

THE LEAGUE AND THE LANTERN



**Vocabulary
Guide**

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The League and the Lantern: **Vocabulary Guide**

When I finished *The League and the Lantern*, I was pretty sure I had a fun action-adventure with enough twists and turns to keep readers guessing to the end. What I didn't know was that I had included a lot of great vocabulary words that are needed for middle school success. When I realized this, I worked with education professionals to identify the best words and wove in a few more where it was creatively appropriate.

This guide draws attention to some of those words, giving examples of where they appear in the story and demonstrating how to use them. While this isn't meant to be a full-on academic lesson and the grade levels are only approximate, I hope it's a helpful resource!

Brian



Vocabulary Guide:

GRADE 5:

Accomplish (VERB): To reach a goal or successfully finish a task.

EXAMPLE: There is one mission the League wants to accomplish above all else: Protect the world from the Dark Lantern.

IN THE BOOK: Page 17

Aggressive (ADJECTIVE): A behavior of someone or something that is pushy, easily angered, and/or is quick to fight.

EXAMPLE: Cloned from one of the world's most famous criminals and always ready to draw his hidden blade whenever he's upset, Anarchus Kane is built to be aggressive.

IN THE BOOK: Page 12, Page 224

Apparent (ADJECTIVE): Clearly visible; Easily seen.

EXAMPLE: When Jake slipped on the Hello Kitty t-shirt and walked out into the crowd of students, it became painfully apparent he would not be one of the cool kids.

IN THE BOOK: Page 13, Page 104, Page 127, Page 147, Page 150, Page 269

Aroma (NOUN): A strong smell, generally positive, that is often produced by fresh food or flowers, as well as other sources.

EXAMPLE: As they approached the restaurant, TJ could already begin to smell the aroma of the delicious McMashups in the air.

IN THE BOOK: Page 134

Assume (VERB): To believe something to be true without complete information.

EXAMPLE: Jake assumed that the Summer's Over Sleepover would be just another average day. He was wrong.

IN THE BOOK: Page 78, Page 235

Available (ADJECTIVE): Ready or prepared for use.

EXAMPLE: Jake, Lucy and TJ took the first available train they could in order to avoid the Dark Lantern agents.

IN THE BOOK: Page 86

Budge (VERB): To move a very short distance, often with difficulty or resistance.

EXAMPLE: Once Lucy has made a decision, her opinion won't budge even the slightest bit.

IN THE BOOK: Page 178, Page 180, Page 199, Page 215

Caution (NOUN): The use of alertness and carefulness, especially in a dangerous situation.

EXAMPLE: Jake showed extreme caution as he crept away from the Dark Lantern guards, carefully making sure they wouldn't hear his escape.

IN THE BOOK: Page 181, Page 192, Page 281

Challenge (NOUN): An invitation, demand or call to participate in competition, often tests physical or mental skill.

EXAMPLE: TJ couldn't resist the challenge of a Princess Bride trivia contest.

IN THE BOOK: Page 75, Page 102

Combine (VERB): To bring two or more distinct objects, ideas, individuals or other elements together into one singular product.

EXAMPLE: Combine a cheeseburger with an egg muffin sandwich and you've got a McMashup.

IN THE BOOK: Page 22, Page 98

Myth (NOUN): An epic story based in tradition rather than provable fact, usually involving the journey of a hero or a description of a major event.

EXAMPLE: For Jake and TJ, comic books were more than a series of spectacular myths; they were the tales of their heroes.

IN THE BOOK: Page 265

Pedestrian (NOUN): A person who travels on foot.

EXAMPLE: Jake, Lucy and TJ darted through the crowd of pedestrians as they made their way down the street.

IN THE BOOK: Page 8

Major (ADJECTIVE): Notably increased in size or importance.

EXAMPLE: Being chased by Dark Lantern agents is a major problem.

IN THE BOOK: Page 13

EXERCISE: Complete the Sentence!

Select the answer choice that best fits in the spaces below:

1. "Ow! Stop shoving me," TJ moaned as Lucy moved his legs off of her seat. "You know, there's no need to be so _____."

