



The Last Book in the Universe

by Rodman Philbrook

Power Vocabulary List

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AGREEMENT*

Pronunciation uh-gree-muhnt

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 the act or fact of agreeing

Word Used in Context

They made an **agreement** to meet for lunch every Monday.

Since the two opposing sides could not come to an **agreement**, they decided to abandon the plan.

Josie had an **agreement** with her mother that they would share the responsibility of cooking.

ASSUME*

Pronunciation uh-soom

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to suppose that something is true, without checking it

Word Used in Context

Bob did not want to **assume** that his brother had taken his CD, so he went and asked him if he had.

When her friend wasn't at home, Dorie would always **assume** she was at the mall because shopping was her favorite thing to do.

It is not a good idea to **assume** anything without having all of the correct information about it.

BANISH

Pronunciation ban-ish

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to send someone away from a place and order the person not to return

Word Used in Context

In some civilizations, a criminal is **banished** from the town and told to never return.

The club agreed to **banish** any members who shared the group's secrets.

The king wanted to **banish** his own son from the kingdom because he was a threat to the throne.

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BARELY*

Pronunciation bair-lee

Part of Speech adverb

Definition 1 hardly, or almost not

Word Used in Context

While she was sick, she **barely** had the energy to walk around the house.

Maxine came in just as class was starting and she realized that she had **barely** made it on time.

Paul's was so interested in his book that he **barely** even heard the phone ring.

CONFER

Pronunciation kuhn-fur

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to give someone something, such as a gift, an honor, or a reward

Word Used in Context

The judges had to **confer** the prize to the student who wrote the best essay.

The king decided to **confer** the country's highest medal on the brave knight.

The scout leader decided to **confer** the badge of honor to Mike.

CONNECTION*

Pronunciation kuh-nek-shuhn

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 a link between objects, people, ideas, etc

Word Used in Context

How does one account for the extraordinary **connection** between humans and chimpanzees?

When the strangers met at the party, the first thing they did was establish a **connection**.

She felt a **connection** to her past when she went back to visit the home of her ancestors.

CUNNING*

Pronunciation kuhn-ing

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 dexterous or crafty in the use of special resources or in attaining an end

Word Used in Context

Lions are **cunning** when they hunt prey, hiding in underbrush first so the attack is a surprise.

He had to be **cunning** to sneak into the building without anyone seeing him.

She was a **cunning** chess player who beat nearly all of her opponents.

DESPAIR*

Pronunciation di-spair

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to lose hope completely

Word Used in Context

Ella tried not to **despair** even though her most valuable possessions had been stolen.

Jason knew he would **despair** if he lost the race he had been training for all season.

They did not **despair** the minor setback because they knew they would still succeed at their mission.

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DISOBEY

Pronunciation diss-oh-**bay**

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to go against the rules or someone's wishes

Word Used in Context

She was taught at a very young age not to **disobey** her parents or she would be punished.

Those who **disobey** the law often end up in jail.

The students all respected their teacher and did not want to **disobey** her.

EXCEPTION

Pronunciation ek-**sep**-shuhn

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 something that is not included in a general rule or statement

Word Used in Context

Freshmen were not allowed to take the advanced class, but the teacher made an **exception** for the very bright student.

"There is an **exception** to almost every rule," her mother told her.

Although no one was allowed to leave the room during the test, the teacher made an **exception** for the sick student who had to go take his medicine.

HOMAGE

Pronunciation om-ij

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 an expression of high regard

Word Used in Context

The people paid **homage** to their leader by bringing him gifts.

The town built a statue to give **homage** to the war heroes.

The sculpture paid **homage** to sailors lost at sea.

IGNORANCE*

Pronunciation ig-nuh-ruhns

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 lack of knowledge, education, or awareness

Word Used in Context

The students' **ignorance** about the Earth's atmosphere would be eliminated when they learned more about it.

Her **ignorance** about literature made her unpopular at the book club meetings.

Alex didn't like to show his **ignorance** about sports, so he rarely talked about it.

