

Unit 4 - We're Coming Up

4A Introduction

Did you know that worldwide, the richest 1% of the population owns 40% of the wealth? Reports show that the gap between the rich and the poor is growing. The rich are getting richer; the poor are getting poorer. Part of this is because money stays in rich nations, such as the United States. But even within the United States, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening.

You probably know the story of Robin Hood: He's a character who decides that the tax on the poor is unfair, so he takes the law into his own hands. He steals from the rich to give to the poor. The Robin Hood of folktales is often considered a hero. But would a Robin Hood today be considered a hero or just another thief?

4B Song Lyrics

It was a dark night and the mood was set,
The waves crashed, the sea was **turbulent**.
The water was wild, but the night was **balmy**,
Soft and mild, nice and lovely.
In the dark my army **groped** our way,
Felt our way to the road, we don't know the way.
We had bread, water and a few other **staples**,
Not those bent metal things, but basic things.

We were **clad** and dressed in black hats and vests,
I looked the best, 'cause my mesh shorts were fresh.
We looked way up at the **citadel**,
The strong castle upon the hill.
It belonged to one R.J. Blake,
While the town starved, he dined on steaks.
While we were working hard to feed our children,
He was throwing fancy parties with Paris Hilton.

This dude was a **tycoon**, I mean, he made
More money off business than Bill Gates.
He had more **revenue** than Mickey D's,
A bigger income stream than the Mississippi.

We're coming up...

I don't want to **vilify** Blake, speak evil of him,
But when the kids on the block see him, they start running.
Some think the rich deserve to be rich,
But to me that's a **fallacy**, a false belief.
'Cause this guy put the "I" in the word the team,
It was up to us to step in and **intervene**.
We moved shadow to shadow up to his mansion,
Then crept through the window, like Robin and Batman.



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We collected his jewelry, robbed and **plundered**,
To give to the poor who faced daily hunger.
Carefully, gently and **gingerly**,
We grabbed his silverware, Xbox and TVs.
But then I heard a voice: "You'll **rue** this day!
You'll soon regret it, but never forget it.

"I'm very old, but you can't come in here, yo,
And start eating my cereal, my Cheerios.
This money here? You haven't earned a penny!
You're surrounded by my army of **mercenaries**."
What can I say? They had us arrested, homes,
Now I live in a prison that Blake partially owns.
What do you think? Am I a thug and a thief?
Or a Robin Hood, who just couldn't dodge the police?

Hook

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4C Words Defined

balmy / citadel / clad / fallacy / gingerly / grope / intervene / mercenary / plunder / revenue / rue / staple / turbulent / tycoon / vilify

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. **balmy** (adj) soothing, refreshing and mild

People change into shorts at the first sign of *balmy* weather.

Synonyms: temperate, tropical, moist

Other forms: A *balm* is a soothing ointment, usually from a plant.

2. **citadel** (noun) a fortress or stronghold

Only ten warriors remained to defend the *citadel*.

3. **clad** (verb) dressed, wearing

He was *clad* in a tuxedo.

Other forms: *Clad* is actually considered a past tense form of the verb "to clothe," which is to dress.

4. **fallacy** (noun) a misleading or false belief

The idea that the world was flat was a popular *fallacy*.

5. **gingerly** (adverb) cautiously or carefully

The baker *gingerly* placed the decorative flowers on the wedding cake.

Antonyms: carelessly, recklessly

Other forms: *Gingerly* can also be an adjective: He picked up the cat in a *gingerly* way.

6. **grope** (verb) to search blindly; to feel with your hands

When the lights went out, I *groped* for the switch.

Synonyms: to fumble

7. **intervene** (verb) to come between; to step in and stop

I had to *intervene* when the two boys fought at the spring dance.

Synonyms: to intrude

Antonyms: to leave alone, withdraw

Other forms: My friends planned an *intervention* (noun) for their best friend, who was addicted to alcohol.

