**Level Yellow Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Unit 9 – Battle for the Road**

**9B Song Lyrics**

It’s the battle for the road! People walk, people drive,

Turning friends into foes! You don’t want to be outside

When the battle for the road pops off, and don’t try

To just stand there and watch—no! You’ve got to take sides.

Meet Connie Walker, an upright citizen,

Both in the sense of being honest and innocent,

And upright because she likes to walk in

The city she lives in—she’s a pedestrian.

Does Connie ever drive, though? Nope, guess again.

She walks so much her shoes are padded,

She’s always on the move so they call her nomadic,

But she couldn’t stand the constant drone of traffic.

The steady noise in the background really tested

Her patience, the roads in the city were congested,

Clogged up, backed up, and she was stressing.

The noise and the smoke made her feel aggressive,

Even vindictive; she wanted to get some

Revenge on the cars for blocking her momentum.

Yeah, her forward motion was stalled, and then some.

So as Connie walks around she keeps scheming

On ways to stop the flow of cars, to impede it,

Or at least get it off the street that she needed.

So she put up a fake road sign to block traffic,

And mass confusion went down and ensued.

Hook

Meet Tommy Carson, calm and silent,

Driving to work in his brand-new hybrid,

With gas and electric combined inside to keep it gliding,

Stopped, couldn’t believe his eyes when

He saw the road signs in his customary path,

Every day he went the same way, there and back.

And he saw Connie Walker blocking the pavement,

Waving a sign, and he thought, “This is flagrant.

She’s breaking the law and rubbing it in my face and

I’m supposed to take it?” He was infuriated,

Mad and shaking, but he was late.

So he found another way and the next day came back,

With eight friends driving hatchbacks and Pontiacs.

And there was Connie relaxing, still blocking the road,

With traffic slowed to a trickle, just a little flow.

But she had six friends with her this time, though.

But Tommy wasn’t trying to stop, he just thought,

“Why not?” And drove past Connie on the sidewalk.

Now who’s breaking the law? Yelling for cops,

The pedestrians all left the spot feeling distraught,

Really upset, and what happens next?

Another day, another battle, another angry mood.

If the battle lasts long enough, call it a feud.

You’ll probably hear all about it on the evening news.

Hook

**Unit 9: Battle for the Road Yellow**

**9A Introduction** I don’t know how it is where you live, but in New York City, the relationship between drivers and pedestrians can get tense at times. Some pedestrians don’t like to wait for the “walk” signal; some drivers get impatient waiting for pedestrians to cross. This song takes this basic idea and pushes it further: What if this little conflict turned into a full-scale battle?

**9C Words Defined**

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. congested** (adj) overcrowded; filled too full

During rush hour, the city streets were congested.

Antonyms: clear, unblocked

Other forms: Because of the congestion (noun) in his nose, Ben had to breathe through his mouth.

**2. customary** (adj) usual, normal, routine

In America it isn’t customary to leave school for lunch to go home and take a long nap.

Synonyms: usual, conventional Antonyms: unusual, rare

Other forms: One of the customs (noun) of Spain is the siesta: a long nap after lunch.

**3. distraught** (adj) troubled and disturbed emotionally

Distraught after breaking up with her first boyfriend, Jana decided to cut off all her hair.

Synonyms: upset, agitated Antonyms: calm, happy

**4. drone** (noun) 1. a remote-controlled device 2. a buzzing or humming sound that lasts for a long

time 3. a male bee

**1.** Instead of sending in jet planes with actual pilots in them, the Air Force has been using more

drones to drop bombs on its enemies**. 2.** The drone of the refrigerator was really annoying. **3**. Drones

are interesting creatures, since they don’t gather pollen, make honey, or sting.

Other forms: Drone can also be a verb meaning either “to make a buzzing or humming sound” or “to

speak in a dull tone of voice”: While the soda machine droned in the hall way, the teacher droned on

and on about the meaning of certain words in the classroom.

**5. ensue** (verb) to follow; to come as a result of

Someone put 1,000 live frogs in the hall at school, and total chaos ensued.

Synonyms: result, come next Antonyms: precede, come before

**6. feud** (noun) a bitter, long-term argument or hostility

To this day, there is a feud over who should control the land in the Middle East.

Synonyms: conflict, quarrel Antonyms: agreement, peace

Other forms: The two families had been feuding (verb) for years.