Apparent

Cautious
Aggressive
Challenging

2. Jake sniffed the air happily, the warm smell of donuts washing over him as he entered the shop. "What is that delicious _____?"

Accomplishment
Aroma
Combination
Myth

3. "You think you can name more comic book characters than me?" Jake said, raising an eyebrow. "I'll accept that _____."

Myth
Assumption
Challenge
Aggression

4. "We have to take this train," Jake said. "All the others have already left, it's the only one that's still _____."

Budging
Pedestrian
Major
Available

5. TJ rolled his eyes. "Secret organizations that control the world? Come on, it's silly. That's got to be a(n) _____."

Myth
Challenge
Assumption
Accomplishment

6. Gabe smiled at the kids. "You all aren't even in middle school and you might have already saved the world. That's quite a(n) _____."

Aroma
Accomplishment
Aggression
Caution

7. TJ crossed his arms and sat down on the ground. "Nope, I'm not moving until we get something to eat. I won't _____ from this spot."

Assume
Budge
Accomplish
Combine

8. “Watch out for those _____!” Jake shouted as the car drifted closer to the sidewalk.

Aromas
Combinations
Cautions
Pedestrians

9. “Uh-oh, Lantern agents,” Lucy said, turning the other way. “That’s not a little problem, that’s a(n) _____ problem.”

Availability
Apparent
Major
Mythic

10. Jake turned to Lucy and TJ. “If we’re going to make it through this, we’re going to have to work together. We have to _____ our powers. Like the Avengers.”

Combine
Challenge
Accomplish
Assume

11. Moving one slow footstep at a time, Jake _____ crawled out onto the wing of the plane.

Apparently
Cautiously
Aggressively
Majorly

12. Jake looked down at his clearly mustard-stained shirt and sighed. He was a complete mess, that much was _____.

Accomplished
Available
Apparent
Cautioned

13. Lucy frowned at Jake and TJ. “You know, I’ve been living in Nepal for most of my life. You can’t just _____ I know all about comic books.”

Assume
Challenge
Caution
Budge

GRADE 6:

Abandon (VERB): To totally leave, generally without planning to return.

EXAMPLE: No matter what happened, Lucy, Jake and TJ wouldn’t leave each other. They weren’t going to abandon their friends.

IN THE BOOK: Page 218

Beacon (NOUN): A bright, extremely visible signal that guides or alerts. Often composed of light, like a lighthouse or lamp.

EXAMPLE: The flashing red lights on the walls served as beacons, guiding the League members down the hallway while the sirens blared.

IN THE BOOK: Page 217, Page 219

Capacity (NOUN): The ability to hold, contain or otherwise store an amount of something.

EXAMPLE: Dangerous Delbert’s van was nearly at its maximum capacity after Artie and the kids all piled in.

IN THE BOOK: Page 267

Desperate (ADJECTIVE): An extreme and/or immediate need, often leading to recklessness.

EXAMPLE: Anarchus Kane’s desperate desire to become the “perfect” leader led to his daring museum robbery.

IN THE BOOK: Page 52, Page 62, Page 121, Page 123, Page 192, Page 259

Eerie (ADJECTIVE): Having a disconcerting, sometimes even unnatural quality that can lead to a sense of nervousness or fear.

EXAMPLE: TJ shuddered. With only a few dim lights remaining lit, the museum exhibits cast eerie shadows across the halls.

IN THE BOOK: Page 39

Fuse (NOUN): A length of flammable material (generally connected to an explosive) that is lit in order in order to trigger an explosion.

EXAMPLE: Anarchus Kane smiled as he struck a match against his boot and held the tiny flame up against the explosive’s fuse.

IN THE BOOK: Page 178

Hostile (ADJECTIVE): Opposing and/or unfriendly.

EXAMPLE: Jake sprinted the other way as Anarchus Kane charged after him with a hostile snarl.

