

# Reading Supplement

## Lesson 12

### Context Clues in a Passage



When you encounter an unfamiliar word in your reading, the best clues to the meaning of the word may not appear in the same sentence as the word. Often, the sentences before and/or after a difficult word will give you clues to what the word means. Here are some steps that might help you determine the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

1. Determine the main message of the passage.
2. Consider the general mood or tone of the passage. Is it happy, sad, serious, funny, matter-of-fact, persuasive, etc?
3. Reread the sentence that contains the difficult word. If you don't see enough context clues in that sentence, reread the sentences before it and after it.
4. Decide what you think the word meaning may be and then imagine your meaning replacing the word in the passage. Does it fit in the passage?

#### Example 1:

from *Jane Eyre*  
by Charlotte Brontë, 1847

The only marked event of the afternoon was, that I saw the girl with whom I had conversed in the verandah dismissed in disgrace by Miss Scatcherd from a history class, and sent to stand in the middle of the large schoolroom. The punishment seemed to me in a high degree ignominious, especially for so great a girl — she looked thirteen or upwards. I expected she would show signs of great distress and shame; but to my surprise she neither wept nor blushed: composed, though grave, she stood, the central mark of all eyes. . .

**What does the word *ignominious* mean in the above excerpt?**

- A. humorous
- B. appropriate
- C. humiliating
- D. isolating

In this example, the meaning of *ignominious* can be found by understanding the context clues that are given in other sentences in the paragraph. Consider what this paragraph is saying by rewriting the main points in your own words:

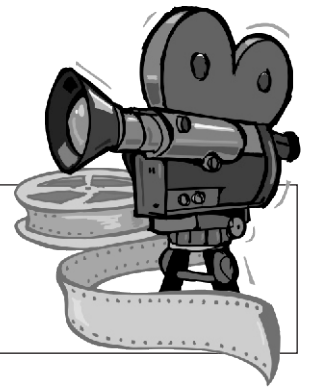
The girl was dismissed in disgrace. She was sent to stand in the middle of the large school room. The narrator expected her to show signs of distress and shame. Surprisingly, she did not, but she did look grave as everyone looked at her.

Her punishment is described as ignominious. From these context clues, you should be able to see that *ignominious* means *humiliating*, so C is the correct answer. Nothing in the paragraph indicates that the punishment was humorous or appropriate. And since the punishment was public, it could not be considered isolating.

# Reading Supplement

## Lesson 21

### Analyzing Various Mediums



#### Key Term

- **Medium** – a form of communication that can include textual, auditory, and visual information

Different writers are often inspired by the same subject or event. Obviously, their written representations of the event will differ based on the authors' individual opinions and impressions. Artists who work in other mediums may also represent the same event in completely different ways. A **medium** is a form of communication. A subject or event can be chronicled by many different mediums including art, music, film, and radio, among others. Let's look at an example of how a singular subject or event is represented in two different mediums.

**Example:** Read the following paragraph.

from *An Interesting Account of the Voyages and Travels of Captains Lewis and Clarke, in the Years 1804-5, & 6*  
by William Fisher, 1813

To travel among the Indians, is but too often thought the road that inevitably leads the unfortunate adventurer to an untimely death. The barbarity of the Indians in war is proverbial; but in time of peace, hospitality and humanity are traits justly due to their character. It is a judicious saying of an eminent traveller among them, that, "in time of peace no greater friends, in time of war no greater enemies . . ."

Now consider the following etching that was made in the year 1810 that shows Captain Lewis shooting an Indian.



Courtesy: Library of Congress

**How are Native Americans (called Indians) represented in the text and in the etching? What is similar in the two mediums? What is different? List some of your ideas below:**

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