

## UNIT 2

### Introducing the Words

Read the following historical nonfiction passage about a hero of the American Revolution. Notice how the highlighted words are used. These are the words you will be learning in this unit.

## Sybil Ludington's Ride (Historical Nonfiction)

**L**isten my children and you shall hear of the midnight ride of . . . Sybil Ludington? Thanks to a very famous poem, almost everyone knows about Paul Revere. The name of Sybil Ludington, however, is probably unfamiliar. Yet like Revere, Ludington made an impressive midnight ride to warn American patriots—those fighting for independence—of an approaching British army.

In April 1777, two years after Revere's famous ride, British soldiers made an assault on Danbury, Connecticut, not too far from where sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington lived. The Continental Army, as the army of the Americans was called, stored supplies in Danbury, and the British strategy was to burn them. Once the supplies were destroyed, the British

began to burn the homes and workplaces of numerous patriots in Danbury. The villain in this raid was the British general William Tryon, who lost control of his soldiers and allowed them to hurt innocent citizens.

A messenger quickly rode out from Danbury with news of the attack. His destination was the mill of Colonel Henry Ludington in nearby New York State. Only Ludington, the leader of about four hundred patriot volunteers, could fight off the British. After hearing the news, Ludington quickly agreed to help, but his men were spread out for miles. Who would alert them?



This postage stamp honors Sybil Ludington's contribution to the cause of American freedom.





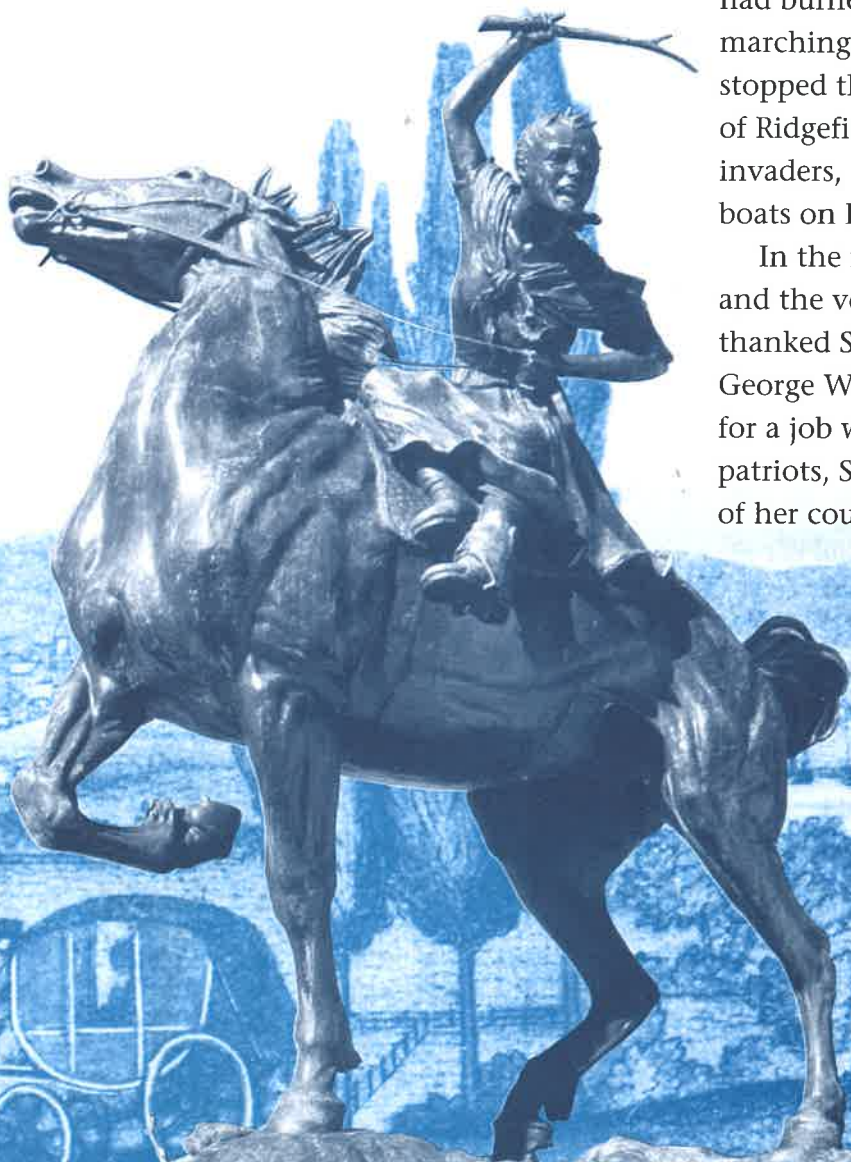
The messenger from Danbury did not know his way around the area. Ludington himself had to stay at home to assemble his soldiers as they arrived. Perhaps that's when Ludington's daughter Sybil volunteered to make the ride, or perhaps Ludington asked her to go. Either way, it was a shrewd choice. No one could dispute that Sybil was a skillful rider, and she knew the local roads well. Also, as the oldest of twelve children, she was used to responsibility. Sending Sybil was a decision that would be easy to justify.