ILLUSION

Pronunciation i-**loo**-zhuhn

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 something that appears to exist but does not

Word Used in Context

The magician's trick looked real, but it was only an **illusion**.

A mirage is the **illusion** of water in the desert when there is actually none there.

The painter created the **illusion** of depth in his paintings by including many shadows.

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IMAGE*

Pronunciation im-ij

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 a representation, such as a picture or a statue

Word Used in Context

The **image** of the girl in the painting was so lovely that hundreds of people came to the museum to see it.

The **image** of the clown on TV made the baby laugh.

Ken would never forget the **image** of his little sister waiting for him at the door after school.

PATHETIC

Pronunciation puh-thet-ik

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 causing pity, sorrow, or sympathy

Word Used in Context

The sight of the sick bird was so **pathetic** that Mimi began to cry.

The charity wanted to raise money for all of the **pathetic** children who did not have enough food.

The small dying plant looked **pathetic** in the large fancy pot.

REACTION

Pronunciation ree-ak-shuhn

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 an action in response to something

Word Used in Context

Angie had a delighted **reaction** when she walked into her surprise birthday party.

He always had a negative **reaction** to people who liked to brag a lot.

Frannie was pleased with her mother's happy **reaction** to seeing that the house was completely clean.

REMEDY*

Pronunciation rem-uh-dee

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 something that relieves pain, cures a disease, or corrects a disorder

Word Used in Context

The **remedy** for strep throat is usually antibiotics, which kill the infection.

While there is no real **remedy** for the common cold, many people rely on chicken soup and plenty of rest.

Doctors worked for years to find a **remedy** for the mysterious illness.

SPECIFIC

Pronunciation spi-sif-ik

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 particular, definite, or individually named

Word Used in Context

Wendy wanted a **specific** dress for the dance, and would not settle for anything different.

The waiter asked her to be more **specific** about what she would like to drink when she just said, "Soda."

Faith only liked a **specific** brand of pasta sauce because she thought it tasted the best.

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SURVIVAL

Pronunciation sur-**vive**-uhl

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 the continuation of life or existence

Word Used in Context

The **survival** of each living thing depends upon how well it has adapted to its environment.

Survival in the wilderness depends on one's ability to find food, water, and shelter.

The battle for food and **survival** goes on constantly in the food chain.

TRANSPARENT*

Pronunciation trans-**pair**-uhnt

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 having the property of transmitting light so that bodies lying beyond are seen clearly

Word Used in Context

A window is **transparent**.

Emily liked containers with **transparent** lids so she could see what was inside.

The curtain had worn so thin that it was **transparent** and Lori could see right through it.

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Power Vocabulary Activity



W H A I G N O R A N C E T I
D E S P A I R A S S U M E S
C U N N I N G H S I N A B S
L P A A G R E E M E N T N G
S A F T N E R A P S N A R T
U T O R E A C T I O N R T H
R H A I L L U S I O N C B O
V E T D I S O B E Y I C A M
I T R E M E D Y A L U R R A
V I B A N O I T P E C X E G
A C N C O N F E R V E H L E
L I C I F I C E P S C L Y E
T A C O N N E C T I O N K V
E E Z I M A G E Z M S R T Q

Directions: For each vocabulary word below, circle it in the letter grid above—up and down, across, backwards or diagonally. Going across each row starting at the top left, place each unused letter on a blank until you reveal the hidden message.

AGREEMENT	CONNECTION	HOMAGE	REACTION
ASSUME	CUNNING	IGNORANCE	REMEDY
BANISH	DESPAIR	ILLUSION	SPECIFIC
BARELY	DISOBEY	IMAGE	SURVIVAL
CONFER	EXCEPTION	PATHETIC	TRANSPARENT

