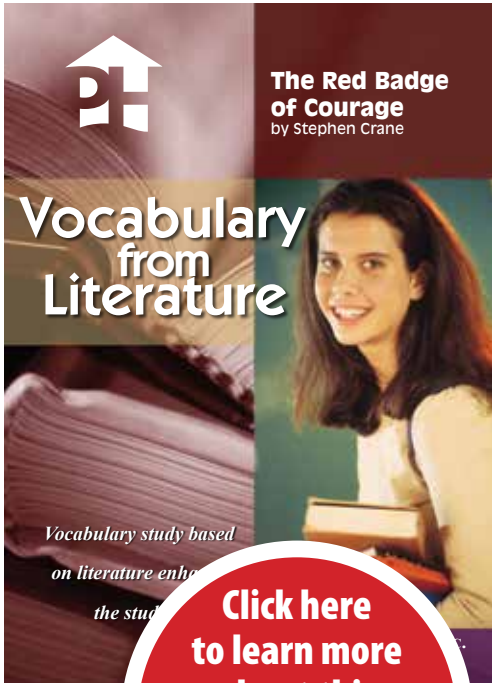




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Vocabulary From Literature for...

The Red Badge of Courage

by Stephen Crane

written by Sondra Abel

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Vocabulary From Literature

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Information for Instructors

The activities in this Unit are designed to help students increase their vocabulary by studying the meanings of words selected from Stephen Crane's novel *The Red Badge of Courage*. All definitions provided in these activities are based on the context in which the vocabulary words appear, which may not always convey the words' conventional usage.

It is the goal of this Unit to familiarize students with vocabulary words that they will re-encounter in life and in other readings. The words are carefully selected to meet this goal. Many unfamiliar words not covered by the Unit are defined in a Glossary following the Activities section; the Glossary may also contain slang expressions and proper nouns.

Rather than matching *The Red Badge of Courage* chapter-for-chapter, we have divided the book into segments depending on the number of vocabulary words from each chapter. While all of the activities may be completed by students individually, we have had the best results when students worked on them in pairs or small groups. The following activities are provided for each segment.

While the words in this reproducible do represent those necessary for a better understanding of the text, our primary concern is that we select words not only pertinent to the literature, but also useful in other aspects of the students' lives. In addition, activities may vary slightly among the various chapters.

All page references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press edition of *The Red Badge of Courage*, published 2004. Other editions may have different pagination.

Activity I

Objective: Using a dictionary to find definitions and interpret them

Activity II

Objective: Deciphering the meaning of vocabulary words using context clues
Replacing the vocabulary word with appropriate definition or synonym(s)

Activity III

Objective: Writing definitions, synonyms, and/or sentences based on context clues

The Red Badge of Courage

Activity II
Writing Synonyms
from Context Clues
Part I

Directions: Replace each highlighted word in the following passages with the synonym that best fits the context of the sentence.

1. The only **foes** he had seen were some **pickets** along the riverbank. They were a sun-tanned, philosophical lot, who sometimes show reflectively at the blue pickets. (Pg. 14)

Synonym for **foes**:

Synonym for **pickets**:

2. They were all going to be sacrificed. The generals were stupid. The enemy would presently swallow the whole command. He glared about him, expecting to see the stealthy approach of his death. He thought that he must break from the ranks and **harangue** his comrades. They must not all be killed like pigs; and he was sure it would come to pass unless they were informed of these dangers. (Pg. 28)

Synonym for **harangue**:

3. As he looked all about him and pondered upon the mystic gloom, he began to believe that at any moment the **ominous** distance might be aflame, and the rolling crashes of an engagement come to his ears. (Pg. 19)

Synonym for **ominous**:

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3. From his home he had gone to the seminary to bid adieu to many schoolmates. They had thronged about him with wonder and admiration. (Pg. 13)

Teachers who work in a religious seminary _____

Fans thronged in for a _____

4. And it was not long before all the men seemed to forget their mission. Whole brigades grinned in unison, and regiments laughed. (Pg. 20)

During times of war, brigades _____

5. "Well," continued the youth, "lots of good-a-'nough men have thought they was going to do great things before the fight, but when the time come they skedaddled." (Pg. 22)

The children skedaddled from _____

6. A house standing placidly in distant fields had to him an ominous look. The shadows of the woods were formidable. (Pg. 28)

Placidly, Aaron's mother explained _____

The formidable haunted house _____

7. But the long serpents crawled slowly from hill to hill without bluster of smoke. A dun-colored cloud of dust floated to the right. The sky overhead was of a fairy blue. (Pg. 20)

During the rainstorm, a bluster _____

Instead of being their usual dun color _____

The Red Badge of Courage

Activity V
Roots and Prefixes
Part I

- I. The word *commiseration* is made up of two main parts: the prefix *com*, meaning “together with,” and the root *miserat*, meaning “be sad, be miserable.”

Add *com* to the following roots and write the resulting word.

1. *com* + *par*, “equal” =
2. *com* + *merc*, “merchandise” =
3. *com* + *pactum*, “agreement” =
4. *com* + *panis*, “bread” =
5. *com* + *mittere*, “to send” =

- II. *Vociferous* means “loud, outspoken.” Using a dictionary, look up the meaning of this word’s two main roots. Then define the words that follow.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <i>voc</i> | <i>fer</i> |
| 2. <i>advocate</i> | 3. <i>provoke</i> |
| 4. <i>vocation</i> | 5. <i>revoke</i> |