

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

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Harvey Weinstein's Fall Opens the Floodgates in Hollywood

If an action or a decision **opens** the **floodgates**, it allows something to happen a lot or allows many people to do something that was not previously allowed or happening

LOS ANGELES — Harvey Weinstein is certainly not the first powerful man publicly and **credibly** accused of sexually harassing or abusing women in recent years.

Since 2015, the Fox News chairman Roger Ailes, the Fox News prime-time host Bill O'Reilly and the comedian and actor Bill Cosby have suffered professional, financial or reputational **setbacks** after numerous women told stories of their sexual misconduct.

Those stories dominated news cycles, to be sure, but the **outcry** accompanying Mr. Weinstein's downfall seems louder and more **impassioned** — perhaps because Mr. Weinstein's accusers include stars like Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow.

"I think this is a **watershed** moment," said the producer Gail Berman, who had top jobs at Paramount Pictures and the Fox network.

That became clear on Sunday, when Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were flooded with messages from women who used the hashtag #MeToo to acknowledge that they had dealt with sexual harassment or assault. A tweet posted by the actress Alyssa Milano inspired the online campaign.

The Oscar-winning director Kathryn Bigelow **applauded** the movement. "The democratization of the spread of information can finally move faster than a powerful **media mogul's* attempts to bury it," she said by email.

** refers to a successful entrepreneur or businessperson who controls, through personal ownership or via a dominant position in any **media** related company enterprise*

The singer and actress Courtney Love accused the powerful Creative Artists Agency of punishing her after she raised questions about Mr. Weinstein's behavior in 2005, and a recently **unearthed** video clip of Ms. Love making the charge has **gone viral**.

Kicked off by reports on the **allegations** against Mr. Weinstein, the outpouring came a little more than a year after The Washington Post published leaked excerpts from an "Access Hollywood" tape in which Donald J. Trump, then a candidate for president, boasted of groping women.

At issue now is whether or not Hollywood can continue its old way of doing business, with self-styled "outlaw" executives getting away with sexual misconduct as lawyers and publicists protect them.

"I think it's upsetting and **devastating**, all of the stories that have come out," said Nina Jacobson, a film producer. "But I think the floodgates being opened is something that had to happen and that finally brings a subject to the surface that has sort of gone unchecked for countless years."

Harvey Weinstein, an American film producer

Note: On Saturday (Oct 14), the board of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences stripped Mr. Weinstein of his academy membership.

Adapted from the New York Times dated Tuesday, October 17th



Questions to think about:

- What is your opinion on the issue raised in this article?
- Why do you think it is important to raise awareness of this issue? / Why do you think it often remains a hidden issue?
- How can this issue be tackled/dealt with?
- What is your opinion on the allegations made against Trump? Why do you think he was still elected president of the US despite the allegations or question marks raised about his reputation?
- Why is it especially important that people in positions of power not abuse their power?



I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. credibly (adv)		A: filled with or showing great feeling or emotion
2. setback (n)		B: discover something
3. outcry (n)		C: in a believing and convincing way
4. impassioned (adj)		D: becoming very popular by circulating quickly from person to person, especially through the Internet
5. watershed (n)		E: a big turning point in a situation
6. applaud(ed) (v)		F: a reversal of fortune/luck, or change for the worse
7. unearth(ed) (v)		G: causing severe shock, distress, or grief
8. go(ne) viral (phrasal verb)		H: a claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong, typically one made without proof
9. allegation (n)		I: a strong expression of public disapproval or protest
10. devastating (adj)		J: show strong approval of (a person or action); praise.

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

1. You should not make any _____ without proof. You should not accuse anyone of wrong doing without having concrete evidence.
2. The country's efforts to qualify for the FIFA World Cup received a big _____ when their key player was injured. Qualifying had looked so certain until this happened.
3. The news _____ to the parents. No parent expects their child to die before them. They were in a state of shock.
4. These days it does take long for any news to _____. With the internet and social media, news spreads like wild fires. Before you know it, everybody is talking about it.
5. The mother made an _____ plea to the public to come forward with any news about her missing daughter. In an interview, she broke down crying as she was so filled with emotion.
6. There was a huge public _____ when a young unarmed man was shot down by police. People took to the streets in protest holding signs and placards.
7. When the young man jumped into the water to save the drowning kid, onlookers _____ his action. They clapped and patted him on the back for his good deed.
8. When he was clearing out the cupboards in his house, David _____ a whole collection of photo albums of generations of his family. It was like finding a family treasure.
9. The dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan was a _____ event with regards to the ending of WWII.
10. As the journalist was not sure the news _____, she decided not to publish it. She could not be sure of its truth.

Challenge of the week: Movie trivia

ENGLISH CORNER CAFÉ IS ALWAYS OPEN ON A TUESDAY FOR DRINKS, SNACKS, CONVERSATION & GAMES



See Ms Roberts for prizes if you know the answers!