

Grade 7 Vocabulary

Use of Vocabulary Words in Context

Week 18

Directions: Read the passage below to better understand the vocabulary words.

The Pipsqueak Pickpocket

Vocabulary Words

larceny
malicious
subtle
ex gratia
dexterity
assault
benevolent
boulevard
inquest
forensic
locale
wangle
stooge
propel
accomplice

Hint When learning new terms, look for context clues to help determine the meaning. If the sentence you find the word in is not helpful, keep reading to see if it can be understood.

Lara was this tiny little thing with mousy brown hair. She looked much younger than she was. Her innocent look hid a **malicious** heart that enjoyed taking advantage of others. In fact, many **benevolent** people had given her gifts and money as she appeared very poor. She had even applied for and won an **ex-gratia** scholarship to fund her continued schooling. Which did little more than **propel** her further into a life of crime.

Still, Lara was most proud of her **dexterity** because it allowed her to pickpocket unwilling victims all over town. She had never been caught and the few times it had been close, she had managed to **wangle** her way out of it. Still, Lara was about to meet her match when she tried to pickpocket one of the king's guards.

She tried to act **subtle** as if just admiring the guards as they stood watch, but really, Lara had chosen this **locale** because so many people were walking about and it would be easy to blend into the throngs of shoppers. She would need an **accomplice**, actually, more of a **stooge** to do her bidding. This person would distract the guard by yelling for help and Lara would pick his pockets to take the gold he held. If caught, she could be charged with **larceny** among other things.

With the plan laid out, the pair got started. The partner screamed for help saying an **assault** was happening and the guards should come. They took off to the chosen **boulevard** and Lara was waiting. The guard reached down to help what he thought was a child and Lara reached into his pocket. The guard caught her and the **inquest** into what she was doing began. Lara would be charged immediately and linked through **forensic** evidence.