

Unit 4 Reading

Patronage of the Arts: Help of Hindrance?

<Narrative Nonfiction>

“Is not a patron, my lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for life in the water, and when he has reached ground, encumbers him with help?” So wrote the British author Samuel Johnson to Lord Chesterfield in 1755. In his letter, Johnson bitterly protested the **supercilious** tone of Chesterfield’s belated offer of patronage. Having lived in near-poverty while creating the first dictionary of the English language, Johnson got the last laugh: In his book, he defined patron as “a wretch who supports with insolence and is paid in flattery.”

A **cogent** and convincing account of patronage of the arts would have to acknowledge its long, productive history. Beginning with the European Renaissance, the period from the 14th to 17th centuries, art patronage—financial support of an artist by wealthy noblemen, members of the aristocracy, and the papacy—flourished. While this system kept artists employed, the artists had to make whatever their patron wanted, whether a flattering portrait of the patron’s wife or a statue of the patron in the role of a biblical figure. Artists composed poems, plays, operas, and symphonies—and hoped their patron liked the results.

The patronage system **bequeathed** countless masterpieces to future generations. Scholars have **ascertained** numerous instances in which the needs of patron and artist **converged**: in a quest for glory, on the one hand, and for funds on the other. Two such cases are shown in the careers of Jean Racine, a French playwright, and George Frideric Handel, a music composer in England.

Jean Racine (1639–1699) was born into a middle-class family and orphaned before the age of four. By an **uncanny** stroke of good fortune, he was privileged to attend the school of Port-Royal near Paris. There, he acquired such a mastery of classical literature as to make him seem virtually **omniscient** on the subject. By the age of twenty, Racine’s literary **attainments** had won the young writer considerable **esteem**. Later, Racine produced a play on the life of Alexander the Great, conveying a **scrupulous** parallel to the reign of Louis XIV, well known as a patron of the arts.

Racine's goal was transparent: He wished to be **affiliated** with the royal court. Royal patronage, however, did not free even a talent like Racine from criticism. Many contemporaries regarded him as France's greatest tragic playwright, but **malevolent** rivals attacked him and called his work historically inaccurate and without drama.

In Germany, the young George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) was growing up in the town of Halle. Like Racine, Handel, a music composer, showed phenomenal talent at an early age. After three years of travel in Italy, he made his first visit to England in 1710. Within three years, he had won royal patronage at the court of Queen Anne. He spent most his long life in England, achieving success writing many musical forms: opera, oratorio, orchestral overtures, choral anthems, and chamber music. Much of his work might not have been produced without the financial support of patronage.

Artists have always had to walk a straight line to keep their patronage. Even minor, **venial** offenses might disenchant a patron. Yet it is hard to imagine how artists such as Mozart or Michelangelo might have fared without patronage. Would their works ever have been created and widely **dispersed**? In the end, while art patronage influenced the works of some of history's greatest creators, it has also produced an infinitely rich heritage that has proved **invulnerable** to the passage of time.

Unit 4 Examples

1. Being **affiliated** with a well-known law firm is often an important first step on the way to a successful political career.
2. We need to **ascertain** what it will cost to remodel our kitchen.
3. In addition to his abilities as a leader, Abraham Lincoln was a man of high literary **attainment**.
4. Few people will make enough money in their lifetimes to be in a position to **bequeath** a fortune to their heirs.
5. A group of legal scholars held a press conference to present a **cogent** plea for reform of the state's prison system.
6. The television coverage resumed as soon as the delegates **converged** on the hall to hear the keynote speaker's address.
7. When a scuffle broke out, the commissioner ordered the police to **disperse** the crowd.
8. In many of the world's cultures, young people are taught to **esteem** their ancestors.
9. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court should be someone whom all parties hold in high **esteem**.
10. The judge ordered the remarks **expunged** from the court record.
11. There are only a **finite** number of possible answers to a multiple-choice question.
12. Medieval lords did everything possible to make their castles **invulnerable** fortresses.
13. While pretending to be a loyal friend, Iago told Othello **malevolent** lies.
14. The elegantly dressed couple strolled down the boulevard with a **nonchalant** air.
15. Scientists today have so much specialized knowledge that they sometimes seem **omniscient**.
16. You are mistaken if you think that getting more money will be a **panacea** for all your troubles.
17. Scientists are trained to record their observations with **scrupulous** accuracy.
18. The burglar **skulked** in the alley looking for a way to get into the darkened jewelry store without attracting the attention of anyone who might be nearby.
19. Their **supercilious** attitude toward their servants was extremely offensive.

