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## Unit 4 - Chad and the Little Horse

### 4A Introduction

Have you ever had an experience that changed how you thought and acted? That's what happens to Chad. In this song, Chad leaves his mean, showy ways and becomes kind and caring, proving that people can change.

### 4B Song Lyrics

I've known Chad since we were small,  
 As kids we'd argue, fight and **brawl**.  
 We grew up and Chad switched crews,  
 He was super rich and stuck-up too.  
 When he polished his car, the smell was **acid**,  
 The smell was strong, harsh as acid.  
 If he saw a flaw, or **imperfection**,  
 He'd polish it 'til he could see his reflection.  
 His whole style was **gaudy**, really showy,  
 Flashy but sort of tasteless. Yeah, you know he  
 Thought clothes and cars were all that mattered,  
 Just wanted a fancy life, that's **lavish**.  
 He was sometimes nice, but mostly **vicious**,  
 Cruel on purpose, with put downs and disses.  
 The biggest **braggart** in the school, he loved to brag,  
 Saying he was too smart to work in class.  
 But last summer, his mom and my mom,  
 Decided we'd all spend summer on a farm.  
 So we packed our stuff, headed to that country weather,  
 Thinking this was gonna be the longest summer ever.

*Life goes quick, are you hitting snooze?  
 Or taking in the **vistas** and views?  
 In my book, those who earn **acclaim**  
 Are strong enough to make a change. x2*

We went from city streets to country life,  
 Wide open **vistas**, views that were really nice.  
 At the farm they had a sheep that was crazy short,  
 And a pregnant **mare**, that's a lady horse.  
 Chad was not happy, he was really **peevis**,  
 In a bad mood, easily irritated.  
 'Til the second week, we were hanging around,  
 When we heard the mare make the strangest sound.  
 Chad was in shock and awe,  
 Little later he asked, what was that I saw?  
 I thought of many different answers, and **retorts**,  
 But I just said, that was the birth of a horse.  
 Chad was **dumbfounded**, he could hardly speak,  
 He said, "That was the cutest thing I've ever seen."  
 I saw his face change, he softened up,



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A twinkle in his eye, it looked like love.  
After that you couldn't pull them apart,  
He and that baby horse were brothers at heart.  
I asked is he wild? Does he bite?  
Chad said nah, he's **docile**, teachable and nice.  
And this horse has a future, such **potential**,  
I can already see the skills he'll develop.  
He's **illiterate**, I mean he can't read,  
But I'mma see if i can teach him his ABC's.  
Did that last part work out? Not quite,  
But Chad was always reading to the horse, it was nice.  
September came, we went back to school,  
And Chad was a new man, with new rules.  
He sold his Benz and donated the cash,  
To help rescue animals, imagine that.  
So I've got to give Chad praise and **acclaim**,  
He's living proof that people can change, man.

*Hook x2*

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### 4C Words Defined

acclaim / acrid / braggart / brawl / docile / dumbfound / flaw / gaudy / illiterate / lavish / peevish / potential / retort / vicious / vista

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. **acclaim** (noun) approval or loud applause

The young rapper performed his first show in Los Angeles to great *acclaim*.

Antonyms: criticism, disapproval

Other forms: *Acclaim* can also be a verb meaning "to praise strongly or applaud loudly," as in: The newspaper *acclaimed* the rock star's show.

2. **acrid** (adj) sharp, irritating, or bitter to the sense of taste or smell

I thought the crab apples would be delicious, but they tasted extremely *acrid* instead.

Synonyms: pungent, sharp

3. **braggart** (noun) someone who brags a lot

Kylie was so into herself; she was such a *braggart*.

Other forms: *Braggart* can also be used as an adjective: The *braggart* general could talk all night about himself.

4. **brawl** (noun) a big noisy fight, often involving lots of people

Unfortunately, the concert was cancelled when a *brawl* broke out in the back.

Other forms: *Brawl* can also be a verb meaning "to fight noisily," as in: The hockey players *brawled* for five minutes before the refs could break up the fight.

5. **docile** (adj) well behaved; easy to handle

Dolphins are some of the most *docile* creatures on Earth.

Antonyms: headstrong, stubborn, uncooperative

6. **dumbfound** (verb) to make speechless with amazement

Al was *dumbfounded* when she found out she had won the lottery .

Synonyms: astonish, bewilder, stun

7. **flaw** (noun) a slight fault; a defect

Because of a *flaw* in the stitching, my shirt started falling apart very quickly.

Other forms: Something with a flaw is *flawed* (adj).

8. **gaudy** (adj) too flashy and showy

That shirt covered with all those different colored jewels is *gaudy*.

