

Vocabulary Study

CONTEXT CLUES

A. Directions: As your teacher reads the passage, listen for each boldfaced word and clues to its meaning. Then discuss possible meanings of the word.

Sally Mayo was an **indefatigable** walker, often going for miles without pausing to rest. Today she walked all the way up the mountain road to the large-mouthed cave on the mountain's northern slope. Standing outside the cave's **orifice**, she gazed down the valley to the stream below, where a small boat turned slowly in the water. She wondered why the **eddy**ing boat was empty. Then she spied a man slowly making his way up the **precipitous** valley wall toward the ledge on which she stood.

At first she thought him a stranger, trespassing on her family's land. Then she moved to her left, where leaves and branches did not **impede** her view. Seeing the man more clearly, she realized that he was not an **interloper** at all. He was Luke—Luke Taylor—recently returned from panning for gold in California. According to local reports, Luke did not **garner** very much gold, but he had struck it rich in another way, selling supplies to other prospectors. He also had traveled all over the West before returning to the family farm that adjoined the Mayos' land. Would Luke begin traveling again, or would he **desist** from his wandering and settle down? Sally did not know. She knew only that long ago, before he had left for California, she had loved him.

B. Directions: Write each boldfaced word from Part A beside its definition.

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| 1. to hinder or obstruct | _____ |
| 2. nearly vertical; very steep | _____ |
| 3. to gather up and store; to collect | _____ |
| 4. moving in a whirlpool; swirling | _____ |
| 5. to cease or stop | _____ |
| 6. intruder | _____ |
| 7. tireless | _____ |
| 8. an opening, especially to a passage within the body | _____ |