

# UNIT 6

## *The Theme of* **DEVOTION**

### **Definition**

**DEVOTION** is the deep and consistent commitment to a person, cause, or career.



## DEVOTION

### SELECTION A



Usually, I am hesitant to write about my personal life because the experiences are so precious. But perhaps this story will be of some value to others.

I met my husband more than twenty years ago at my older brother's funeral. It was the darkest time of my life. My brother had been out jogging when he was struck and killed by a drunk driver.

Someone called my brother's close friends. Within several hours of being called, John, a friend of my brother's, arrived to express his sympathies. I had never met John before but knew of him from my brother's army days. My brother would often remind me—by mail, by phone, and in person—that he had found the perfect husband for me.

Somehow—perhaps it was fate—I was the one assigned to meet John at the airport. We both sensed something special right away. It was a feeling that comes in the darkest hours of grief and sadness but can also be the start of something wonderful for a lifetime.

Three days later the courtship began, and two years later we were married. Those two years were filled with respect and kindness. The two words *respect* and *kindness* have an even deeper meaning now—twenty years later. I can honestly say that we treasure our marriage even more today than at any time to this moment.

I hope some young man or young woman reads this and chooses to put devotion into a relationship and build a life on that strong emotion.

### PRACTICE THE SKILLS



#### A. Vocabulary Skills

1. In the first sentence of the selection, the word **precious** means  
(a) forgetful (b) unfortunate (c) valuable (d) distant.

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2. In the sentence beginning, **Three days later the courtship began**, the word **courtship** is replaced best with (a) dating (b) employment (c) marriage (d) vacation.
3. The word **treasure** as used in the selection refers to (a) pirates (b) money (c) prizes (d) feelings.

### B. Comprehension Skills

1. Copy the phrase or sentence that answers the question, **Where did the woman first meet her husband?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How was the narrator's brother killed? (a) war (b) drunk driver (c) plane crash (d) heart attack
3. Which of the following DID NOT happen after the narrator's brother was killed? (a) Friends were contacted. (b) John arrived. (c) The narrator joined the army. (d) The courtship began.
4. The best major topic for **by mail**, **by phone**, and **in person** according to the selection is (a) how the friends were contacted (b) how the narrator communicated with her future husband (c) how the word spread about the brother's death (d) how the brother reminded his sister about the perfect husband.
5. The best title for this whole selection is (a) Brother's Death Brings Much Sadness (b) Enforce Drunk-Driving Laws (c) True Love Grows and Grows (d) Successful Dating Tips.
6. How would you describe the marriage in the selection after twenty years? (a) improving (b) failing (c) about the same (d) ended
7. In the following two sentences from the selection, which one is a fact and which one is an opinion? **I met my husband more than twenty years ago at my older brother's funeral. It was the darkest time of my life.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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8. How would you describe the general health of the narrator's brother before he was killed? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. According to the author, which of the following sets of words best contributes to a successful relationship such as a marriage?  
(a) wealth, contact, sympathy (b) respect, kindness, devotion  
(c) courtship, emotion, fate (d) devotion, wealth, sadness
10. Copy one sentence from the selection that explains why the author wrote this selection. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### C. Study Skills

1. Complete the following outline of events from the selection.
- I. Five major events that happened after the brother was killed
    - A. \_\_\_\_\_
    - B. \_\_\_\_\_
    - C. \_\_\_\_\_
    - D. \_\_\_\_\_
    - E. Married two years later
2. Summarize the entire selection by completing the following sentence.  
**The entire selection is about** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### D. Writing Skills

1. Add another sentence to end the selection by completing the following. **I also hope** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Pretend that you are the narrator. Write a diary entry for the day you went to the airport to meet John for the first time. Or write the diary entry John might have written that same day. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## SELECTION B



If a smile is the shortest distance between two people, then Dr. William Umansky has made the world a lot smaller. Dr. Umansky is a plastic surgeon in southern California. (A plastic surgeon does operations that improve a patient's appearance.) Dr. Umansky spends most of his time doing surgery on patients who have been disfigured by accidents or birth defects.

Once a year, Dr. Umansky takes his devotion to medicine and people to another level. For about two weeks every year, Dr. Umansky becomes a medical philanthropist (someone who is devoted to helping others). He joins a team of medical experts, and they travel to a remote part of the world. There they give their talents free of charge to help people—especially children—who need medical services.

