

VOCABULARY ASSIGNMENT 4 *The Alchemist*

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. "The desert is a capricious lady, and sometimes she drives men crazy."

2. "There is no such thing as coincidence," said the Englishman, picking up the conversation where it had been interrupted in the warehouse.

3. The boy understood intuitively what he meant, even without ever having set foot in the desert before.

4. "They're not my sheep anymore," he said to himself, without nostalgia. "They must be used to their new shepherd, and have probably already forgotten me. That's good."

5. At other times, mysterious, hooded men would appear; they were Bedouins who did surveillance along the caravan route.

6. The travelers adopted the practice of arranging the animals in a circle at night, sleeping together in the center as protection against the nocturnal cold.

7. "You have a mania for simplifying everything," answered the Englishman, irritated. "Alchemy is a serious discipline."

8. There were oases throughout the desert, but the tribesmen fought in the desert, leaving oases as places of refuge.

9. But the Englishman was exultant. They were on the right track.

10. He had heard people speak of mirages, and had already seen some himself: they were desires that, because of their intensity, materialized over the sands of the desert.

The Alchemist Vocabulary Worksheet Assignment 4 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning -- Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| ___ 1. | CAPRICIOUS | A. Sentimental longing for the happiness of a former place or time |
| ___ 2. | COINCIDENCE | B. Shelter or protection from danger or trouble |
| ___ 3. | INTUITIVELY | C. Close observations of a person or group |
| ___ 4. | NOSTALGIA | D. Of or pertaining to the night |
| ___ 5. | SURVEILLANCE | E. Through natural insight; without learning |
| ___ 6. | NOCTURNAL | F. Optical illusions in sandy deserts caused by hot air |
| ___ 7. | MANIA | G. Subject to whim; impulsive and unpredictable |
| ___ 8. | REFUGE | H. Highly elated; jubilant; triumphant |
| ___ 9. | EXULTANT | I. Excessive excitement or enthusiasm; craze |
| ___ 10. | MIRAGES | J. Seemingly prearranged event that is merely accidental |