

Sample Passage

Directions: Working in triads, upgrade the underlined vocabulary in the passage below. You may use dictionaries, thesauruses, and words from the word wall, but remember that your goal is to maintain clear writing and enhance or intensify meaning, mood, intent, etc., not to “stuff” the passage with as many “hard” words as possible.

Sadly, Isabella did not know which way to turn. The fact that she stood at a crossroad in her life was clear, but her conscious knowledge of that truth did nothing to help her make a decision. The fact that she knew, intellectually, that she had just two choices, both of which held danger, maybe even death, served only to increase the frozen state of indecision caused by her own fear. For a long time, she stood, still, unable, no unwilling, to move either mind or body. Then, calling upon a will that lay deep in her center, a will saved for a soul in crisis, Isabella found a flicker of her old courage, a part of herself that, with recent events, had been driven deep inside, and she used its warmth to melt the icy fear that, for some time, had left her lifeless, unable to function as she had once functioned. Slowly, Isabella awakened her courage to face the fear that consumed her, choose a path, and continue her journey. She willed the numbness to pass through her, and she willed the warmth to comfort her. She willed life back into her consciousness, her mind, and her limbs. Then, Isabella made her choice, and she took a first step toward an unclear future.

Sample Passage

Sadly, Isabella did not know which way to turn. The fact that she stood at a crossroad in her life was clear, but her conscious knowledge of that truth did nothing to help her make a decision. The fact that she knew, intellectually, that she had just two choices, both of which held danger, maybe even death, served only to increase the frozen state of indecision caused by her own fear. For a long time, she stood, still, unable, no unwilling, to move either mind or body. Then, calling upon a will that lay deep in her center, a will saved for a soul in crisis, Isabella found a flicker of her old courage, a part of herself that, with recent events, had been driven deep inside, and she used its warmth to melt the icy fear that, for some time, had left her lifeless, unable to function as she had once functioned. Slowly, Isabella awakened her courage to face the fear that consumed her, choose a path, and continue her journey. She willed the numbness to pass through her, and she willed the warmth to comfort her. She willed life back into her consciousness, her mind, and her limbs. Then, Isabella made her choice, and she took a first step toward an unclear future.

Sample Passage

(Comparing Vocabulary Choices)

Sadly/Unfortunately, Isabella did not know which way to turn. The fact that she stood at a crossroad in her life was clear/evident, but her conscious knowledge of that truth did nothing to help her make a decision/guide her decision. The fact that she knew, intellectually, that she had just two choices/options, both of which held danger/posed certain danger, maybe/possibly even death, served only to increase/heighten the frozen state of indecision caused by her own fear/perpetuated by her own apprehension. For a long time/while, she stood, still/motionless, unable, no unwilling, to move/stir either mind or body. Then, calling upon a will that lay deep in her center, a will saved/reserved for a soul in crisis, Isabella found/summoned a flicker of her old courage, a part of herself that, with recent events, had been driven deep inside, and she used its warmth to melt the icy fear that, for some time, had left/rendered her lifeless, unable to function as she had once functioned. Slowly, Isabella awakened her courage to face the fear/resolve to confront the dread that consumed her, choose a path, and continue her journey. She willed the numbness to pass through her, and she willed the warmth to comfort her. She willed life back into her consciousness, her mind, and her limbs. Then, Isabella made her choice/decision, and she took a first step toward an unclear/uncertain future.

Sample Passage

(With Upgraded Vocabulary Choices)

Unfortunately, Isabella did not know which way to turn. The fact that she stood at a crossroad in her life was evident, but her conscious knowledge of that truth did nothing to guide her decision. The fact that she knew, intellectually, that she had just two options, both of which posed certain danger, possibly even death, served only to heighten the frozen state of indecision perpetuated by her own apprehension. For a long while, she stood, motionless, unable, no unwilling, to stir either mind or body. Then, calling upon a will that lay deep in her center, a will reserved for a soul in crisis, Isabella summoned a flicker of her old courage, a part of herself that, with recent events, had been driven deep inside, and she used its warmth to melt the icy fear that, for some time, had rendered her lifeless, unable to function as she had once functioned.

Slowly, Isabella awakened her resolve to confront the dread that consumed her, choose a path, and continue her journey. She willed the numbness to pass through her, and she willed the warmth to comfort her. She willed life back into her consciousness, her mind, and her limbs. Then, Isabella made her decision, and she took a first step toward an uncertain future.