In El Salvador recently, the team focused on deformities in poor children. Dr. Umansky and a team of nine doctors and nurses performed fifty operations on forty-four children in just nine days. Most of the operations repaired cleft lips and cleft palates. (The palate is the roof of the mouth.) These birth defects disfigure the mouth and face. They also prevent children from speaking and smiling normally.

Both of these birth defects are much more common in Central America than in the United States. In Central

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America, they occur in about 1 out of 350 births, compared with 1 out of 1,000 in the United States. Dr. Umansky believes that the primary causes of these birth defects are prenatal stress, poor nutrition, and various legal and illegal drugs consumed by the pregnant woman.

Dr. Umansky and his team could spend their free time on themselves, relaxing with their families. Instead, these caring doctors and nurses devote their skills, their time, and their energy to helping needy people without access to medical care. In Peru, Bangladesh, and Mexico, Dr. Umansky and his team have brought smiles to the faces of all their patients.

### PRACTICE THE SKILLS



#### A. Vocabulary Skills

1. Copy the definition of a **philanthropist** from the selection and then use it in a new sentence of your own. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In the phrase **remote part of the world**, the word **remote** could be replaced with (a) modern (b) undeveloped (c) wealthy (d) sickly.
3. Write a word of your own that means the same as **consumed** as used in the selection. \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Comprehension Skills

1. Which paragraph contains information related to where Dr. Umansky and the team went and the number and types of operations they performed? (a) second (b) third (c) fourth (d) fifth
2. Where does Dr. Umansky live for most of the year? (a) California (b) El Salvador (c) Peru (d) Mexico

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3. Children with cleft lips and cleft palates develop such defects  
(a) before birth (b) during birth (c) after birth (d) in accidents.
4. The best major topic for the minor topics **Peru, Bangladesh, and Mexico** is (a) countries of Central America (b) cities in southern California (c) countries where Dr. Umansky has done operations (d) countries with low numbers of birth defects.
5. The best main idea for the selection is (a) doctor devotes time and talents to help needy children in other countries (b) doctor devotes lifetime to children of Central America (c) doctor devotes life to plastic surgery (d) doctor devotes time for children of California.
6. Which of the following is NOT a cause of birth defects according to Dr. Umansky? (a) stress (b) weather (c) diet (d) drugs
7. Does the following sentence present facts or opinions? **In Central America, they occur in about 1 out of 350 births, compared with 1 out of 1,000 in the United States.** \_\_\_\_\_
8. Based on the information in the sentence in question 7, you would conclude that there are (a) more birth defects in the United States than Central America (b) fewer birth defects in the United States than Central America (c) about the same number of birth defects in the United States and Central America (d) no birth defects in the United States.  
  
Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. You would reason that Dr. Umansky would help more people in other countries if he had more (a) skills (b) equipment (c) time (d) patients.
10. The author's purpose in writing this selection is to give (a) entertainment (b) opinions (c) instructions (d) information.

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### C. Study Skills

1. Complete the following outline with information from the selection.

I. Information about cleft lips and cleft palates

A. They are birth defects

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

E. \_\_\_\_\_

II. Primary causes of these birth defects

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Summarize who Dr. Umansky is in one sentence beginning **Dr.**

**Umansky is a doctor who** \_\_\_\_\_

### D. Writing Skills

1. Rewrite the first sentence of the selection into a new sentence of your own.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Pretend that you are the leader of a remote country. Write a business letter to Dr. Umansky inviting him to your country to help children in need. Write at least four sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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### SELECTION C



In his last sermon, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., described the funeral he would like to have. He didn't want it to be long, he said, and he didn't want anyone to mention his many awards.

I'd like someone to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. . . . And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., devoted his life to ending racial segregation. He was a Baptist minister in Montgomery, Alabama. In December 1955, he was asked to lead a protest against racial segregation on the city's buses. King believed in using nonviolent methods to bring about change. He organized the African-American citizens of Montgomery to boycott (stop using) the city's buses. The boycott lasted almost a year. When the United States Supreme Court declared that bus segregation was unconstitutional, the boycott ended.

Dr. King became an important national leader. He helped organize sit-ins and marches. He eloquently protested racial injustice. In his famous "I have a dream speech" in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963, he proclaimed:

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

In 1964, Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize. He wrote five books about nonviolence and social justice. Perhaps his greatest accomplishments, however, are the national civil rights laws. Thanks to the efforts of President Lyndon Johnson and Dr. King, these three important bills became law:

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- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits racial discrimination in public places. It also provides equal opportunity in employment and education for all.
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 ends barriers to voting. In states where African Americans had been denied the right to vote, federal workers were put in charge of registering new voters.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1968 is also called the Fair Housing Act. It prohibits racial discrimination in the sale and rental of housing.

