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COMMON CORE COMPATIBLE

Serafina and the Black Cloak and its educational materials are well suited for Common Core curriculum.

Educational Materials for *Serafina and the Black Cloak*

- Writing & Discussion
- Activities
- Vocabulary
- History

Go to robert-beatty.com/education for links to the PDF files, teacher testimonials, and other resources.

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A WORD GRAPHIC

#1 **Word:** _____

It looks like this: _____

Definition: _____

Synonyms _____

Antonyms _____

An original sentence: _____

#2 **Word:** _____

It looks like this: _____

Definition: _____

Synonyms _____

Antonyms _____

An original sentence: _____



FOUR SQUARE Vocabulary Style

- Select a vocabulary word.
- Write the word in the center box.
- Record the information from each circle in the square it's attached to.

<p>The definition in your words.</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>What the word has to do with the book.</p>
<p>A connection you have to the word— a memory, how it makes you feel...</p>			<p>_____</p>



WORD CARTOON

Select a vocabulary word and create a cartoon that either shows what the word means, or correctly uses the word.

word _____

definition _____

sentence _____

word _____

definition _____

sentence _____



Serafina's Southern Idioms

In addition to being filled with a variety of interesting standard English words, *Serafina and the Black Cloak* is filled with Southern dialect and local idioms. An *idiom* is an unusual word or expression that is characteristic of a certain people. Serafina and her pa are the characters in the story who tend to use these phrases, while the Vanderbilts tend to speak more standard English.

Southern Phrases

- A. He was as nettled as a badger in a porcupine fight.
- B. You're all scuffed up like a cornered possum.
- C. You sound like you don't know whether you're washin' the clothes or hangin' 'em out.
- D. They'll spit nails if they find me livin' down here.
- E. The whole story sounded like two buckets of hogwash.
- F. He hadn't spilled the grits about her existence.
- G. Her adventure in the mountains had left her as muddy as a mudpuppy on a rainy day.
- H. But she hadn't done that in a coon's age. (the lifetime of a racoon)
- I. Took off like a scalded dog.
- J. The ruckus in the bushes went on for a spell.

Southern Words

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| K. catawampus | tilted out of alignment |
| L. haint | a ghost |
| M. cockamamie | ridiculous and nonsensical |
| N. catamount | a cat-of-the-mountains, i.e. a mountain lion |
| O. varmint | an undesirable animal |
| P. pudden-headed | a head filled with pudding, i.e. not very smart |

ASSIGNMENTS

1. The story takes place in the South, specifically in the mountains of Asheville, North Carolina. The main character has a peculiar way of speaking and thinking. This is part of the story's "voice." What does Serafina's way of expression add to the story? She's using phrases that you may not be familiar with, but do they make you feel closer to the character or farther away?
2. What other stories have you read that utilize local dialect and idioms to achieve a strong voice?
3. Pick a different time and place (maybe even your own current time and place), and list several expressions or words that you might use to develop the voice of your story.



Serafina's Character-Driven Phrases

Serafina uses a variety of special phrases and words that help develop her character and enrich the voice of the story. Because of her unusual origin, most of these intertwine her viewpoint with the animal world.

- A. She knew there were no claws in that paw.
- B. Her chest filled with a sensation like she was drinking warm milk.
- C. She was like a baby fox who'd been raised by a coyote.
- D. Mr. Thorne had the same look on his face that a possum gets when he's gnawing on a sweet tater he's grubbed out of the garden.
- E. She moved as swift as a weasel through the brush.
- F. Words came spitting out of her like she was reprimanding an uppity rat she'd captured.
- G. His fingers moved so fast over the strings that they reminded her of little running mice and she wanted to pounce on them.
- H. It was the rats that gave her the scamper each night.
- I. She wasn't going to run away like a scared-out-of-her-wits squirrel.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Pick one or more of the phrases above and describe in your own words what it means and why the author used it in the way he did.
2. Using your imagination, describe a new character (such as a boy who loves dogs or a man who only thinks about fishing) and provide several phrases that character might use.