20. It is highly unusual for a beginner to display such an **uncanny** skill at playing bridge.

21. Someone whose offense is deemed by the judge to be **venial** may be ordered to perform community service.

Unit 4 Choosing the Right Word

1. Scientists have concluded that a sudden catastrophe **expunged** dinosaurs from the face of the earth.
2. Instead of blaming a **malevolent** fate for your failures, why not look for the causes within yourself?
3. The critic recognized the book's faults but dismissed them as **venial** in view of the author's overall achievement.
4. Instead of making an informed guess, why not **ascertain** exactly how many students are going on the trip to Washington?
5. Though the journey seemed interminable, I knew that it was **finite** and that I would soon be home.
6. When I splattered paint on my art teacher, I tried to appear **nonchalant** but succeeded only in looking horrified.
7. Vast wealth, elegant clothes, and a **supercilious** manner may make a snob, but they do not of themselves make a person a true gentleman or lady.
8. At first, the two candidates were in disagreement on every issue; but as the campaign went on, their opinions seemed to **converge**.
9. When I found myself flushed with anger, I realized that I was not so **invulnerable** to their bitter sarcasm as I had thought I was!
10. Her bright, optimistic manner did much to **disperse** the atmosphere of gloom that had settled over the meeting.
11. Lincoln said, "If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and **esteem**."
12. Though you forgot my birthday, and I did not receive a gift or card, it was a **venial** mistake and I shall forgive you.
13. When I walked into the abandoned house, I had this **uncanny** feeling that someone was watching me.
14. Though the couple have spent years studying African history, they do not claim to be **omniscient** in that field.

15. We were overjoyed when we heard our university was going to invite an **esteemed** author and playwright to speak at our commencement.
16. It seems unimaginable that when I look at the night sky, the number of stars is actually **finite**.
17. There are so many different factors involved in an energy crisis that no single measure can be expected to serve as a **panacea**.
18. Nothing he may **bequeath** to the next generation can be more precious than the memory of his long life of honorable public service.
19. She is the kind of person who has many **attainments** but seems unable to put them to any practical use.
20. The newspaper revealed that the city's chief building inspector was **affiliated** with a large construction company.
21. Is it true that some dogs have an **uncanny** sense of the approach of death?
22. I found your criticism of my conduct unpleasant, but I had to admit that your remarks were **cogent**.
23. The reform candidate vowed to root out the corruption that **skulked** through the corridors of City Hall.
24. As a member of the grand jury, it is your duty to be **scrupulous** in weighing every bit of evidence.
25. A large crowd **converged** on the mall to buy the latest gadget.

Unit 4 Synonyms

1. No **easy solution** for the problems of aging: **panacea**
2. An **eerie** tale of the supernatural: **uncanny**
3. Must **determine** who is responsible: **ascertain**
4. **Crept around** in the shadows of the old warehouse: **skulked**
5. **Handed down** their knowledge to their apprentices: **bequeathed**
6. The **realization** of a cherished dream: **attainment**
7. A **quantifiable** amount of rainfall: **finite**
8. An **indifferent** shrug of the shoulders: **nonchalant**
9. **Resistant** to normal wear and tear: **invulnerable**
10. Needed to **delete** out-of-date files: **expunge**

Unit 4 Antonyms

1. A **fretful** attitude: **nonchalant**
2. An **endless** supply of fresh water: **finite**
3. An attempt to **create** a financial file: **expunge**
4. Sought comfort in her **affliction**: **panacea**
5. A cat that **sped** across the lawn: **skulked**