IN THE BOOK: Page 16, Page 232

Improvise (VERB): To create or develop a plan, device, or other usually structured element without preparing beforehand.

EXAMPLE: Jake didn’t plan for his school sleepover to turn into a fight for survival. When the Dark Lanterns attacked, he had to improvise a way out of the museum.

IN THE BOOK: Page 80

Likeness (NOUN): Characteristics or a general appearance that represents an individual or individual object.

EXAMPLE: Anarchus Kane is easy to recognize, as he has nearly the exact likeness of John Wilkes Booth.

IN THE BOOK: Page 248

Manipulate (VERB): To use persuasion in order to get someone to do as another wants, generally without the victim realizing what is really happening.

EXAMPLE: The Dark Lantern uses money, influence and power to manipulate the people of the world, drawing them into conflict.

IN THE BOOK: Page 200

Objective (ADJECTIVE): Without personal bias or other preference; factual or at least personally neutral.

EXAMPLE: Jake has a hard time dealing honestly with the idea that Gabe might be an enemy. It is difficult to be objective about the facts when it’s the man who raised you.

IN THE BOOK: Page 279

Plummet (VERB): To fall rapidly and often without proper control.

EXAMPLE: Jake walked carefully out onto the wing of the plane, trying not to think about plummeting down towards the ground below.

IN THE BOOK: Page 58, Page 62, Page 162, Page 218

EXERCISE: Match the Answer!

Match each word to the question it best answers in the section below:

Word Bank:

Abandon, Beacon, Capacity, Desperate, Eerie, Fuse, Hostile, Improvise, Likeness, Manipulate, Objective, Plummet,

1. When you’re willing to do anything to get what you want, you’re probably...
2. If someone is an enemy, then they are...
3. If a car is able to hold a ton of people, it has a high...
4. Being alone in the dark and hearing odd noises can be...
5. If you have a twin, then both of you share the same...

6. If you're in a play and you forget your lines, you might have to...

7. If you're not being honest when you convince other people to do what you want, you...

8. In order to be fair, a judge hearing a case is supposed to be...

9. After jumping off of a diving board, you begin to...

10. If you use a nightlight to get back to your room, it is serving as a...

11. To set off fireworks, you must first light the...

12. If you're left all alone, you've been...

GRADE 7:

Abrupt (ADJECTIVE): Sudden and without warning.

EXAMPLE: Jake, Lucy and TJ made an abrupt departure from the train station, grabbing the first ticket they could as they began to worry about being followed.

IN THE BOOK: Page 213, Page 252

Browse (VERB): To casually examine or glance through.

EXAMPLE: Lucy browsed the menu above as the group walked up to the counter to order a quick meal.

IN THE BOOK: Page 108, Page 266

Compromise (VERB): To make vulnerable or open to attack.

EXAMPLE: Once the Dark Lanterns had gotten behind League lines, their defense had been compromised.

IN THE BOOK: Page 208, Page 217, Page 220

Dismantle (VERB): To break something apart into pieces or components.

EXAMPLE: Jake, Lucy and TJ worked together to dismantle the plans of Anarchus Kane.

IN THE BOOK: Page 232

Emblem (NOUN): A specific symbol that represents an individual, organization or idea. Often applied to banners or uniforms.

EXAMPLE: The shield with a six-pointed star is the emblem of the League.

IN THE BOOK: Page 201

Gravity (NOUN): A force created by objects (especially planets, moons and stars) with high mass that attracts other object towards their center.

EXAMPLE: Jake leapt out over the pool and silently closed his eyes. Then gravity took over and began to drag him down towards the water below.

IN THE BOOK: Page 162, Page 259

Haggle (VERB): To argue or debate (generally over a sale) in order to get a better deal.

EXAMPLE: Lucy skillfully haggled the saleswoman down to half her price.

IN THE BOOK: Page 279

Impede (VERB): To block, inconvenience, or otherwise slow progress of another force.

EXAMPLE: Jake tried to make a break for the museum exit, but Dark Lantern guards stood in front of the doors, impeding him at every turn.

