

Name _____



Rare Words Mastery

Directions: Read the short passages below. **Underline** the rare or uncommon words you find. Then, answer the questions that follow each passage to show that you understand what those rare words mean.

1. The explorer stood before the **precipitous** cliff, its jagged edges towering over the valley below. A faint **zephyr** brushed his face, carrying the scent of pine and distant rain. Despite the danger, curiosity urged him onward into the unknown.

- What does **precipitous** most likely mean?

- What feeling does the word **zephyr** add to the scene?

2. After years of travel, the painter's style had become truly **idiosyncratic**-no two works looked alike. Her colors were vivid, her brushstrokes daring, and her imagination seemed **boundless**. Audiences often left her exhibits inspired and slightly bewildered.

- What does **idiosyncratic** mean in this passage?

- Why might "boundless" describe her imagination?

3. The forest was silent except for the **nocturnal** calls of owls and crickets. Beneath the trees, a fox moved with **stealth**, its golden eyes gleaming in the moonlight. The night felt alive with hidden movement and quiet mystery.

- What does **nocturnal** mean?

- What clue helps you understand the meaning of **stealth**?
