

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Black Sunday"

- 1. flourish (FLUR-ish)** *verb*; To flourish is to grow or develop with great strength. Your mom's tomato plants are flourishing if they are producing more tomatoes than you can eat. Jen is flourishing as an actor if she is getting a lot of roles in plays, TV shows, and movies.
- 2. hardy (HAHR-dee)** *adjective*; Something that is strong or able to withstand difficult conditions is hardy. Soldiers are hardy men and women. Plants that can survive the winter are hardy.
- 3. loom (loom)** *verb*; The verb *loom* is used when something dark, large, and maybe frightening appears or is visible. A big building might loom over the street. Storm clouds might loom overhead. *Loom* is often used to indicate the action of something unpleasant or frightening that is about to happen—something that feels like it's hanging over you and about to come down. For example, if Sharon says that a history test is looming, she means that the test is coming up soon—and she's not looking forward to it. If Jess says that a storm is looming, she means that it looks like a storm is coming.
- 4. permeate (PUR-mee-eyt)** *verb*; To permeate something is to spread or pass through every part of it. When you bake chocolate chip cookies, a delicious smell permeates your house. If you pour water onto sand, the water permeates the sand.
- 5. plummet (PLUHM-it)** *verb*; To plummet is to fall or drop straight down at a high speed. A boulder might plummet off the side of a cliff into a canyon below. If the temperature plummets, it gets much colder in a short amount of time.
- 6. wreak havoc (reek HAV-uhk)** *expression*; To wreak is to cause to happen. Havoc is destruction, confusion, or disorder. The expression *wreak havoc* is used when someone or something causes a lot of trouble or damage. A blizzard might wreak havoc on the highways by making the roads dangerously icy and wet. A rabbit might wreak havoc in your vegetable garden by eating all of your carrots.

"Choking on Smog in Delhi"

- 1. acrid (AK-rid)** *adjective*; Something acrid is bitter, harsh, or unpleasant. *Acrid* is often used to describe a smell or a taste that is so sharp that it makes your eyes and nose sting. Imagine the smell of skunk spray or dirty gym socks—that's acrid!
- 2. constriction (kuhn-STRIK-shun)** *noun*; The verb *constrict* means "to squeeze or shrink uncomfortably." The noun *constriction* refers to the act or quality of being constricted. Some snakes use constriction to kill their prey: The snakes squeeze their prey to death.
- 3. cower (KOW-er)** *verb*; To cower is to curl up or crouch down as if to hide or protect yourself from something you are afraid of. Your dog might cower behind the sofa during a thunderstorm.
- 4. disperse (dih-SPURS)** *verb*; To disperse is to spread out or move in different directions. If a crowd disperses at the end of a concert, it breaks up: The people leave and go their separate ways. *Disperse* can also mean "to cause to spread apart." The police might disperse a group of fans trying to catch sight of a celebrity.
- 5. palpable (PAL-puh-buhl)** *adjective*; *Palpable* can mean "capable of being touched or felt." However, *palpable* is more often used to describe something that you *can't* physically touch, but that is so intensely noticeable that it feels like you *should* be able to physically touch it. For example, if Brent says that the excitement in the room was palpable, he means that the excitement in the room was very strong and easy to notice.
- 6. siege (seej)** *noun*; *Siege* is the military act of surrounding and attacking something. The people in a place under siege are usually cut off from supplies and communication in order to force them to surrender. *Siege* can also be used to refer any sort of ongoing attack or annoyance. You might receive a siege of junk mail in your mailbox or suffer a siege of colds this winter.
- 7. smog (smog)** *noun*; The word *smog* comes from combining the words *smoke* and *fog*. Smog forms when pollution in the air—such as smoke and fumes from cars and factories—mixes with fog (clouds close to the ground). Smog is a problem in many large cities and is dangerous to people's health.
- 8. sustained (suh-STEYND)** *adjective*; To sustain something is to keep it going—to provide what is needed for it to continue to exist. If you sustain a relationship with someone for many years, you keep the relationship going. The adjective *sustained* means "having been kept going for a long time without stopping or weakening." If Beth has had a sustained interest in space travel, she has been interested in space travel for a long time.

Directions: On the back of this page, list any other words from the articles whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Black Sunday" and "Choking on Smog in Delhi"

Directions: Below are titles and summaries for imaginary books. Choose the best title for each book. Briefly explain your choices. (There is one title you will not use.)

BOOK TITLES

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. <i>Constriction</i> | D. <i>One Hardy Guy</i> |
| B. <i>It Looms</i> | E. <i>And Now, Disperse</i> |
| C. <i>Plummeting</i> | |

1. Ann, Adam, Tara, and Mike have spent almost every day together since before they can remember. But now events are pulling them apart, sending them to far-off corners of the world.

Title (A-E): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

2. This is the amazing biography of Alex Conway, who survived an avalanche, a tornado, and an earthquake—all in one crazy year.

Title (A-E): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

3. Detective Janet Jenkins is on an exciting new case. But she can't shake the feeling that something is closing in on her, squeezing tighter and tighter. In fact, she's beginning to feel like she can't breathe. Is it all in her mind?

Title (A-E): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

4. These photographs by skydiver Bob Bunn will show you the world as you've never seen it before.

Title (A-E): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

Directions: Briefly answer each question below.

5. Describe a situation in which you might **cover**.

6. Would you want an **acid** smell to **permeate** your bedroom? Explain.

7. A storm **wreaked havoc** on the baseball field. Describe the field after the storm.

8. Kate says the anxiety at the play audition was **palpable**. What does she mean?

9. Zach's lawn mowing business is **flourishing**. How is Zach's business doing?

10. The city of Tokyo, Japan, has a **smog** problem. How could officials there begin to solve it?

11. If your dentist appointment is **looming**, how do you feel about going to the dentist?
