

Vocabulary Study

SELF-ASSESSMENT OF WORD MEANING

Directions: As your teacher reads each item, listen for the boldfaced word. Discuss possible meanings of the word, and write on the chart what you think the word means. After reading the excerpts from *The Life of Samuel Johnson*, confirm or adjust your definitions.

- The great man was **vehement** on the topic; he spoke loudly and with gestures to make his point.
- Johnson could be **abstemious**, but he did not always show great control.
- He liked to think of himself as **temperate**, even though his eating habits were anything but reasonable.
- Who built that brick tavern, a place that Johnson often visited? Was the builder a **mason** you know?
- Whether it was animals or criminals who tried to **assail** him, they found Johnson to be a powerful opponent.
- The great man often showed amazing **resolution**. Nobody I know has more determination to overcome problems than Johnson did.

Vocabulary Word	Predicted Meaning	Meaning in Selection
1. vehement		
2. abstemious		
3. temperate		
4. mason		
5. assail		
6. resolution		