

Unit 14 - Scarface

14A Introduction

It's a tough world we live in, where someone can get teased because he or she looks different. Thankfully, there are people who are willing to stand up for others. Sometimes all it takes is one bold act to change someone's life for the better.

14B Song Lyrics

Keena knew every kid on her block,
From the snot-nosed pre-K, mumbling tots,
To the punks who sat on stoops and threw rocks,
To the dudes pushing coupes, who think they're hot.
She didn't have to **consult** or look at a map,
She knew that one apartment that people walked past.
It was separate from the others; it was **detached**,
People used to say it was haunted, in fact.
Keena knew the boy who lived inside,
Name was Jay, dude lived a lonely life.
He had a **gruesome** scar across his eye and forehead,
It caused horror in those who saw it.
Jay was always sad and **despondent**,
'Cause the neighborhood kids made him a target.
They'd **pelt** him with cans, throw 'em at him,
Each week called him "Scarface the Freak."
Now Rizzo was another dude Keena knew,
Type of guy who was running a crew.
Leading the pack, he had a crush on Keena from way back,
But Keena had denied him like Shaq.
One day Rizzo said, "I seen ya, Keena,
Talking to that freak Scarface; I think you need a
Real man like me." Keena said, "Like who?
That kid Jay is way smarter than you,
And all of your crew, so you should stop this.
Honest, you're so annoying and **obnoxious**."
Rizzo didn't want to hear that,
And so he hatched a plan to catch the man, like this...



Gather round. Listen to me, man. I'm getting tired of this kid Scarface, man. I don't care what we do, but we're gonna do it today. Matter fact, yo go find that kid for me, man. We're gonna frame this on him. Let's go.

A few days later, everybody was mad,
An eight-year-old kid had been beaten up bad.
This little kid had been **mauled**,
And now a crowd gathered in the street to talk.
Rizzo **bellowed** and yelled, "Listen to me,
I know who did it: Scarface the Freak!
We need **vengeance**, revenge, payback!"
And the whole crowd yelled, "Yeah! Payback!"

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They marched to the house that was falling down,
And started yelling Jay's name out loud.
Some kids were throwing rocks,
Keena saw all of this, knew it had to stop.
She climbed and **clambered** up the fire escape,
There was something she was dying to say.
She knew that Jay didn't do it, wouldn't hurt a flea,
She called to the mob, said, "Can't you see?
Rizzo has a **legacy**, a history, of spitting lies,
He said he owns an island; that isn't right.
You **allege** it was Jay, you say it was him,
I know: Let's go ask the kid." "Yeah!"
Then Keena called to Jay,
Said, "You should come to the hospital, it'll be okay."
They found the kid in the room at the hospital,
In the room with his mom and his papa, too.
But Rizzo blocked the door, and said, "No,
He's hurt, we need to leave this kid alone."
Rizzo **beseached** the crowd to just go home,
Got down on his knees, begged them to go.
But Jay was brave, pushed Rizzo aside,
Opened the kid's door and he stepped inside.
He said, "I know it's hard to get beaten up,
But you'll be stronger than ever in a couple of months.
I can see in your eyes that you're tough,
But tell us, kid, who beat you up?"
The kid lifted his arm real slow,
And pointed right at Rizzo.
Now the whole neighborhood had seen
How Rizzo had beaten up this little kid.
Keena said, "We've **endured** your hate, Rizzo,
Put up with it every day, Rizzo.
Man, you're scarred on the inside, it's true,
'Cause no one in the world's more pathetic than you."
Rizzo was so ashamed and **mortified**,
For the first time the whole block saw him cry.

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14C Words Defined

allege / bellow / beseech / clamber / consult / despondent / detach / endure / gruesome / legacy / maul / mortify / obnoxious / pelt / vengeance

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. **allege** (verb) to state as fact, but usually without offering proof

Ricardo *alleged* it was Don Vito who had ordered the kidnapping, but was Ricardo trustworthy?

Synonyms: assert, claim

Antonyms: deny

Other forms: The *alleged* (adj) thief was brought in by the police.

2. **bellow** (verb) to shout in a deep voice, or to make a sound similar to a bull

The buffalo, *bellowing* loudly as it raced down the street, smashed through the hot dog cart.

Synonyms: howl, call

Antonyms: whisper

3. **beseech** (verb) to ask for urgently; to beg

Romeo *beseeched* his father to let him go on a date with Juliet, a pretty but fairly dorky girl in middle school.

Synonyms: plead, implore

4. **clamber** (verb) to climb with difficulty

Using the vines that clung to its side, Tanja *clambered* up the tall wall.

Synonyms: scale, scramble up

5. **consult** (verb) to seek advice; to talk things over in order to reach a decision

Before choosing, I want to *consult* with my friend to see what he thinks.

Synonyms: ask, confer

6. **despondent** (adj) feeling seriously depressed, gloomy or hopeless

After the death of her puppy, Marie was *despondent* for weeks.