**7. flagrant** (adj) shockingly noticeable or evident, usually in a disgraceful way

Annette committed a flagrant error on her driving test: She forgot to put on her seatbelt.

Synonyms: striking, undisguised Antonyms: hidden, concealed

**8. hybrid** (adj) made from unlike parts; combining different elements

Some new hybrid vehicles run on both vegetable oil and electricity.

Other forms: Hybrid can also be a noun meaning either “something made from unlike parts or by combining different elements” or “the offspring of two distinct plants or animals of different varieties”: So the dog, who was a pug-Rottweiler hybrid, jumped into the back of the hybrid.

**9. impede** (verb) to get in the way of; to interfere with the movement of

In the video game, the evil mushrooms are meant to impede your progress and make the level challenging.

Synonyms: slow, delay, obstruct, hinder Antonyms: advance, encourage

**10. infuriate** (verb) to make extremely angry or furious

Jasper was infuriated that some kids had smashed watermelons against the brick wall.

Synonyms: anger, enrage Antonyms: make happy, please

**11. momentum** (noun) the force or speed with which something moves

During summer we used to roll watermelons down a hill; by the time they reached the bottom, they had built up so much momentum that they’d splat right into the brick wall.

Synonyms: drive, power, thrust

**12. nomadic** (adj) moving about from place to place without settling down

The old cowboy lived a nomadic lifestyle: He rode from town to town but never stayed anywhere for long.

Other forms: A nomad (noun) is someone who wanders from place to place.

**13. trickle** (verb) to fall by drops or to flow in a small stream

Tears trickled down her cheeks when she realized that her lost dog wasn’t coming home.

Synonyms: drip, dribble

Other forms: Trickle can also be a noun, meaning “a small irregular quantity of something”: Kato’s income from his dog-walking business had slowed to a trickle.

**14. upright** (adj) 1. vertical, straight 2. good, honest

1. The dead tree no longer stood upright. 2. Some people think all politicians lie, but I’ve met a few upright politicians.

Other forms: Upright is a very flexible word and can be used as a noun or an adverb as well: Standing upright (adverb), the football player kicked the ball through the uprights (noun) for a field goal.

**15. vindictive** (adj) bearing a grudge; eager to take revenge

Mr. Pamplamouse was such a vindictive guy that if you ever said anything negative about him at all, he would be sure to spread lies behind your back.

Synonyms: vengeful, unforgiving, spiteful Antonyms: forgiving

**9D 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. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. The courtyard always gets **infuriated** during lunch; so many people hang out there, it’s difficult to walk.

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

2. The bitter **drone** between my mom and her brother started when my grandpa died and left her all his money.

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

3. A panic **trickled** when the stock market crashed and millions of people lost their life savings.

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

4. Antoine’s latest invention is a **feud** of a toaster and a cell phone that he calls the “Toasty Talker.”

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

5. The wild chimpanzee became **impeded** when the scientists locked him in the cage; he began biting and clawing at anyone who came near.

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

6. Paul made a **customary** mistake on his geography quiz when he said that Honolulu was the capital of the United States.

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

7. During the drought, the river slowed to a mere **momentum**.

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

8. Stoya has a real **distraught** streak; I accidentally forgot her birthday last year and she has refused to talk to me ever since.

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

9. Karen thinks Mr. Ruiz is dishonest, but he seems like a **flagrant** guy to me.

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

10. The soccer team, **nomadic** after losing the big game, shuffled silently back onto the bus.

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

11. The evil scientist created an army of **hybrids** that he could control from afar.

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

12. Before civilizations formed, humans were **vindictive** people who roamed from place to place,

hunting and gathering their food.

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

13. My progress on the book report was somewhat **ensued** when I discovered that I had been reading the wrong book.

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

14. My mother hates it when people track dirt in the house, so it’s upright to leave your shoes at the door right when you come in.

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

15. An airplane needs a lot of **congestion** to lift into the air, which is why they have to speed down

a runway before takeoff.

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

congested / customary / distraught / drone / ensue / feud / flagrant / hybrid / impede / infuriate / momentum / nomadic / trickle / upright / vindictive

**9E 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. My head was so (**congested OR customary**) when I had a cold that I felt as if it was filled with sand.

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

3. Rosalie is going to be (**infuriated OR impeded**) when she learns that her boyfriend skipped her party to hang out with another girl.