Unit 4 Completing the Sentence

1. When the candidate admitted openly that he had been mistaken in some of his earlier policies, we **esteemed** him more highly than ever.
2. The screening committee investigated not only the candidates themselves but also the organizations with which they were **affiliated**.
3. So long as we remained indoors, we were **invulnerable** to the arctic blasts that swept down on our snowbound cabin.
4. Antibiotics were once considered wonder drugs, but we now know that they are not **panaceas** for all our physical ailments.
5. I knew the dean would accept my apology when she characterized my behavior as thoughtless but **venial**.
6. Her election to Congress was the **attainment** of a lifelong ambition.
7. Though I wanted to "let bygones be bygones," I found that I could not wholly **expunge** the bitter memory of their behavior from my mind.
8. Before making our final plans, we should **ascertain** exactly how much money we will have for expenses.
9. Your ability to guess what I am thinking about at any given time is nothing short of **omniscience**.
10. Because our natural resources are **finite** and by no means inexhaustible, we must learn to conserve them.
11. In the opening scene of the horror film, a shadowy figure dressed in black **skulked** through the graveyard in the moonlight.
12. The more knowledge and wisdom people acquire, the more keenly they become aware that no one is **omniscient**.
13. Is there anyone in the world as **nonchalant** as a senior who attends a mere sophomore class dance?
14. Only by paying **scrupulous** attention to innumerable details were the investigators able to piece together the cause of the accident.

15. In a situation that would have left me all but helpless with embarrassment, he remained cool and **nonchalant**.
16. Isn't it remarkable how quickly a throng of sunbathers will pick up their belongings and **disperse** when a few drops of rain fall?
17. If only parents could **bequeath** their hard-won practical wisdom and experience to their children!
18. When I saw the pain he caused others and the pleasure he took in doing so, I realized he was a truly **malevolent** person.
19. Our representative offered one simple but **cogent** argument against the proposal: It would raise the cost of living.
20. As we stood on the railway tracks looking off into the distance, the rails seemed to **converge** and meet at some far-off point.

Unit 4 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. “My little John, I will be fair, and not pay a penny too much. Don’t work too hard; and when that is done I will have something else for you to do,” said Mrs. Jo, much touched by his desire to help, and his sense of justice, so like his **scrupulous** father. (Little Men)

A **scrupulous** person is NOT

- ① honorable ② **corrupt** ③ reliable ④ sincere

2. He never spoke of himself, and no one ever knew that in his native city he had been a man much honored and **esteemed** for learning and integrity, till a countryman came to see him. (Little Women)

To be **esteemed** by others is to be

- ① compensated ② supported ③ ostracized ④ **admired**

3. Poor Hannah was the first to recover, and with unconscious wisdom she set all the rest a good example, for with her, work was **panacea** for most afflictions. (Little Women)

A **panacea** is a(n)

- ① obstacle ② reason ③ setback ④ **cure-all**

4. The latter informs the party that she **bequeaths** untold wealth to the young pair and an awful doom to Don Pedro, if he doesn’t make them happy. (Little Women)

A person who **bequeaths** wealth

- ① protects it ② confiscates it ③ **bestows it** ④ utilizes it

5. “That’s my favorite castle. What’s yours, Meg?” Margaret seemed to find it a little hard to tell hers, and waved a brake before her face, as if to **disperse** imaginary gnats, while she said slowly, “I should like a lovely house, full of all sorts of luxurious things—nice food, pretty clothes, handsome furniture, pleasant people, and heaps of money.” (Little Women)

To **disperse** something is to

- ① **scatter it** ② count it ③ observe it ④ collect it

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A _____ and convincing account of patronage of the arts would have to acknowledge its long, productive history. Beginning with the European Renaissance, the period from the 14th to 17th centuries, art patronage—financial support of an artist by wealthy noblemen, members of the aristocracy, and the papacy—flourished. While this system kept artists employed, the artists had to make whatever their patron wanted, whether a flattering portrait of the patron’s wife or a statue of the patron in the role of a biblical figure. Artists composed poems, plays, operas, and symphonies—and hoped their patron liked the results.

