

Wordly Wise Vocabulary

Unit 6

abolish

v. To bring to an end; to do away with.

Most people would support a plan to abolish weapons of mass destruction.



agony

n. Great pain of mind or body; suffering.

The pinched nerve caused him agony for several weeks.

agonizing

adj. Very painful.

Watching their sick child in the hospital bed was agonizing to the parents.



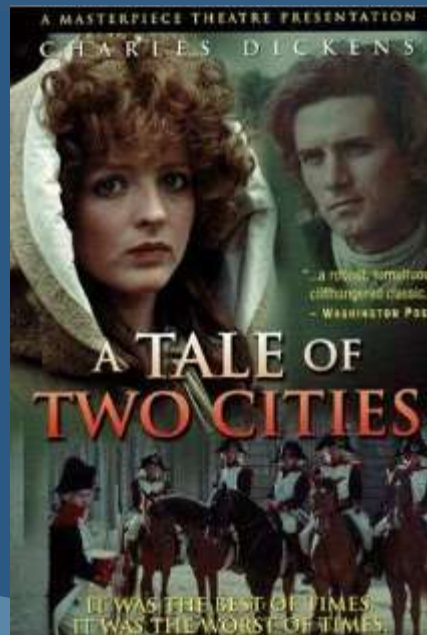
catapult

- n. A machine used in ancient wars that threw objects with great force.
Roman catapults could throw six-pound objects almost a third of a mile.
- v. To move or be moved suddenly and with great force, as if by a catapult.
The Groaners' latest song catapulted them to the top of the country music charts.



character

- n. 1. The qualities that make a person or place different or special.
Your friend's support during your long illness demonstrates her true character.
2. A person in a story, movie, or play.
Madame Defarge and Sydney Carton are the two characters I remember most clearly from A Tale of Two Cities.
3. A letter or symbol used in writing or printing.
The license plate number NKT605 contains six characters.



denounce

v. 1. To speak out against something; to criticize.

The president denounced Congress for failing to approve the budget.

2. To accuse someone of doing wrong.

Carla denounced Victor, who sat next to her, for cheating on the test.

No Budget?
NO PAY.



escalate

v. To go up or increase in size or scope.

If house prices continue to escalate, many people will be unable to afford to buy a home.



grim

adj. 1. Cruel; fierce.

There were many grim battles during the Civil War.

2. Unfriendly or threatening; stern.

The coach's grim face expressed his displeasure at our team's poor performance.

3. Unpleasant; disturbing.

We heard the grim news that no one had survived the plane crash.



harbor

n. A protected place along a seacoast where ships can find shelter.

In the summer the harbor is busy with sailboats going in and out.

v. 1. To give shelter to; to take care of by hiding.

In most states, it is a crime to harbor someone wanted by the police.

2. To hold and nourish a thought or feeling in the mind.

Try not to harbor anger against the person who stole your bike.



inflict

- v. To cause something painful to be felt.
The hurricane inflicted severe damage on coastal areas.



