Vocabulary 1-10- A Lesson Before Dying

Read the sentences below that include vocabulary words. Look up the definitions of the words in a dictionary. Then write one original sentence using each vocabulary word. Write complete sentences that really demonstrate the meaning of the words.

1. a. There was absolutely no proof that there had been a **conspiracy** between himself and the other two. pg. 7  
   b. The terrorists were involved in a **conspiracy** to kill thousands of Americans. They worked secretly together to carry out their destructive plan.

2. a. A man with a **modicum** of intelligence would have seen that those racketeers meant no good. Pg. 7  
   b. My brother didn’t have a **modicum** of patience. My Dad used to say he had about as much patience as you could put on the end of a pin.

3. a. I ask you, I **implore**, - do you see the man sitting here? Pg. 7  
   b. I **implore** you to listen to me. This is such a serious matter, I am begging you to consider my proposal.

4. a. We had friends in Baton Rouge who knew about her **pending** divorce and knew about my aunt. Pg. 32  
   b. The decision of the boss with regard to who would get laid off was **pending**. We were all waiting for his final decision.

5. a. Other than that, all there was to see were old gray weather-beaten houses, with smoke rising out of the chimneys and drifting across the **corrugated** tin roofs. Pg. 37  
   b. It was packed in **corrugated** paper so we couldn’t write on the bumpy surface of the cardboard.

6. a. Most **averted** their eyes. I noticed that the girl whom I had criticized at the blackboard had lowered her head and was crying. pg. 39  
   b. We **averted** an accident by slamming on our brakes and turning the car to the side.

7. a. To learn anything, he had to attain it by **stealth** or through an **innate** sense of things around him. Pg. 41  
   b. **Stealth** bombers are those that find and then attack a target through a secretive, undetectable plan.

8. a. To learn anything, he had to attain it by **stealth** or through an **innate** sense of things around him.  
   b. Richard’s gift for fixing machines seems **innate**. Even as a child, he could take one look at a broken toy and know what was wrong with it.

9. a. I didn’t know if it was because of my **cynicism** or the task I had facing me. Pg. 43  
   b. Many people are **cynical** about politicians. They don’t trust them and are very unsure of their trustworthiness.

10. a. She raised the lids on two other pots, but still the odor of the onions, pepper, and garlic **pervaded** the room. Pg. 43  
    b. Drug and alcohol problems seem to be **pervasive** among the homeless community.