The patronage system _____ countless masterpieces to future generations. Scholars have _____ numerous instances in which the needs of patron and artist _____: in a quest for glory, on the one hand, and for funds on the other. Two such cases are shown in the careers of Jean Racine, a French playwright, and George Frideric Handel, a music composer in England.

Jean Racine (1639–1699) was born into a middle-class family and orphaned before the age of four. By an _____ stroke of good fortune, he was privileged to attend the school of Port-Royal near Paris. There, he acquired such a mastery of classical literature as to make him seem virtually _____ on the subject. By the age of twenty, Racine’s literary _____ had won the young writer considerable _____. Later, Racine produced a play on the life of Alexander the Great, conveying a _____ parallel to the reign of Louis

XIV, well known as a patron of the arts. Racine's goal was transparent: He wished to be _____ with the royal court. Royal patronage, however, did not free even a talent like Racine from criticism. Many contemporaries regarded him as France's greatest tragic playwright, but _____ rivals attacked him and called his work historically inaccurate and without drama.

In Germany, the young George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) was growing up in the town of Halle. Like Racine, Handel, a music composer, showed phenomenal talent at an early age. After three years of travel in Italy, he made his first visit to England in 1710. Within three years, he had won royal patronage at the court of Queen Anne. He spent most his long life in England, achieving success writing many musical forms: opera, oratorio, orchestral overtures, choral anthems, and chamber music. Much of his work might not have been produced without the financial support of patronage.

Artists have always had to walk a straight line to keep their patronage. Even minor, _____ offenses might disenchant a patron. Yet it is hard to imagine how artists such as Mozart or Michelangelo might have fared without patronage. Would their works ever have been created and widely _____? In the end, while art patronage influenced the works of some of history's greatest creators, it has also produced an infinitely rich heritage that has proved _____ to the passage of time.

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6. The television coverage resumed as soon as the delegates _____ on the hall to hear the keynote speaker's address.
7. When a scuffle broke out, the commissioner ordered the police to _____ the crowd.
8. In many of the world's cultures, young people are taught to _____ their ancestors.
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Unit 4 Choosing the Right Word

1. Scientists have concluded that a sudden catastrophe _____ dinosaurs from the face of the earth.
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3. The critic recognized the book's faults but dismissed them as _____ in view of the author's overall achievement.
4. Instead of making an informed guess, why not **ascertain** _____ **retain** exactly how many students are going on the trip to Washington?
5. Though the journey seemed interminable, I knew that it was _____ and that I would soon be home.
6. When I splattered paint on my art teacher, I tried to appear _____ but succeeded only in looking horrified.
7. Vast wealth, elegant clothes, and a _____ manner may make a snob, but they do not of themselves make a person a true gentleman or lady.
8. At first, the two candidates were in disagreement on every issue; but as the campaign went on, their opinions seemed to _____.
9. When I found myself flushed with anger, I realized that I was not so _____ to their bitter sarcasm as I had thought I was!
10. Her bright, optimistic manner did much to _____ the atmosphere of gloom that had settled over the meeting.
11. Lincoln said, "If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and _____."
12. Though you forgot my birthday, and I did not receive a gift or card, it was a _____ mistake and I shall forgive you.
13. When I walked into the abandoned house, I had this _____ feeling that someone was watching me.
14. Though the couple have spent years studying African history, they do not claim to be _____ in that field.

15. We were overjoyed when we heard our university was going to invite an _____ author and playwright to speak at our commencement.
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17. There are so many different factors involved in an energy crisis that no single measure can be expected to serve as a _____.
18. Nothing he may _____ to the next generation can be more precious than the memory of his long life of honorable public service.
19. She is the kind of person who has many _____ but seems unable to put them to any practical use.
20. The newspaper revealed that the city's chief building inspector was _____ with a large construction company.
21. Is it true that some dogs have an _____ sense of the approach of death?
22. I found your criticism of my conduct unpleasant, but I had to admit that your remarks were _____.
23. The reform candidate vowed to root out the corruption that _____ through the corridors of City Hall.
24. As a member of the grand jury, it is your duty to be _____ in weighing every bit of evidence.
25. A large crowd _____ on the mall to buy the latest gadget.