Antonyms: cheerful, happy, elated

7. **detach** (verb) to separate from

I can *detach* the hood from my jacket if I don't want to wear it.

Antonyms: attach

Other forms: If something can be *detached*, it is *detachable* (adj).

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8. endure (verb) 1. to put up with; to bear 2. to continue to exist

1. Ronda's younger brother was only able to *endure* the long car trip because he had some videos he could watch. 2. Even though he's seen some great comedies recently, for some reason my father's love of Bugs Bunny cartoons *endures*.

Synonyms: 1. undergo, live through

Antonyms: 2. end, stop

9. gruesome (adj) causing horror; ghastly; revolting

Hector couldn't get the *gruesome* sight of the dead soldiers out of his head.

Antonyms: beautiful, pleasant, pretty

10. legacy (noun) an inheritance or gift; something handed down from an ancestor or from the past

James Brown was more than an amazing musician; his *legacy* lives on in all of the music he has influenced.

Synonyms: gift, tradition, heritage

11. maul (verb) to handle roughly; to injure by a rough beating

My cousin, in the wrong place at the wrong time, was *mauled* by the angry crowd.

Synonyms: abuse, hurt

Antonyms: guard, protect

Other forms: *Maul* can also be a noun meaning "a heavy hammer used for driving stakes."

12. mortify (verb) to hurt someone's feelings deeply; to cause embarrassment or humiliation

Ringo was *mortified* to see his dad walking into the school with his T-shirt tucked into his underwear.

Synonyms: ridicule, shame

Antonyms: compliment, praise

13. obnoxious (adj) annoying or offensive

Some people like to talk in movie theaters, while others find this *obnoxious*.

Antonyms: delightful, pleasant

Other forms: Before meeting JoAnn, I never knew *obnoxiousness* (noun) could be taken to such heights.

14. pelt (verb) to throw a series of things; to strike again and again

We *pelted* the side of the school with snowballs.

Synonyms: bombard, pound

15. vengeance (noun) punishment in return for an injury or a wrong; unusual force or violence

Humiliated by his boss for asking too many questions, Lee got his *vengeance* when he was named "Employee of the Month."

Synonyms: revenge, retribution

Antonyms: forgiveness

Other forms: Don't cross Rohan; he's extremely *vengeful* (adj). The phrase "with a vengeance" means "with great force," as in: Dang! My sore throat came back with a *vengeance*.

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14D Fix the Mistake

allege / bellow / beseech / clamber / consult / despondent / detach / endure / gruesome / legacy / maul / mortify / obnoxious / pelt / vengeance

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. In my opinion, one of Abraham Lincoln's **vengeances** is that he was the first person to make the goatee look cool.

2. Vanessa had to **consult** her old bike seat before she could install the new one.

3. Paul **bellows** that Karen has a crush on him, but I'm not sure if that's true.

4. When Bigfoot strolled into town to get a hamburger, the townspeople **mortified** him with rocks until he ran off.

5. Coach had to **endure** with his assistants to determine which play we should run.

6. The monster **beseached** in pain when it was stabbed by the unicorn.

7. If you try to break into the junkyard, you will likely be **pelted** by the vicious dog that lives there.

8. My parents created such a **despondent** Halloween display in our front yard that most kids are afraid to even walk up our driveway.

9. The DJ on this radio station is so **gruesome**; why does he say everything in that annoying voice?

10. I **alleged** my teacher to give me an extension on my English project, but he still refused.

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11. Marisa thinks she made a fool of me, but I will have my **legacy** when she realizes I put a “Kick Me” sign on her back.

12. The monkey used its sharp claws to help it **maul** up the tree.

13. People in the military have to **detach** a difficult training period known as “boot camp.”

14. Marisa was **clambered** when she realized she had been wearing a “Kick Me” sign on her back all day.

15. Calvin’s dog was so **obnoxious** when her puppies were given away that she barely ate for a week.

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14E Pick the Winner

allege / bellow / beseech / clamber / consult / despondent / detach / endure / gruesome / legacy / maul / mortify / obnoxious / pelt / vengeance

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 mom won't let me hang out with our neighbors because they're **(alleged OR mortified)** gang members.

2. The detective felt ill when he saw the **(despondent OR gruesome)** crime scene.

3. Daniel **(pelted OR endured)** years of being called "Shrimp" before he grew to be the tallest kid in class

4. The evil criminal counted the days until he could leave prison and take **(vengeance OR legacy)** on the people who had wronged him.

5. "Please, I **(beseech OR clamber)** you; don't eat me!" the worm shouted at the hungry bird.

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14F Draw the Relationships

allege / bellow / beseech / clamber / consult / despondent / detach / endure / gruesome / legacy / maul / mortify / obnoxious / pelt / vengeance

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.

