

- Read the Vocabulary Words and their definitions. Then write the Vocabulary Word that best completes each sentence.

**gestured:** made a physical movement to help express an idea

**muster:** summon; gather together

**significance:** meaning or importance

**tentative:** hesitant; uncertain

**appreciatively:** in a manner that shows sympathy; thankfully

**mystified:** puzzled



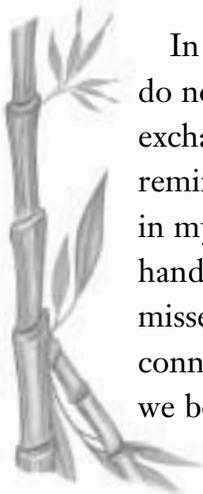
1. We cannot figure out what happened. We are \_\_\_\_\_ by the whole thing.
2. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of this necklace? Why is it so special to you?
3. Minh was unsure about going into her new school. Then she took a \_\_\_\_\_ step into the classroom.
4. Roberta \_\_\_\_\_ opened the gift.
5. "Come over here," Jacob called to me. At the same time, he \_\_\_\_\_ with his hand.
6. Do not be afraid. \_\_\_\_\_ your courage and try your best.

- Write the letter of the word that has nearly the same meaning as the Vocabulary Word.

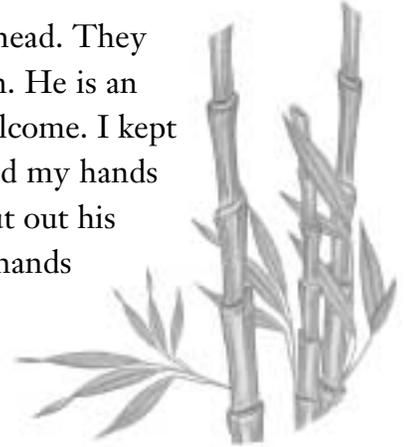
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|--------------------------|---------------|
| _____ 7. mystified       | a. importance |
| _____ 8. significance    | b. hesitant   |
| _____ 9. tentative       | c. gratefully |
| _____ 10. appreciatively | d. confused   |

**TO THE TEACHER:** Read aloud the directions and ask the students to read silently with you. Ask for volunteers to say each word and then use the word in a sentence. Begin a class discussion about being new in a school. Encourage students to use the Vocabulary Words in the discussion.

- Read the paragraph. Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.



In Vietnam people greet each other with a nod of the head. They do not shake hands for this. I was planning to meet Hahn. He is an exchange student from Vietnam. I wanted him to feel welcome. I kept reminding myself to bow. We were introduced. I clenched my hands in my pockets. Hahn said hello in perfect English. He put out his hand. I laughed as my hand shot out of my pocket. Our hands missed. Instead our arms crossed in a big X. We finally connected in a firm handshake. Then we laughed. Then we bowed to each other. Then we laughed again.



- 1 What is the main purpose of this passage?

**A** to give information  
**B** to give directions  
**C** to entertain  
**D** to persuade



**Tip**

Does the narrator give information? Does he tell me how to do something? Tell me a story (entertain me)? Or ask me to do something (persuade)?

- 2 How does the narrator feel about the story?

**A** sad  
**B** amused  
**C** angry  
**D** thoughtful



**Tip**

Think about how the narrator and Hahn react to each other. What does this say about how they feel?

- 3 What is the most likely outcome of this story?

**A** The narrator will visit Vietnam.  
**B** The students will never become friends.  
**C** Hahn will go back to Vietnam immediately.  
**D** The students will probably become friends.



**Tip**

The students are laughing together. What do you think will happen next?

**TO THE TEACHER:** Read the directions aloud while students follow along silently. Ask a volunteer to read the paragraph aloud. Explain any expressions or terms that are unfamiliar to your students. Then allow students to discuss times when they have felt awkward meeting someone for the first time. What are some cultural differences they have encountered that are similar to what happens in this story?