loathe

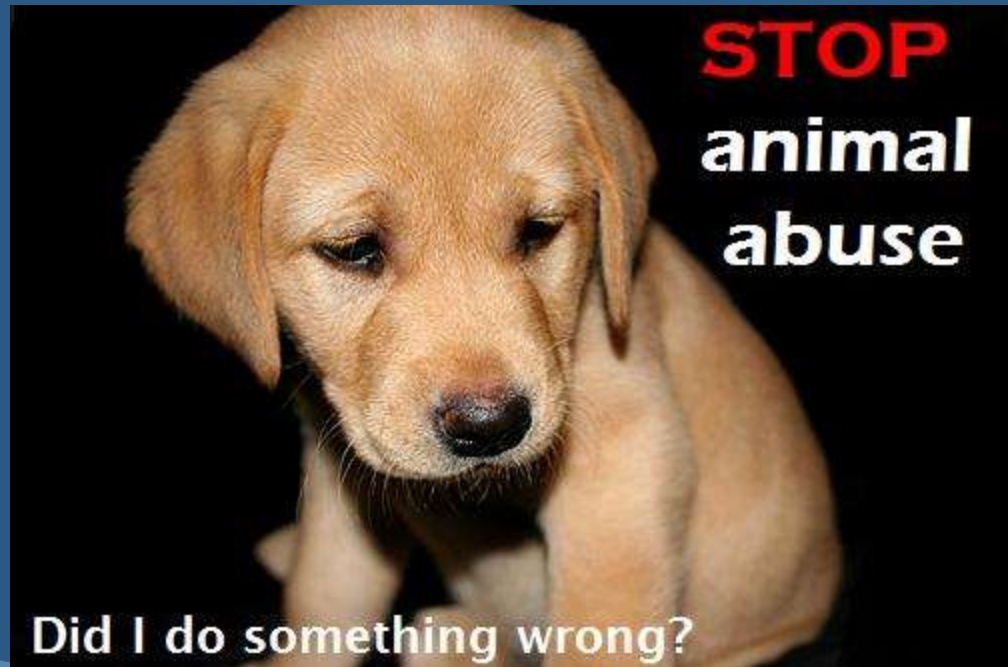
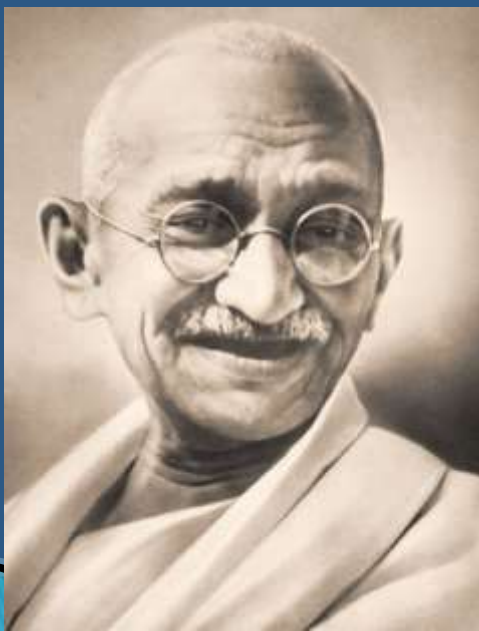
v. To hate or dislike greatly.

Mahatma Gandhi, the great Indian leader, loathed violence.

loathing

n. A feeling of hatred.

Their loathing of cruelty to animals led them to set up a shelter for unwanted pets.



meddle

- v. To involve oneself in other people's affairs without being asked.

When my grandparents retired, they could have meddled in my parents' lives, but they didn't.

meddlesome

- adj. Given to taking part in others' affairs without being asked.

If you think I am being meddlesome, just tell me to mind my own business.



MEDDLING KIDS

monstrous

adj. 1. Causing shock; horrible; wicked.

Hitler's monstrous plan to murder the Jews of Europe was carried out in concentration camps in Germany and Poland.

2. Extremely large.

A monstrous statue of the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, three times life-size, stood in the town square.



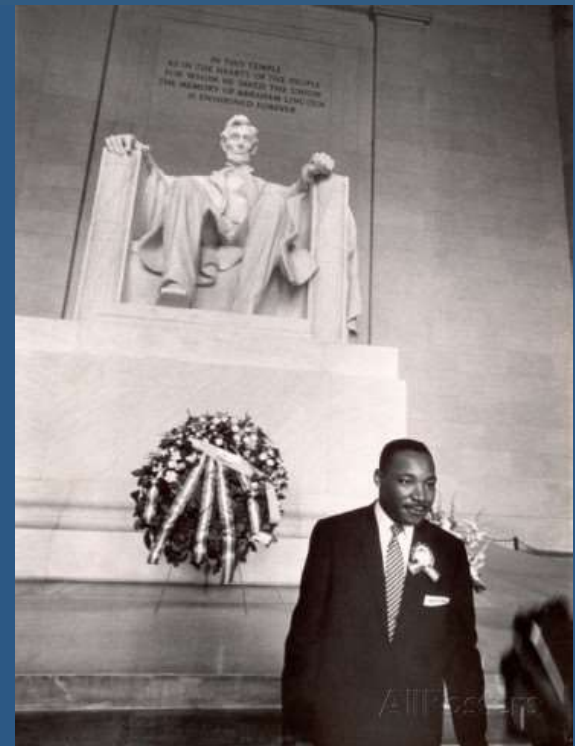
rouse

v. 1. To awaken, to wake up.

The children were sleeping so soundly that it was difficult to rouse them.

2. To stir up; to excite.

Martin Luther King, Jr., roused the American people with his 1963 speech at the Lincoln Memorial, in Washington, D.C.



steadfast

adj. Unchanging; steady; loyal.

Rigo and Moni remained steadfast friends throughout their school years.



translate

- v. To put into a different language.

The Little Prince, which was written in French, was translated into English by Katherine Woods.

