

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

I. DIRECTIONS. Read the following sentences and try to choose the best definition for the italicized word by searching for context clues in the sentence. (15 pts.)

- ___1. The designer window treatments in her house, installed 17 years ago, were *outmoded*.
- a. unnecessary
 - b. pointless
 - c. out-of-date
 - d. worthless
- ___2. The spies conducted a *covert* operation.
- a. dangerous
 - b. foreign
 - c. hidden
 - d. illegal
- ___3. The baseball player's malice toward the referee was revealed in his *spiteful* remarks to the media, which almost ruined the referee's career.
- a. vindictive
 - b. crazy
 - c. rude
 - d. unpleasant
- ___4. Although Zachary is much too inexperienced for the managerial position, he is a willful young man and *obdurately* refuses to withdraw his application.
- a. foolishly
 - b. reluctantly
 - c. constantly
 - d. stubbornly

- ___5. His neighbor's **superficial** remarks trivialized the property line dispute and infuriated Malcolm.
- a. enraged
 - b. petty
 - c. insulting
 - d. misleading
- ___6. She showed a **blatant** disregard for the rules.
- a. obvious
 - b. hidden
 - c. last-minute
 - d. rebellious
- ___7. Her fashion sense was usually described as **flamboyant**, but on the night of the party, Tanya's outfit was uncharacteristically modest.
- a. impeccable
 - b. showy
 - c. sloppy
 - d. unassuming
- ___8. Mr. Powers was so **gullible** that he believed even the most outlandish excuses of his insincere employees.
- a. intelligent
 - b. naïve
 - c. dishonest
 - d. critical
- ___9. You cannot become a certified teacher without completing the **prerequisite** student-teaching assignment.
- a. required
 - b. optional
 - c. preferred
 - d. advisable
- ___10. Charles, aware of his susceptibility to gum disease, is **diligent** about flossing.
- a. uncomfortable
 - b. excited
 - c. thorough
 - d. ambivalent

- ___ 11. Even though she'd read her supervisor's memo four or five times, she still found his rambling message **ambiguous**.
- a. profound
 - b. inspiring
 - c. ridiculous
 - d. unclear
- ___ 12. Excited about winning the award, Marcia walked up to the podium and delivered an **animated** acceptance speech.
- a. abbreviated
 - b. courteous
 - c. reserved
 - d. lively
- ___ 13. The **intermittent** rain soaked the garden many different times during the day.
- a. protracted
 - b. periodic
 - c. incredulous
 - d. light
- ___ 14. I got a **vicarious** thrill watching you on the diving board.
- a. shared
 - b. unpleasant
 - c. adventurous
 - d. evil
- ___ 15. After several small brushfires at the campground, officials felt the need to **augment** the rules pertaining to campfires.
- a. criticize
 - b. retract
 - c. consider
 - d. expand