

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*A Series of Unfortunate Events*, by Lemony Snicket  
***The Bad Beginning***  
**Vocabulary**

**Chapter 1**

1. RICKETY

Lemony Snicket says it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary definition is:

- a. likely to fall apart
- b. like a tennis racket
- c. a trolley
- d. named after Richard

2. PERISHED

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. burned up in a fire
- b. went sour
- c. died
- d. felt very ill

**Chapter 2**

3. BLANCHED

Lemony Snicket says it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, it means:

- a. to act like a Southern lady
- b. to scald briefly
- c. to feel ill
- d. to turn into milk pudding

4. BRISKLY

Lemony Snicket wrote that it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. full of danger
- b. covered in spines or thorns
- c. very actively or energetically
- d. naughty

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**Chapter 3**

5. KEEP YOUR CHIN UP

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Another way to say it would be:

- a. don't look at the ground while walking
- b. don't let hard times make you sad
- c. watch out for people trying to punch you
- d. always wear a big grin

6. FALL BY THE WAYSIDE

Lemony Snicket described this saying as: \_\_\_\_\_

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Another way to say it would be:

- a. to fail as time goes by
- b. to go to Australia
- c. to have a gutterball while bowling
- d. to pass another car on the road

**Chapter 4**

7. SIMMERED

Lemony Snicket says this word means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. stewed gently below boiling
- b. sparkled in the sunlight
- c. laughed in a silly way
- d. sang and hummed at the same time

8. REVULSION

When Lemony Snicket wrote it, he said it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary says it is:

- a. riding a motorcycle too fast
- b. a sense of complete dislike
- c. the act of picking a scab
- d. how the planets circle the sun

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**Chapter 5**

9. IN LOCO PARENTIS

Lemony Snicket says this Latin term means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. when your parents act crazy
- b. a train going to Paris, France
- c. to act as the legal guardian, in place of the parent
- d. when you get separated from your friends in a store

10. LITERALLY

Lemony Snicket explains that it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary definition is:

- a. happening in a book
- b. a race with very small cars
- c. actually or truly
- d. brightly or clearly

11. FIGURATIVELY

Lemony Snicket explains that this word means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, this means:

- a. like a drawing of a person
- b. metaphorically or exaggeratingly
- c. making a guess at a meaning
- d. playing a song on a violin

12. Are the following sentences meant *literally* or *figuratively*?

I looked out the window and it was raining cats and dogs.

- a. literally
- b. figuratively

It rained two inches last night!

- c. literally
- d. figuratively

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**Chapter 6**

13. TAKEN IN CONFIDENCE

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, it means:

- a. understood to be a secret
- b. grabbing something from someone else
- c. having a winning attitude
- d. feeling suddenly ill

14. STANDOFFISH

Lemony Snicket says it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. a city in England
- b. a butcher shop selling seafood
- c. not wanting to talk to people
- d. jumping because you're surprised

**Chapter 7**

15. INCENTIVE

Lemony Snicket says this word is: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, it means:

- a. making up stories
- b. a reward to make you work harder
- c. a percentage of a dollar
- d. flamingly hot

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**Chapter 8**

16. FITFULLY

Lemony Snicket says: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, this word means:

- a. clothes that are too tight
- b. clothes that are the perfect size
- c. nervously or agitatedly
- d. with lots of fluffy hair

17. SMIRKED

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary says:

- a. put on an apron for an art project
- b. had a mean grin
- c. hit gently on the back of the head
- d. pressed a design into paper

18. NUPTIAL

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary says it means:

- a. about a wedding or being married
- b. bumpy like a rubber mat
- c. cracked like an egg
- d. the way to milk a cow

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**Chapter 9**

19. A STICK BEHIND A STUBBORN MULE

Lemony Snicket says this phrase means: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Another way to define this phrase is:

- a. putting a thumbtack on someone's chair seat
- b. making noise to annoy someone
- c. a threat that makes a person do something he doesn't want to do
- d. using a shoehorn to get a tight shoe on

20. RELINQUISHED

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

According to the dictionary, this means:

- a. to hand over against your wishes
- b. putting out a campfire with a bucket of sand
- c. enjoyed the taste of
- d. attached, like attaching a trailer to a car

**Chapter 10**

21. CASING THE JOINT

Lemony Snicket says this phrase means: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Another way to say it would be:

