

Name: _____

Date: _____

American History 2 - Mr. Dunham

Period: _____

ACTIVITY: 1920s SLANG LETTER/JOURNAL

Assume the role of one of the individuals below. Write a description of changes or demonstrate the changes in the living and/or working conditions of your chosen character from the period 1900-1929. You may make inferences about social, intellectual, and technological changes that may have influenced changes in life and/or work. You may use any of the slang terms from the 1920s to tell your story. Have fun in someone else's shoes.

- A. a teenager living on a farm
- B. a teenager living in a city
- C. a female office worker in a city
- D. a domestic servant in a small town or in a city
- E. the operator of a motion picture theater
- F. a labor union member working in an industrial plant on an assembly line
- G. a resident of Harlem
- H. a Native American living on a reservation
- I. a newspaper reporter in a large city
 - (NY, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, etc.)
- J. a drama critic for a major daily newspaper of the time
 - (Washington Post, NY Times, Chicago Herald, San Francisco Examiner, Winston-Salem Journal)
- K. a banker on Wall Street (or a stock broker)
- L. an owner of a factory that produced the new electrical appliances
- M. a farmer in the Midwest
- N. a World War I veteran

Requirements: Your letter/journal must have a minimum of 2 paragraphs (5 sentences each). You also need to include a minimum of 10 slang terms.



Slang

all my whiskers
 all wet
 and how!
 audies
 banana oil
 bathtub gin
 bee's knees
 berries, the
 between a rock
 and a hard place
 big cheese
 bim
 blind dragon
 blind pig
 blotto
 bootleg
 breeze in
 bug wash
 bull session
 bunk
 caper
 carhop

 cats, the
 cat's meow
 cat's pajamas
 cheaters
 chopper
 crush
 darb
 dig dirt
 divine
 do in
 dumb dora
 fat cat
 flapper

 flick
 fridge
 gaga
 get hot!
 giggle-water
 goon
 governor
 grand
 ham-and-egger
 high hat
 hooch
 hoof
 horsefeathers
 hotsie-totsie
 hyper
 jalopy
 Jane
 jinny
 juice-joint
 keen
 kisser
 lickety-split
 lounge lizard
 lousy

Meaning

nonsense
 wrong, incorrect
 definitely!
 sound movies
 nonsense
 homemade gin
 great!
 the best
 in a difficult situation

 an important person
 girl friend
 chaperone
 a speakeasy
 drunk
 make or sell illegal liquor
 drop in unexpectedly
 hair oil
 group discussion
 nonsense!
 a robbery
 waitress at a drive-in
 restaurant
 outstanding
 outstanding
 good, super
 eyeglasses
 submachine gun
 being infatuated with
 excellent
 to gossip
 nice, enjoyable
 to eat a _____
 an idiot, especially a woman
 wealthy person
 uninhibited woman,
 a style of dressing
 movie
 refrigerator
 crazy, silly
 Dance! Go for it!
 whiskey, liquor
 a thug, ruffian
 father, one's superior
 good
 ordinary person
 to snub someone
 bootleg liquor
 to dance
 nonsense!
 very good
 excited, thrilled
 an old car
 a plain girl
 a speakeasy
 a speakeasy
 attractive, good
 the mouth
 quickly
 a ladies man
 bad, inferior

Slang

lug
 main drag
 malarkey
 nitwit
 nuts
 park
 pash
 pinch
 pip-squeak
 rah-rah
 raspberries
 ricky tick
 ritzy
 rock
 sad sack
 scram
 sheba
 sheik
 sloppy
 smeller
 smooch
 speakie
 struggle buggy
 stuck on
 stuffy
 swell
 talkie
 tin Lizzie
 torpedo
 upchuck
 white cow
 wise up
 wish book
 wowser

Meaning

a dull man
 main street
 lies, nonsense
 idiot
 nonsense!
 made out in a car
 passion
 to arrest
 a useless person
 overly enthusiastic
 nonsense!
 ragtime music of 20's
 elegant
 a dollar
 an odd person
 to leave hurriedly
 girlfriend
 handsome man
 messy
 the nose
 kiss/hug
 a movie with sound
 car
 having a crush on
 prudish
 fine
 movie with sound
 Model T Ford
 a hired gunman
 to vomit
 vanilla milkshake
 become aware, learn
 catalog
 prude, self-righteous person

