

Unit 7 - Ray's Way

7A Introduction

Ray Charles was one of the most influential rhythm and blues musicians in the world. His voice was both smooth and rough, an unmistakable blend. His piano playing was simple but swinging. And the way he'd rock back and forth behind his piano, smiling and howling, is an image no one who saw him can forget.

Born in 1930, in Florida, Ray didn't become blind until he was six years old, when a disease robbed him of his sight. Always a musician, Ray left home at 17 to seek his fame and fortune. Things were hard for many years, but Ray's unique blend of gospel, rhythm and blues, and country soon won him a large audience. Perhaps more than his music, it was the passion that Ray brought to it that we will remember him by. For him, that was just his way.

7B Song Lyrics

Ray was born poor in Florida,
In a shack about the size of a corridor.
This was 1930, the month of September,
You can read more about it in his **memoir**.

Ray's mother could barely even pay the bills,
But she **fostered**, encouraged his musical skills.
These were lessons that were **instilled** in him,
Given again and again till they're sinking in.
Blindness was a **shackle** like a handcuff,
That he wore all the time, and times were tough.
Ray wasn't **conventional**, never ordinary,
He added backup singers, the more the merry

Er, some said, "Be the same as us, **assimilate**,"
But the way Ray plays is Ray's way.
So, if you stand in Ray's way, you better make way,
You should have seen him on his pay day.
They **allotted** the pay, and divided it up,
But Ray demanded that they pay him in ones.
In case the manager tried to get **deceptive**,
And trick Ray, in case Ray got less than the rest did.

Say, "Ohhh!"
Say, "Yeah, yeah!"
Say, "Hey!"
That's Ray's way.

The main subject and **theme** of his life,
Was to be the brightest light you're seeing at night.
Music was the **haven** where Ray escaped,
He sang a little melody, and piano-played.
Nothing fancy or flashy, nothing **ornate**,



Just a lil' R&B in a Gospel way.
It sounded **sublime** like summertime,
High and amazing the lines would climb,

And **surpass** the song that was sung before,
Went beyond them; man, it's off the wall.
Ray supplied the notes like a **bountiful** feast,
With so much food that you're dying to eat.
It's an interesting occurrence, a **phenomenon**,
That lots of musical greats are totally blind:
Stevie Wonder, Art Tatum, Blind Lemon Jefferson,
And Ray could pound the keys with the best of them.

Hook

7C Words Defined

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. allot (verb) to distribute or divide into portions or shares

On Halloween, I always *allot* each trick-or-treater the same amount of candy no matter how scary their costumes are in comparison to each other.

Synonyms: to pass out, allocate

Antonyms: to keep, retain, withhold

2. assimilate (verb) to incorporate or absorb something; to adjust to

Hot dogs, though originally German, became so *assimilated* into American culture that they now seem truly American.

Other forms: Ping's *assimilation* (noun) into American culture was quick and easy.

3. bountiful (adj) having a lot; plentiful

Our math teacher had a *bountiful* supply of sharpened number two pencils in her desk drawer.

Synonyms: big, ample, copious

4. conventional (adj) standard; ordinary

My parents chose to drive the more *conventional* way home as opposed to the scenic route.

Synonyms: common, traditional

Other forms: A *convention* (noun) is both a normal practice (like shaking hands when you meet someone) and a big gathering of people (like the Whale Watchers Convention).

5. deceptive (adj) misleading or dishonest

It wasn't until my ninth birthday that I realized my parents had been *deceptive* about the existence of the tooth fairy.

Other forms: A *deception* (noun) is a lie.

6. foster (verb) to encourage or care for

Ms. C tried to *foster* creativity in all her students.

Synonyms: promote, cultivate, support

Antonyms: neglect, suppress

7. haven (noun) a refuge or safe place

My mom always says that the health spa is her true *haven*.

Synonyms: retreat, sanctuary, asylum

8. instill (verb) to introduce gradually; implant

It is important to *instill* good manners into children when they are young.

Synonyms: implant, infuse

9. memoir (noun) a written account of one's personal life

Bill Clinton's memoir, *My Life*, was a best seller for many months.

Synonyms: biography, anecdote

10. ornate (adj) decorated in a very fancy, flashy style

I was envious of Sydney's jewelry box because it was filled with *ornate* necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

Synonyms: glitzy, gaudy

Antonyms: plain, unadorned, austere

Other forms: *Ornate* is related to *ornament* (noun), a decoration you might put on your Christmas tree.

11. phenomenon (noun) an observable event; something that is extraordinary

Again and again in nature we see an interesting phenomenon: Storms in the Gulf of Mexico become powerful hurricanes.

Other forms: The celebrity looked *phenomenal* (adj), really extraordinary, after her makeover.

12. shackle (noun) a device (usually metal) that restricts the movement of a prisoner, like handcuffs

Our abductors threatened to tighten our *shackles* unless we stopped screaming for help.

Other forms: *Shackle* is also a verb meaning "to confine or restrain," as in: The kidnappers *shackled* the reporter to a pipe in their backyard.

13. sublime (adj) supreme, outstanding or lofty

There is a *sublime* view from the peak of any mountain.

Synonyms: divine, heavenly

Antonyms: lowly, gross, unattractive

14. surpass (verb) to exceed or go beyond

The Olympic athlete tried to *surpass* the world record time in his first race.

Antonyms: to lose, retreat, fall behind

15. theme (noun) 1. the main subject or unifying idea 2. the music associated with a TV show or person (short for theme song)

1. The *theme* of the story "To Build a Fire" is survival. 2. The Batman *theme* is one of the most famous songs, even though there is only one word in it: *Batman!*

7D Fix the Mistake

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. During standardized testing, students are **shackled** two pencils and five pieces of scratch paper.