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

5. The (**nomadic OR vindictive**) herd of elk moved to a new location whenever their food supply ran out.

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

7. The hockey player committed a(n) (**upright OR flagrant**) foul when he hit the other player in the stomach with his stick.

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

9. I have no idea what Mr. Peters was (**droning OR trickling**) on about during class today; his voice is so dull it puts me to sleep.

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?!?

8F Draw the Relationship Yellow

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.

browse disbelief

recede extremely enthusiastic

presume increase look through exuberant

preview

sneak peek

harsh snoop mellow

consume devour lurk

dishearten geniune

pluck counterfeit to pick

condescend

encourage patronize

forget about relaxed

ponder emblem pique

mellow

symbol provoke

**8G Understanding What you Read**

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

**Catch Me If You Can**

By the age of 19, Frank Abagnale, Jr. had spent time working as a pilot, a doctor, a teacher, and a lawyer. He had lived the life of a millionaire and traveled to countries all over the world. How did he do it? Is Abagnale an emblem of the things we can all accomplish by working hard? The answer is yes—if what you’d like to accomplish is to be a wanted criminal!

Abagnale was born in New York City in 1948. When he was 16, his parents divorced and he began living with his father. Shortly afterward, Abagnale’s father got a preview of his son’s future life. Abagnale, Sr. gave his son a truck and a credit card to use for buying gas. In no time, Abagnale, Jr. learned that he could impress girls if he seemed to have a lot of money. He soon began patronizing local gas stations and using his credit card to scam them out of money. When his father learned about what was happening, he was disheartened by his son’s behavior. Abagnale, Jr. was apologetic, but said he couldn’t help himself. “It’s the girls, Dad,” he said. “They do funny things to me. I can’t explain it.”

Not long after that, Abagnale, Jr. got a checkbook. He started writing checks for more money than he had in his bank account. Unfortunately for him, it did not take long for the bank to catch on.

But Abagnale, Jr.’s interest was piqued. He pondered how he could use the banks to make money without doing any work. Finally, he decided to start creating counterfeit checks using fake names.

Abagnale’s checks looked very real. Even trained bankers couldn’t tell that they were fake. There was only one problem: Abagnale still looked like a 16-year-old boy. He decided he needed a new identity, so he got an airline uniform from Pan American World Airways and began to pretend he was a pilot. He found that when he was in uniform, everyone presumed he really was a pilot.

The police finally caught Abagnale in France in 1969. By that time, he had flown to 26 countries around the world by pretending to be a pilot. He had also pretended to be a doctor, working at a Georgia hospital for nearly a year. He had even faked a law degree to work for the attorney general of Louisiana.

Abagnale spent almost fi ve years in prison for his crimes. When he was released, he started working for the U.S. government as an expert in banking crimes. He then created a company that taught banks how to catch thieves like himself. Today, he’s a millionaire again—only this time, it’s for real!

**\_\_1. Which of the following jobs did Abagnale, Jr. NOT have?**

(A) Company owner

(B) Bank worker

(C) Teacher

(D) Doctor

**\_\_2. Abagnale, Jr.’s first illegal activity involved**

(A) A credit card

(B) A pilot’s uniform

(C) Checks

(D) A fake name

**\_\_3. Why did Abagnale, Jr. originally want to have money?**

(A) So he could buy gas for his truck

(B) So he could travel around the world

(C) So people would think he was an adult

(D) So he could impress girls

**\_\_4. Frank Abagnale, Jr. could best be described as**

(A) Humble

(B) Ignorant

(C) Crafty

(D) Charitable

**\_\_5. This passage would most likely be found in**

(A) A book of mystery stories

(B) A book about famous criminals

(C) A magazine article about famous airline pilots

(D) A magazine article about creative travel ideas

**8H Thinking Creatively**

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

1. What would a book called The Lurking Menace be about?

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

2. What food do you love to devour?

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

3. Describe your favorite kind of mellow day.

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

4. What piques your interest?

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

5. What are you pondering right now?

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

**Word Breakdown**

You might recognize a root you already know in the word presume: the Latin root sume, which means

“to take.” The word consume, for example, means “to take and use.” The meaning of the word

presume is similar to that of the word assume, with a slight difference: Assume means “to suppose to

be the case, without proof; or to take for granted,” while presume means “to suppose that something

is the case on the basis of probability.” To assume, then, is to guess, while to presume is to make an

educated guess.