

LESSON 2

1. Discovering Meanings

1. Charles put his *mantle* on to go out into the cold.
 - a) cloak or coat without sleeves
 - b) a pair of high rubber boots
2. He will not go right away, but *by and by* he will.
 - a) yesterday
 - b) eventually
3. It was pleasant to listen to the cold, *blustering* wind indoors.
 - a) rushing like the wind and making lots of noise
 - b) gentle and quiet
4. Michael and Mary said that they were going to visit their aunt in Ohio for only a week, but John Paul said that he wanted to stay a whole *fortnight*.
 - a) seven days
 - b) fourteen days
5. John had a *singular* way of greeting people by waving both of his hands.
 - a) unique
 - b) unfriendly
6. The raindrops on the trees' spring leaves made the whole forest glitter as if it had put on an *emerald* mantle.
 - a) bright green

- b) brown
7. When the little boy said, “What’s up, dude?” his mother scolded him saying that he should *address* the man with more respect.
- a) respect
b) talk to someone
8. We *entreated* him to come over to our house.
- a) requested
b) encouraged
9. We *spied* crocuses growing on the side of our house.
- a) saw
b) did not notice
10. Her pretty, curly hair was *twined* with flowers.
- a) woven
b) littered
11. She opened the little *casket* and gasped when she saw a large diamond.
- a) door
b) small box
12. While John was shy and *somber*, his sister was outgoing and often silly.
- a) serious
b) funny

2. Phonics and Spelling

Memorize the spelling of the words in the following two lists.

Note that when TWO consonants are between two vowels as in the word *tapping*, the first vowel is usually short. Notice that the *a* is short in *tapping*. When there is only ONE consonant between two vowels as in the word *taping*, the vowel is usually long.

Notice that the *a* is long in *tapping*. If there is no vowel after a consonant, as in the word *plum*, the vowel is short.

PHONICS WORDS

long and short vowels: wake, wacky; take, tacky; same, Sammy; taping, tapping; raking; tracking; Peter, petter; lake, lacking; slime, slim; plum, plume (feather); choke, chock; robe, robber; wily (tricky), Willy (a name).

SPELLING WORDS

idea, young, most, welcome, said, gone, patient, again, blue, climbed, caught, eyes

3. Reading Selections

What Was Her Name?¹

by Laura E. Richards

“Wake up!” said an old gentleman, dressed in brown and white, as he gently shook the shoulder of a young woman in green, who was lying sound asleep under the trees.

“Wake up, Miss! It’s your watch now, and time for me to leave.”

¹ Edited by William Walter

The young lady stirred a very little, and opened one of her eyes the least little bit. "Who are you?" she said, drowsily. "What is your name?"

"My name is Winter," replied the old man. "What is yours?"

"I don't have the faintest idea," said the lady, closing her eyes again.

"Hah!" growled the old man, "a fine person you are to take my place! Well, have a good day, Miss Sleepyhead!" And off he stumped over the dead leaves, which crackled and rustled beneath his feet.

As soon as he was gone, the young lady in green opened her eyes fully and looked around her. "Miss Sleepyhead, indeed!" she echoed angrily. "Whatever my name is, I'm sure *that* is not it. The question is, though, What is it?"

She looked around her again, but nothing was to be seen except the bare branches of the trees, and the dead, brown leaves and dry moss underfoot.

"Trees, would you happen to know what my name is?" she asked.

The trees shook their heads. "No, Miss," they said. "We don't know. But maybe when the Wind comes, he'll be able to tell you."

The girl shivered a little, and drew her green mantle about her and waited. By and by the Wind came blustering along. He caught the trees by their branches, and though he shook them roughly, his greeting was friendly. "Well, boys!" he shouted, "So Old Winter is

gone, is he? I hope you're happy he's finally gone! But where's the lady who was coming to take his place?"

"She's here," answered the trees, "sitting on the ground. But she doesn't know her own name."

"What!" roared the Wind. "She doesn't know her own name? That's news, indeed! And here she's been sleeping, while all the world has been looking for her and calling her and wondering where she is. Come, young lady," he added, addressing the girl with rough courtesy, "I'll show you the way to your dressing room, which has been ready and waiting for you for a fortnight and more."

He then led the way through the forest, and the girl followed, rubbing her pretty, sleepy eyes, and dragging her mantle behind her.

Now it was a very singular thing that whatever the green mantle touched, instantly turned green itself. The brown moss put out little tufts of emerald velvet, fresh shoots came pushing up from the dead, dry grass, and even the shrubs and twigs against which the edges of the garment brushed broke out with tiny swelling buds, all ready to open into leaves.

