisterous |
| ___ 31. overstrung | G. settles something conclusively |

Vocabulary - *Death of a Salesman* - Reading Assignment No. 5

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean in the space provided.

1. Raw, sensuous music accompanies their speech.

2. See, the reason he hates me, Pop--one day he was late for class so I got up at the blackboard and imitated him. I crossed my eyes and talked with a lithp.

3. Get out of here! Go back, go back . . . Suddenly striving for the ordinary: This is Miss Francis, Biff, she's a buyer. They're painting her room. Go back, Miss Francis, go back . . .

4. Now look, Biff, when you grow up you'll understand about these things. You musn't--you musn't overemphasize a thing like this.

5. WILLY, anxiously: Oh, I'd better hurry.

6. She rises ominously and quietly and moves toward Happy, who backs up into the kitchen, afraid.

7. Hey, what're you doing up? Linda says nothing but moves toward him implacably. Where's Pop? He keeps backing to the right, and now Linda is in full view in the doorway . . .

8. What am I doing in an office, making a contemptuous, begging fool of myself, when all I want is out there, waiting for me the minute I say I know who I am!

Salesman Vocabulary Worksheet Assignment 5 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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| ___ 32. sensuous | A. threateningly |
| ___ 33. imitated | B. place too much importance on |
| ___ 34. striving | C. with a worried eagerness |
| ___ 35. overemphasize | D. appealing to the senses |
| ___ 36. anxiously | E. dishonorable; disgraceful |
| ___ 37. ominously | F. copied mannerisms, actions or speech |
| ___ 38. implacably | G. struggling; working |
| ___ 39. contemptuous | H. in a manner showing unwillingness to make peace |

ANSWER KEY - VOCABULARY
Death of a Salesman

Reading Assignment No. 1

1. C
2. F
3. D
4. G
5. A
6. E
7. H
8. B

Reading Assignment No. 2

9. D
10. F
11. H
12. G
13. A
14. E
15. C
16. B

Reading Assignment No. 3

17. D
18. A
19. G
20. E
21. H
22. B
23. F
24. C

Reading Assignment No. 4

25. F
26. D
27. B
28. G
29. A
30. E
31. C

Reading Assignment No. 5

32. D
33. F
34. G
35. B
36. C
37. A
38. H
39. E