

**The Lady, or the Tiger?** Frank R. Stockton**PREREADING VOCABULARY**

Use the context clues in each sentence in Column A to determine the meaning of the underlined word. Then find the correct definition of that word in Column B, and write the word on the line to complete the definition sentence.

COLUMN A

- a. The steward somehow procured two cups of hot, steaming tea for us.
- b. The general's decrees were too harsh, and the soldiers mutinied rather than carry them out.
- c. The symphony was florid; I prefer much simpler music.
- d. The circus and the hockey match were held in the same arena.
- e. The young girls can realistically portray the damsels of the countryside in the opera.
- f. Our system of justice is meant to be fair; for example, a prisoner is guaranteed an impartial trial by a jury of fellow citizens.
- g. The courtiers followed every one of the king's instructions.
- h. Your manners are not just poor—they are as barbaric as those of a savage.
- i. The organ played a doleful hymn during the funeral procession.

COLUMN B

1. _____ means "sad; mournful."
2. _____ means "persons who attend a royal court."
3. _____ means "rough; uncivilized."
4. _____ means "a place for public meetings or entertainments."
5. _____ means "young, unmarried women."
6. _____ means "showy; ornate."
7. _____ means "not favoring one more than another."
8. _____ means "got; obtained."
9. _____ means "official orders."

Each of the following sentences gives some information about the origin of the underlined word. Study this information. From the choices that follow, select the best definition of the underlined word. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

Imperious comes from the Latin *imperiosus*, "powerful, tyrannical."

10. ____ If a person is imperious, he or she is a. overly shy b. overly proud c. trivial d. short.

Incorruptible comes from the Latin prefix *in-* meaning "not" and *corruptibilis* meaning "breakable."

11. ____ An incorruptible employee is one who a. cannot be bribed b. will accept bribes
c. is not good at the job d. is overpaid.

Parapet comes from the Italian *parapetto*, "breast-high wall," which comes from *para* meaning "to guard" and *petto* meaning "breast."

12. ____ A person who fell from a parapet fell from a(n) a. skyscraper b. airplane c. railing
d. staircase.

"The Lady, or the Tiger?" Questions

Mrs. Sprinkle

1. **Active Reading** Jot down questions you have as you read.
2. **Setting** P. 46 Does the author give a detailed picture of the setting? What effect does the way the author creates the setting have on the one of the story?
3. **Review** P. 46 Summarize the king's trial system.
4. **Inferring** P. 47 Explain how the following statement is ironic: "Its perfect fairness is obvious."
5. **Evaluate** P. 47 What truths about human nature does the author point out when he says that the institution was popular?
6. **Characterization** P. 48 How is the princess typical of a conventional fairy tale princess? How does she differ?
7. **Conflict** P. 49 Describe the princess's inner conflict.
8. **Characterization** P. 49 Characterize the relationship between the princess and the young man.
9. **Plot: Climax** P. 50 Identify the point at which the climax occurs in this story. Are the story's loose ends resolved?
10. **Style** P. 50 Describe the author's diction (word choice) at the end of the story and its effect.