

UNIT FIVE

JOC

Latin JOCUS “joke”

JOCOSE (djə kōs') *adj.* Cheerful; merry

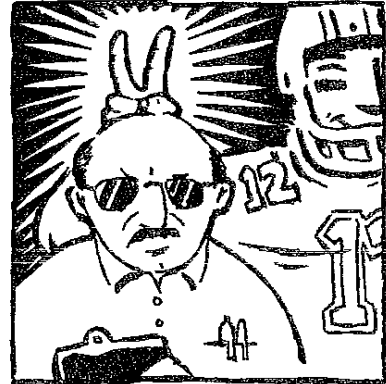
The *jocose* language of the play is a reflection of the playwright's youthful optimism.

syn: happy, mirthful *ant:* morose

JOCULAR (djo' kū lər) *adj.* Characterized by joking

When the normally serious brothers got together, their language became *jocular* and playful.

syn: jovial



The *JOCULAR JOCK* gave his coach bunny ears in the team photo.

FEST, FET

Latin FESTUS “festive”

FESTOON (fəs tōōn') *v.* To drape or adorn festively

During the holidays, the rafters of the old house were *festooned* with flowers and ribbons.

FETE (fāt) *v.* To honor with a banquet or feast

For her 80th birthday, Mrs. Okapi was *feted* by her many friends and admirers.

syn: to celebrate

III *Bacchus was associated not only with celebration and festivity, but also with loss of emotional control due to heightened intensity of experience. So, if you hear something described as “Bacchic,” think of a party raging wildly out of control.*

BACCH

From the name of the Roman god of wine and celebration BACCHUS

BACCHIC (bäk' ək) *adj.* Of or related to a wild celebration

The policeman reported that he had stumbled upon a *bacchic* gathering in the woods near the high school.

BACCHANAL (bäk' ə näl) *n.* A drunken party or celebration

Greg's graduation party turned into a wild *bacchanal* when his rowdy friend Mike showed up.

PLAINT

Latin PLANGERE, PLANCTUS “to lament”

PLAINTIVE (plān' təv) *adj.* Sorrowful; expressing or evoking mourning or sadness

The *plaintive* notes of the trumpet playing “Taps” floated over the funeral procession.

ant: joyful

PLAINT (plānt) *n.* A lament or complaint

Despite the *plaint* of the opera’s heroine, the soldier whom she loves returns to battle.

III The plaintiff in a legal case is someone who has a grievance or complaint; the defendant must answer the plaintiff’s charges.

ELEG

Greek ELEGOS “song of lament”

ELEGY (el' ə jē) *n.* A song or poem memorializing something or someone
Louis and Debbie had never been very close, so everyone was surprised when he wrote a lovely *elegy* for her after her untimely death.

ELEGIAC (el ə jē' ək) *adj.* Mourning that which is lost or past; sorrowful
Dave’s stories about his childhood took on a distinctly *elegiac* tone whenever they involved the loss of his two dogs in a car accident.

syn: mournful

EXERCISES - UNIT FIVE

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the *italicized* vocabulary word.

1. The members of the garden club were in a *jocose* mood because...
2. The poet's *plaint* about his true love was inspired by...
3. The office was *festooned* with crepe paper because...
4. The quiet dinner gathering quickly became a *bacchanal* when...
5. The *elegiac* tone of the speech my father gave at my wedding made it clear that he felt...
6. Dewey often fantasized about being *feted* for his...
7. As the participants in the *bacchic* procession moved along, they...
8. Millie's *plaintive* song made many in the audience think of...
9. Being of a naturally *jocular* disposition, Lloyd often...
10. In Barbara's *elegy* for her departed teacher, she says that...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

jocose feted elegiac festooned

1. The director tried desperately to get his depressed actors into the _____ mood they needed for the party scene.
2. The film ends on a(n) _____ note: the main character, recalling all the friends he has lost, sheds a single tear.
3. The sailboat was _____ with lights for the Bon Voyage banquet.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

plaints bacchanals elegy plaintive feted

4. A(n) _____ sob entered Beth's voice as she described her lost cat.
5. As a freshman in college, Bill was always ready to party away the night at one of the _____ thrown by his rowdy classmates.
6. Ignoring the _____ of the lovesick young man below her balcony, Andrea focused her telescope on a particular star.
7. Bobo and Chuckles _____ the founder of their organization with a splendid dinner at the Clown Club.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

