

Lesson 6

1. Words to Read and Know

Socrates	celebrated	grand	lexicographer
compiler	Uttoxeter	atone	determined
scholar	contrition	act	Lichfield

2. Reading Aloud

Exercise A

1. Samuel Johnson was the first man to write a celebrated dictionary of the English language.
2. Although he is known as a lexicographer, Samuel Johnson also was great conversationalist and author.
3. Uttoxeter and Lichfield are both towns located in the west central part of England.
4. Samuel Johnson was not only a celebrated scholar, but also a moralist who taught what was right.
5. Sedges grew at the edge of the stream in our backyard.
6. I was determined not judge the book before I read it.
7. Plato and Xenophon were students of the philosopher Socrates. Both were compilers of his teachings.
8. John disobeyed his father and when he was full of contrition, he atoned for his act of disobedience.

9. Samuel Johnson was born in Lichfield, a town famous for its cathedral, which has three towers.
10. There is a statue of Samuel Johnson in the center the market square of Lichfield.

Exercise B

1. Several very famous authors studied at a grammar school in Lichfield, including Johnson and Addison.
2. David Garrick, one of the most famous Shakespearean actors, studied at the grammar school in Lichfield.
3. I acknowledge that our hedge needs to be trimmed, but let me first eat this wedge of pizza.
4. Does he mind the drudgery of trimming hedges on this lazy summer afternoon?
5. Last winter we ate fudge while riding on a sledge.
6. Henry strove not to be idle, but he also did not want to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life.
7. A linnet now lodges on the ledge of a wall by the bridge.
8. There was a grand party for the clerk who had worked at the store for nearly thirty years.
9. Tim was not being judgmental; he was just expressing a wish that people not trudge over his new rug.
10. With this new gadget, we can drain the sludge that has been gathering from the rain and mud.

3. Reading Selections

Socrates and His House

by James Baldwin

There once lived in Greece a very wise man whose name was Socrates. Young men from all parts of the land went to him to learn wisdom from him, and he said so many pleasant things, and said them in so delightful a way, that no one ever grew tired of listening to him.

One summer he built himself a house, but it was so small that his neighbors wondered how he could be content with it.

“What is the reason,” they said, “that you, who are so great a man, should build such a little box as this to live in?”

“Indeed, there may be little reason,” he said. “But small as the place is, I will think myself happy if I can fill even it with true friends.”

The Man and His Piece of Cloth

Anonymous

A man in the East, where they do not require as much clothing as in colder climates, gave up the things of this world and retired to a wood, where he built a hut and lived in it.

His only clothing was a piece of cloth which he wore around his waist. But, as it happened, there were many rats in the wood, so he had to keep a cat. The cat required milk to keep it, so a cow had to be kept. The cow required care, so a boy was employed to do the job. The boy required a house to live in, so a house was built for him. To look after the house a maid had to be hired. To provide company for the maid, a few

more houses had to be built, and people invited to live in them. In this way a little township sprang up.

The man said, “The further we seek to go from the world and its cares, the more they multiply!”

Reading Questions A

1. According to the writer, why was Socrates so interesting to listen to?
 - a) He was Greek.
 - b) He had good things to say and he said them in a pleasant way.
 - c) He told funny stories.
2. Why did Socrates’ neighbors think that Socrates must not be happy with his house?
 - a) It looked too much like a box.
 - b) It was built too far away from the city where most people live.
 - c) The house was not the size that they would expect a great man should have.
3. Which of the following words BEST describes who Socrates was according to the writer?
 - a) a wise man who understood true friendship
 - b) a person who did not like big things
 - c) a person who had little friends because he did not like people
4. Why does the man in the East go to the woods?
 - a) to start a township

- b) to live in a colder climate
 - c) to get away from the busyness of the world
5. You just read two stories, one about Socrates and the other about a man in the East. How are the two stories similar?
- a) The men in both of the stories find out something that they did not know before.
 - b) They both contain a story about wise men who want to go away from the world.
 - c) They both contain a wise lesson about the world.

