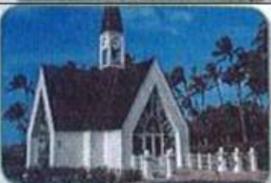
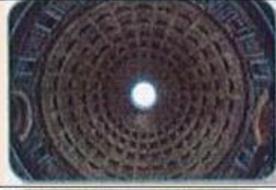


Unit 4

I. Vocab List

Images	Vocabulary
	<p>abrupt [ə'brʌpt] <i>adj.</i> If something is abrupt, it is sudden or unexpected. <i>When the dancer fell down on her back, the ballet came to an abrupt stop.</i></p>
	<p>agony ['ægəni] <i>n.</i> Agony is severe pain or suffering. <i>The boy yelled in agony when the puppy bit him.</i></p>
	<p>assassin [ə'sæsɪn] <i>n.</i> An assassin is someone who murders an important person. <i>An assassin killed Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968.</i></p>
	<p>beard [biərd] <i>n.</i> A beard is hair that grows on a man's chin and cheeks. <i>The farmer had a long beard, as white as snow.</i></p>
	<p>beast [bi:st] <i>n.</i> A beast is a large and dangerous animal. <i>Tanzania is home to many famous beasts, such as lions, leopards, and hyenas.</i></p>
	<p>chapel ['tʃæpəl] <i>n.</i> A chapel is a building where people go to pray and worship God. <i>We were married in a small wedding chapel in Las Vegas.</i></p>
	<p>commentator ['kɒməntətər] <i>n.</i> A commentator is a person who gives opinions or describes something, often on TV or radio. <i>According to many commentators, this winter has been one of the coldest in the last century.</i></p>
	<p>con [kɒn] <i>v.</i> To con someone is to trick that person into doing something or giving up money. <i>It was unfair of the fortune teller to con me out of 500 dollars.</i></p>

	<p>consensus [kənˈsɛnsəs] <i>n.</i> A consensus is a general agreement among a group of people. <i>The consensus among the children was that ghosts exist.</i></p>
	<p>conspiracy [kənˈspɪrəsi] <i>n.</i> A conspiracy is a secret plan that two or more people make together to do something illegal. <i>The businessman thought there was a conspiracy among his coworkers to get him fired.</i></p>
	<p>coup [kuː] <i>n.</i> A coup is an uprising in which people try to overthrow the government. <i>At the end of the 18th century, Napoleon Bonaparte staged a coup to overthrow a group that had control of France.</i></p>
	<p>cynical [ˈsɪnɪkəl] <i>adj.</i> To be cynical is to be unwilling to believe that people have good intentions. <i>The man became cynical after being lied to many times.</i></p>
	<p>dome [doʊm] <i>n.</i> A dome is a curved roof of a building. <i>I looked up at the dome to admire its beauty.</i></p>
	<p>exclaim [ɪkˈskleɪm] <i>v.</i> To exclaim something is to say it loudly, suddenly, and excitedly. <i>The singer interrupted the applause to exclaim his thanks after his performance.</i></p>
	<p>forum [ˈfɔːrəm] <i>n.</i> A forum is an open public place in which meetings are held. <i>The scientist shared her research at a special forum in the city.</i></p>
	<p>glamour [ˈglæməɹ] <i>n.</i> Glamour is a quality relating to riches, wealth, and beauty. <i>The young woman showed off her glamour during the photo shoot.</i></p>
	<p>harass [həˈræs] <i>v.</i> To harass someone is to bother or attack them repeatedly. <i>The young girl would often harass her baby brother.</i></p>

	<p>illuminate [ɪˈluːmɪneɪt]</p> <p>v. If you illuminate something, you shine light on or brighten it.</p> <p><i>In order to illuminate the stage, the crew turned on the spotlight.</i></p>
	<p>inflare [ɪnˈfleɪm]</p> <p>v. To inflame something is to provoke or intensify it.</p> <p><i>The tax increase will inflame the public's frustration with the government.</i></p>
	<p>melody [ˈmelədi]</p> <p>n. A melody is a series of musical notes that form the main part of a song.</p> <p><i>I had the melody of the song stuck in my head all day.</i></p>

II. Exercises

A. Write the word that best fits each sentence.

1. consensus / conspiracy

There is a _____ that we should go to war.

There is a _____ against the life of our beloved emperor.

2. melody / agony

The _____ of the song will stay with me forever.

I felt _____ when I heard the terrible singer at the opera.

3. cynical / abrupt

The movie's sudden ending was too _____ for me.

He never thinks positively and is always too _____ about everything.

4. beast / beard

You should keep your _____ long since it looks so cool.

Keep that _____ on a leash, so he won't bite my dog.

5. harass / con

The thief tried to _____ me into believing he was an honest man.

The old man would always _____ me as I passed by his house.

B. Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined word(s).

1. The building's roof was a half-spherical shape.

2. A meeting held some place was held to discuss the revolution.

3. The emperor was very angry and distrustful.

4. The mean ruler would always bother his people.

5. Before he died, Nero loudly declared his last words for all to hear.

C. Circle the two words in each group that are most closely related.

1. a. conspiracy b. coup c. dome d. forum

2. a. chapel b. agony c. church d. commentator

3. a. illuminate b. whisper c. exclaim d. brighten

4. a. inflame b. harass c. annoy d. con

5. a. dome b. architecture c. coup d. melody

D. Write the word from the word bank that best fits each sentence.

WORD BANK

glamour

inflamed

assassin

abrupt

coup

1. The army arranged a(n) _____ against their own general.
2. We sent a(n) _____ to kill the wicked king.
3. The Hollywood star was famous for her _____.
4. I had such a high fever that I felt like my forehead was _____.
5. The change in my son's height was so _____ I could not believe it.

