

Context Clues



DIRECTIONS: The passage below is the opening paragraph of *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the **epoch** of belief, it was the epoch of **incredulity**; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest **authorities** insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the **superlative** degree of comparison only.

- The word **epoch** means a period of
 - learning
 - time
 - season
- Incredulity** is:
 - disbelief
 - arrogance
 - humility
- A synonym for **authorities** is:
 - officials
 - followers
 - observers
- Superlative** is a word meaning:
 - lowest quality or degree
 - highest quality or degree
 - indistinguishable