Synonyms: garish

Antonyms: understated, subtle

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**9. illiterate**  (adj) unable to read or write

Though he could read a few basic signs and words, Mark was basically *illiterate*.  
Other forms: The problem of *illiteracy* (noun) is very real, even in America.

**10. lavish**  (adj) much more than enough; extravagant

Instead of a normal dinner, we had a *lavish* feast for my birthday.  
Synonyms: abundant, splendid, luxuriant  
Other forms: *Lavish* can also be a verb meaning “to give freely or generously,” as in: Trish’s aunt always *lavished* (verb) gifts on her.

**11. peevish**  (adj) showing annoyance or irritation; being in a bad mood

Because my dad didn’t get enough sleep last night, he was *peevish* all day.  
Synonyms: irritable, grumpy  
Antonyms: friendly, pleasant

**12. potential**  (adj) possible; capable of being or becoming

There are many *potential* uses for solar energy, but we don’t use much of it today.  
Synonyms: imaginable, probable  
Other forms: *Potential* can also be a noun meaning “possibility.” It’s usually used in a positive way, like: I see a lot of *potential* in these new phones that can play movies.

**13. retort**  (noun) a quick or clever reply

I was silent when Wayne made fun of me, but later that night I thought of lots of clever *retorts*.  
Other forms: *Retort* can also be a verb, as in: “At least I’m not a fool,” my sister *retorted*.

**14. vicious**  (adj) evil, spiteful; painfully severe or extreme

Carrie was nice to Julie’s face, but then she’d spread *vicious* lies behind her back.  
Synonyms: savage, cruel, malicious

**15. vista**  (noun) a distant view or prospect

From the top of the tower, you can gaze out at the amazing *vista*.  
Synonyms: outlook, panorama.

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**4D Fix the Mistake**

acclaim / acrid / braggart / brawl / docile / dumbfound / flaw / gaudy / illiterate / lavish / peevish / potential / retort / vicious / vista

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. We haven't played our rivals Hollister High since the last game ended in a massive **retort**.

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2. My friend Matt just started writing rhymes a few months ago, but his music shows a lot of **vista**.

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3. Mr. Wendell's neon-green truck is pretty **lavish**; I sure wouldn't want to drive it.

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4. My dog gets a little **acclaimed** when I make him sleep out on the porch, but he snores too much when I let him sleep with me.

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5. Jared never turns in his book reports; I'm worried he might be **docile**.

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6. The house was built with only three walls because the blueprints were deeply **gaudy**.

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7. I've read a lot of critical **potential** for that new sci-fi show; it sounds amazing.

---

8. This lemon is so **braggart** it's practically burning a hole through my tongue.

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9. When Karen accused you of being the teacher's pet, your **flaw** was hilarious.

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10. For our vacation, we're going to stay in a **vicious** resort in the Bahamas with three swimming pools and massage chairs in every room.
- \_\_\_\_\_
11. Rita is such a **brawler**; if I hear her mention her "mad bowling skills" one more time, I'm going to scream.
- \_\_\_\_\_
12. Snow leopards may look cute and harmless, but they can be **peevis** animals if they feel threatened.
- \_\_\_\_\_
13. I was so **illiterate** when my parents told me they were getting a divorce; I just stood there in silence for 10 minutes.
- \_\_\_\_\_
14. Roger's puppy is so **dumbfounded** he wouldn't even bark in a room full of cats.
- \_\_\_\_\_
15. We took a hot-air balloon ride and looked down upon a beautiful **acrid** of the city.
- \_\_\_\_\_

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**4E Pick the Winner**

acclaim / acrid / braggart / brawl / docile / dumbfound / flaw / gaudy / illiterate / lavish / peevish / potential / retort / vicious / vista

*Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.*

1. Deanna ran a respectable campaign for class president, but her opponent ran a(n) **(vicious OR acrid)** one full of attacks and dirty tricks.

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2. A good politician should be able to talk about her accomplishments without sounding like a **(braggart OR retort)**.

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3. The debate team lost this round because their argument was filled with **(acclaimed OR flawed)** logic.

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4. Raul has been arguing with me all morning about the dumbest things; I wonder why he's so **(dumbfounded OR peevish)**.

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5. When I first got my pet ferret he was pretty wild, but he's become much more **(docile OR gaudy)** in his old age.