Sybil quickly mounted her horse and rode off on her mission. It was after 9:00 P.M. and raining when she left, and in the darkness, the

rough unmarked trails could be misleading. Sybil never lost her way though, galloping from farm to village and calling out the news. In all, she rode forty miles that night, twice as far as Paul Revere. Along the way, she had to avoid British spies and soldiers. According to one account, she even used a type of gun called a musket to scare away some outlaws who preyed on travelers at night.

Sybil had a productive ride that night! When she arrived back home at dawn, more than four hundred patriot volunteers were gathering at her father's mill. Under Colonel Ludington, they were quickly converted into a regular fighting force. By now, the British had burned and abandoned Danbury and were marching inland. Ludington's forces, however, stopped the British advance. Later, at the Battle of Ridgefield, the patriots fought the British invaders, who eventually retreated to their boats on Long Island Sound.

In the months that followed, Sybil's father and the volunteers he led often praised and thanked Sybil for her heroic ride. Even General George Washington sent his congratulations for a job well done. Like so many other patriots, Sybil Ludington had come to the aid of her country.



## Definitions

You were introduced to the words below in the passage on pages 16–17. Study the pronunciation, spelling, part of speech, and definition of each word. Write the word in the blank space in the sentence that follows. Then read the synonyms and antonyms.

### Remember

A **noun** (n.) is a word that names a person, place, or thing.

A **verb** (v.) is a word or words that express action or a state of being.

An **adjective** (adj.) is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.

#### 1. abandon

(ə ban' dən)

(v.) to give up on completely; to leave with no intention of returning

The captain gave the order to \_\_\_\_\_ ship.

SYNONYMS: to desert, forsake, cease, surrender

ANTONYMS: to continue, stay, remain, occupy

#### 2. assault

(ə sôlt')

(n.) a violent attack

The victim was injured in the \_\_\_\_\_

(v.) to attack violently or suddenly

Dad dared us to \_\_\_\_\_ his snow fort.

SYNONYMS: (n.) an invasion, raid, mugging, beating; (v.) to besiege, storm

ANTONYMS: (v.) to protect, defend, resist

#### 3. convert

(v., kən vûrt';

n., kăn' vûrt)

(v.) to change from one form to another

A drop in temperature to 32° F will \_\_\_\_\_ water to ice.

(n.) a person who has changed from one opinion, belief, or religion to another

The new \_\_\_\_\_ was introduced to the congregation.

SYNONYMS: (v.) to transform, turn, alter, switch

ANTONYMS: (v.) to maintain, conserve, remain

#### 4. dispute

(di spyüt')

(v.) to argue, debate, quarrel over; to question or doubt the truth of

The committee did not \_\_\_\_\_ the merits of the bill.

(n.) an argument, quarrel, debate

Why not try to resolve the \_\_\_\_\_ peacefully?

SYNONYMS: (v.) to differ, disagree; contest, challenge; (n.) a conflict, disagreement, controversy

ANTONYMS: (v.) to agree, harmonize; (n.) an agreement, understanding, accord

#### 5. impressive

(im pre' siv)

(adj.) having a strong effect, commanding attention

The skater gave an \_\_\_\_\_ performance.