8. **mercenary** (noun) a professional soldier hired into a foreign army

Pablo is a *mercenary* so he is often away from home for months at a time.

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9. **plunder** (verb) to rob; to pillage

When the pirates sail into port, it is inevitable that they will *plunder* local homes and businesses. Other forms: *Plunder* can also be a noun meaning “stolen goods or loot,” as in: Jack Sparrow’s *plunder* consisted of gold and silver coins.

10. **revenue** (noun) income; earnings

Alison made a lot of *revenue* with her corner lemonade stand during the summer. Antonyms: expenditure, outgoings, payment

11. **rue** (verb) to feel sorrow or regret

Tommy will *rue* the day he gets his water gun taken away for good by his mother. Antonyms: to celebrate, rejoice

12. **staple** (noun) an important item or raw material

Chocolate was an important *staple* in the Johnson household. Other forms: Edward hates to *staple* (verb) his papers in class because he has to get up out of his seat to go do it.

13. **turbulent** (adj) stirred up, disturbed or chaotic

Their marriage was nothing but *turbulent* years of fighting, arguing and unhappiness. Synonyms: choppy, stormy
Antonyms: settled, calm, manageable
Other forms: There was so much *turbulence* (noun) on the flight that I couldn’t read my book or sleep.

14. **tycoon** (noun) a wealthy and powerful businessperson

The *tycoon* owned lots of real estate in New York City. Synonyms: baron, capitalist, industrialist

15. **vilify** (verb) to speak evil of; slander

Sandra likes to vilify her stepmother with outrageous stories and accusations in order to make her mom smile. Antonyms: compliment, praise, support

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4D Fix the Mistake

balmy / citadel / clad / fallacy / gingerly / grope / intervene / mercenary / plunder / revenue / rue / staple / turbulent / tycoon / vilify

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. The **gingerly** weather was perfect for the swimming and barbecue party.

2. The only reason the army couldn't overtake the **mercenary** was because it was on a hill.

3. As a soccer goalie, I was **groped** in long sleeves, pants, knee pads and elbow pads.

4. When the cats started to fight, I had to **vilify** before they scratched each other to death.

5. That's the **revenue** of your logic: Just because all dogs are mammals doesn't mean all mammals are dogs.

6. Kippy would forever **plunder** the day that she drove drunk.

7. Salt and pepper were **tycoons** that the chef had in her kitchen at all times.

8. The ocean was so **balmy** that the fishing boat had to call the Coast Guard for a rescue.

9. When the baby cried in the middle of the night, I **intervened** my way to her cradle in the dark room.

10. Betty dreamed of owning an entire company and becoming a real citadel.

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11. It was unfortunate that after the hurricane, citizens **clad** all the stores downtown through their broken windows.

12. Wendy broke a glass in the kitchen and never cleaned it up, so we had to walk **turbulently** around it to avoid cutting our feet.

13. A **fallacy** lives a tough life: Far from home, he fights a war that he often doesn't care about.

14. The **staple** from my baseball card business grew tremendously during play-off season.

15. Candy **rued** her ex-husband in the company of her friends; clearly they had had a messy break-up.

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4E Pick the Winner

balmy / citadel / clad / fallacy / gingerly / grope / intervene / mercenary / plunder / revenue / rue / staple / turbulent / tycoon / vilify

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. The **(tycoon OR mercenary)** owned four of the top five toy manufacturing companies in the U.S.

2. Cheerios is a **(citadel OR staple)** of every household that has small children.

3. All of the **(revenue OR fallacy)** from the middle school dance went to pay for the end-of-the-year field trip.

4. Surfers make sure the ocean is not too **(turbulent OR balmy)** before they paddle out to the breaking sets.

5. To show their team spirit, the crowd all came to the game **(clad OR rue)** in blue hats, shirts and pants.

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4F Draw the Relationships

balmy / citadel / clad / fallacy / gingerly / grope / intervene / mercenary / plunder / revenue / rue / staple / turbulent / tycoon / vilify

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

castle	naked	tropical	fallacy
balmy			truth
	citadel	clad	

.....