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**4F Draw the Relationships**

acclaim / acrid / braggart / brawl / docile / dumbfound / flaw / gaudy / illiterate / lavish / peevish / potential / retort / vicious / vista

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

**1**

defect	acclaim	potential	flaw
kind			promise
	vicious	disapproval	

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**2**

peevish	view	docile	pleasant
subtle			gaudy
	vista	wild	

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**3**

lavish	tame	sweet	dumbfound
astonish			acrid
	extravagant	docile	

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**4**

humble person	comeback	fight	brawl
vicious			retort
	braggart	savage	



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#### **4G Understanding What You Read**

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

acclaim / acrid / braggart / brawl / docile / dumbfound / flaw / gaudy / illiterate / lavish / peevish / potential / retort / vicious / vista

#### **The Zoot Suit Riots**

In June of 1943, East Los Angeles was overtaken by a series of brawls. These vicious fights took place between groups of sailors and young Latino men. Today, the reason for the brawls might seem strange: the sailors didn't like the way the young Latino men were dressed. Now known as the Zoot Suit Riots, the brawls dumbfounded people across the country.

During World War II, many military bases were located around Los Angeles. Soldiers and sailors often went there to unwind. Many of these sailors were white men from parts of the country where they did not often encounter other racial groups. At the same time, a new type of youth culture was cropping up in Los Angeles. The city was filled with young Latino men and women who liked to dance to jazz music. The men wore colorful, broad-shouldered suits known as "zoot suits." For these men, the gaudy zoot suits were a way of showing that they weren't going to be docile, forgotten members of society.

Although there was always tension between the zoot-suiters and the sailors, the real trouble started the night of May 30, when a group of military men walked past a group of zoot-suiters in downtown Los Angeles. One sailor, Joe Dacy Coleman, decided to grab the arm of one of the zoot-suiters. This decision proved to be seriously flawed. The zoot-suiters knocked Coleman unconscious and attacked the other sailors with rocks, bottles, and fists.

When the sailors returned to the naval armory, they told their friends about the fight. At first, the sailors were merely peevish about the situation. As the days went on, however, their anger increased. On June 3, they took their anger to the streets. About 50 sailors descended on the Carmen Theater in downtown Los Angeles, a movie theater with a mostly Latino clientele. The sailors clubbed the young men and boys in the audience and stripped them of their zoot suits.

Disturbingly, the attack met with acclaim from the local press, who believed that many of the zoot-suiters were criminals. Over the next few nights, the riots continued. Finally, on June 7, U.S. Navy and Army commanders forbade all sailors and soldiers from going to the city of Los Angeles, putting an end to the fighting. In addition, the Los Angeles City Council banned the wearing of zoot suits...a law that has not been repealed to this day.

#### **1. Based on information in the passage, why did the sailors dislike the zoot-suiters?**

- (A) The zoot-suiters often mocked the sailors.
- (B) The zoot-suiters played their music too loudly.
- (C) The sailors weren't used to people from other races.
- (D) The sailors thought the zoot-suiters did not support the war.

#### **2. Why did the zoot-suiters wear such colorful suits?**

- (A) To make the soldiers in uniform feel foolish
- (B) To show that they would not be ignored
- (C) So they could see each other in dark dance clubs
- (D) The zoot suits were a traditional Latino outfit.

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**3. Read this sentence from the passage:**

“Although there was always tension between the zoot-suiters and the sailors, the real trouble started the night of May 30.” Based on this sentence, you can tell that

- (A) The sailors and zoot-suiters were friends before May 30.
- (B) The sailors and zoot-suiters first met on the night of May 30.
- (C) The sailors and zoot-suiters did not have any trouble until May 30.
- (D) The sailors and zoot-suiters had been in fights or had arguments before May 30.

**4. Read this sentence from the passage:**

“On June 3, they took their anger to the streets.”  
The author means that the sailors

- (A) Showed their anger in public
- (B) Destroyed public property
- (C) Protested the riots
- (D) Forgot about their anger

**5. How long did the Zoot Suit Riots last?**

- (A) About a day
- (B) About a week
- (C) A few weeks
- (D) About a month



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### 4H Thinking Creatively

Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

acclaim / acrid / braggart / brawl / docile / dumbfound / flaw / gaudy / illiterate / lavish / peevish / potential / retort / vicious / vista

1. When was the last time you were **dumbfounded**?

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2. Describe what you'd find at the most **lavish** party you can imagine.

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3. What's your biggest **flaw**?

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4. Describe the **gaudiest** outfit in the world.

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5. Write a one-sentence review giving **acclaim** to your favorite movie.

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### Word Breakdown

The words *braggart* and brag come from the Italian word *braggadocio*, meaning “boasting.” From the early days of hip-hop, braggadocio has been a common way for emcees to show their skills. As Boston rapper Akrobatik once rhymed: “My rep grows like the nose of Pinocchio / Just because I mastered the art of braggadocio.”

Long before the word *dumb* was used as a synonym for *stupid*, it referred to someone who was unable to speak. You may have heard the phrase “blind, deaf, and dumb,” which would refer to an unfortunate individual who cannot see, hear, or speak. So to *dumbfound* someone means, literally, to leave them speechless. Nowadays, instead of using the word *dumb* to describe someone who can't speak, we use the term *mute*.