SYNONYMS: memorable, striking, stirring, thrilling, awesome, splendid

ANTONYMS: inferior, mediocre







**6. justify**  
(jus' tə fi)

(v.) to show to be fair or right; to give good reasons for

*Be prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ your behavior.*

SYNONYMS: to defend, explain, support, excuse

ANTONYMS: to convict, blame, accuse

**7. misleading**  
(mis lē' dīŋ)

(adj.) tending to give a wrong idea, often on purpose

*The lawyer called the statement \_\_\_\_\_.*

SYNONYMS: deceptive, false, tricky, inaccurate

ANTONYMS: direct, honest, true, accurate, straightforward

**8. numerous**  
(nūm' rəs)

(adj.) many or very many

*\_\_\_\_\_ aunts and uncles came to our family reunion.*

SYNONYMS: several, plenty, plentiful

ANTONYM: few

**9. productive**  
(prə duk' tiv)

(adj.) making or capable of making large amounts of; giving good results

*With care, it may become a \_\_\_\_\_ orchard.*

SYNONYMS: energetic, effective, fruitful, efficient, worthwhile

ANTONYMS: unproductive, idle, useless, inactive

**10. shrewd**  
(shrüd)

(adj.) showing clever judgment and practical understanding

*My aunt is a \_\_\_\_\_ businesswoman.*

SYNONYMS: artful, wise, sharp, crafty, wily, cunning

ANTONYMS: slow, stupid, dull-witted

**11. strategy**  
(stra' tə jē)

(n.) a carefully made plan or plot; a plan of military operations

*Our teacher suggested a test-taking \_\_\_\_\_.*

SYNONYMS: an approach, design, method, scheme

**12. villain**  
(vi' lən)

(n.) an evil or wicked person or character, especially in a story or play

*In old movies, the \_\_\_\_\_  
often wore a black hat.*

SYNONYMS: a scoundrel, rascal, outlaw, criminal

ANTONYMS: a hero, heroine, champion





## Match the Meaning

For each item below, choose the word whose meaning is suggested by the clue given. Then write the word in the space provided.

- A violent or sudden attack is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. convert      b. assault      c. strategy      d. villain
- When I carefully make a plan, I am preparing my \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. strategy      b. dispute      c. villain      d. convert
- People who change their religion are \_\_\_\_\_ to the new religion.  
a. disputes      b. converts      c. strategies      d. villains
- To give reasons for what you do is to \_\_\_\_\_ your actions.  
a. justify      b. abandon      c. assault      d. convert
- Some advertisements can be \_\_\_\_\_ if they leave out key details or make false claims.  
a. misleading      b. numerous      c. productive      d. impressive
- The most wicked character in the story is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. assault      b. strategy      c. villain      d. dispute
- A vegetarian cookbook might give \_\_\_\_\_ recipes for rice dishes and fruit salads.  
a. productive      b. shrewd      c. misleading      d. numerous
- To give up on something is to \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
a. assault      b. abandon      c. convert      d. justify
- Another word for an argument or quarrel is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. convert      b. strategy      c. villain      d. dispute
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ person is one who gets a lot done.  
a. productive      b. shrewd      c. misleading      d. impressive
- The Grand Canyon is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ sight.  
a. shrewd      b. misleading      c. impressive      d. numerous
- To be clever and practical is to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. misleading      b. shrewd      c. productive      d. numerous



At half-time, the team developed a **strategy** for winning the game.

## Synonyms

For each item below, choose the word that is most nearly the **same** in meaning as the word or phrase in **boldface**. Then write your choice on the line provided.

1. **change** starch to sugar

- a. abandon      b. assault      c. dispute      d. convert      \_\_\_\_\_

2. **supported** the decision

- a. abandoned      b. assaulted      c. justified      d. converted      \_\_\_\_\_

3. a **thrilling** performance

- a. misleading      b. numerous      c. shrewd      d. impressive      \_\_\_\_\_

4. tried to be more **effective**

- a. numerous      b. misleading      c. productive      d. shrewd      \_\_\_\_\_

5. a problem-solving **approach**

- a. strategy      b. assault      c. dispute      d. villain      \_\_\_\_\_

6. a **crafty** move

- a. misleading      b. impressive      c. shrewd      d. productive      \_\_\_\_\_

## Antonyms

For each item below, choose the word that is most nearly **opposite** in meaning to the word or phrase in **boldface**. Then write your choice on the line provided.

