

## Unit 8 - They Look Like Us

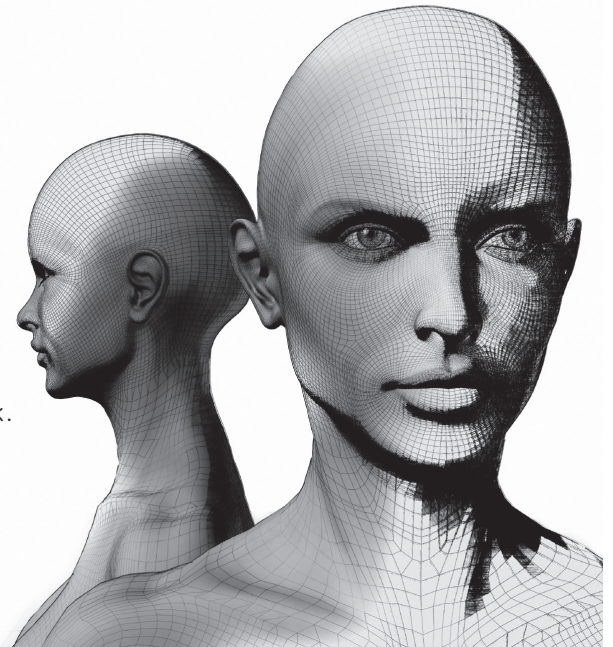
### 8A Introduction

Will we even know when the robots invade?

### 8B Song Lyrics

*Yes. Pay attention and focus. Oh man, this is serious. The most amazing day of my life. I woke up thinking it was going to be a normal day, and then everything just went crazy.*

It was all normal that morning,  
Radio alarm went off roaring, woke me from my snoring.  
Took a shower, **pondering** the rest of my day,  
Thinking about all the things that would happen to me.  
I **devoured** my corn flakes, I ate them quickly,  
Got to school before 8 on my bike in a jiffy.  
We had a new principal, her voice was odd,  
She said, "It's the pledge of allegiance—so please stand up.  
I pledge allegiance to the robots, I mean, to the flag  
of America and to the country for which it stands."  
Then in third period I tried to relax,  
With a nice paperback from the library that was right in the back.  
**Browsing** and looking for a good novel,  
Pulled out a book, and it was all hollow; it's so awful.  
I'm thinking, What's this, a **counterfeit** or fake book?  
I noticed something inside, so I had to take a look.  
I opened it up and saw a little key,  
It's a mystery, I'm looking at it thinking, What could this be?  
Needless to say, my interest was **piqued**,  
My interest was provoked and increased.  
So I **plucked** the key from the book like a feather from a chicken,  
Wishing no one would ever notice that this was missing.  
Now I **presumed** and supposed that the key was supposed to  
Open a door to gold, you know I was hopeful.  
I noticed a symbol or **emblem** on the key,  
It had a picture of a robot that was looking at me.  
Then a librarian walked by, who I told, "Hi,  
Miss Librarian, you know that I'm all right.  
Nice paisley cardigan and cool pressed slacks!  
Well, I'm sorry I'm reading a book, and should get back."  
She said, "Don't **patronize** me, young man,  
Don't talk down to me like I don't understand.  
I see you hiding back there like you're **lurking**,  
Get back to class; I know you should be working."  
I put the key in my pocket, retreated back to my class,  
**Receded** from the library, went away fast.




*It seems that life's not as it seems,  
This life is like a dream,  
Don't know what it means because...  
(x2)*

A few weeks later, talking with Steve,  
 Steve opened his locker, I couldn't believe.  
 I saw the same emblem on the key before,  
 And a little hole below where the key could go.  
 I peeked through for a **preview**, but couldn't see through,  
 Steve knew it was too dark to even see through.  
 I said, "We're coming back here, is that clear?  
 Act **mellow**, man, just be cool, don't act weird."  
 After school, my heart was pounding, I'm losing it,  
 Steve was crazy-excited and **exuberant**.  
 Here we go, put the key in the hole to go in,  
 As the back wall of the locker opened.  
 We started climbing through the darkness,  
 I was losing bravery and getting **disheartened**.  
 The passage led to a room that I didn't know,  
 We saw the librarian talking the principal.  
 They talked about a plot to take over the school,  
 Take over the town, down to controlling the news,  
 Take over the globe; oh man, you didn't know  
 That these ladies were thugs and totally cold.  
 Each peeled off her mask, nice and slow,  
 And I remembered what their voices sounded like before.  
 They seemed human, but I realized that they're so not,  
 My librarian and principal were robots!