By and by the Wind paused and pushed aside the branches, which made a close screen in front of him.

"Here's your dressing room, young lady," he said with a low bow. "When you enter it, you'll find everything ready. But let me entreat you to get yourself dressed and ready speedily, for all the world is waiting for you."

Greatly wondering, the young girl passed through the screen of branches, and found herself in a most marvelous

place. The ground was carpeted with pine needles, soft and thick and brown. The pine trees made a dense green wall around, and as the wind passed softly through the boughs, the air was sweet with their spicy fragrance. On the ground were piled great heaps of buds, all ready to blossom: violets, anemones, hepaticas, bloodroot, while from under a huge pile of brown leaves peeped the pale pink buds of the Mayflower.

The young girl in the green **mantle** looked wonderingly at all these things. "How strange!" she said. "They are all asleep, and waiting for someone to waken them. Perhaps if I do it, they will tell me in return what my name is."

She shook the buds lightly, and every blossom opened its eyes and raised its head, and said, "It is good to see you, gracious lady! Welcome! We've been looking for you for a long, long time!"

In delight, the young girl took the lovely blossoms, rosy and purple, golden and white, and twined them in her fair locks, and hung them in garlands round her white neck, and still they were opening by thousands, till the pine tree hollow was filled with them. The girl then spied a beautiful carved casket, which had been hidden under a pile of spicy leaves, and from inside of it came a rustling sound, the softest sound that was ever heard.

She lifted the lid, and out flew a cloud of butterflies. Rainbow-tinted, softly, glitteringly, gayly fluttering, they flew out by thousands and thousands, and hovered about the young woman's head. The soft sound of their wings,

which mortal ears are too dull to hear, seemed to say, “Glad to see you! Welcome!”

At the same moment a great flock of beautiful birds came, flying, and lighted on the branches all around, and they, too, sang, “Welcome! welcome!”

The young woman clasped her hands and cried, “Why are you all so glad to see me? I know that you are all mine, and I am yours. But why is that? Who am I? What’s my name?”

And birds and flowers and rainbow-hued butterflies and somber pine trees all answered in joyful chorus, “Spring! the beautiful, the long expected! Greetings to the young lady Spring!”

Reading Comprehension A

1. The old gentleman dressed in brown and white is supposed to ____.
 - a) be the young woman’s father
 - b) look like a ghost
 - c) represent the season winter
2. What does the old gentleman mean by the word *watch* when he says “Wake up, Miss! It’s your watch now, and time for me to leave”?
 - a) staring
 - b) responsibility of taking care of something
 - c) time
3. Which of the following is not true about the young woman in the story “What Was Her Name?”

- a) She has just woken up and is sleepy.
- b) The world has been waiting for her to appear.
- c) The Wind is angry at her and wants her to leave.

The girl shivered a little, and drew her green mantle about her and waited.

4. In the passage above and printed in bold in the story, the word *mantle* means ____.
- a) coat
 - b) scarf
 - c) shoes
5. The young woman represents ____.
- a) happiness
 - b) spring
 - c) love

The Patient Cat²

by Laura E. Richards

When the spotted cat first found the nest, there was nothing in it, as it was only just finished. But she said, "I will wait!" because she was a patient cat, and she had the whole summer before her. She waited a week, and then she climbed up again to the top of the tree, and peeped into the nest. There lay two lovely blue eggs, smooth and shining. The spotted cat said, "Eggs may be good, but young birds are better. I will wait."

So the spotted cat waited, and while she was waiting, she caught mice and rats, and washed herself and slept,

² Edited by William Walter

and did all that a spotted cat should do to pass the time away.

Another week passed, and the spotted cat climbed the tree again. She peeped into the nest and this time there were five eggs. But the spotted cat said again, “Eggs may be good, but young birds are better. I will wait a little longer!”

So the spotted cat waited a little longer and then went up again to look. Ah! there were five tiny birds with big eyes and long necks, and their yellow beaks were wide open. She sat down on the branch, licked her nose and purred. She was very happy. “It is worth while to be patient!” she said.

But when she looked again at the young birds, to see which one she should take first, she saw that they were very thin—very, very thin. The spotted cat had never seen anything so thin in her life.

“Now,” she said to herself, “if I were to wait only a few days longer, they would grow fat. Thin birds may be good, but fat birds are much better. I will wait!”

She waited; and she watched the father bird bringing worms all day long to the nest, and said, “Aha! they must be fattening fast! they will soon be as fat as I wish them to be. Aha! what a good thing it is to be patient.”