A Lexicographer's Regret
by Theodore L. Cuyler

Here is a touching story which the famous writer and dictionary maker Samuel Johnson told. It has had an influence on many boys and girls who have heard it.

Samuel's father Michael Johnson was a poor bookseller in Lichfield, England. On market days he used to carry a package of books to the village of Uttoxeter, and sell them from a stall in the market place. One day the bookseller was sick and asked his son to go and sell the books in his place. Samuel from a silly pride refused to obey.

Fifty years later Johnson became the celebrated author, the compiler of the English Dictionary, and one of the most honored scholars in England. But he never forgot his act of unkindness to his poor, hard-working father. So when he visited Uttoxeter, he determined to show his sorrow and repentance. He went into the marketplace at the time of business, uncovered his head, and stood there for an hour in

the pouring rain, on the very spot where the bookstall used to stand. "This," he says, "was an act of contrition for my disobedience to my kind father."

The thought of the great Samuel Johnson standing bareheaded in the storm to atone for the wrong done by him fifty years before is a grand and touching one. There is a marble statue of it now standing in the marketplace.

Many people when they grow older have felt something harder and heavier than a storm of rain beating upon their heart when they remembered their acts of unkindness to a good father or mother now in the grave.

Reading Questions B

1. Which of the following does NOT describe Samuel Johnson's father?
 - a) He taught in a school.
 - b) He was a poor and hard-working man.
 - c) He sold books.
2. Why was Samuel Johnson asked to go to Uttoxeter?
 - a) to show repentance
 - b) to sell books
 - c) to work with the regular bookseller who was sick
3. Why did Samuel Johnson disobey his father?
 - a) He was proud.
 - b) He did not like books.
 - c) He did not want to work with the bookseller.

4. Why did Samuel Johnson stand outside in the rain where his father's bookstand had been?
 - a) to look for new books
 - b) to wait for the old bookseller
 - c) to show how sorry he was that had disobeyed
5. What is the purpose of this retelling of what happened in Samuel Johnson's life?
 - a) to show how important it is to be forgiving
 - b) to tell how important it is to be kind to one's parents
 - c) to show that Samuel Johnson was a very bad child

4. Literary Words: Irony

There are several different kinds of *irony*. When a story turns out opposite to the way we expect it to, we say there is *irony*. Sometimes there is irony in real life. Let's say you know someone who does not like going to a dentist. You expect this person at all costs to stay away from the dentist drill and tooth polishing machine. What a surprise it would be, then, when you find out that this person wants to be a dentist when he grows up. You would say that it is *ironic* that he wants to be a dentist.

Explain the irony of the last sentence of the story "The Man and the Piece of Cloth."

5. Phonics and Vocabulary: *dge*

edge	judge	gadget	sludge
ledge	fudge	knowledge	nudge
wedge	badge	ridge	bridge

Challenge Words

acknowledge	sledge	drudgery	hedge
judgmental	trudge	lodge	sedg

Phonics Exercise A

Circle the meaning of the word printed in italics.

1. The tool's handle had shallow *ridges* so that it would not slip from the user's hand.
 - a) wrench
 - b) glue
 - c) grooves
2. He had more *knowledge* about the war than most boys.
 - a) a library of books
 - b) letters
 - c) what a person knows
3. Tom looked at the plumber's wrench and asked, "What's this *gadget* called?"
 - a) pipe
 - b) a faucet
 - c) any kind of tool or machine

4. The plumber cleaned out the *sludge* from the pipes.
 - a) wrench
 - b) water
 - c) thick and dirty stuff that can block
5. Mrs. Smith cut a *wedge* of pizza for each of the children.
 - a) food
 - b) tool used for cutting
 - c) piece in the shape of a triangle
6. Have you ever ridden in a *sledge*?
 - a) four-wheeled vehicle
 - b) a large sled used as a carriage
 - c) trolley
7. He used a *sledge* to knock down the wall.
 - a) a bulldozer
 - b) a backhoe
 - c) a very large hammer
8. Do not *trudge* on the carpet with your muddy boots!
 - a) make dirty
 - b) run
 - c) walk heavily
9. There were *sedges* growing along the pond.
 - a) reed-like plants that grow on wet ground
 - b) water lilies
 - c) roses
10. I shouldn't be so *judgmental* toward people.
 - a) pampering
 - b) having a harsh opinion against

c) cruel

Phonics Exercise B

Circle the word that fits the sentence, then write it below.