Hook

## 8C 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. browse**  1. to look through or glance at casually 2. to eat (wild vegetation), to graze

1. The store manager didn't like having kids in the store because they tended to *browse* without buying anything. 2. The monkeys *browsed* for berries in the tree canopy.

Synonyms: check over, survey

Other forms: There is something wrong with my Internet *browser* (noun); it displays all text in flashing green.

**2. counterfeit**  not genuine, fake

When Chris was caught trying to buy candy with *counterfeit* money, they didn't just call the cops; they brought in the FBI.

Synonyms: false, bogus

Antonyms: genuine, real

Other forms: *Counterfeit* can also be a noun meaning "an imitation designed to deceive," as in: This painting, which looks authentic, was actually a *counterfeit*.

*Counterfeit* can also be a verb meaning "to make an illegal copy": Some criminals try to *counterfeit* U.S. currency. The *counterfeiters* (noun) were caught at the border.

**3. devour** (verb) 1. to eat up hungrily or quickly 2. to take in eagerly (as in a book, a movie, etc.)

1. Kimee *devoured* her sandwich in 30 seconds. 2. Last summer I *devoured* all the books I could find by R. L. Stine.

Synonyms: 1. chow down, consume

**4. dishearten** (verb) to shake or destroy the courage of; to discourage

The basketball team, usually in good spirits, was *disheartened* to learn that their opponents were undefeated.

Synonyms: dismay, deject

Antonyms: encourage

**5. emblem** (noun) a symbol or sign

The olive branch is an *emblem* of peace.

Synonyms: mark, token, insignia

Other forms: Joe had to admit: Getting rejected by Danielle at the dance was pretty *emblematic* (adj) of his bad luck recently.

**6. exuberant** (adj) extremely enthusiastic

When Jorge's sister came back from college, Jorge gave her an *exuberant* greeting.

Synonyms: energetic, enthusiastic

Antonyms: depressed, unenthusiastic

Other forms: Seeing the presents under the tree, little Sarah couldn't contain her *exuberance* (noun).

**7. lurk** (verb) to prowl or lie hidden, as though about to attack

Don't pretend you weren't listening; I saw you *lurking* in the shadows.

Synonyms: creep, sneak, snoop

**8. mellow** (adj) soft, gentle, pleasant

Beyoncé painted her entire house in *mellow* colors.

Synonyms: easy, relaxed

Antonyms: harsh, hard

Other forms: *Mellow* can also be a verb meaning "to make mellow," as in: Tony's hatred of the government *mellowed* as he got older.

**9. pique** (verb) 1. to excite to action 2. to hurt the pride of

1. The short movie trailer really *piqued* my curiosity about the film. 2. *Piqued* that Rory had ignored her after the game, Joanna stormed off in anger.

Synonyms: 1. provoke, incite

Other forms: *Pique* can also be a noun meaning "a feeling of hurt": Believing that he hadn't been chosen for the lead in the play because he was Asian, Mike's *pique* was obvious to everyone.

**10. pluck** (verb) to pull off or out; to pick

The chicken meat you get from a supermarket comes from chickens that have been *plucked* by a machine.

Synonyms: snatch

Antonyms: insert

Other forms: *Pluck* can also be a noun meaning “courage”: Full of *pluck*, Umberto jumped through the window.

**11. ponder** (verb) to think about; to consider carefully

Kyle loves nothing more than to make a tall glass of lemonade, sit on his porch, and *ponder* the meaning of life.

