**Level Yellow**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Unit 6 - Born With a Mic**

**6A Introduction**

A lot of rappers claim that they were born with a mic. Well, what if one of them really was?

This is his story.

**6B Song Lyrics**

I’m on the subway right now, uh, with my mom, but don’t worry about that part. I’m in London, and I’m

on tour. Let me tell you a little bit of something about myself though.

I had a mic attached to my umbilical chord,

So believe this: I was rhyming as a fetus.

Came out in the world, just to find some new beats,

Looked up at the doctor, said, “Yo, who’s he?

Can he make a phat beat like Biggie’s ‘Juicy’?

Something with some kick to it, like Bruce Lee?”

My birth was not normal or orthodox,

’Cause neither the nurses nor the docs

Had ever seen a baby with skills or prowess like mine.

“You’ve got a son!” Yeah, I’m ready to shine.

Mom wrapped me up and brought me home,

Started to nurture me and help me grow.

But, um, I had a temper,

You don’t want to tamper or mess with my temper,

I’m a devil in Pampers.

I needed some maternal care, that’s from my mom,

But I also needed to blow up the charts like a bomb.

So I recorded a song, wild and bold,

To make people forget that I was just nine months old.

So follow my narrative, my story unfolds,

They called me Emcee Baby Food.

Made my stage debut at the age of two,

First time I stepped on the stage they paid me, too.

They couldn’t fathom, understand or figure

How this little baby with a mic was the nicest spit-kicker.

The crowd was bewildered, all confused,

Until I busted like Busta Rhymes and showed the dudes.

I never got snared in the snare or caught in the beat,

So I finished the show and hopped in my Jeep.

Okay, it wasn’t an authentic or real Jeep,

It was plastic, it went beep-beep on the sidewalk.

But all the one-year-old ladies,

They thought I was crazy.

They all called me Baby,

“Emcee Baby Food is crazy!”

My album dropped, people bought it like candy,

I was always clever, smart and canny.

Flew to L.A. just to win a Grammy,

Didn’t go alone; I brought my nanny.

A No. 1 single, that was “mission accomplished,”

People catered to my needs, did what I wanted.

The most intense moment, the climax,

Was when they made a movie about me in IMAX.

But a few days later I turned on the news,

And saw another baby straight rapping for dudes.

Called him Lil’ Tito and the dude could kick it,

Had the nice flows, yeah, the kid was wicked.

So I confronted Tito at his next show,

Came face-to-face with him to let him know

That Emcee Baby Food was number one,

Said, “Pack up your toys, Tito—you’re done!”

That was the start of the biggest baby beef

Since…well, it was probably the biggest baby beef ever.

He said, “Oh, you want to battle?

Drop your mic right now; pick up your rattle.

Emcee Baby Food, you’re so soft and mushy,

Lil’ Tito goes hard, so don’t push me.”

I looked the dude up and down, and then I told him this:

“My good looks make the baby models nervous,

I’m not all up in the club but I’m getting bottle service.

Is that your crew? You should call them off,

Don’t mess with my toddler entourage.”

Hook

Yeah, yeah, yeah, what’s up man? This is Lil’ Tito right here, you know what I mean. We squashed our

little beef, and all that, our little battle. You know what I mean? We’re gonna let bygones be bygones.

We’re gonna come out with a new tape, you know what I mean? Ga-ga-goo-goo records. Check us out.

Googoo me. Uh-huh. Somebody get my bottle, man.

**6C Words Defined Yellow**

Below you’ll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. **authentic** (adj) genuine; real; true

While digging in our backyard, Wing and I found an authentic Native American arrowhead.

Synonyms: actual, valid Antonyms: fake, false, counterfeit

Other forms: Do you really question this painting’s authenticity (noun)?

2. **bewilder** (verb) to puzzle completely; confuse

The high school basketball team, bewildered by the nontraditional style of their ape opponents, lost to the “Chimp All-Stars” in overtime.

Synonyms: baffle, fluster Antonyms: clear up, explain

3. **canny** (adj) smart and careful; watchful of one’s own interests

While General Motors was still building big trucks and SUVs, Honda made the canny decision to focus on smaller cars that were better for the environment.

Synonyms: shrewd, prudent Antonyms: foolish

4. **cater** (verb) 1. to try to satisfy the needs of; try to make things easy and pleasant 2. to supply food and service

1. The cereal company finally catered to popular demand and put its “Frosty the Ferret” cartoon character back on the box. 2. We had the big dinner catered, so we didn’t have to cook a thing.

Synonyms: 1. humor, indulge

5**. climax** (noun) the highest or most intense moment in the course of something

Marley’s year reached its climax when she hit the game-winning home run and found out she got into college on the same day.