1	detach	howl	bellow	allege
	deny	attach	protect	maul
.....				
2	scramble up	forgiveness	clamber	heritage
	legacy	despondent	vengeance	cheerful
.....				
3	consult	seek advice	pleasant	plead
	beseech	stop	endure	obnoxious
.....				
4	revolting	despondent	gloomy	praise
	pelt	gruesome	mortify	bombard

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14G Understanding What You Read

allege / bellow / beseech / clamber / consult / despondent / detach / endure / gruesome / legacy / maul / mortify / obnoxious / pelt / vengeance

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

Survival in the Andes

In December of 1972, a cowboy named Sergio Catalan was riding his horse through the Andes Mountains when he spied some men a great distance away. They seemed to be beseeching him for help. He motioned to them that he understood, then rode back to tell his fellow cowboys about the men. The other cowboys remembered hearing about an alleged plane crash that happened high in the mountains a few months before. But they all agreed that no one could endure the harsh mountain conditions for that long. A few days later, thanks to Catalan, the men were saved. The story they told was more terrifying and amazing than any of the cowboys could have imagined.

The men were named Nando Parrado and Roberto Canessa. They were members of a college rugby team from Montevideo, Uruguay. They had left Montevideo with the other members of their team on October 13 to fly to Santiago, Chile, for a match. As they flew over the Andes, the wings of the plane grazed a cliff and became detached. The plane veered out of control and crashed onto a high peak. Thirteen of the passengers were killed instantly, and another five died from their injuries the next day.

The remaining 27 passengers were despondent. They had no clothing for the weather, little food and water, and no medical supplies. There were two first-year medical students aboard the flight who did their best to set broken bones using parts taken from the wreckage. They also found a small radio, from which they learned that there were search parties looking for them. The radio proved to be a mixed blessing when they learned, after eight days, that the search had been called off.

A few days later, with their supplies almost gone, the team members consulted about how to survive. Unimaginable conditions forced them to reach a gruesome decision: They would have to eat their dead team members. The decision filled the men with agony, but they determined that it was their only choice.

A few days later, an avalanche pelted the plane with snow, burying the team members and killing eight more of the survivors. The remaining team members managed to dig themselves out. They realized at this point that their only hope for survival was to climb over the mountain peak to the west. For this task, they nominated Parrado, Canessa, and Antonion Vizintin. It would be another seven weeks before the weather was warm enough for them to leave.

The three men set off on December 12, 1972, two months after the crash. They slept in a sleeping bag they'd hand-sewn from parts of the plane. When they finally managed to clamber up the mountain, they discovered that the trip would take much longer than they'd expected. Vizintin returned to the crash site to tell the others, while Parrado and Canessa continued their trek. Finally, on December 23, a helicopter was sent to rescue the 16 remaining survivors. To this day, the story of the men's nightmarish ordeal remains an unsettling tale of the high price some must pay to survive.

1. Why was Sergio Catalan riding through the Andes Mountains?

- (A) He was on vacation.
- (B) He lived in the Andes.
- (C) He was working as a cowboy.
- (D) He was looking for the survivors.

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2. Why were the men flying to Chile?

- (A) For a rugby match
- (B) To return to college
- (C) To be in the Olympics
- (D) They were on spring break.

3. This story could best be described as

- (A) Satire
- (B) Fantasy
- (C) Autobiography
- (D) Nonfiction

4. What does the author mean when he describes the radio as a “mixed blessing”?

- (A) It was crucial to the men’s survival.
- (B) It was both good and bad.
- (C) It got a lot of stations.
- (D) It was not very powerful.

5. Why did Parrado, Canessa, and Vizintin have to wait seven weeks to look for help?

- (A) They did not have a warm sleeping bag.
- (B) They were trapped under an avalanche.
- (C) They were waiting for the weather to improve.
- (D) They were waiting for the search party to give up.



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14H Thinking Creatively

allege / bellow / beseech / clamber / consult / despondent / detach / endure / gruesome / legacy / maul / mortify / obnoxious / pelt / vengeance

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

1. What's the most **obnoxious** song you know?

2. What is something that has been **alleged** about you that isn't true?

3. Finish this sentence: "The most boring thing I've ever had to **endure** is..."

4. Write the last sentence of a **gruesome** fairy tale.

5. Write an ad for a breakfast cereal that makes people feel **despondent**.

Word Breakdown

The word *obnoxious* originally had a similar meaning to the word *noxious*, which means "harmful to health or physical well-being." If something was *obnoxious*, it was "liable to be hurt." For example, a child who ran out into the road would be considered *obnoxious*. No one is certain how the word changed to its modern meaning, but there's little doubt that someone who ran around putting himself in harm's way would probably be pretty *obnoxious*!

The word *mortify* has a root that is seen in many different words: the Latin root *mort-*, meaning "death." To *mortify* someone means to embarrass them so much they want to die. Other words that have the same root are *mortuary* (a place where dead bodies are kept), *mortician* (someone who prepares dead bodies for a funeral), and *immortal* (unable to die).