**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Name _____

Stave 1 Date _____ Period _____

Read the following sentences to get the general meaning. Read it a second time, paying special attention to the underlined words. Notice how they are used in sentences. These are Master Words. These are words you will be working with in this lesson.

No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. (p.15, M)

"I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute. (p. 22, B)

At the ominous word "liberality," Scrooge frowned, and shook his head, and handed the credentials back. (p. 24, M)

"I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry." (p. 26, M)

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's book, went home to bed. (p. 31, B)

It was not in impenetrable shadow, as the other objects in he yard were, but had a dismal light about it, like a bad lobster in a dark cellar. (p.33, B)

Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes, and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before, he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses. (p. 41, M)

"You have labored on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!" (p. 41, M)

Not so much in obedience, as in surprise and fear; for on the raising of the hand he became sensible of confused noises in the air; incoherent sounds of lamentation and regret; wailings inexpressibly sorrowful and self-accusatory. (p. 55, B)

**EXERCISE 1** - Self-Test: After reading the above sentences, do the following. Look at the Master Words below. Underline the words that you think you know. Circle the words that you are less sure about. Draw a square around the words you don't recognize.

| MASTER WORDS | |
|---|---|
| **dismal** | **inquired** |
| **idle** | **melancholy** |
| **implored** | **ominous** |
| **incredulous** | **ponderous** |
| **incoherent** | **resolute** |

EXERCISE 2 - Read the sentences on the preceding page again, this time paying special attention to the ten Master Words. In the (a) spaces provided below, write down what you think is the meaning of the word. After you have attempted a definition for each word, look up the word in a dictionary. In the (b) spaces, copy the appropriate dictionary definition.

1. dismal (adj.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

2. idle (adj.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

3. implored (v.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

4. incredulous (adj.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

5. incoherent (adj.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

6. inquired (v.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

7. melancholy (adj.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

8. ominous (adj.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

9. ponderous (adj.)
   a. _____
   b. _____

10. resolute (adj.)
    a. _____
    b. _____

EXERCISE 3 - Use the following list of synonyms and antonyms to fill in the blanks. Two words have no antonyms. In those cases, the antonym blanks have been marked with an X.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| cheerful | heavy | sinister | understandable |
| certain | inactive | solemn | weightless |
| confusing | pleaded | stubborn | wretched |
| doubtful | flexible | busy | non-threatening |
| bright | questioned | | |

| | **Synonyms** | **Antonyms** |
|---|---|---|
| 1. **ominous** | _____ | _____ |
| 2. **incredulous** | _____ | _____ |
| 3. **implored** | _____ | _____X_____ |
| 4. **idle** | _____ | _____ |
| 5. **ponderous** | _____ | _____ |
| 6. **resolute** | _____ | _____ |
| 7. **melancholy** | _____ | _____ |
| 8. **inquired** | _____ | _____X_____ |
| 9. **incoherent** | _____ | _____ |
| 10. **dismal** | _____ | _____ |

EXERCISE 4 - Decide whether the first pair in the items below are synonyms or antonyms. Then choose the Master Word that shows a similar relation to the word(s) preceding the blank.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. dark | : black | :: jobless | : | _____ |
| 2. azure | : sapphire | :: gloomy | : | _____ |
| 3. sour | : sweet | :: happy | : | _____ |
| 4. unfurled | : opened | :: threatening | : | _____ |
| 5. sleepy | : tired | :: begged | : | _____ |
| 6. funny | : humorous | :: persistent | : | _____ |
| 7. narrow | : wide | :: clear | : | _____ |
| 8. gale | : storm | :: investigated | : | _____ |
| 9. smooth | : rough | :: believing | ; | _____ |
| 10. conscious | : asleep | :: lightweight | : | _____ |

EXERCISE 5 - The Master Words in this lesson are repeated below. From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the numbered space provided at the right.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| dismal | idle | implored | incredulous | incoherent |
| inquired | ominous | ponderous | resolute | melancholy |

1. Denise . . . ? . . . her mother to let her go the mall. 1. _____
2. Uncle James seemed very . . . ?. . . after the funeral. 2. _____
3. The clouds moved in, making the day very . . .?. . . . 3. _____
4. Following the accident, the man was dazed and . . .?. . . 4. _____
5. Sinbad went on adventures because he would get tired of his . . . ?. . . life. 5. _____
6. Inspector Gizmo . . .?. . . about the location of the priceless gems. 6. _____
7. Friday the 13th is an . . . ?. . . day for some people. 7. _____
8. Harvey was . . . ? . . . at news of reported alien sightings. 8. _____
9. The sandbags we used for protection against the gale were extremely . . . ? . . . 9. _____
10. We admired how . . . ? . . . Audrey was when it came to excelling in sports. 10._____

EXERCISE 6 - Write the Master Word that could be associated with each word group below.

1. chains, thoughts, sacks of potatoes are 1. _____
2. ideas about spaceships, Big Foot, good advice might make you feel this 2. _____
3. wanting a larger allowance, later curfew, forgiveness might make you do this 3. _____
4. an old house, foggy weather, a dark room 4. _____
5. lounging in a hammock, daydreaming, unemployed 5. _____
6. improving a score, going further, not quitting 6. _____
7. a black cat, 13, dark clouds 7. _____
8. detectives, scientists, small children 8. _____
9. sad music, hopelessness, losing a friend 9. _____
10. a puzzle, a foreign language, a difficult book 10._____