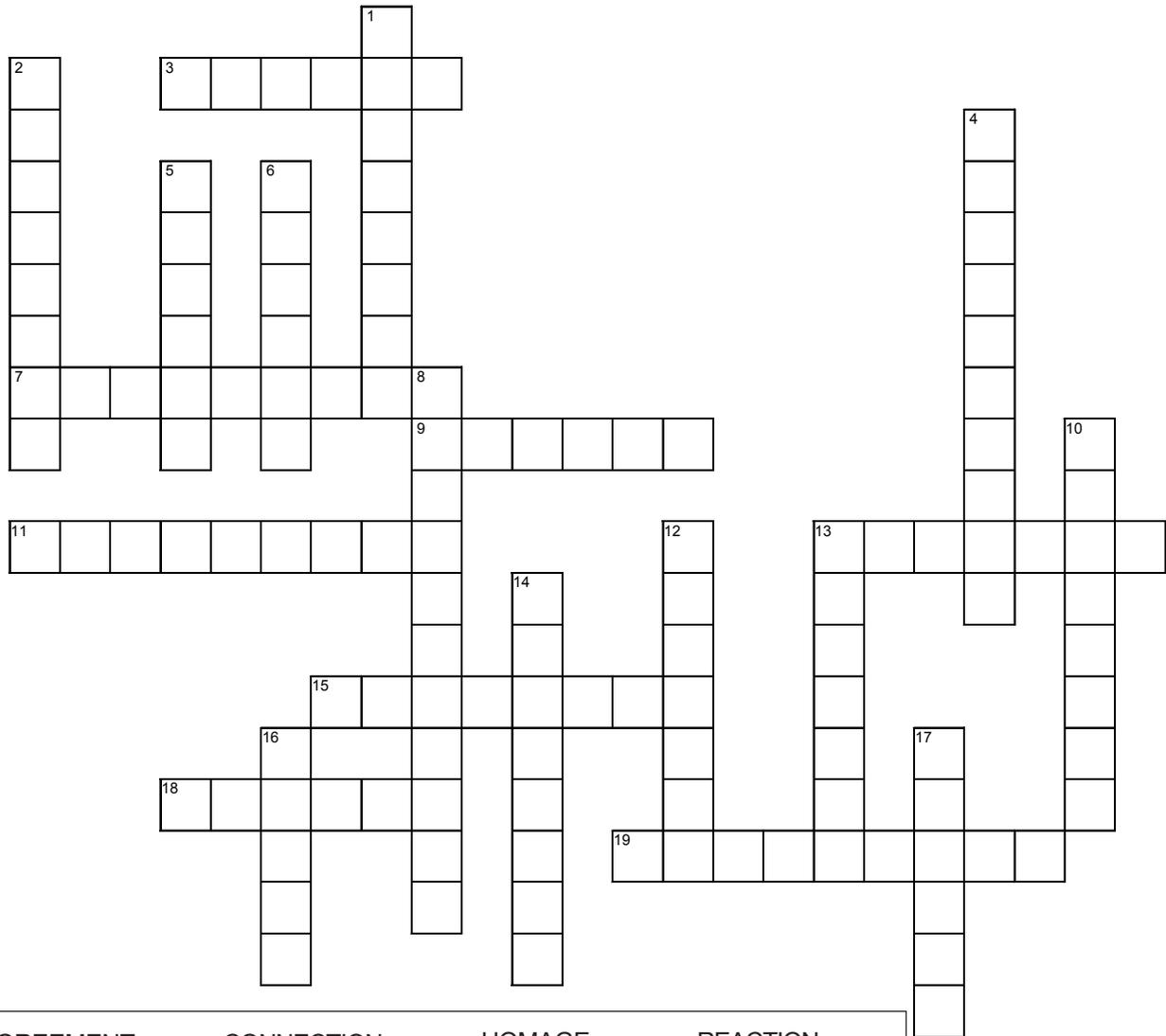
Hidden Message:

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AGREEMENT	CONNECTION	HOMAGE	REACTION
ASSUME	CUNNING	IGNORANCE	REMEDY
BANISH	DESPAIR	ILLUSION	SPECIFIC
BARELY	DISOBEY	IMAGE	SURVIVAL
CONFER	EXCEPTION	PATHETIC	TRANSPARENT

Across

- 3. hardly, or almost not
- 7. the act or fact of agreeing
- 9. something that relieves pain, cures a disease, or corrects a disorder
- 11. something that is not included in a general rule or statement
- 13. to go against the rules or someone's wishes
- 15. an action in response to something
- 18. an expression of high regard
- 19. lack of knowledge, education, or awareness