Figurative Language

Figurative Language is when a writer expresses meaning through the comparison of one thing to another in a creative way. This includes similes, metaphors, personification, and other techniques. In some cases, figurative language is meant to “paint a picture” in the reader’s mind. It’s best when the figurative language also captures the voice of the story. And of course, it’s important to avoid figurative language that breaks outside of the setting and character of the story, for example, it wouldn’t be good in this story if Serafina compared something to a computer, which she had never seen before. Here are a few examples of figurative language in the story:

- A. She felt her muscles and her senses coming alive, as if she were an owl stirring its wings and flexing its talons before it flies off for its ghostly hunt.
- B. Astounded by what she was seeing, she caught her breath and pressed herself to the wall, frozen in fear like a dark, little rabbit kit trembling beneath the shadow of a passing hawk.
- C. Darkness settled into the trees like a black oil.
- D. Mist oozed out of the forest like a legion of ghosts.
- E. His body emitted a frightening sizzling sound, like meat burning on a fire.
- F. Her corset felt like Satan’s bony hand gripping her around her chest and squeezing her tight.
- G. The cloak seemed to move of its own accord, wrapping, twisting, accompanied by a disturbing rattling noise, like the hissing threats of a hundred rattlesnakes.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Pick one or more of the examples above and explain what it means and why the author used it in the way he did.
2. Pick a character or item (such as the Black Cloak) in the story and use figurative language to describe.
3. Following-up on #2, now create figurative language that breaks outside the character’s point-of-view and/or the setting of the story.



Vocabulary Words and Definitions

Chapter I - THE BEGINNING

Chapter I

banter	the exchange of light and playful remarks
poise	in a state of balance and readiness “poised for the leap”
shoat	a little baby pig
rough-hewn	formed crudely, as if cut from an axe
dumbwaiter	a small elevator used for conveying food and dishes
emblazoned	decorated with brilliant colors
tantalizing	something that is tempting, but out of reach
dogged	marked by stubborn determination
vermin	disgusting animals that are difficult to control, such as rats
scullion	a low level kitchen servant



Chapter 2 - 8 INTO A NEW WORLD

Chapter 2	jolted	to jar suddenly into movement
	rummage	to search thoroughly by moving things arounds
	labyrinth	an intricate maze of paths
	loathsome	causing feelings of disgust
	levitate	to rise and float in the air
	pall	something that shrouds with gloom
	ravenous	extremely hungry
Chapter 3	specter	a terrifying ghost or spirit
	rapt	deeply interested in and focused on
	dexterous	skillful with the hands
	vex	to distress and annoy
	quip	to make a quick, clever remark
	coterie	an exclusive group or clique
	camaraderie	good fellowship
	cacophony	a unpleasant mixture of sounds
	alcove	a recess in wall for a door, window, or furniture
	damask	a fine fabric with patterns
	cravat	a cloth worn about the neck
	jodhpurs	riding pants
curmudgeon	a bad-tempered, difficult person	
Chapter 4	mesmerize	to fascinate and/or hypnotize
	sabotaged	to interfere with a machine or process
	writhing	to twist the body about, as in pain
	mewling	to cry like a young baby or animal
	nunnery	a building for nuns
	midwives	a person trained to assist women in childbirth
	riveted	to hold the attention of
Chapter 5	wraith	a visible evil spirit
	conjure	to make something happen by magic
	infuriated	to make very angry
	sloughed	to cast off, such as the skin of a snake
	galumphing	to move heavily and clumsily
	prodigy	a young person of extraordinary talent in a particular skill
	catawampus	tilted or out of alignment
	scullery	a small section of the kitchen where a particular task is done



Chapter 6

sputum	thick coughed up mucus
reprimand	a serve correction
ominous	indicate a bad future event
griffin	a fabled monster with head and wings of eagle, body of a lion
chimera	a fabled monster with a lion's head, goat's body, and serpent's tail
accost	to confront boldly
conspiratorial	a few people getting together secretly for unlawful purpose
skullduggery	dishonest activity
trepidation	trembling fear
ruse	a trick
aristocratic	fancy behavior and dress of the upper class
chastised	to criticize severely

Chapter 7

blatherskite	a person who talks at length without making much sense
foreboding	the feeling that something bad will happen
impenetrable	not being able to pierce or get through
skittishness	nervous and shy
carp	to complain
caterwaul	to utter long wailing howls like a distressed cat
voluminous	filling a large space

Chapter 8

impending	just about to happen
ally	a friend for a mutual benefit, such as to win a battle
fretted	worried
valiant	brave and good
wrought	produced by beating with a hammer
coquette	a girl who flirts lightheartedly with boys to win their affection
lavish	occurring in great amount
mortal	subject to death, belonging to his world
eccentric	deviating from ordinary practice
ilks	family, class, and/or kind
consternation	sudden dread that results in confusion
resplendent	shining brilliantly
soirees	an evening party with conversation, drinks, and music