IN THE BOOK: Page 8

Lethal (ADJECTIVE): Deadly or otherwise threatening to life.

EXAMPLE: Anarchus Kane smiled as he drew his sword, happily twirling the lethal blade.

IN THE BOOK: Page 40

Momentum (NOUN): An accumulated speed of movement or movement force propelling continued motion, generally difficult to slow immediately.

EXAMPLE: Jake ran forward at top-speed and tackled the Lantern, his momentum sending both of them tumbling to the ground.

IN THE BOOK: Page 225

Obnoxious (ADJECTIVE): Annoying, irritating, objectionable and/or generally unpleasant to be around.

EXAMPLE: TJ's hyper-memory can be helpful, but once he starts showing off it's simply obnoxious.

IN THE BOOK: Page 122, Page 153, Page 213

Potential (NOUN): Possibility.

EXAMPLE: Even though he's still young, Jake shows great potential as a future member of the League.

IN THE BOOK: Page 14, Page 24, Page 40, Page 65

Resume (VERB): To continue a previous action after a pause.

EXAMPLE: After pausing for a small bite of his snack, TJ quickly resumed debating

Princess Bride trivia with Jake.

IN THE BOOK: Page 123

EXERCISE: Choose the Correct Definition!

Select the letter that corresponds with the closest meaning for the underlined word in the section below:

1. TJ loved to walk through the aisles of comic book shops and browse their collections.

- A. Memorize extensively
- B. Purchase thoughtlessly
- C. Examine casually
- D. Ignore entirely

2. Gabe's League base was covered in high-tech gadgetry, each piece marked with the star-and-shield emblem.

- A. Group symbol
- B. Cartoon mascot
- C. Oil painting
- D. Antique weapon

3. Lucy loved to haggle with any salesmen or saleswomen the group came across.

- A. Argue angrily
- B. Bargain cleverly
- C. Joke cheerfully
- D. Speak sincerely

4. The League does everything it can to impede the Dark Lantern's plan for world domination.

- A. Help carefully
- B. Watch silently
- C. Block stubbornly
- D. Withstand resiliently

5. When he's swinging his cane sword, Anarchus Kane is absolutely lethal.

- A. Harmless
- B. Charming
- C. Ridiculous
- D. Deadly

6. Once Jake leaped off of the diving board, gravity immediately began to pull him down towards the surface of the water.

- A. A mass-based force that pulls you towards the Earth
- B. A magical phenomenon that no one can explain
- C. A property of water that attracts humans
- D. A magnetic tug based on the human

body's polarity

7. Once Lucy's foot starts swinging, it's hard to control her momentum.

- A. Fighting spirit
- B. Accumulated force of movement
- C. Sense of space
- D. Combat opponent

8. Lucy finds it a little obnoxious when TJ won't stop bragging about his hyper memory.

- A. Thoroughly pleasing
- B. Secretly funny
- C. Very annoying
- D. Slightly boring

9. Jake, Lucy and TJ worried for a moment when the Lantern guard stopped beside them, but breathed a sigh of relief when he resumed his patrol.

- A. Quit immediately
- B. Began again
- C. Forgot about
- D. Gave up on

10. Since Jake had lived with Gabe nearly his entire life, it was easy for him to dismantle his security system.

- A. Lock down
- B. Turn on
- C. Take apart
- D. Examine

11. "Get down!" Lucy shouted, abruptly diving to the side and tackling Jake without warning.

- A. Gently
- B. Clumsily
- C. Violently
- D. Suddenly

12. TJ smiled. "If comic books have taught me anything, it's that anyone has the potential to become a hero."

- A. Possibility
- B. Desire
- C. Strength
- D. Heart

GRADE 8

Banter (VERB): Light-hearted, playful and often humor-oriented back-and-forth conversation.

EXAMPLE: Whether it's television, movies, or even comic books, Jake and TJ are always chuckling as they banter with each other about their favorite hobbies.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 130, PAGE 251

Concept (NOUN): A notion, thought or idea that is generally understood.

