Mr. Valentine’s 12th Grade English – Vocabulary List 3 – Standard

1. Austere – (Adjective) - without excess, luxury, or ease; simple; limited; severe.

Example – The man’s austere home had no luxuries, only the most basic of necessities.

Synonyms – Stark, subdued, Spartan. Antonyms – Elaborate, extravagant, indulgent.

2. Barrow – (Noun) - a heap of earth placed over one or more prehistoric tombs; a burial mound or hill.

Example – The archaeologists found that the hill was actually the barrow of an ancient king.

Synonyms – Hill, tomb, mound. Antonyms – N/A

3. Berserkr/Berserker – (Noun) - an ancient Norse warrior who fought with frenzied rage in battle.

Example – The berserkers leapt off the Viking longboats and ravaged the village.

Synonyms – N/A Antonyms – N/A

4. Contort – (Verb) - to twist, bend, or draw out of shape; distort.

Example - His face contorted into a grotesque sneer.

Synonyms – Deform, twist, wrench. Antonyms – Beautify, smooth, straighten.

5. Decree – (Noun) - a formal and authoritative order, especially one having the force of law. (Verb) – Making or issuing such an order.

Example – The king decreed that all people shall wear top hats in public from now on.

Synonyms – Order, edict, proclamation. Antonyms – N/A

6. Freehold – (Noun) - an estate in land, inherited or held for life.

Example – The son and heir of the nobleman inherited a very large freehold in the mountains.

Synonyms – Estate, residence, territory. Antonyms – N/A

7. Hale – (Adjective) – Healthy and energetic, free from disease or infirmity.

Example – The lumberjack felt hale and ready for a day’s work.

Synonyms – Healthy, energetic, well. Antonyms – Sick, weak, unhealthy.

8. Hearth – (Noun) – the home or fireside.

Example – The king’s closest warriors shared his hearth, enjoying the warmth of the fire and the meat and mead at his table.

Synonyms – Home, fireside. Antonyms – N/A

9. Parley – (Noun) - an informal conference between enemies under a truce, especially to discuss terms, conditions of surrender, etc. (Verb) – The act of holding or taking part in such a conference.

Example – The war cost both sides so much that they decided to stop and parley in the hopes of achieving peace and cutting their losses.

Synonyms – Negotiation/Negotiate Antonyms – N/A

10. Squall – (Noun) – a violent storm that doesn’t last very long.

Example – The sailors saw the dark clouds and knew a squall was coming.

Synonyms – Storm. Antonyms – N/A