Mr. Valentine's 12th Grade English - Vocabulary List 9 - Honors

1. Comic Relief - Noun - The intrusion of humor interrupting or immediately following a scene of great excitement.

Example - The drunken porter knocks at the door immediately after the killing of King Duncan in *Macbeth*.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

2. Diligent - Adjective - Constant in effort to accomplish something; attentive and persistent in doing anything.

Example - The diligent student did all her homework and studied regularly.

Synonyms - Attentive, persistent, dedicated. Antonyms - Lazy, inattentive, negligent.

3. Dramatic Irony - Noun - When the audience or reader knows more about a character's situation than the character does and knows that the character's understanding is incorrect.

Example - In *Medea*, Creon asks, "What atrocities could she commit in one day?" The reader, however, knows Medea will destroy her family and Creon's by the day's end.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

4. Earnest - Adjective - Serious in intention, purpose, or effort; sincerely zealous.

Example - The earnest worker devoted himself to his tasks without dallying or goofing off.

Synonyms - Ardent, Eager, Sincere. Antonyms - Apathetic, insincere, unexcited

5. Fancy - Noun - An idea or opinion with little foundation.

Example - As she sounded like someone was kicking a cow, Judy Jenkins' belief that she can sing is a mere fancy.

Synonym - Illusion, delusion. Antonyms - N/A

6. Fantasy - Noun - Any form of literature or art that is removed from reality, especially those including magic, fictional lands or worlds, mythical creatures, etc.

Example - *The Hobbit*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Harry Potter* all count as works of fantasy.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

7. Hyperbole - Noun - Overstatement or exaggeration in order to make a point.

Example - Joe-Bob, exhausted after a week of bad sleep, said in hyperbole that on that Friday night he intended to "sleep for a thousand years."

Synonyms - Exaggeration, overstatement. Antonyms - Understatement, litotes.

8. Impertinent - Adjective - Intrusive or presumptuous, as persons or their actions; insolently rude; uncivil.

Example - The impertinent youth asked, "Why do we have to learn this stupid stuff."

Synonyms - Rude, uncivil, presumptuous. Antonyms - Respectful, civil, prudent.

9. Incessant - Adjective - Continuing without interruption; ceaseless; unending.

Example - The car alarm rang on incessantly throughout the day.

Synonyms - Ceaseless, unending. Antonyms - Finite, brief.

10. Languid - Adjective - Lacking in vigor or vitality; slack or slow.

Example - The tired man walked and spoke in a very languid manner that day.

Synonyms - Tired, slow. Antonyms - Energetic, fast, quick.

11. Litotes - Noun - Understatement in order to make a point.

Example - After ten cars, a helicopter, and a fallen tree crashed onto the highway, the policeman's partner used litotes when he said, "We have a bit of a problem, here."

Synonyms - Understatement. Antonyms - Exaggeration, overstatement, hyperbole

12. Livery - Noun - A distinctive uniform, badge, or device formerly provided by someone of rank or title.

Example - The butler, soldier, and housekeeper each had their own special livery, according to their jobs.

Synonym - Uniform. Antonyms - N/A

13. Motif - Noun - a situation, incident, idea, or image that is repeated significantly in a literary work.

Example - In *Hamlet*, revenge is frequently a repeated idea. In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holen continually comments on the phoniness of the people he meets.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

14. Quadrille - A square dance for four couples, consisting of five parts or movements, each complete in itself; the music for such a dance.

Example - The ladies and gentlemen went out to the dance-floor and performed a quadrille.

Synonyms - Dance. Antonyms - N/A

15. Situational Irony - Noun - An event in a story that does not happen the way the audience or reader predicts.

Example - In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, running away to get married resulted in Lysander and Hermia gaining Duke Theseus's approval.

16. Sluggard - Noun - A person who is habitually inactive or lazy.

Example - Gilbert the sluggard never wanted to leave his couch and never wanted to do any type of work whatsoever.

Synonyms - Lazybones, laggard, slouch. Antonyms - Hard worker.

17. Suet - Noun - The hard fatty tissue about the loins and kidneys of beef, sheep, etc., used in cooking or processed to yield tallow (for candles, etc).

Example - The candle-maker obtained the necessary leftovers from the butcher's shop to make suet and tallow for candles.

18. Symbol - Noun - An object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; something concrete which represents an abstraction.

Example - The sea could be symbolic for "the unknown." Tree leaves could be symbolic of "leaves" or pages of a book.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

19. Theme - Noun - The central or dominant idea behind a story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out.

Example - In *Beowulf*, the idea that vengeance is an endless cycle that ends only in death is one possible theme.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

20. Verbal Irony - Noun - A discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm.

Example - A large man whose nickname is "Tiny."

Synonyms - Sarcasm Antonyms - N/A