

LESSON 4

From **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** (fiction)
by Mark Twain

The adventure of the day mightily tormented Tom's dreams that night. Four times he had his hands on that rich treasure and four times it wasted to nothingness in his fingers as sleep **forsook** him and wakefulness brought back the hard **reality** of his **misfortune**. As he lay in the early morning recalling the incidents of his great adventure, he noticed that they seemed curiously **subdued** and far away — somewhat as if they had happened in another world, or in a time long gone by. Then it occurred to him that the great adventure itself must be a dream! There was one very strong argument in favor of this idea — namely, that the quantity of coin he had seen was too vast to be real. He had never seen as much as fifty dollars in one **mass** before, and he was like all boys of his age and station in life, in that he imagined that all references to "hundreds" and "thousands" were mere **fanciful** forms of speech, and that no such sums really existed in the world. He never had supposed for a moment that so large a sum as a hundred dollars was to be found in actual money in any one's possession. If his notions of hidden treasure had been analyzed, they would have been found to consist of a handful of real dimes and a bushel of **vague**, splendid, ungraspable dollars.

But the incidents of his adventure grew sensibly

sharper and clearer under the attrition of thinking them over, and so he presently found himself leaning to the **impression** that the thing might not have been a dream, after all. This **uncertainty** must be swept away. He would snatch a hurried breakfast and go and find Huck. Huck was sitting on the gunwale of a flatboat, **listlessly** dangling his feet in the water and looking very melancholy. Tom concluded to let Huck lead up to the subject. If he did not do it, then the adventure would be proved to have been only a dream.

"Hello, Huck!"

"Hello, yourself."

Silence, for a minute.

"Tom, if we'd 'a' left the blame tools at the dead tree, we'd 'a' got the money. Oh, ain't it awful!"

"'Tain't a dream, then, 'tain't a dream! Somehow I most wish it was. Dog'd if I don't, Huck."

"What ain't a dream?"

"Oh, that thing yesterday. I been half thinking it was."

"Dream! If them stairs hadn't broke down you'd 'a' seen how much dream it was! I've had dreams enough all night — with that patch-eyed Spanish devil going for me all through 'em — rot him!"

"No, not rot him. Find him! Track the money!"

Exercise I: Context Clues

Read the passage above, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.

Master Words

Place a check by words you feel you know; underline words you don't know.

fanciful

impression

mass

reality

uncertainty

forsake

listless

misfortune

subdue

vague

• Exercise 2: Using Context Clues

Fill in the form for each of the Master Words listed below with context clues (if any), your definition, and the dictionary definition. If you have difficulty writing a definition, try using the word in a sentence instead.

1. **fanciful** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
2. **forsake** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
3. **impression** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
4. **listless** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
5. **mass** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
6. **misfortune** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
7. **reality** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
8. **subdued** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
9. **uncertainty** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
10. **vague** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____

Exercise 3: Synonyms and Antonyms

Use the synonyms and antonyms in the word list to fill in the blanks except where you see an X.

	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word List	
1. fanciful	_____	_____	abandon	lively
2. vague	_____	_____	actuality	mishap
3. forsake	_____	_____	advantage	muted
4. uncertainty	_____	_____	bunch	real
5. impression	_____	X	definite	return
6. subdued	_____	_____	doubt	speck
7. listless	_____	_____	dull	sureness
8. reality	_____	_____	fantasy	understanding
9. mass	_____	_____	imaginary	wild
10. misfortune	_____	_____	indefinite	

Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

- Becca called the vet when her cat was ...?... and refused to eat.

- The compost heap was a decaying ...?... of food scraps.

- The pioneers faced one ...?... after another on their difficult journey westward.

- Marta heard the ...?..., almost gentle rumble of the thunder in the distance.

- In ...?..., none of the dramatic events in the story actually happened.

- The lost hiker had a ...?... sense that he had passed this way before.

- The facts in the case did not add up, and the jury felt great ...?... about a verdict.

- The doctor formed the ...?... that the patient was not telling the truth about his symptoms.

- The movie's special effects brought the ...?... dancing elves to life.

- In wedding vows, the bride and groom promise not to ...?... one another.

• Exercise 5: Shades of Meaning

The bold words in the chart below are Master Words. Beneath each is a synonym. Although their denotations (dictionary definitions) are nearly the same, the Master Word and its synonym have different shades of meaning, or connotations. Based on the context, decide whether a Master Word or its synonym would better complete each sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary.

impression	listless	misfortune	vague
opinion	passive	setback	hazy

1. Our ...?... is someone else's gain. I just hope they put the lost presents to good use.
2. A cold and fever made Matt feel ...?... all weekend.
3. I am of the ...?... that hard work is better than fast talk.
4. The new rule was so ...?... it could mean anything.
5. Harry suffered a ...?... when he sprained his ankle during practice.
6. Robbin was ...?... about the details of the accident. It happened so fast.
7. Given the questions she asked, I was given the ...?... that Mia knew you.
8. I had a ...?... role in the prank; I just had to stand at the door.

• Exercise 6: Related Words and Meanings

The italic words in the sentences below are related to the Master Words. Write the matching synonym from the list on the line following the sentence.

impression	listless	subdued	vague	uncertainty
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1. The directions were so *unclear* that we had to stop and ask for help.
2. The lighting in the restaurant was elegantly *dim*.
3. Alex seemed so *sluggish* that his mom decided to take his temperature.
4. Sofia answered all the test questions, but she had a lot of *hesitation* about the last three.
5. Rokeem had the *sense* that Alicia liked him very much.

Write About It: Fiction and Nonfiction

In lessons 1 and 3 you read two nonfiction passages. This lesson, in contrast, is built on a fictional passage. Write a paragraph explaining the difference between fiction and nonfiction using the three passages as examples. Use at least three Master Words or words related to the Master Words in your explanation.