Chapter 9 - 19 - THE FOREST

Chapter 9	bosage brazen suppress concealment portly yellow-bellied	a mass of tress and shrubs bold and without shame forcibly put an end to something that acts as a hiding place or cover having a stout, somewhat fat body cowardly
Chapter 10	emaciated perished obscured eviscerated cached raucous agitation illuminated dappled apocalyptic	abnormally thin due to illness or lack of food died to keep from being seen to have the guts ripped out of a collection of items stored in a hidden place making a disturbingly harsh and loud noise a state of anxiety and nervousness to light up marked with spots or round patches relating to the violent end of the world
Chapter 11	scalded raspy ambled oblivious delve	burned with hot liquid hoarse and/or harsh-sounding walk at a slow pace not aware to dig deep into something
Chapter 12	keen wretchedness peered rivulet terrain wolfing	sharp and intense with misery and sorrow to look narrowly in an effort to discern clearly a small stream the natural shape and features of the land to eat fast and harshly, like a wolf
Chapter 13	exhilarate balustrade perturbed cinch despair incessantly splendiferous palpable	to enliven with energy a railing to disturb the mind greatly a firm hold, such as the strap that holds a saddle to a horse the loss of hope unending magnificent capable of being touched or felt



Chapter 14	contorted envision grotesque exquisite douse	twisted in a violent manner to picture mentally, especially some future event unnatural in shape or appearance extraordinarily fine in quality and workmanship to extinguish something, such as a flame with water
Chapter 15	tome seething eluded blanched recoiled	a large, heavy book a state of extreme agitation and anger to avoid by speed and cleverness to make pale, especially with fear or surprise to draw back
Chapter 16	somber solace haggard depict disheartened ventilation shimmied cornucopian oblige virtuoso glumly	gloomy and serious comfort in the midst of sorrow or misfortune having a wasted or exhausted appearance represent by painting, drawing, or some other form of expression to depress hope and courage something that provides fresh air to dance, shake or wobble abundant and overflowing to place under debt for some favor a person who has special skill in a specific area sullen and dejected
Chapter 17	exasperation hogwash incredulously discombobulated	to irritate and agitate to a very high degree worthless, meaningless talk with skepticism, not believing disrupted, confused and upset
Chapter 18	toll ward garble	a payment or cost for something to turn aside or push away to jumble or mix up
Chapter 19	stratagem allure crystalline infinite forage hunker rills	a scheme for deceiving an enemy to attract shining like a crystal unlimited to look for food to get low and hide a trickle of water across the earth



Chapter 20 - 31 THE CLIMAX

Chapter 20	chasm tamp pliable malevolent promenade	a deep, wide crack in the earth to force down easily bent wishing evil or harm to others to stroll in a public play for pleasure and display
Chapter 21	convolution nemesis	a coiling together a person's specific enemy that cannot be defeated
Chapter 22	undeterred kin	not discouraged a person's family
Chapter 23	bellows ludicrous euphoric	device for producing a current of air, such as in a blacksmith shop laughingly absurd intensely happy and confident
Chapter 24	enigma anguish uppity	an inexplicable puzzle or situation intense mental pain rebellious or inflated in self-esteem beyond one's station in life
Chapter 25	awry putrefy potency peripheral debilitated rend buoyant visage roiled	away from the right direction decayed power to the side to make weak or incapable to tear apart having the quality of floating face to stir up



Chapter 26

wrest	to twist or take by force
relent	to give up
staunch	to stop the flow of blood or other liquid
emit	to give forth
enkindled	to light into flame or activity
effluence	something that flows out
revulsion	a strong feeling of repugnance and distaste
emanate	to flow out

Chapter 27

lucid	clear thinking
exultation	an expression of triumphant joy
reflexively	something done automatically, without thinking

Chapter 28

guttural	harsh and throaty
reel	to experience a feeling of spinning and dizziness
sinewy	lean, strong, and tough
trundling	to trot with an easy rolling gait

Chapter 29

beset	to attack on all sides
asunder	into separate parts

Chapter 30

casting	throwing forth, such as casting a fishing net
urgency	requiring immediate attention
betray	to do other harm by treachery or disloyalty
brindled	gray or tawny with darker streaks