Synonyms: top, apex, pinnacle

6. **confront** (verb) to stand up to; to face boldly

I confronted the bully after school and told him I wasn’t giving him any more quarters.

Synonyms: resist, oppose Antonyms: back down

Other forms: The protest became violent after a confrontation (noun) between protesters and the police.

7**. debut** (noun) a first public appearance

A famous actor decided to wear shorts and a tank top to his movie’s debut.

Synonyms: beginning Antonyms: closing, finale

Other forms: The show debuted (verb) on Broadway last June.

8. **fathom** (verb) to figure out; to understand; to get to the bottom of

I can’t fathom why you would want to buy those shoes when you already own a pair just like them.

Synonyms: discern Antonyms: misunderstand

Other forms: A fathom is also a unit of measurement for measuring the depth of the sea.

9. **maternal** (adj) of or like a mother

Thanks to its maternal instincts, the wolf successfully raised the human child.

Synonyms: motherly, protective

10. **narrative** (noun) a story; a detailed report

You’ll love reading the narrative of Frederick Douglass.

Synonyms: account

Other forms: I don’t like abstract poems; I prefer narrative (adj) poems.

11. **nurture** (verb) to bring up, care for, train, or nourish

I tried to nurture the plant, but I must have done something wrong because it died.

Synonyms: raise, cultivate Antonyms: ignore, neglect

Other forms: Is it nature or nurture (noun) that’s made you so goofy?

12. **orthodox** (adj) in agreement with established or generally accepted beliefs or ways of doing things, especially relating to religion

Rejecting her parents’ lifestyle as too orthodox, Julie decided to go live alone on a mountain.

Synonyms: conventional, customary Antonyms: unconventional, unorthodox,

13. **prowess** (noun) great skill or ability

Few fighters had the swagger, the prowess, and the charm that Muhammad Ali had.

Synonyms: expertise, mastery Antonyms: inability, weakness

14. **snare** (verb) to trap, catch, or get

Using his trap, old Jim McGreevey snared two plump rabbits.

Synonyms: entrap Antonyms: liberate, let go

Other forms: The squirrel dodged the snare (noun) and ran home.

15. **tamper** (verb) to interfere with; to mess with rashly or foolishly

Someone has been tampering with this lock; I can tell because the combination is off .

Synonyms: meddle, tinker

**Vocabulary Homework Schedule for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Monday:** complete all spider web vocabulary maps

**Tuesday:** fill in the blank and fix the mistake

**Wednesday:** Free Choice (options include sentences, flashcards, crossword puzzle, write a story, create a dictionary, picture representation, etc..)

**Thursday:** Study (You could be tested on definitions, parts of speech, synonyms, or antonyms)

**Friday:** Test

6D Fix the Mistake Yellow

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don’t make sense. Write a vocabulary word from this unit the fits better.

1. If my parents hadn’t done such a good job of **tampering** me when I was a kid, I wouldn’t be the brilliant and amazing person I am today.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Karen hopes her degree will help her **bewilder** a great job when she gets out of college.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. When I **catered** Pablo for talking about me behind my back, he totally lied and said it never happened.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Dirk was sent to the office for **snaring** with the fire alarm.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Erin’s **authentic** feelings toward her dog are sweet, but it’s kind of weird that she feeds him with a bottle.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. I was completely **confronted** when my teacher told me he was actually a Zorploink from the planet Clamcracker.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. I was worried when Max tried to start his own business, but it turned out he made a bunch of **orthodox** decisions and his little company began to grow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. The television actress was booed off the stage at her Broadway **climax;** she never acted onstage again after that.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. My grandmother has such a **maternal** outlook that she still thinks it’s weird for boys to have long hair.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. I prefer **canny** orange juice to that horrible sugary stuff called “orange drink.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. The only reason Frederick liked reading the **prowess** was because it was about sea monsters.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12. I was on the edge of my seat during the movie’s exciting **narrative**, but before that, I didn’t really care what happened.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13. I really can’t **nurture** why Monique would come to school wearing a giant inflatable pumpkin on her head.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. The reason why Shaq has such **debut** on the basketball court is because he’s the size of four men put together.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15. It’s so annoying that my parents fathom to my sister’s every demand.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

authentic / bewilder / canny / cater / climax / confront / debut / fathom / maternal / narrative / nurture / orthodox / prowess / snare / tamper

**6E Pick the Winner**

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn’t pick in a meaningful way.

1. You have to watch TV tonight; I’m making my acting (**debut OR climax**) on the show A Monkey Bus Filled With Fools.

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

3. The easiest way to (**fathom OR bewilder**) Monica is to pretend you don’t speak the same

language as her.

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

5. I’m worried about what will happen when Sammy (**snares OR confronts**) me about having

a crush on his sister.