Dr. King also worked to fight against poverty. As the Vietnam War escalated, he spoke out against the war. Many Americans joined the antiwar movement.

In April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated as he stood on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee. He was only thirty-nine. His work had brought about great changes, and the changes happened peacefully, as he had hoped they would.

## PRACTICE THE SKILLS

### A. Vocabulary Skills

1. In his speeches and writing, he eloquently protested racial **injustice**. In this sentence, the word **eloquently** means (a) the graceful, powerful use of words (b) the use of nonviolent means (c) doing something in an angry manner (d) doing something you don't want to do.
2. Which word means the same as **prohibits**? (a) remains (b) begins (c) provides (d) forbids
3. Someone who is **assassinated** is \_\_\_\_\_

What context clues helped you figure out the meaning of this word?

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### B. Comprehension Skills

1. What was Dr. King's regular job before he became involved in the civil rights movement? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what city and state did the bus boycott begin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ What ended the boycott? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Write a time line. Tell one important event that happened in each of these years:  
1955 \_\_\_\_\_  
1963 \_\_\_\_\_  
1964 \_\_\_\_\_  
1968 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is a good major topic for the minor topics **Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, Civil Rights Act of 1968**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Write a one-sentence main idea of your own for this selection.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In your own words, explain the idea of nonviolent protest. Give two examples. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. How would you describe this selection? (a) mostly facts (b) mostly opinions (c) about the same number of facts and opinions

Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. According to Dr. King's own words, he wanted people to remember him as someone who (a) won the Nobel Prize (b) accepted the old ways (c) wrote five books (d) loved and served humanity.

9. After the civil rights bills were passed, what two movements did Dr. King support? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. The author's main purpose is to (a) amuse the reader (b) persuade the reader to take an action (c) give information (d) express an opinion.

### C. Study Skills

1. Complete the following outline with specific information from the selection.

I. Civil Rights Acts passed during the 1960s and the meaning of each

A. 1964—Civil Rights Act—prohibited racial discrimination in public places; provided equal opportunity for jobs and education

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Unit Activities

Reread each selection carefully and then complete the following activities independently or in cooperative groups.

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#### Connecting the Theme and Selections

- 1. Know.** Recall the main person in each selection and give two examples of what that person was devoted to. An example is done for you.  
In Selection A, the wife was devoted to her husband and her marriage.  
In Selection B, \_\_\_\_\_  
In Selection C, \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Comprehend.** Review the three main persons and choose which one has had the most impact on the most people. Give three reasons in outline form.
  - 1.** My choice is \_\_\_\_\_ for the following reasons
    - A.** \_\_\_\_\_
    - B.** \_\_\_\_\_
    - C.** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Apply.** Illustrate a scene from each selection in a collage of three drawings of your own or three pictures from other sources.
- 4. Analyze.** Rank the three main persons from the selections 1, 2, 3, according to the level of devotion shown. Give at least two reasons for your first choice. Present your entire answer in one paragraph.
- 5. Synthesize.** Imagine that you could know one of these three people. Describe your choice and what you would have to do to show equal devotion in order to keep the relationship strong.

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- 6. Evaluate.** Predict who or what you will be devoted to at some point in the future. Give specific information in paragraph form with at least four sentences.

### Applying the Theme and Selection to the Real World

Use a variety of newspapers, magazines, and other reference materials to complete your choice of the following projects or those assigned to you. Also consider using CD-ROM encyclopedias and other on-line databases as well as television programs and videos to get information for your projects.

#### Interdisciplinary Project 1

Research three people in American history up to the present who show devotion, with examples from each one's life. Choose one person who was devoted to another person or small group of people, one who was devoted to a cause or a career, and one who was devoted to his or her community or country. Organize your answer in at least one paragraph for each choice.

#### Interdisciplinary Project 2

Create a poem for each selection. Try to use a variety of poetic forms with some rhyming. Use the word *devotion* at least once in each poem.

#### Interdisciplinary Project 3

Choose a movie or television program that shows the theme of devotion and explain how the theme is developed. Organize your answer in at least two paragraphs. Describe the events of the movie or program in the first paragraph and how the theme of devotion is shown in the second paragraph.