Chapter 31

harrowing	extremely disturbing
tautness	tightly drawn
decipher	to make out the meaning of
smidgen	a very small amount
immensely	a huge amount
guardian	a person or thing that guards and protects



QUIZ Chapter I

Vocabulary Word

- ___ a. scullion
- ___ b. dogged
- ___ c. dumbwaiter
- ___ d. poise
- ___ e. rough-hewn
- ___ f. emblazoned
- ___ g. banter
- ___ h. shoat
- ___ i. tantalizing
- ___ j. vermin

Definition

1. marked by stubborn determination
2. in a state of balance and readiness
3. something that is tempting, but out of reach
4. decorated in brilliant colors
5. a small elevator for food & dishes
6. disgusting animals that are difficult to control
7. the exchange of light and playful remarks
8. a little baby pig
9. a low level kitchen servant
10. formed crudely, as if cut from an axe



QUIZ Chapters 2 - 8

Vocabulary Word

- ___ a. mewling
- ___ b. galumphing
- ___ c. accost
- ___ d. skullduggery
- ___ e. ruse
- ___ f. pall
- ___ g. vex
- ___ h. quip
- ___ i. cacophony
- ___ j. curmudgeon
- ___ k. blatherskite
- ___ l. carp
- ___ m. caterwaul
- ___ n. ilk
- ___ o. resplendent

Definition

1. a person who talks without making sense
2. shining brilliantly
3. to cry like a young baby or animal
4. a trick
5. to confront boldly
6. something that shrouds with gloom
7. to make a quick, clever remark
8. family, class, and/or kind
9. to complain
10. to distress and annoy
11. dishonest activity
12. to move heavily and clumsily
13. an unpleasant mixture of sounds
14. a bad-tempered, difficult person
15. to utter long wailing howls like a distressed cat



QUIZ Chapters 9 - 19

Vocabulary Word

- ___ a. brazen
- ___ b. delve
- ___ c. apocalyptic
- ___ d. dappled
- ___ e. raucous
- ___ f. tome
- ___ g. douse
- ___ h. palpable
- ___ i. cinch
- ___ j. keen
- ___ k. stratagem
- ___ l. discombobulated
- ___ m. ward
- ___ n. virtuoso
- ___ o. haggard

Definition

1. a large, heavy book
2. to turn aside or push away
3. a scheme for deceiving an enemy
4. sharp and intense
5. having a wasted or exhausted appearance
6. a person who has special skill in a specific area
7. capable of being touched or felt
8. disrupted, confused and upset
9. bold and without shame
10. making a disturbingly harsh and loud noise
11. marked with spots or round patches
12. to extinguish something, such as a flame with water
13. relating to the violent end of the world
14. a firm hold, such as a the strap that holds a saddle
15. to dig deep into something



QUIZ Chapters 20-31

Vocabulary Word

- ___ a. enigma
- ___ b. pliable
- ___ c. nemesis
- ___ d. kin
- ___ e. euphoric
- ___ f. smidgen
- ___ g. brindled
- ___ h. asunder
- ___ i. beset
- ___ j. reel
- ___ k. lucid
- ___ l. relent
- ___ m. wrest
- ___ n. rend
- ___ o. awry

Definition

1. away from the right direction
2. to experience a feeling of spinning and dizziness
3. to attack on all sides
4. gray or twany with darker streaks
5. to tear apart
6. a very small amount
7. into separate parts
8. clear thinking
9. easily bent
10. a person's specific enemy that cannot be defeated
11. a person's family
12. to twist or take by force
13. intensely happy and confident
14. an inexplicable puzzle or situation
15. to give up



QUIZ ANSWER KEY

Chapters 1

9 a
1 b
5 c
2 d
10 e
4 f
7 g
8 h
3 i
6 j

Chapters 2 - 8

3 a
12 b
5 c
11 d
4 e
6 f
10 g
7 h
13 i
14 j
1 K
9 l
15 m
8 n
2 o

Chapters 9 - 19

9 a
15 b
13 c
11 d
10 e
1 f
12 g
7 h
14 i
4 j
3 k
8 l
2 m
6 n
5 o

Chapters 20-31

14 a
9 b
10 c
11 d
13 e
6 f
4 g
7 h
3 i
2 j
8 k
15 i
12 m
5 n
1 o