

Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to Know

Directions: As you come across words in bold in "Out of the Shattered Land," ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Check their meanings here. Then complete the activities on the following page.

1. **arduous:** "Their journey from Syria had taken five **arduous** weeks." (p. 8)
Meaning: very difficult and demanding a lot of effort
2. **crisis:** "The war in Syria has created a terrible **crisis**." (p. 6)
Meaning: a difficult or dangerous situation that needs attention
3. **deteriorate:** "For the next two years, the family lived in a safer part of Aleppo, but conditions across the city continued to **deteriorate**." (p. 7)
Meaning: get worse
4. **persecution:** "Refugees are people forced to flee their countries because of war, **persecution**, violence, or natural disasters." (p. 6)
Meaning: cruel or unfair treatment of someone, especially because of their religion, background, or political beliefs
5. **refugees:** "These men, women, and children are **refugees**." (p. 6)
Meaning: people who must leave their country to find safety (*also see No. 4*)
6. **rubble:** "Little by little, Cedric and Francois saw Aleppo, the city they loved, reduced to **rubble**." (p. 6)
Meaning: broken bricks and stones, from walls or buildings that have fallen
7. **scarce:** "Food, fuel, and medicine grew **scarce**—money even scarcer." (p. 7)
Meaning: hard to find because there is very little of something
8. **traumas:** "It can take years to heal from the **traumas** and losses they have survived." (p. 8)
Meaning: painful emotional events
9. **treacherous:** "They have piled into leaky boats, attempting to make it across the **treacherous** Mediterranean Sea to the shores of Greece and Italy." (p. 6)
Meaning: very dangerous

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Words to Know, p. 2

Directions: Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

1. **arduous**

- A exhausting B enjoyable

2. **deteriorate**

- A worsen B improve

3. **scarce**

- A frightening B rare

4. **crisis**

- A celebration B problem

Directions: For each statement below, fill in the circle to show whether you think it's true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

5. If a government **persecutes** a group of people, the government is treating these people nicely.

- A true B false

Reason: _____

6. If you were to watch a movie about people's **traumas**, it would probably be a comedy.

- A true B false

Reason: _____

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using at least one of the words in the box.

refugees rubble treacherous

7. My school collected money and clothing for people who had to leave Syria because of the war there.

8. After the earthquake, the street was filled with broken rocks and bricks, making it difficult and dangerous to walk.

