

# LESSON 18

from **Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family** (informational)  
by Yoshiko Uchida

It was one of those rare Sundays when we had no guests for dinner. My parents, sister, and I had just come home from church and were having a quiet lunch when we heard a **frenzied** voice on the radio break in on the program. The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

"Oh no," Mama cried out. "It can't be true."

"Of course not," Papa **reassured** her. "And if it is, it's only the work of a **fanatic**."

We all agreed with him. Of course it could only be an **aberrant** act of some crazy **irresponsible** fool. It never for a moment occurred to any of us that this meant war. As a matter of fact, I was more concerned about my approaching finals at the university than I was with this **bizarre** news and went to the library to study. When I got there, I found clusters of Nisei [Japanese American]

students anxiously discussing the shocking event. But we all agreed it was only a **freak incident** and turned our attention to our books. I **stayed** at the library until 5:00 P.M. giving no further thought to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

When I got home, the house was filled with an uneasy quiet. A strange man sat in our living room and my father was gone. The FBI had come to pick him up, as they had dozens of other Japanese men, **Executives** of Japanese business firms, shipping lines, and banks, men active in local Japanese associations, teachers of Japanese language school, **virtually** every leader of the Japanese American community along the West Coast had been seized almost immediately.

## • • Exercise 1: Context Clues

Read the passage above, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.

### Master Words

Place a check by words you feel you know; underline words you don't know.

aberrant	executive	freak	incident	reassure
bizarre	fanatic	frenzied	irresponsible	virtually

## Exercise 2: Using Context Clues

Fill in the form for each of the Master Words listed below with context clues (if any), your definition, and the dictionary definition. If you have difficulty writing a definition, use the word in a sentence instead.

1. **aberrant** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **bizarre** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **executive** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **fanatic** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **freak** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **frenzied** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **incident** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **irresponsible** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **reassure** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

10. **virtually** Part of Speech: *adv.* Context Clues: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 3: Using Words in Context

Use the synonyms and antonyms in the word list to fill in the blanks except where you see an X.

	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. frenzied	_____	_____
2. reassure	_____	_____
3. fanatic	_____	_____
4. aberrant	_____	_____
5. irresponsible	_____	_____
6. bizarre	_____	_____
7. freak	_____	_____
8. virtually	_____	_____
9. incident	_____	X
10. executive	_____	_____

Word List	
administrator	laborer
agitated	moderate
alarm	normal
calmed	occurrence
comfort	strange
deviant	trustworthy
essentially	typical
extremist	unexplained
frantic	unreliable
hardly	

### Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

- The sharks thrashed about in the water: a perfect example of ...?... feeding. \_\_\_\_\_
- The ...?... regularly worked alongside the employees to get a better understanding of their jobs. \_\_\_\_\_
- It took ...?... the whole day just to climb from the road to the lake. \_\_\_\_\_
- After the third ...?... of a missing valuable, we called in the local police. \_\_\_\_\_
- The storm was a ...?... incident of nature, arising with no warning and disappearing before warnings could be issued. \_\_\_\_\_
- The software flags ...?... activity to protect the system from viruses. \_\_\_\_\_
- The bombing was blamed on a ...?... in a terrorist group. \_\_\_\_\_
- The lost child was crying. He clearly needed someone to ...?... him. \_\_\_\_\_
- It was ...?... of the babysitter to leave the children unattended. \_\_\_\_\_
- She dressed in ...?... outfits; it was part of her charm. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 5: Shades of Meaning

The bold words in the chart below are Master Words. Beneath each is a synonym. Although their denotations (dictionary definitions) are nearly the same, the Master Word and its synonym have different shades of meaning, or connotations. Based on the context, decide whether a Master Word or its synonym would better complete each sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary.

<b>aberrant</b>	<b>frenzied</b>	<b>irresponsible</b>	<b>reassure</b>
unacceptable	wild	shiftless	comfort

- We attended the funeral to ...?... the family members.
- He screamed at the top of his lungs in (a, an) ...?... outburst.
- Submitting a handwritten term paper that is hard to read is ...?...
- Please try to be less ...?... with the duties you have been assigned.
- I want to ...?... you that I will be on time as I promised.
- The dog's behavior was ...?... for him, since he never barks.
- I don't want that ...?... drifter sleeping in our barn and causing trouble.
- Unless they are very young, most ...?... animals are impossible to tame.

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## Exercise 6: Analogies

Determine the relationship between the first pair of words below. Then write the Master Word on the blank that would create a similar relationship with the second pair of words. The types of analogies used are actor/action, adjective/related noun, noun/related adjective, degree, and synonyms. (See page 158 for a guide to analogy types.)

- fan : enthusiastic :: \_\_\_\_\_ : unreasonable
- servant : obey :: \_\_\_\_\_ : manage
- brilliant : genius :: \_\_\_\_\_ : shirker
- often : frequently :: nearly : \_\_\_\_\_
- content : overjoyed :: upset : \_\_\_\_\_

### Write About It: Unexpected Event

Write a brief narrative about a time when what you expected to happen was not what actually occurred. Use at least four Master Words. Craft a clear beginning, middle, and ending, and use transitions to help the story flow smoothly.