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Stefanie was bummed when she learned that her bag wasn’t (**authentic OR canny**); it was

a cheaply made copy.

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. The chimpanzee had such **(orthodox OR maternal)** feelings toward the hippo that she even

tried to nurse the giant beast.

10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Illustration**

Pick a word and illustrate an example of one of its uses. Then, write a sentence with the word representing your picture. Be creative! This picture might impact you like the word aloof… remember the story Mrs. Irvin told?!?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6F Draw the Relationship

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

Admonish bystander clean

unimportance forewarn grimy

Witness magnitude

recognized alive

downright completely

deceased hurtle anonymous move with great speed

legitimate

deadly astute dishonor

illegal homage

insightful lethal

exciting

casualty anonymous stodgy

person killed slightest

unknown utmost

**5G Understanding What You Read**

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

The True Story of the Subway Superman

It’s easy to feel anonymous when you live in New York City. With more than 19 million

residents, people often get lost in the crowd. But every so often, someone does something of such

magnitude that the entire world takes notice.

On January 2, 2007, Wesley Autrey was standing in a subway station with his two daughters.

As they waited for their train to arrive, a young man next to them suddenly had a seizure. Autrey

watched as the man stumbled off the subway platform and onto the grimy subway tracks. In the

distance, Autrey could see the lights of a subway train hurtling toward the man. He knew that this

would definitely be a lethal situation if he didn’t do something.

While a crowd of bystanders looked on, Autrey jumped off the platform. He tried to lift the

man back onto the platform, but there was not enough time: The train was moving too quickly.

Thinking fast, Autrey made the astute decision to move the man between the tracks. As the train

approached, Autrey dropped to the ground and protected the young man with his body. He continued

to hold the man down as the subway rushed over them, a mere inch or so above his head. If it weren’t

for Autrey’s bravery, the young man would have certainly been a casualty.

The story of Autrey’s daring rescue instantly became worldwide news. Newspapers called

him “The Subway Superman” and “The Hero of Harlem.” Gifts and cards streamed in from around

the globe, paying homage to him for his brave act. The unknown construction worker was suddenly

a downright celebrity. He appeared on several television shows, including The Ellen DeGeneres Show and The Late Show with David Letterman. Donald Trump gave him $10,000, his daughters

received college scholarships, and he was a guest of honor at President Bush’s 2007 State of the

Union Address.

Why did Autrey’s story attract so much attention? For one thing, his rescue came at a time

when there wasn’t a lot of positive news on TV. People saw Autrey’s story as a beam of light in a dark

time. But perhaps most of all, Autrey’s brave act showed the world that we all have the power to

be heroes.

**\_\_1. Why, most likely, did Autrey move the young man to between the tracks?**

(A) The train conductor told Autrey to move the young man.

(B) The high-voltage third rail wasn’t activated.

(C) Both the young man and Autry would have been crushed otherwise.

(D) The train was moving on a different set of tracks.

**\_\_2. What does Autrey do for a living?**

(A) He works for the subway.

(B) He is a construction worker.

(C) He is a teacher.

(D) He is a doctor.

**\_\_3. The author’s tone in the third paragraph could best be described as**

(A) Hopeless

(B) Romantic

(C) Comedic

(D) Suspenseful

**\_\_4. How is the last paragraph organized?**

(A) Order of importance

(B) Chronological order

(C) Question and answer

(D) Cause and effect

**\_\_5. Read this sentence from the passage:**

**“People saw Autrey’s story as a beam of light in a dark time.” The author means that Autrey’s story**

(A) Gave people hope

(B) Seemed unimportant

(C) Did not seem to be true

(D) Was humorous

5H Thinking Creatively

Answer each question below. Don’t be afraid to think creatively.

1. Make an astute point.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Write the opening sentence to a novel called Mr. Anonymous.

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3. Who in your life most deserves an homage, and why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Rewrite this phrase using synonyms: He downright admonished him for being grimy. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

legitimate

lethal

magnitude stodgy

utmost

deceased downright grimy homage hurtle

admonish anonymous astute bystander casualty

5. What is the last thing for which you were admonished? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Word Breakdown**

The word homage has a long history. Much of medieval Europe lived under a political system called feudalism. In feudalism, the king would give large plots of land to men known as “lords.” The lords would, in turn, give parts of the land to workers known as “vassals.” A vassal would have to declare on his knees that he would be loyal to the lord, which was known as being the hommage of the lord. Then, as now, paying homage was a sign of respect. It’s this meaning that a rapper from Wu-Tang Clan uses when he rhymes, “Bow and pay homage, I rap with a garment / Like one of the prophets that’s teaching faith.” The word utmost is an example of a word that has been shortened over time. The original word was outermost, which means “at the farthest point.” After some time, this began to be spelled uttermost, which was later shortened to just utmost