

Word Mapping #4
Verbal Advantage Vocabulary #31-40

No one likes the statue. No one ever did. This had been established beyond doubt in **manifold** published accounts at the unveiling one hundred and fifty years before and was equally true to this day. It stands, an awkward, oversized metal exaggeration of an awkward, oversized man in uniform, in the center of the park bordered by Willard Street and Somersby Avenue, an otherwise tasteful patchwork of lawns and pathways sheltered by graceful maples and sturdy oaks. The statue had been erected to honor General Horace Simpson McWhirter, a particularly **unscrupulous** man whose role in the **genesis** of the city of New Providence consisted mainly of removing, usually by force, any person or persons living on that particular bit of land before he arrived. Of course, the justification the city council gave to **warrant** the commission of this eyesore was that the General was the main reason for the economic **renaissance** of the region at the time. Everyone knew what really happened was that the nearly **omnipotent** General had merely applied enough pressure on the individual councilors to render them **pliant**. Mitchell Smythe, the only one of the council members **obstinate** enough to verbally challenge the project, was immediately subjected to a furious **retort** by the General that managed to **lacerate** Smythe's reputation to such a degree that he resigned from the council and moved across the country. No one said a word after that. The statue was commissioned, designed, cast, and eventually unveiled to almost universal disgust. The General blamed the city council. The city council blamed the artist. The artist blamed his inadequate fee. However, in the midst of all this, the statue remained standing. So, to this day, the grand monument to the great achievements of General Horace Simpson McWhirter towers over a small city park, ignored by everyone but the pigeons.