At last, one day she thought, “Surely, now they must be fat enough! I will not wait another day. Aha! how good they will be!”

So she climbed up the tree, licking her chops all the way and thinking of the fat young birds. And when she reached the top and looked into the nest, it was empty!

Then the spotted cat sat down on the branch and said, “Well, of all the creatures I have ever seen, those birds are the most horrid, mean, and ungrateful! Meow!”

Reading Comprehension B

1. Why does the spotted cat not eat the young birds?
 - a) She thinks that it is cruel to eat them so young.
 - b) They do not make a good enough meal.
 - c) She kindly wants to give the birds a chance to live a bit longer.
2. In the story the spotted cat is most like ____.
 - a) a boy patiently waiting for an opportunity to steal his brother’s pice of candy.
 - b) a girl being patient with her friend who sometimes is unkind.
 - c) a man waiting for a train to arrive
3. Why is the bird “licking her chops” in the second to last paragraph of the story?
 - a) She is thinking how delicious it will be to eat the birds.
 - b) She has just eaten some mice.
 - c) She is showing herself to be patient.
4. Which of the following does NOT describe the spotted cat’s “patience”?
 - a) cruel because the cat is waiting to kill birds

- b) greedy because the cat is not satisfied with his opportunities
 - c) good-natured because the cat shows her willingness to wait for a good thing
5. Which of the following explains the spotted cat's last statement that "of all the creatures . . . those birds are the most horrid, mean, and ungrateful"?
- a) The cat is making a joke about her own cruelty.
 - b) The birds were truly unkind to the spotted cat.
 - c) She was expecting a reward for her patience and is very disappointed at not getting her reward.

4. Literary Words: Dramatic, Situational and Verbal Irony

Suppose you wanted to surprise your friend with a rare book for his birthday. You save up money and go through great pains to get the special present. When the day finally arrives, you place the present in front of him, and wait for his response. But instead of being happily surprised when he tears open the gift wrapping, he is seriously disappointed. You find out that your friend has already read the book! The friend's reaction is opposite to what you had wanted. When a situation in a story works out like this example of the birthday present, it is said to have *situational irony*. Situational irony involves things happening in a way that is unexpected or opposite to what is intended.

Did you notice the situational irony in the story "The Patient Cat"? In the story, the spotted cat is practicing the virtue of patience, and the reader thinks that maybe good will come of it, for good can only come out of practicing a virtue—right? Wrong. Instead, the cat loses his catch. The ending, then, can be called ironic.

There is also *dramatic irony* in the story. The cat in the end calls the birds the most horrid, mean and ungrateful creatures for not letting her eat them. In the cat's mind, her feelings seem to be justified, but the reader knows that the cat does not see things as she should. It is the cat that is horrid and mean for killing the bird. When a writer makes characters think, act or speak in a way that

the reader can see is odd, strange, or just not self-aware, we call this dramatic irony.

There is also a kind of irony used in the word *patience*. Patience of course is a virtue, or good thing, but in the way that the cat is practicing it, it is a bad thing. In the mind of the reader, its patience in plotting to kill the birds is a bad, not a good thing. When words mean something opposite to what they ordinarily mean we say that there is *verbal irony*.

The terms that you just learned are summarized below.

- *situational irony*
a kind of irony in which things happen opposite to the way they were intended.
- *dramatic irony*
an irony in which a character does not know something that the reader or another character *does*. The reader in this story knows that the cat's way of looking at things is not right, but the cat does not.
- *verbal irony*
an irony in which a word or the connotation ("feeling") of a word is used in an opposite way to what it usually means. The word *patience* is usually understood as good thing, but in the story it means a bad thing.

5. Writing Response

Using Irony

Often stories have something special to them that makes them interesting, such as irony. Memorize the meanings of the different kinds of irony and try to use them in your own writing.

Choose one of the following sets of assignments.

Composition 1

1. Write a three- to five-sentence summary of “What Was Her Name.” Be sure to include only information important to the main idea and write the summary in the present tense.
2. The story that you just read was about the coming of spring. In a paragraph, write a story about the coming of autumn.

Composition 2

1. Write a ten- to fifteen-sentence summary of “The Patient Cat.” Be sure to include only information important to the main idea and write the summary in the present tense.
2. Think of a situation in which a person wants to do a bad thing (but calls it good), like the patient cat in the story, but good comes from it. Then in a short paragraph write the story. Example: A young boy has a sister who annoys him with her questions. He says that he is going to teach

his sister a lesson by playing a mean trick on her. He says to himself that he is doing his parents a favor by “teaching” her, but he is actually being cruel.