Name: _____

Context Clues

1. We could tell by the rotten smell, that something putrid was in our trash can. In this sentence, the word **putrid** means a. alive c. ample b. rotten d. appealing	2. Using certain body language is illicit in some countries, but allowed in others. In this sentence, the word **illicit** means a. dumb c. forbidden b. cool d. awkward
3. Janice thought the man was friendly, but Casey though he was malicious. In this sentence, the word **malicious** means a. spiteful c. sweet b. friendly d. kind	4. Becky had an innate ability to play the piano. She had never taken a lesson, yet she was able to play the most complicated songs. In this sentence, the word **innate** means a. trained c. unnatural b. natural d. learned
5. The speaker's comments were detrimental to Carl's reputation. Following the remarks, the speaker agreed to a public apology, which included valuable comments about Carl. In this sentence, the word **detrimental** means a. nice c. useful b. harmful d. good	6. The cop knocked the derringer, or gun, away from the bad guy. In this sentence, the word **derringer** means a. hat c. jewelry b. gun d. book
7. I know that Jeff is smart, so I was confused when he did such a vacuous thing as to jump off the roof of our house. In this sentence, the word **vacuous** means a. stupid c. annoying b. outstanding d. cowardly	8. The man was sent to the penitentiary, or prison, for stealing cars. In this sentence, the word **penitentiary** means a. paradise c. Heaven b. prison d. hotel
9. Jill's capricious behavior shows up when she speaks out of turn. In this sentence, the word **capricious** means a. careless c. stable b. careful d. steady	10. I watched as the eagle swooped down and grabbed his prey with his talon, or claw. In this sentence, the word **talon** means a. beak c. claws b. teeth d. feathers