

# LESSON 7

From **Steve Jobs** (biography)  
by Walter Isaacson

The idea that John Lasseter pitched was called “Toy Story.” It sprang from a belief, which he and Jobs shared, that products have an **essence** to them, a purpose for which they were made. If the object were to have feelings, these would be based on its desire to fulfill its essence. The purpose of a glass, for example, is to hold water; if it had feelings, it would be happy when full and sad when empty. The essence of a computer screen is to interface with a human. The essence of a unicycle is to be ridden in a circus. As for toys, their purpose is to be played with by kids, and thus their existential fear is of being **discarded** or upstaged by newer toys. So a buddy movie pairing an old favorite toy with a shiny new one would have an essential **drama** to it, especially when the action revolved around the toys being separated from their kid. The original treatment began, “Everyone has had the **traumatic** childhood experience of losing a toy. Our story takes the toy’s point of view as he loses and tries to regain the single thing most important to him: to be played with by children. This is the reason for the existence of all toys. It is the emotional **foundation** of their existence.”

The two main characters went through many iterations before they ended up as Buzz Lightyear

and Woody. Every couple of weeks, Lasseter and his team would put together their latest set of storyboards or footage to show the folks at Disney. In early screen tests, Pixar showed off its amazing technology by, for example, producing a scene of Woody rustling around on top of a dresser while the light rippling in through a Venetian blind cast shadows on his plaid shirt—an effect that would have been almost impossible to **render** by hand. Impressing Disney with the plot, however, was more difficult. At each presentation by Pixar, [Jeffrey] Katzenberg would tear much of it up, barking out his detailed comments and notes. And a cadre of clipboard-carrying flunkies was on hand to make sure every suggestion and **whim** uttered by Katzenberg received follow-up treatment.

Katzenberg’s big push was to add more edginess to the two main characters. It may be an animated movie called *Toy Story*, he said, but it should not be aimed only at children. “At first there was no drama, no real story, and no **conflict**,” Katzenberg recalled. He suggested that Lasseter watch some **classic** buddy movies, such as *The Defiant Ones* and *48 Hours*, in which two characters with different attitudes are thrown together and have to **bond**.

## Exercise 1: 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.

bond	conflict	drama	foundation	traumatic
classic	discard	essence	render	whim

## 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. **bond** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **classic** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **conflict** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **discard** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **drama** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **essence** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **foundation** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **render** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **traumatic** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

10. **whim** Part of Speech: *n.* 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. <b>drama</b>	_____	_____	abandon	keep
2. <b>foundation</b>	_____	X	agreement	nonessential
3. <b>whim</b>	_____	_____	basics	plan
4. <b>render</b>	_____	X	calm	represent
5. <b>bond</b>	_____	_____	clash	separate
6. <b>essence</b>	_____	_____	connect	superior
7. <b>conflict</b>	_____	_____	core	turmoil
8. <b>traumatic</b>	_____	_____	damaging	worst
9. <b>classic</b>	_____	_____	healing	
10. <b>discard</b>	_____	_____	impulse	

### 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.

- The painter captured the cheerful ...?... of dogs at play. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tania decided she wanted less ...?... in her life and more peace. \_\_\_\_\_
- Computer programs take data from a file and use it to ...?... an image. \_\_\_\_\_
- To avoid war, the nations assembled a team to resolve the ...?... between them. \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not ...?... ink cartridges in the garbage; take them to a recycling center. \_\_\_\_\_
- Being lost was such (a, an) ...?... experience that the child had nightmares for weeks. \_\_\_\_\_
- Marshall bought the phone on (a, an) ...?... , but he later wished he had taken more time to research the product. \_\_\_\_\_
- Loved by several generations, *Charlotte's Web* is (a, an) ...?... tale of hope and friendship. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mastering math facts provides a strong ...?... for more complex math. \_\_\_\_\_
- The strong ...?... between the singers was clear as they performed their duet. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 5: Using Words with Multiple Meanings

Each of the Master Words (in bold type) is used differently and has a different meaning from the same word in the passage. For each word, note the part of speech and write your definition of the word as it is used in the sentence. Then write the dictionary definition.

1. The volunteers **rendered** a great service to the survivors of the hurricane.

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

2. After discussing the evidence for days, the jury finally **rendered** its verdict in the hushed courtroom.

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. The contract Ari signed with his parents was his **bond** that he would abide by their rules for computer time.

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

4. The Parthenon in Athens, Greece, and the Colliseum in Rome, Italy, are good examples of **classic** architecture.

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Perfume makers create a concentrated **essence** of flowers' scents to add fragrance to their products.

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 6: Analogies

Determine the relationship between the first pair of words below. Then write the Master Word on the blank that would create a similar relationship with the second pair of words. The types of analogies used are antonyms, degree, part/whole, and action/receiver of action. (See page 158 for a guide to analogy types.)

1. **wash** : laundry :: \_\_\_\_\_ : garbage
2. **scale** : music :: \_\_\_\_\_ : building
3. **painful** : \_\_\_\_\_ :: cold : freezing
4. **rehearse** : improvise :: plan : \_\_\_\_\_
5. **hurricane** : rainfall :: war : \_\_\_\_\_

### Write About It: Summary

Write a **summary** of the passage about *Toy Story*. Use at least four Master Words in your summary.