Synonyms: contemplate, reflect, mull over

Antonyms: forget, ignore

**12. presume** (verb) to take for granted; to assume or suppose

I saw his crown and automatically *presumed* he was the king.

Synonyms: believe, figure

Antonyms: disbelieve

Other forms: You shouldn't take things for granted all the time; *presumption* (noun) can be dangerous. Christopher Columbus was kind of *presumptuous* (adj) when he landed in America and thought he was in India .

**13. patronize** (verb) 1. to give one business as a customer regularly or to provide financial help 2. to treat someone as an inferior; to talk down to

1. Ever since the owner yelled at me, I don't *patronize* that deli anymore. 2. *Patronizing* us with his fake concern, our teacher asked if we needed some pillows since it looked like we wanted to take a nap.

Synonyms: 1. buy from 2. condescend, treat like a child

Other forms: Buntha is a real *patron* (noun) of the arts and gives lots of money to painters.

Olly gave us a *patronizing* (adj) look that let us know he didn't respect us.

**14. preview** (noun) something seen in advance

Fans were treated to a *preview* of the championship game when a handful of players scrimmaged on a nearby field.

Synonyms: sneak peak

Other forms: *Preview* can also be a verb meaning “to view beforehand,” as in: Ms. Turner *previewed* the movie to make sure it was appropriate for her kids.

**15. recede** (verb) to move back or to drop to a lower level

Once Clive turned 50, his hairline began to *recede*.

Synonyms: withdraw, decline

Antonyms: advance, increase

### **8D 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. My interest in Jennifer was **pondered** when I heard she loves Degrassi as much as I do.

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2. From the way he acted, I always **patronized** that Dante wasn't from around here.

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3. Trent gave his girlfriend a ring as a **pique** of his everlasting love for her.

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4. The basketball team **devoured** a victory out of thin air when they made an astonishing 20-point comeback in the fourth quarter.

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5. Maria was **receded** to hear that she didn't get the lead in the school musical.

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6. The mathematician **disheartened** the equation for weeks before he finally figured out how to solve it.

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7. Daria loves to **preview** through the crates of vinyl records at the record store for hours on end.

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8. There's nothing I love more than spending a **counterfeit** day relaxing in the hammock in my backyard.

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9. The criminal genius figured out a way to make convincing **exuberant** passports using nothing but a laser printer and a roll of Scotch tape.

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10. My neighbor is a film editor, and he invited us to see an **emblem** of the new Superman movie months before it was released in the theater.

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11. I think I hear a tiger **plucking** in the bushes! We have to get out of here!
- \_\_\_\_\_
12. I'm so hungry I could **browse** an entire cow right about now.
- \_\_\_\_\_
13. We sat on the beach and watched the sun **lurk** below the horizon until it disappeared.
- \_\_\_\_\_
14. Bryce always **presumes** us; he acts like he's better than us just because he made a viral video. How hard can that be?
- \_\_\_\_\_
15. My puppy is so **mellow** when I come home from school, I have to run around the block with him a few times to calm him down.
- \_\_\_\_\_

### **8E 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 refuse to (**patronize OR counterfeit**) the movie theater after they kicked us out for talking.
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The pickpocket could (**lurk OR pluck**) the wallet out of someone's pocket and put it back empty without drawing anyone's attention.
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Yuri was (**disheartened OR devoured**) when he realized how far he would have to climb to get to the top of the mountain.
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The town threw an (**emblematic OR exuberant**) celebration for the knight who killed the mighty dragon.
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Kristina hasn't responded to my party invitation yet, but I (**ponder OR presume**) she'll be there since she's my best friend.
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**8F 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**

browse	recede	presume	look through
disbelief			exuberant
	extremely enthusiastic	increase	

.....

**2**

preview	harsh	mellow	devour
sneak peek			lurk
	snoop	consume	

.....

**3**

dishearten	pluck	to pick	encourage
geniune			patronize
	counterfeit	condescend	

.....

