Date
Date

Period

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 8

CONTEXT: Expression

Zora Neale Hurston: Many-sided Writer

Zora Neale Hurston (1891–1960) was always her own person—talented and prolific, hardworking and outspoken. She was born in Eatonville, Florida, where her father was a carpenter and served as the minister and mayor. When her mother died, Hurston left home and worked as a maid and later as a secretary while attending college. She began writing plays and stories and for a time was part of the black cultural revival known as the Harlem Renaissance.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about Zora Neale Hurston, writer of novels, short stories, plays, folk tales, and works of anthropology. Below are ten Vocabulary Words that will be used in these exercises.

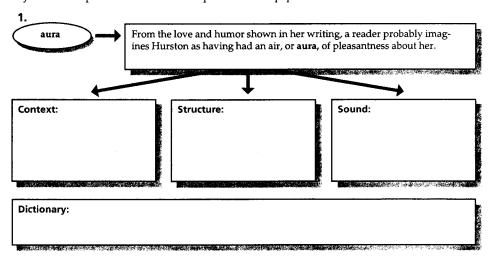
aura fabricate impediment mediocre opportune qualm reactionary stamina zealous zephyr

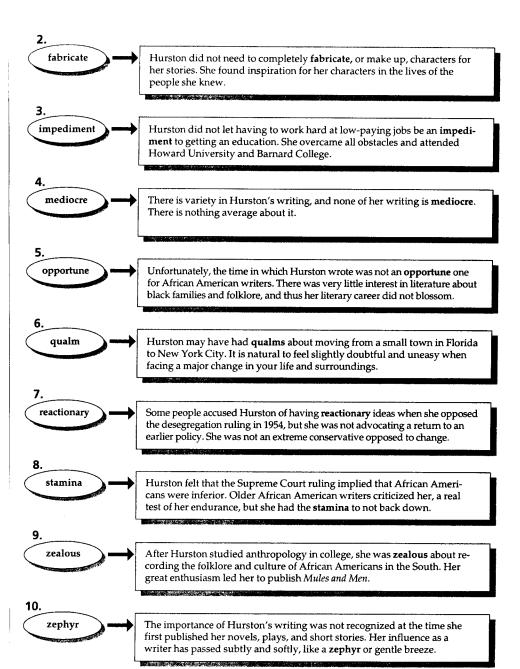
EXERCISE 1

Wordbusting &

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its context, its structure, and its sound. Fill in at least
 one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word
 as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.





EXERCISE 2 Context Clues

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Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match the definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the Vocabulary Word on the line preceding the definition.

COLUMN A	
11. word: n. a distinctive quality surrounding a person or thing; an invisible, enveloping glow	
n. an uneasiness, misgiving, or doubt; a slight feeling of sickness or nausea	
13. word: adj. intensely devoted; eager; enthusiastic	
n. a speech disorder; an obstruction of some kind	
n. a gentle wind; a mild breeze	
16. word: adj. only average or ordinary; medium; neither bad nor good	
adj. advocating a return to an earlier social, political, or economic policy or condition; n. one who advocates a return to an earlier policy or condition	
v. to build or manufacture; to make up or invent (as a story or an excuse)	
n. vigor; strength; endurance	
20. word: adj. right for the purpose; advantageously timed	

COLUMN B

- (A) Hurston's use of natural dialogue enlivens her stories. She captures dialects and regional expressions easily. She is even able to imitate speech impediments such as stuttering and stammering.
- (B) The use of these techniques gives her characters an aura of authenticity. Natural dialogue helps capture the feeling of realism that surrounds a character.
- (C) Hurston's work is now recognized as exceptional, far above mediocre.
- (D) Hurston collected folklore at an opportune time, when the old stories were still being passed along orally.
- (E) Hurston's stories are often earthy, telling of violence and marital difficulties, but you should have no qualms about reading them. Any doubts you have will vanish after a few pages.
- (F) Drawing upon her own experience, Hurston skillfully fabricated unforgettable characters and stories.
- (G) Hurston was zealous about her work. Her devotion and enthusiasm are evident in her collection of folklore, Mules and Men.
- (H) Florida's African Americans of the 1920s and 1930s live on in Hurston's writing. Readers can almost feel each zephyr that gently blows across Eatonville and smell the scents carried on the breeze.
- While Hurston sympathetically portrayed the circumstances of the period, she was not reactionary.
- (J) Hurston had great stamina. Her strength and endurance were demonstrated by the fact that, in addition to writing her many books, she worked at various times as a staff writer, a maid, a librarian, a journalist, a part-time teacher, and a professor of drama.

EXERCISE 3 Sentence Completion

21. The folklore stories Hurston wrote down

22. Hurston seemingly had no ____ about

had doubts, she overcame them.

telling about life as it really was. If she

23. The lack of opportunities for African Ameri-

can writers, the lack of appreciation by the

as obstacles, or _____, to Hurston's goals.

24. In spite of the hardships she endured,

Hurston was often fortunate. It was _

25. The _____ of certain individuals in Hurston's

hometown must have been etched in her

memory. From the details in her stories,

the reader can almost see the vitality and brightness surrounding these characters.

offered to her, since she made little

for example, that Hurston had other jobs

public, and her politics and lifestyle all served

(A) qualms(B) zephyrs

(C) impediments

(D) fabrications

(E) mediocrities

(A) impediments

(B) opportunities

(C) qualms(D) fabrication

(E) stamina

(A) qualms(B) fabrications

(D) zephyrs

(C) opportunities

(E) impediments

money writing.

(C) opportune

(D) mediocre

(E) fabricated

(A) qualms

(D) impediments

(E) mediocrities

(B) auras(C) zephyrs

(A) zealous(B) reactionary

were _____ that had been made up long ago by anonymous storytellers.

Directions. For each of the following items, circle the letter of the choice that best completes the meaning of the sentence or sentences.

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26.	Hurston's autobiography, Dust Tracks on a Road, shows her to be a individual whose dedication gave her a great deal of, or endurance.
	 (A) zealousstamina (B) mediocrefabrication (C) reactionaryzephyrs (D) pallidmediocrity (E) qualmishimpediment
27.	Hurston achieved only a reputation in her lifetime, not an exceptional one. Recently, however, her writings have been received by an enthusiastic audience. (A) reactionary opportunistically (B) mediocre zealously (C) zealous opportunely (D) reactionary zealously (E) fabricated opportunistically
28.	Hurston now has many fans, but she died almost unknown. Many people had about her work—misgivings that are hard to understand today. (A) opportune fabrications (B) mediocre qualms (C) reactionary zephyrs (D) staminal impediments (E) zealous qualms
29.	Hurston eventually lost her, health, and will to live. Her life force, once as strong as a gale, became little more than a (A) impediment mediocrity (B) mediocrity fabrication (C) stamina zephyr (D) qualms reactionary (E) aura zealousness
30	This talented woman, who was once accused of being backward-looking, even, who had faced and overcome all sorts of, is buried in a segregated cemetery in Fort Pierce, Florida. (A) mediocre qualms (B) zealous reactionaries

(C) opportunistic . . . fabrications

(D) reactionary . . . impediments

(E) qualmish . . . zephyrs