III. Reading comprehension**The Singing Emperor**

Nero was emperor of Rome from 54 CE to 68 CE, when a **coup** put an end to his young life. For some, he was a powerful ruler of incredible **glamour**, yet the **consensus** among most Romans was that he was a terrible emperor; some even called him a **beast** and used the number 666 as a code for his name. Even today, this number is a symbol of the devil for many people. The **chapels** near the graves of the people Nero killed are some of the most famous churches in the world, but there was never a cry of outrage over the grave of Nero.

Why did **commentators** think that Nero was so bad? He was **cynical** man who **harassed** every member of his family, killing his stepfather, stepbrother, stepsister, wife, and even his own mother. He first tried to drown her in the sea, but when she swam to safety, he sent an **assassin** to finish the job. He tried to **con** the Roman people into believing that he was sorry, yet no one did.

Soon afterward, most of Rome burned in a fire. The tragedy **inflamed** the people, and many thought that Nero was the one who had started the blaze. Some say he even sang the **melodies** of well-known songs while the capital burned. Nero blamed Christians for the fire and tortured them to death.

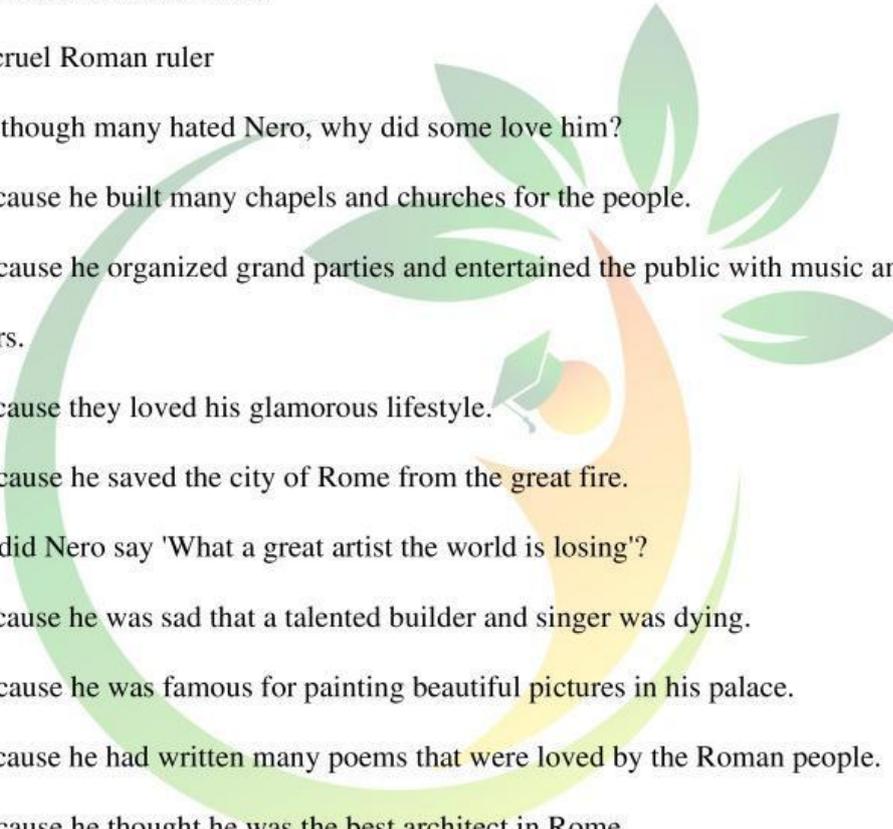
After the fire, Nero built a beautiful palace with a giant **dome** over it, calling it his Golden House. A giant statue sporting Nero's hairdo and **beard** stood over the palace, which also had a large swimming pool and a garden that was **illuminated** by burning lamps. Nero built a long bridge to join the palace to the **forum**, Rome's central market. He would sing songs on the rooftop and entertain anyone who listened. Many enjoyed his **glamorous** style, but others hated him for his selfishness.

Nero's reign came to an **abrupt** end when the army organized a **conspiracy** against him. The soldiers wanted a new emperor, and every one left Nero to die. While stabbing himself in the neck, he **exclaimed** in **agony**, "What a great artist the world is losing!" Soon after, a war began. When it was over, the new emperor tore down the hated Golden House of Nero forever.

Part. A. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.

1. ___ Nero is thought by many to be one of the best Roman emperors.
2. ___ Nero behaved in a loving way toward his family.
3. ___ Nero's mother swam to safety after nearly drowning.
4. ___ Nero's palace included a giant statue, gardens, and a swimming pool.
5. ___ Soldiers killed Nero after they made a coup against him.
6. ___ Some said that Nero sang songs while the city was on fire.

Part B. Answer the questions.

1. What is this reading about?
 - a. How Nero built the Golden House
 - b. An unhappy family
 - c. How Rome burned down
 - d. A cruel Roman ruler
 2. Even though many hated Nero, why did some love him?
 - a. Because he built many chapels and churches for the people.
 - b. Because he organized grand parties and entertained the public with music and singers.
 - c. Because they loved his glamorous lifestyle.
 - d. Because he saved the city of Rome from the great fire.
 3. Why did Nero say 'What a great artist the world is losing'?
 - a. Because he was sad that a talented builder and singer was dying.
 - b. Because he was famous for painting beautiful pictures in his palace.
 - c. Because he had written many poems that were loved by the Roman people.
 - d. Because he thought he was the best architect in Rome.
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