

6 Innovation



▲ A talking robot helps an older woman do her shopping.

UNIT LAUNCH

Academic Vocabulary

A Complete each sentence with the correct form of a word from the box.

benefit demonstrate feature generate hardship unique

1. An innovation isn't always something _____. Sometimes a small improvement is enough.
2. After the long summer vacation, our debate team _____ from a week of intensive practice.
3. The developer can _____ a lot of game ideas, but only some of them result in real products.
4. The science teacher will _____ how to safely do the experiment.
5. Moving to a new country was a _____ for Pablo. He didn't speak the language, and he missed his friends.
6. The company will _____ the latest technological gadgets on its new website.

PREPARE TO READ: Ode to Common Things

Key Vocabulary

A Complete each sentence with the correct form of a word from the box.

conspire irrevocable passionate remarkable sublime trace

1. A cool sea breeze feels _____ after a long day working outside in the heat.
2. Isabel seriously considered her options before making a(n) _____ decision.
3. The dish had a(n) _____ of hot peppers in it, so it wasn't too spicy for me.
4. The new skyscraper makes a(n) _____ addition to the city's skyline.
5. The actors were _____ in their performance and made many in the audience weep.
6. When we were young, we often _____ to play a practical joke on our brother.

Vocabulary Boost

B Use context to determine the meanings of the words in bold. Then choose the correct definition.

1. Knowledge is the most valuable **treasure** because it can never be taken away.
a. large amount of money b. something very special
2. The younger brother **coveted** his older brother's wealth.
a. desired strongly b. spent carefully
3. Estrela's main **desire** is to help people. She always wants to do things for others.
a. hope b. thought
4. In 11th century China, **compasses** were used for navigation.
a. devices to keep a ship afloat b. devices for determining directions
5. Although it's warm in the city, the **distant** hills are covered with snow.
a. beautiful b. far away
6. The velvet **fabric** of the blouse felt soft against Lyla's skin.
a. cloth b. collar

C Complete each sentence with the correct form of a word in bold from Activity B.

1. His favorite shop was full of dusty _____ from the past.
2. Ibrahim's strong _____ to do well on his exams kept him studying hard.
3. Arturo brushed his hands down his jacket to try to smooth the wrinkled _____.
4. The sound of _____ thunder signaled a storm was coming.
5. She didn't like to admit it, but Mrs. Lin secretly _____ her sister's gold bracelet.
6. The hiker always kept a _____ handy in case she got lost.

FOCUS ON UNDERSTANDING

Understand

A Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What types of things does Neruda like?
 - a. only grand things
 - b. only very small things
 - c. both grand and small things
2. Why does the poet say, "the planet / is sublime!"?
 - a. It's sublime because it has so many pipes.
 - b. It's sublime because there are countless different things.
 - c. He likes the natural wonders of the world.
3. What does Neruda say mankind has built things of?
 - a. every little thing
 - b. fabric and carpenter's nails
 - c. wool, wood, glass, and rope
4. What does he mean by "all bear / the trace / of someone's fingers"?
 - a. The objects were handled by someone.
 - b. The objects have a mark left by someone.
 - c. The objects were damaged by someone.
5. Does he only like the appearance of these objects?
 - a. Yes, he only likes their appearance.
 - b. No, he also likes to paint them.
 - c. No, he also likes the sound and the feel.
6. He likes these objects because _____.
 - a. they are alive
 - b. he touched them
 - c. they were a part of him

B Answer the questions.

1. Read lines 11–23. Do you think a thimble is something big or small? Why?

2. In lines 31–34, the poet says most of the things he likes are "made by the hand of man." What does he mean?

3. In lines 79–85, he says the items bear the trace of fingers "lost / in the depths of forgetfulness." What does he mean?

4. In line 96–98, what does he mean by an "irrevocable / river / of things"?

Vocabulary: Analyze a Poet's Word Choices

A Read the phrases from "Ode to Common Things." Underline the descriptive or emotional words or phrases. Then label them *E* for Emotional or *D* for Descriptive.

1. I like pliers, / and scissors. ____
2. I love / all things, ____
3. not just / the grandest, / also / the / infinite- / ly / small— ____
4. Mankind has / built / oh so many / perfect / things! ____
5. Built them of wool / and of wood, / of glass and / of rope: ____
6. the trace of a distant hand / lost / in the depths of forgetfulness. ____
7. that one there for its deep-sea color, / and that one for its velvet feel. ____
8. they were / so close / that they were a part / of my being, ____

B Read the poem. Circle the emotional words, and underline the descriptive words.

Lodged *by Robert Frost*

The rain to the wind said,
 "You push and I'll pelt.¹"
 They so smote² the garden bed
 That the flowers actually knelt,
 And lay lodged³—though not dead.
 I know how the flowers felt.

¹**pelt** to attack by throwing things

²**smote** hit hard

³**lodged** stuck

C What is the poet's attitude in the poem in Activity B? What words tell you this, and why?