2

gingerly	grobe	intervene	fumble
professional soldier			step in
	carelessly	mercenary	

.....

3

plunder	enjoy	unimportant item	staple
revenue			earnings
	steal	rue	

.....

4

turbulent	baron	criticize	fallacy
tycoon			settled
	lie	vilify	

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4G Understanding What You Read

balmy / citadel / clad / fallacy / gingerly / grope / intervene / mercenary / plunder / revenue / rue / staple / turbulent / tycoon / vilify

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

Captain Julie Mays crawled up the hill on her knees. Clad in her army fatigues, she groped her way through the mud, keeping her head down. The gunfire overhead was getting louder and louder. Julie hated this. She knew she would rather be at home, playing with her brand-new puppy, lying in her bed or making grilled cheese sandwiches.

She shook the thoughts out of her head. She was a mercenary now. It was her job to be a soldier - that's what she was being paid for and that's what she would do. And despite the turbulence of her emotions, she was out here in the field. This was war, and there weren't going to be any grilled cheese sandwiches.

She started to rue the day she had taken the assignment. She had done plenty of dangerous missions, but something was wrong with this one. She thought of the mysterious tycoon who was paying her. He had asked her to break in to this citadel and plunder whatever she could find.

As the explosions got louder, Julie rolled over. She didn't like this assignment anymore. It was getting far too dangerous in this jungle to care about the money she was making. She gingerly climbed forward and peered around the boulder she was hiding behind.

Her enemy stood there with her hand on her hips. Julie's skills at hiding had saved her before, and perhaps they would save her from trouble now. "Julie Mays!" the voice, deep and booming, yelled out. "Come out now!"

Julie knew it was now or never. She had to make a break for it. She gathered her courage and ran. She hadn't gotten far when the tall woman grabbed her arm. But then the woman reached down and kissed the top of her head. Julie looked up at her, not knowing what to expect.

"Come on honey. We're going home now." Julie held her mom's hand, and they walked out of the furniture store together.

1. In the text, the main character, Julie, is

- (A) dying
- (B) escaping
- (C) pretending
- (D) crying

2. The word "turbulence" is used in the second paragraph to indicate

- (A) choppy waves
- (B) jittery nervousness
- (C) total insanity
- (D) rough wind

3. "She started to rue the day she had taken the assignment" means she

- (A) worshipped the day
- (B) planned the day
- (C) mourned the day
- (D) remembered the day

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4. In Julie's own mind, she is

- (A) an awkward mercenary
- (B) a boring shopping partner
- (C) a perfect daughter
- (D) a soldier now

5. The narrator of the story

- (A) misleads the reader into thinking something that isn't true
- (B) stays honest throughout the tale
- (C) describes every detail of the store
- (D) thinks that Julie should stop what she's doing

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4H Thinking Creatively

balmy / citadel / clad / fallacy / gingerly / grope / intervene / mercenary / plunder / revenue / rue / staple / turbulent / tycoon / vilify

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

1. Is it ever OK to **plunder** for **staples**? If so, when?

2. If there was an intruder in your house and you had to **grope** for a weapon at night to defend yourself, what would you use?

3. What things might a friend do that would prompt you to **intervene** in order to save them?

4. Give one example of a commonly believed **fallacy**.

5. What things might you say or do when you are **vilifying** someone you dislike?

Word Breakdown

The word *mercenary* actually has the same root as the word *market*. They both come from the old Italian root *merk*, which means “related to sales.” So a mercenary sells himself, and a market (or *mercado* in Spanish) sells goods.

The *fy* on the end of *vilify* means “to make.” You see this in lots of words: *pacify* (“make peaceful”), *codify* (“make into a code”), *dignify* (“make special”), *specify* (“make specific”). Some people like to play with this ending to create new words, usually as a joke. So next time you trick your friend, you can say, “You’ve been punked,” or you can say, “You’ve been *punkified*.”