

Using Context Clues with Literature

Name: _____

Jules Verne published “Around the World in Eighty Days” in 1873. It’s the story of English gentleman Phineas Fogg who takes a bet that he can travel around the world in eighty days. This was almost impossible in those days with limited railroads and no air travel at all. The passage below is when Fogg tells his servant Passepartout to prepare for the trip. Read the passage and pay special attention to the underlined words. Complete the grid at the bottom of the page.



Around the World in Eighty Days *by Jules Verne*

“...We start for Dover and Calais in ten minutes.”

A puzzled grin overspread Passepartout’s round face; clearly he had not comprehended his master.

“Monsieur is going to leave home?”

“Yes,” returned Phileas Fogg. “We are going round the world.”

Passepartout opened wide his eyes, raised his eyebrows, held up his hands, and seemed about to collapse, so overcome was he with stupefied astonishment.

“Round the world!” he murmured.

“In eighty days,” responded Mr. Fogg. “So we haven’t a moment to lose.”

“But the trunks?” gasped Passepartout, unconsciously swaying his head from right to left.

“We’ll have no trunks; only a carpet-bag, with two shirts and three pairs of stockings for me, and the same for you. We’ll buy our clothes on the way. Bring down my mackintosh and traveling-cloak,

and some stout shoes, though we shall do little walking. Make haste!”

Passepartout mechanically set about making the preparations for departure. Around the world in eighty days! Was his master a fool? No. Was this a joke, then? They were going to Dover; good! To Calais; good again! After all, Passepartout, who had been away from France five years, would not be sorry to set foot on his native soil again. Perhaps they would go as far as Paris, and it would do his eyes good to see Paris once more. But surely a gentleman so chary of his steps would stop there; no doubt—but, then, it was none the less true that he was going away, this so domestic person hitherto!

By eight o’clock Passepartout had packed the modest carpet-bag, containing the wardrobes of his master and himself; then, still troubled in mind, he carefully shut the door of his room, and descended to Mr. Fogg.

Word	part of speech	What do you think it means?	What were your clues?
1. overspread			
2. returned			
3. stupefied			
4. carpet-bag			
5. mackintosh			
6. stout			
7. native			
8. chary			
9. hitherto			
10. wardrobes			

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Name: _____ **Key**

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Student answers will vary for columns 3-4 . Example of correct answers:

Word	part of speech	What do you think it means?	What were your clues?
1. overspread	verb	spread over	
2. returned	verb	replied	
3. stupefied	adjective	confused	
4. carpet-bag	noun	small piece of luggage	
5. mackintosh	noun	coat or raincoat	
6. stout	adjective	strong	
7. native	adjective	birth	
8. chary	adjective	careful	
9. hitherto	adjective	before	
10. wardrobes	noun	clothes	