1. The hostess placed several ____ of cheese on the table.

edges judges wedges

2. Johnny placed the book on the large window ____.

fudge ledge sludge

3. The policeman wore a shiny silver ____ on his shirt.

badge edge fudge

4. My mom has a blender, a mixer, and many other ____.

gadgets edges wedges

5. Paul's ____ of American history grew the more he read.

badge wedge knowledge

6. The ___ in court banged his gavel and asked for order.
wedge edge judge

7. We stayed at a cozy ___ near the top of the mountain.
nudge lodge knowledge

8. Bob thought that folding laundry was senseless ____.
fudge wedge drudgery

9. Please do not ___ on my clean floor with your dirty shoes.
trudge wedge drudgery

10. The first time that I rode on a ___ was last winter when it
had snowed a foot.
sledge wedge sedges

6. Grammar and Punctuation: Titles

Quotation marks are used to mark titles of smaller works, such as poems, songs, articles, short stories, sermons and essays. Longer works, such as books, magazines, newspapers, journals, plays, and long poems, are underlined or printed in italics. Famous works, like the Bible and the Constitution, do not need quotation marks. Titles of books and other works are capitalized, too, except for smaller words, such as *a*, *an*, *and*, *in* and *the*—unless they begin the title.

Look at the following titles and notice what words are capitalized and which are not. Also notice the quotation marks, underlining and the placement of punctuation.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES WITH TITLES

Have you ever read William Wordsworth’s “We Are Seven”?

I liked reading Leo Tolstoy’s short story “Alyosha the Pot.”

I enjoyed Joseph Addison’s essay “Women and Wives.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon wrote his sermon “The Duty of Remembering the Poor” to remind people of their duty to help those who have less.

Charlotte’s Web by E. B. White is a children’s book about a pig named Wilbur and his spider friend named Charlotte.

Grammar Exercise A

Put quotation marks around the titles of the smaller works and underline the larger works.

1. Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Grandfather’s Chair contains some entertaining stories about New England history.
2. He read John Keats’ short poem Ode to a Grecian Urn.

3. Next year my brother will be reading the Odyssey, which is a long epic poem about a prince trying to sail home.
4. Sarah Jewett wrote a moral tale on gossip and foolish talk titled An Arrow in a Sunbeam.
5. One of the most popular books in the world is John Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress.
6. I wanted to read John Milton's poem Paradise Lost this summer, but since it is so long, I had a hard time finding time to read it.
7. Have you ever read George Orwell's essay Revenge is Sour?
8. There are several plays that I want to read this summer, such as Thornton Wilder's Our Town.
9. Some of the students are giving a talk on Hudson Taylor's autobiography Retrospect, but others are giving a talk on John Donne's poem Death Be Not Proud.
10. Would you recommend that I read William Wordsworth's book of poems Lyrical Ballads, or Robert Frost's book of poems North of Boston.

Grammar Exercise B

Add punctuation to the following sentences where it is needed, including end marks, commas and quotation marks.

1. Sarah said to Anna Why are you smiling
2. William Cowper wrote an amusing poem titled The Diverting History of John Gilpin

3. Tom shouted Watch out for that tack on the floor
4. Daniel's favorite poem by Emily Dickinson is I'm Nobody
5. Max's friend peeked behind the door and said You'd better not come in. I'm sick
6. David told me to read Shakespeare's drama Julius Caesar.
7. I thought that the poem that you gave me last week to read was pure drudgery, but Ogden Nash's poem Panther was pure pleasure.
8. Sam said, If you don't want to be idle, why don't you read Charlotte Brontë's novel Jane Eyre.
9. John said, I loved reading Dickens' book Christmas Carol.
10. I like the old English ballad Sir Patrick Spens.