Mr. Valentine's 12th Grade English Class - Vocabulary List 11 - Standard

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. 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

4. 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

5. 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

6. Irony - Noun - When something is said, done, or occurs contrary to what is expected.

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

7. 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

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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