- a. looking around an area to learn how it is set up
- b. putting things in boxes before moving house
- c. adding more cartilage to a knee or elbow
- d. the procedure for making sausages

22. ADROIT

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. headed to the right
- b. how to move a boat around
- c. able to do something well
- d. a tool for cleaning gutters

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**Chapter 11**

23. INCURRING

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary says it means:

- a. getting hurt
- b. becoming a werewolf
- c. making something happen
- d. drawing a diagram

24. MOLOTOV COCKTAILS

Lemony Snicket says this phrase means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. a Martini with extra olives
- b. explosives made of fuel inside bottles
- c. a Russian way to prepare roast chicken
- d. a mob of gangsters

25. POLYGAMISTS

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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According to the dictionary, another way to say it would be:

- a. people who have extra husbands or wives
- b. people who own Scrabble and Trivial Pursuit
- c. scientists who study ocean invertebrates
- d. a lie detection expert

**Chapter 12**

26. OF TWO MINDS

According to Lemony Snicket, this means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Another way to say it would be:

- a. making a decision with a partner
- b. having more than one opinion
- c. a song sung by a couple
- d. caring too much about something

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**Vocabulary**

**Chapter 12, *continued***

27. PANDEMONIUM

According to Lemony Snicket, it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary definition is:

- a. the building at the zoo where the pandas live
- b. when a cold gets worse and worse
- c. a substance that makes minerals sparkly
- d. a situation where everyone is acting crazy

28. BREAK A LEG

Lemony Snicket says this phrase means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Another way to say it would be:

- a. "Enjoy your horseback ride!"
- b. "I hope you do a good job acting!"
- c. "Take advantage of someone else!"
- d. "Try your hardest to win!"

29. DURATION

According to Lemony Snicket, this means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary says it means:

- a. the food you eat in the army
- b. the hardness of a substance
- c. the entire length of an event
- d. the amount of gas in a car

30. INSIPID

According to Lemony Snicket, this means: \_\_\_\_\_

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The dictionary says it means:

- a. idiotic
- b. having a little drink of water
- c. telling someone to shut up
- d. a natural part of something

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**Chapter 13**

31. TESTILY

According to Lemony Snicket, this means: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The dictionary says it means:

- a. moody and short-tempered
- b. carefully and slowly
- c. trying something out
- d. asking a stupid question

32. ABERRANT

According to Lemony Snicket, this means: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The dictionary says it means:

- e. unfortunate and irregular
- f. not doing something anymore
- g. boycotting a restaurant
- h. yelling loudly and angrily

Choose any five vocabulary words or phrases from the book and write sentences that reveal the meaning in context:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Vocabulary Answer Key**

Chapter 1

1. “unsteady or likely to collapse”; a
2. “killed”; c

Chapter 2

3. “boiled”; b
4. “quickly”; c

Chapter 3

5. “try to stay cheerful”; b
6. “they stopped writing, calling, and stopping by to see any of the Baudelaires, making them very lonely”; a

Chapter 4

7. “cooked over low heat”; a
8. “an unpleasant mixture of horror and disgust”; b

Chapter 5

9. “acting in the role of parent”; c
10. “it actually happens”; c
11. “it feels like it’s happening”; b
12. b. figuratively; c. literally

Chapter 6

13. “kept a secret”; a
14. “reluctant to associate with others”; c

Chapter 7

15. “an offered reward to persuade you to do something you don’t want to do”; b

Chapter 8

16. “with much tossing and turning”; c
17. “smiled in an unfriendly, phony way”; b
18. “relating to marriage”; a

Chapter 9

19. “will move away from the stick, because it does not want the punishment of pain”; c
20. “gave to Count Olaf, even though he didn’t want to”; a

Chapter 10

21. “observing a particular location in order to formulate a plan”; a
22. “skillful”; c

Chapter 11

23. “bringing about”; c
24. “small bombs made inside bottles”; b
25. “people who marry more than one person”; a

Chapter 12

26. “they felt two different ways at the same time”; b
27. “actors and stagehands running around attending to last-minute details”; d
28. “good luck on tonight’s performance”; b
29. “the whole thing”; c
30. “dull and foolish”; a

Chapter 13

31. “in an extremely annoyed tone”; a
32. “very, very wrong and causing much grief”; a