Down

- 1. something that appears to exist but does not
- 2. the continuation of life or existence
- 4. a link between objects, people, ideas, etc
- 5. to give someone something, such as a gift, an honor, or a reward
- 6. to suppose that something is true, without checking it
- 8. having the property of transmitting light so that bodies lying beyond are seen clearly
- 10. particular, definite, or individually named
- 12. dexterous or crafty in the use of special resources or in attaining an end

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Power Vocabulary Activity



Directions: For each vocabulary word in the left column, locate its definition in the right column. Write the number of the correct definition in the blank before the word.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| agreement | 1. to go against the rules or someone's wishes |
| assume | 2. particular, definite, or individually named |
| banish | 3. the continuation of life or existence |
| barely | 4. to send someone away from a place and order the person not to return |
| confer | 5. the act or fact of agreeing |
| connection | 6. having the property of transmitting light so that bodies lying beyond are seen clearly |
| cunning | 7. to lose hope completely |
| despair | 8. to suppose that something is true, without checking it |
| disobey | 9. something that appears to exist but does not |
| exception | 10. dexterous or crafty in the use of special resources or in attaining an end |
| homage | 11. something that relieves pain, cures a disease, or corrects a disorder |
| ignorance | 12. an expression of high regard |
| illusion | 13. something that is not included in a general rule or statement |
| image | 14. lack of knowledge, education, or awareness |
| pathetic | 15. a link between objects, people, ideas, etc |
| reaction | 16. a representation, such as a picture or a statue |
| remedy | 17. to give someone something, such as a gift, an honor, or a reward |
| specific | 18. hardly, or almost not |
| survival | 19. an action in response to something |
| transparent | 20. causing pity, sorrow, or sympathy |

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Power Vocabulary Assessment



Directions: Now that you have completed *The Last Book in the Universe*, it's time to see if you can use the Power Vocabulary Words you learned while reading this book. Look at each of the sentences below and fill in the Power Vocabulary Word that would best complete the sentence.

AGREEMENT	CONNECTION	HOMAGE	REACTION
ASSUME	CUNNING	IGNORANCE	REMEDY
BANISH	DESPAIR	ILLUSION	SPECIFIC
BARELY	DISOBEY	IMAGE	SURVIVAL
CONFER	EXCEPTION	PATHETIC	TRANSPARENT

1. Ken's plan to beautify the neighborhood was very _____, including which plants he wanted in certain locations.
2. When all of the jury members had reached an _____, they submitted their verdict.
3. After the fire in his house, Henry sifted through the damage looking sad and _____.
4. He had been trapped on the deserted island for so long without being rescued that he thought the oncoming ship was just an _____.
5. Even though his car was in the driveway, Ellie did not _____ that her husband was home because he often liked to take walks in the evening.
6. She looked at her _____ in the mirror and wondered what she would look like in ten years.
7. Her father admitted that he did _____ when he lost his job, but regained hope soon afterward.
8. One _____ for anemia is to eat foods rich in iron, like red meat and spinach.
9. After the neighbor's dog attacked her cat, she decided to _____ the dog from her property.
10. The _____ fox waits for its prey to come close enough that he can pounce on it.
11. The other civic club members found her _____ about current events to be annoying.
12. Great nobles paid _____ to their king.
13. The castle housed all the food and water necessary for the _____ of the court in the case of a siege.
14. Because they both enjoyed the same books, sports, and music, they felt an immediate _____ between them.
15. The glass of the window had been etched so that it was not completely _____.

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Power Vocabulary Assessment



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16. Abe's first _____ was anger, but he tried to calm down before he said anything.
 17. Although the soccer team was only for boys, the coach made an _____ and let the talented girl join the team.
 18. Helen decided to _____ her father and stay out an hour later than he allowed.
 19. She could _____ stand to watch the horror movie because it was so scary.
 20. The teacher wanted to _____ the attendance award to Ricky, who had never missed class.