EXAMPLE: The concept of free will fuels the actions of the League

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 11

Dispatch (NOUN): The process by which communications, messengers, transportation, etc. are instructed on and sent to their end destinations.

EXAMPLE: Dangerous Delbert handles Artie's vehicle dispatch, sending League members to wherever they are needed.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 268

Endeavor (NOUN): A challenging goal.

EXAMPLE: Taking down the clone of one of the most dangerous assassins in history is quite the endeavor for someone who isn't even in middle school yet.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 7, PAGE 253

Gingerly (ADVERB): With care, delicately. Cautiously.

EXAMPLE: Jake gingerly lifted Lincoln's gloves, moving slowly to make sure he didn't risk smudging or tearing them.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 34

Hover (VERB): To remain nearby something or someone, staying close but not making direct contact.

EXAMPLE: Jake, Lucy and TJ hovered just outside the crowd of kids moving through the hotel, following just close enough to avoid any attention.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 16

Intervene (VERB): To interrupt two groups in order to stop an action from continuing.

EXAMPLE: Just as TJ and Lucy looked like they were about to explode from arguing, Jake intervened and stepped between the two of them.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 271

Ornate (ADJECTIVE): Carefully, artistically and often excessively detailed.

EXAMPLE: The ornate League symbol on the wall was artfully sculpted down to the very last details.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 229

Pioneer (NOUN): An individual who is the first or one of the first of a group to enter a given region, preparing the way for settlement.

EXAMPLE: Jake looked across the bustling city and wondered what the wagon-riding pioneers would have thought if they could

see the way their country had changed.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 16

Rankle (VERB): To cause or create a sense of intense annoyance, irritation, or discomfort.

EXAMPLE: TJ endlessly rankled Lucy throughout their trip, poking fun at her whenever he got the chance.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 101, PAGE 264

Confiscate (VERB): To take something as a form of punishment or penalty from an authority.

EXAMPLE: Gabe walked around the surrendering Lantern soldiers, quickly confiscating their weapons before guards led them away.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 19

Enhance (VERB): To improve upon an existing item, person, concept, etc.

EXAMPLE: Anarchus Kane's ultimate goal was to enhance himself with Lincoln's DNA in order to become the perfect leader.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 202

Plausible (ADJECTIVE): Believable or able to reasonably happen.

EXAMPLE: To most people, two secret organizations holding the fate of the world in their hands might not seem plausible. But Jake isn't most people.

IN THE BOOK: PAGE 83, PAGE 94, PAGE 103, PAGE 130, PAGE 191, PAGE 242

EXERCISE: Write Your Own Story!

On the next page or on your own separate sheet of paper, create a short story or scene that uses each of the words in the word bank correctly at least once. To help yourself keep track of what words you've used, underline each vocabulary word after you've written it down. And remember, lots of words have different forms you can use if you're having trouble fitting them into your sentences.

This story could use characters from The League and the Lantern, your very own members of the League, or be set in a different world entirely. It's your turn to be the storyteller! If you're unsure what a word means, refer back to the Vocabulary Guide for a definition or example to help you along.

One Last Challenge:

Remember, this guide and these definitions are only a jumpstart! There's plenty more to learn about each of these words and more in your classroom, your dictionary and even in your book. In fact, there are 90 more of these words scattered throughout The League and the Lantern. Some of these you may have heard before, but they might be used in different ways or have a different form than you're used to hearing. Learning all of that might even be harder than keeping Lincoln's gloves safe. But, if you're feeling up to the challenge, here's some places to get started on your last challenge:

GRADE 5

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GRADE 6

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GRADE 7

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GRADE 8

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Answer Key for Exercises:

Grade 5: C, B, C, D, A, B, B, D, C, A, B, A

Grade 6: Desperate, Hostile, Capacity, Eerie, Likeness, Improvise, Manipulate, Objective, Plummet, Beacon, Fuse, Abandoned

Grade 7: C, A, B, C, D, A, B, C, B, C, D, A

Grade 8: Your story is the answer!