

Name _____



Context Clues in Tolstoy

Directions: Read each excerpt from the novella. Circle the bolded word, then try to infer its meaning from the context before checking a dictionary.

- “His life had been most **decorous** and proper.”
- “He had obtained a post of great **emolument** and distinction.”
- “Ivan Ilyich conducted himself with great **propriety**, always following the approved customs.”
- “The sickness struck him with a sense of **torpor** and despair.”
- “Even in his decline, he clung to the **conventionalities** of polite society.”

Word	Context Clue from Sentence	Your Definition	Dictionary Definition
1. decorous			
2. emolument			
3. propriety			
4. torpor			
5. conventionalities			

Sample Application: Choose one of the words. Write a new sentence that uses it in a modern context (example: workplace, school, or family).