Unit 4 Synonyms

1. No **easy solution** for the problems of aging: _____
2. An **eerie** tale of the supernatural: _____
3. Must **determine** who is responsible: _____
4. **Crept around** in the shadows of the old warehouse: _____
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6. The **realization** of a cherished dream: _____
7. A **quantifiable** amount of rainfall: _____
8. An **indifferent** shrug of the shoulders: _____
9. **Resistant** to normal wear and tear: _____
10. Needed to **delete** out-of-date files: _____

Unit 4 Antonyms

6. A **fretful** attitude: _____
7. An **endless** supply of fresh water: _____
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10. A cat that **sped** across the lawn: _____

Unit 4 Completing the Sentence

1. When the candidate admitted openly that he had been mistaken in some of his earlier policies, we _____ him more highly than ever.
2. The screening committee investigated not only the candidates themselves but also the organizations with which they were _____.
3. So long as we remained indoors, we were _____ to the arctic blasts that swept down on our snowbound cabin.
4. Antibiotics were once considered wonder drugs, but we now know that they are not _____ for all our physical ailments.
5. I knew the dean would accept my apology when she characterized my behavior as thoughtless but _____.
6. Her election to Congress was the _____ of a lifelong ambition.
7. Though I wanted to "let bygones be bygones," I found that I could not wholly _____ the bitter memory of their behavior from my mind.
8. Before making our final plans, we should _____ exactly how much money we will have for expenses.
9. Your ability to guess what I am thinking about at any given time is nothing short of _____.
10. Because our natural resources are _____ and by no means inexhaustible, we must learn to conserve them.
11. In the opening scene of the horror film, a shadowy figure dressed in black _____ through the graveyard in the moonlight.
12. The more knowledge and wisdom people acquire, the more keenly they become aware that no one is _____.
13. Is there anyone in the world as _____ as a senior who attends a mere sophomore class dance?
14. Only by paying _____ attention to innumerable details were the investigators able to piece together the cause of the accident.

15. In a situation that would have left me all but helpless with embarrassment, he remained cool and _____.
16. Isn't it remarkable how quickly a throng of sunbathers will pick up their belongings and _____ when a few drops of rain fall?
17. If only parents could _____ their hard-won practical wisdom and experience to their children!
18. When I saw the pain he caused others and the pleasure he took in doing so, I realized he was a truly _____ person.
19. Our representative offered one simple but _____ argument against the proposal: It would raise the cost of living.
20. As we stood on the railway tracks looking off into the distance, the rails seemed to _____ and meet at some far-off point.

Unit 4 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. “My little John, I will be fair, and not pay a penny too much. Don’t work too hard; and when that is done I will have something else for you to do,” said Mrs. Jo, much touched by his desire to help, and his sense of justice, so like his **scrupulous** father. (Little Men)

A **scrupulous** person is NOT

- ① honorable ② corrupt ③ reliable ④ sincere

2. He never spoke of himself, and no one ever knew that in his native city he had been a man much honored and **esteemed** for learning and integrity, till a countryman came to see him. (Little Women)

To be **esteemed** by others is to be

- ① compensated ② supported ③ ostracized ④ admired

3. Poor Hannah was the first to recover, and with unconscious wisdom she set all the rest a good example, for with her, work was **panacea** for most afflictions. (Little Women)

A **panacea** is a(n)

- ① obstacle ② reason ③ setback ④ cure-all

4. The latter informs the party that she **bequeaths** untold wealth to the young pair and an awful doom to Don Pedro, if he doesn’t make them happy. (Little Women)

A person who **bequeaths** wealth

- ① protects it ② confiscates it ③ bestows it ④ utilizes it

5. “That’s my favorite castle. What’s yours, Meg?” Margaret seemed to find it a little hard to tell hers, and waved a brake before her face, as if to **disperse** imaginary gnats, while she said slowly, “I should like a lovely house, full of all sorts of luxurious things—nice food, pretty clothes, handsome furniture, pleasant people, and heaps of money.” (Little Women)

To **disperse** something is to

- ① scatter it ② count it ③ observe it ④ collect it