2. The injured wild chimpanzee had to **foster** to its new home at the animal rescue sanctuary, which took three months.

3. Our P.E. teacher always tried to **surpass** teamwork in us as she taught different sports and games all year long.

4. The movie's main **memoir** was about the importance of friendship.

5. The party was **bountiful**, an amazing mix of good people, great music, and delicious food.

6. Her ability to predict car accidents was a strange **haven**.

7. It was **conventional** of our teacher to tell us that the test would be all multiple choice and then change it to an essay test.
- _____
8. The reception hall was so **sublimely** decorated; it looked like someone had thrown shiny jewels over everything.
- _____
9. I decided to write a(n) **phenomenon** about my life as the adopted child of a millionaire.
- _____
10. Since the police had **assimilated** me to the chair, I could not reach into my pocket to use my phone.
- _____
11. Haven't I always **allotted** your artistic talents, buying you lessons and instruments and such?
- _____
12. Kendra hopes to **instill** the other climbers when they stop to rest.
- _____
13. The wedding ceremony was so **ornate**; I swear I had seen it a hundred times before.
- _____
14. In the hospital, there was a(n) **deceptive** supply of pills.
- _____
15. It is a myth that Cuba is a safe **theme** for criminals.
- _____

7E Pick the Winner

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. I was planning a Hawaiian (**themed OR shackled**) party.
2. _____
3. Candace, an Olympic skier, hopes to (**instill OR surpass**) previous speed records.
4. _____

- 5. Our new teacher (**allotted OR instilled**) us each three free homework passes for the semester.
- 6. _____
- 7. It was once a trend to have a (**bountiful OR conventional**) collection of Beanie Babies.
- 8. _____
- 9. One of the most interesting books I've read is the (**memoir OR haven**) of Miles Davis.
- 10. _____

7F Draw the Relationships

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1	allot	assimilate	standard	divide
	adapt			huge
		bountiful	conventional	
2	deceptive	foster	implant	instill
	honest			neglect
		safe place	haven	
3	restrain	occurrence	ornate	shackle
	memoir			autobiography
		plain	phenomenon	
4	sublime	theme	fall back	unifying idea
	amazing			surpass
		bountiful	not enough	

7G Understanding What You Read

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

Mo walked through the ornate halls, staring up at the detailed windows and walls. He couldn't help thinking that there had to be some mistake. It just wasn't conventional for a fourteen-year-old to inherit a house like this from a relative he hardly knew. Of course, he knew that his Aunt Josephine had always liked him, but this much?

Mo looked around the house, examining the curtains inlaid with gold fabric. He kicked off his shoes and ran his toes through the carpet. This, he thought to himself, was the most sublime feeling he'd ever experienced.

He glanced outside the window. The garden outside was breathtaking, with a stone walkway leading down through the lawn. The plants were bountiful: Large trees stood guard like obedient soldiers, and vines snaked their way up the high brick walls that surrounded the estate. What could possibly surpass this? Mo wondered. As he walked on, Mo ran his fingers over the back of a chair, noticing that the chair's arms resembled snakes. He gazed down a hall, and it seemed endless. It was almost like looking into outer space. A strange feeling came over him. Instead of feeling elated over this phenomenon, this absolute miracle of inheriting a house at his age, Mo began to get scared.

Suddenly, instead of feeling like a prince in a palace, Mo felt as though he were alone in a horrible dream. The staircase that had taken his breath away a minute ago suddenly instilled a sense of impending dread. The sun streaming through the skylight only fostered his fear: The fear that someone, somewhere was watching his every step.

He backed up slowly toward the door, as if he were waiting for a horror movie theme to start playing. He hardly breathed, as if every breath of air would shackle him further to the house. With his heart pounding, he stepped outside the door, into the fresh air and the warm, waiting sunlight.

1. The passage suggests that the house is

- (A) cheap
- (B) dirty
- (C) clean
- (D) expensive

2. According to the text, Mo goes from feeling

- (A) overwhelmed to feeling fearful
- (B) apprehensive to feeling deceived
- (C) happy to feeling sublime
- (D) excited to feeling scared

3. In the third paragraph, when Mo wonders "what could possibly surpass this," he means

- (A) what could possibly be scarier than this
- (B) what could possibly be more expensive than this
- (C) what could possibly be more amazing than this
- (D) what could possibly occur later in time

4. The final line of the story leads us to believe that Mo

- (A) is about to get killed
- (B) may have been imagining things
- (C) was having a nightmare
- (D) is scared of sunlight

5. The word “theme” is used in the last paragraph to mean

- (A) music
- (B) subject
- (C) idea
- (D) game

7H Thinking Creatively

Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

1. Why do you think evil Transformers were named **Decepticons**?

2. Describe a game show called *Assimilate that Man!*

3. What is the most **ornate** birthday cake you have ever seen?

4. What is the most bizarre **phenomenon** you've ever heard of?

5. Where in the world do you think has the most **sublime** views?

Word Breakdown

Deceive comes from the Latin *de* (“from”) and *capere* (“to take”). When you deceive someone, you take from them. *Deceive* is just one of many words that mean to trick or mislead. *Deceit* usually involves lying or hiding the truth. *Betray* means that someone violated your trust in a major way: He betrayed us by telling the bully where we were hiding. *Mislead* means to lead in the wrong direction, either physically or mentally: It's easy to *mislead* a young kid into thinking that the sun revolves around the Earth. If you *dupe* someone, you are taking advantage of how dumb or naive they are: We were *duped* by the scalper into paying \$300 for two tickets. To *bamboozle* is to trick using artful persuasion. *Double-cross* implies breaking a promise: The robber *double-crossed* his friend.