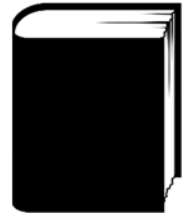


Verifying Inferred Meaning



DIRECTIONS: The passage below is from *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo. Read the passage. Use context clues to infer the meaning of each bold word. Then verify that you have the correct meaning by looking the word up in the dictionary.

The Revolution came; events succeeded each other with **precipitation**; the parliamentary families, **decimated**, pursued, hunted down, were **dispersed**. M. Charles Myriel emigrated to Italy at the very beginning of the Revolution. There his wife died of a **malady** of the chest, from which she had long suffered. He had no children. What took place next in the fate of M. Myriel? The ruin of the French society of the olden days, the fall of his own family, the tragic spectacles of '93, which were, perhaps, even more alarming to the emigrants who viewed them from a distance, with the magnifying powers of terror, did these cause the ideas of **renunciation** and solitude to **germinate** in him? Was he, in the midst of these distractions, these affections which absorbed his life, suddenly **smitten** with one of those mysterious and terrible blows which sometimes overwhelm, by striking to his heart, a man whom public catastrophes would not shake, by striking at his existence and his fortune? No one could have told: all that was known was, that when he returned from Italy he was a priest.

| Word | Your Inferred Meaning | Dictionary Definition |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| precipitation | _____ | _____ |
| decimated | _____ | _____ |
| dispersed | _____ | _____ |
| malady | _____ | _____ |
| renunciation | _____ | _____ |
| germinate | _____ | _____ |
| smitten | _____ | _____ |