1. **agreed with** the umpire's call

- a. disputed      b. assaulted      c. converted      d. justified      \_\_\_\_\_

2. **few** paint colors

- a. shrewd      b. misleading      c. numerous      d. productive      \_\_\_\_\_

3. **occupy** the old shack

- a. assault      b. convert      c. abandon      d. justify      \_\_\_\_\_

4. **defended** the bridge

- a. converted      b. assaulted      c. disputed      d. justified      \_\_\_\_\_

5. the **hero** of the movie

- a. convert      b. assault      c. strategy      d. villain      \_\_\_\_\_

6. gave **accurate** directions to the tourist

- a. impressive      b. misleading      c. numerous      d. productive      \_\_\_\_\_



## Completing the Sentence

Choose the word from the box that best completes each item below. Then write the word in the space provided. (You may have to change the word's ending.)

abandon	assault	convert
dispute	impressive	justify
misleading	numerous	productive
shrewd	strategy	villain

### Greeks and Trojans at War

- Both the Greek poet Homer and the Roman poet Virgil wrote of the ten-year siege of Troy by the Greeks and of the heroes and \_\_\_\_\_ who did battle there.
- One of the most famous stories describes the sly \_\_\_\_\_ that the Greeks thought up to defeat the Trojans.
- The Greeks had tried not once but on \_\_\_\_\_ occasions to force the Trojans to surrender the fortress city.
- Several times the Greeks had \_\_\_\_\_ the walls of Troy, but all of the attacks had failed.
- Finally, the Greeks came up with a \_\_\_\_\_ plan: They left at the gates of Troy a huge wooden horse as a pretended peace offering. The Trojans brought the horse inside the city walls.
- But the wooden horse was a \_\_\_\_\_ gift, for hidden inside its huge body was a small army of Greeks, who at nightfall climbed from the horse and opened the gates to the city.

### A False Science

- Alchemists were people who believed that it was possible to \_\_\_\_\_ ordinary metals, such as iron and lead, into gold. The best-known alchemists are those who practiced in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- They staged very \_\_\_\_\_ experiments to try to convince others that they could do as they promised.
- Some people believed that the possibility of great wealth \_\_\_\_\_ even the most far-fetched experiments.
- Scientists today would \_\_\_\_\_ the ideas of the alchemists, but centuries ago many people believed that their ideas were sound. In fact, it was not until the 1800s that scientists proved that base metals cannot be turned into gold.
- Failure upon failure finally persuaded most alchemists to \_\_\_\_\_ their dreams of wealth and glory.
- In a way, the work that the alchemists did was \_\_\_\_\_ because it sometimes led to advances in chemistry. During the Middle Ages, for example, alchemists were responsible for the discovery of mineral acids.



## Word Associations



Circle the letter next to the word or expression that best completes the sentence or answers the question. Pay special attention to the word in **boldface**.

1. A person who has been **abandoned**
  - a. would feel powerful.
  - b. would feel bold.
  - c. would feel happy.
  - d. would feel lonely.
2. If you **convert** a room, you
  - a. leave it the same.
  - b. hide in it.
  - c. change it.
  - d. take a picture of it.
3. You might expect a **villain** to
  - a. volunteer in a soup kitchen.
  - b. receive an award.
  - c. play the cello.
  - d. kidnap someone.
4. A really **impressive** baseball team would
  - a. use extra players.
  - b. lack the proper equipment.
  - c. lead the league.
  - d. play only night games.
5. Which might stop an **assault**?
  - a. a good night's sleep
  - b. a police officer
  - c. a salt shaker
  - d. a rocking horse
6. A winning **strategy** involves
  - a. careful planning.
  - b. lots of money.
  - c. powerful friends.
  - d. reckless bravery.
7. On a **productive** day you would
  - a. play outside.
  - b. get a lot done.
  - c. stay inside.
  - d. get nothing done.
8. If your friends are **numerous**,
  - a. you have very few of them.
  - b. they live nearby.
  - c. you have a lot of them.
  - d. they live far away.
9. **Misleading** information should usually be
  - a. ignored.
  - b. memorized.
  - c. published.
  - d. relied upon.
10. When I **justify** my claims,
  - a. I take them back.
  - b. I lose them.
  - c. I defend them.
  - d. I get sued.
11. A **shrewd** person would probably
  - a. get lost.
  - b. get a good deal.
  - c. get a warm welcome.
  - d. get fooled.
12. The best way to end a **dispute** is to
  - a. shake hands.
  - b. skip lunch.
  - c. argue.
  - d. wrestle.