elegiac bacchic jocular elegy

8. When Paris was liberated from the Nazis, crowds of people celebrated with _____ abandon.
9. To honor the departed princess, the musician recast one of his more popular tunes as a(n) _____ expressing sorrow and loss.
10. Janice said sternly that she did not appreciate our _____ behavior during what should have been a very solemn occasion.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. Lionel had entitled his poem "A(n) _____ Against My Cruel Girlfriend," but his _____ tone made it clear that he really felt no ill will.
 - A. fete; jocular
 - B. elegy; plaintive
 - C. plaint; jocular
 - D. bacchanal; jocose
2. _____ partygoers, laughing and dancing, wandered here and there in the great hall, which was _____ with strings of flowers.
 - A. Jocose; festooned
 - B. Plaintive; feted
 - C. Elegiac; plaintive
 - D. Bacchic; feted

3. The beloved leader had often been _____ by adoring followers during his life; now, in death, he was memorialized in a touching _____.
- festooned; elegy
 - feted; elegy
 - plaintive; bacchanal
 - jocose; fete
4. The author's _____ last book concludes that even the most glorious _____ of youth are brought to an end by sorrow and loss.
- plaintive; elegies
 - jocose; bacchanals
 - bacchic; fetes
 - elegiac; bacchanals
5. In the midst of the _____ celebration in the town square, a _____ and terrible cry was heard coming from the hills.
- bacchic; plaintive
 - jocular; elegiac
 - plaintive; jocose
 - festooned; plaintive

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the *italicized* word from its context.

- If Roberta chooses to open her concert with a *plaintive* ballad, she may be feeling...
- When Carl is *feted* by people who were once hostile to him, he may wonder if...
- Because Nicolas has a naturally *jocose* personality, he often makes other people feel...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

A bee gathers pollen from a flower and returns to her hive. When she meets another bee, she begins to move from side to side and walk forward and around in an odd way. As she walks, she vibrates rapidly back and forth. She repeats her strange moves several times.

A kind of kingfisher known as the Laughing Kookaburra lives in the trees of an Australian forest. The bird gets its name from the sound of its call, which resembles human laughter.

We might imagine that the bee is dancing for joy—maybe she is in the middle of some kind of _____ (BACCH) frenzy. Maybe the bird is always in a _____ (JOC) mood. But these are human emotions, and we have no way of knowing whether animals participate in the same experiences. When we assume we know how animals are “feeling,” we are engaging in *anthropomorphism*.

Anthropomorphism is the tendency to see human

actions and intention in the behavior of non-human organisms and objects. The word comes from two Greek roots: *anthropos*, which means “man,” and *morphe*, which means “shape.”

Anthropomorphism can have negative consequences for both people and animals. Animals don't have the same needs as humans; if we see them as just like us, we may do them more harm than good. For example, chimpanzees are often used in entertainment when they are young because they resemble human children. When they grow large and unmanageable, however, they must be removed from their homes and put in zoos or released back into the wild. Unskilled at living in the wild and traumatized by their separation from their human families, they are easy targets for predators or poachers.

People, on the other hand, need the “otherness” that comes from an unbiased study of nature. Human beings

have always seen themselves as the center of the universe; all other living things are measured against humanity. But it can be humbling and enlightening to see ourselves as part of the natural world—and it can help us live in harmony with our surroundings instead of in conflict.

The human brain always wants to make order out of

chaos—to make the unfamiliar familiar. This is why we imagine that animals are nothing more than oddly shaped people, with the same emotions and motivations as ourselves. Only by second-guessing this tendency, however, will we be able to fully appreciate the universe outside our own minds.

1. This passage primarily argues
 - A. for anthropomorphism.
 - B. against anthropomorphism.
 - C. against interaction with wildlife.
 - D. for living in harmony with nature.

2. Based on the main idea in this essay, which of the following would be inadvisable?
 - A. the destruction of natural habitat to build a shopping center
 - B. laws that make a distinction between animal rights and human rights
 - C. a scientific trial to find out why jellyfish are sad
 - D. a campaign to get homeless dogs and cats adopted

3. The author says that anthropomorphism is a natural result of our
 - A. desire to make sense of things.
 - B. will to destroy.
 - C. confusion about ourselves.
 - D. appreciation of the universe.

Exercise VI. Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the *italicized* words. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary.

The *festal* organ composition is supposed to mark a day of rejoicing for the Church. This year, however, the celebration was somewhat subdued. Members of the congregation are still mourning those lost in last autumn's disaster. By special arrangement, a solemn bell service was inserted into the middle of the musical piece. As the *plangent* tolling rang through the Church, the tears of those gathered flowed freely.