**4**

forget about	ponder	pique	symbol
relaxed			provoke
	emblem	mellow	

**8G Understanding What You Read**

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

**Catch Me If You Can**

By the age of 19, Frank Abagnale, Jr. had spent time working as a pilot, a doctor, a teacher, and a lawyer. He had lived the life of a millionaire and traveled to countries all over the world. How did he do it? Is Abagnale an emblem of the things we can all accomplish by working hard? The answer is yes—if what you’d like to accomplish is to be a wanted criminal!

Abagnale was born in New York City in 1948. When he was 16, his parents divorced and he began living with his father. Shortly afterward, Abagnale’s father got a preview of his son’s future life. Abagnale, Sr. gave his son a truck and a credit card to use for buying gas. In no time, Abagnale, Jr. learned that he could impress girls if he seemed to have a lot of money. He soon began patronizing local gas stations and using his credit card to scam them out of money. When his father learned about what was happening, he was disheartened by his son’s behavior. Abagnale, Jr. was apologetic, but said he couldn’t help himself. “It’s the girls, Dad,” he said. “They do funny things to me. I can’t explain it.”

Not long after that, Abagnale, Jr. got a checkbook. He started writing checks for more money than he had in his bank account. Unfortunately for him, it did not take long for the bank to catch on. But Abagnale, Jr.’s interest was piqued. He pondered how he could use the banks to make money without doing any work. Finally, he decided to start creating counterfeit checks using fake names.

Abagnale’s checks looked very real. Even trained bankers couldn’t tell that they were fake. There was only one problem: Abagnale still looked like a 16-year-old boy. He decided he needed a new identity, so he got an airline uniform from Pan American World Airways and began to pretend he was a pilot. He found that when he was in uniform, everyone presumed he really was a pilot.

The police finally caught Abagnale in France in 1969. By that time, he had flown to 26 countries around the world by pretending to be a pilot. He had also pretended to be a doctor, working at a Georgia hospital for nearly a year. He had even faked a law degree to work for the attorney general of Louisiana.

Abagnale spent almost five years in prison for his crimes. When he was released, he started working for the U.S. government as an expert in banking crimes. He then created a company that taught banks how to catch thieves like himself. Today, he’s a millionaire again—only this time, it’s for real!

**1. Which of the following jobs did Abagnale, Jr. NOT have?**

- (A) Company owner
- (B) Bank worker
- (C) Teacher
- (D) Doctor

**2. Abagnale, Jr.’s first illegal activity involved**

- (A) A credit card
- (B) A pilot’s uniform
- (C) Checks
- (D) A fake name

**3. Why did Abagnale, Jr. originally want to have money?**

- (A) So he could buy gas for his truck
- (B) So he could travel around the world
- (C) So people would think he was an adult
- (D) So he could impress girls

**4. Frank Abagnale, Jr. could best be described as**

- (A) Humble
- (B) Ignorant
- (C) Crafty
- (D) Charitable





## The Word Up Project: Level Yellow

browse / counterfeit / devour / dishearten / emblem / exuberant / lurk / mellow / patronize / pique / pluck / ponder / presume / preview / recede

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### 5. This passage would most likely be found in

- (A) A book of mystery stories
- (B) A book about famous criminals
- (C) A magazine article about famous airline pilots
- (D) A magazine article about creative travel ideas

### 8H Thinking Creatively

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

1. What would a book called The **Lurking Menace** be about?

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2. What food do you love to **devour**?

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3. Describe your favorite kind of **mellow** day.

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4. What **piques** your interest?

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5. What are you **pondering** right now?

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### Word Breakdown

You might recognize a root you already know in the word *presume*: the Latin root *sume*, which means “to take.” The word *consume*, for example, means “to take and use.” The meaning of the word *presume* is similar to that of the word *assume*, with a slight difference: *Assume* means “to suppose to be the case, without proof; or to take for granted,” while *presume* means “to suppose that something is the case on the basis of probability.” To *assume*, then, is to guess, while to *presume* is to make an educated guess.