Mr. Valentine’s 12th Grade English - Vocabulary List 4 - Honors - Covering Gawain Ch1-39

1. Chastity (Noun) - the principle of refraining from sexual intercourse that is regarded as contrary to morality or religion; (for Gawain, this means never before or outside of marriage).

Example - The couple decided to remain chaste and wait until marriage.

Synonyms - Purity, virtuousness. Antonyms - N/A

2. Chivalry (Noun) - the sum of the ideal qualifications of a knight, including courtesy, generosity, valor, and dexterity in arms. The rules and customs of medieval knighthood.

Example - Sir Joe-Bob practiced all the ideals of chivalry because he wanted to be a good knight.

Synonyms - Courtesy, valiance. Antonyms - Cowardice, rudeness.

3. Dais (Noun) - a raised platform, as at the front of a room, for a lectern, throne, seats of honor, etc.

Example - At the end of the great hall, the king’s throne stood on a dais, symbolizing his elevated position above the others.

Synonyms - Terrace, stage. Antonyms - N/A

4. Dint (Noun) - a blow, stroke, or dent.

Example - Sir Joe-Bob dealt the oppositing knight a dint with his sword.

Synonyms - blow, stroke, dent. Antonyms - N/A

5. Ermine (Noun) - any of various weasels having a white winter coat; anything made from the fur of said animal.

Example - The lady’s coat was quite fancy, made of luxurious white ermine.

Synonyms - weasel, fur. Antonyms - N/A

6. Fay (Noun) - a fairy; (Adjective) - having fairy-like qualities.

Example - The lady seemed quite fay with her wings and curved horns.

Synonyms - fairy; fairy-like, magical. Antonyms - N/A

7. Fell (Adjective) - fierce; cruel; dreadful; savage; destructive; deadly.

Example - The fell creature attacked the village every night.

Synonyms - See above. Antonyms - N/A

8. Fetter (Noun) - a chain or shackle; anything that binds or restrains. (Verb) - to bind, shackle, or restrain.

Example - The prisoner could not escape his iron fetters.

Synoyms - Chain, shackle, restraint. Antonyms - N/A

9. Firebrand (Noun) - a piece of burning wood or other material; a person who kindles strife and encourages unrest.

Example - The firebrands urged the others to fight.

Synoyms - Agitators, troublemakers. Antonyms - N/A

10. Guisarm/Guisarme (Noun) - a shafted weapon having as a head a curved, double-edged blade with a beak at the back.

Example - The warrior swiped at the monster with his brutal gisarm.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

11. Hauberk (Noun) - a long defensive shirt, usually of mail, extending to the knees; byrnie.

Example - The warrior put on his hauberk before going into battle.

Synonyms - Armor, chainmail. Antonyms - N/A

12. Mirth (Noun) - Happiness, gaiety, or jollity, especially when accompanied by laughter.

Example - The party-goers were filled with mirth as they shared jokes and stories.

Synonyms - Happiness, gaiety, jollity. Antonyms - Sadness, sorrow, melancholy.

13. Pentangle (Noun) - A five pointed star, symbolizing (in Gawain’s time) the five points of chivalry (i.e. principles he must adhere to). According to SGGK, this included the five wounds of Christ, the five joys of Mary, the five fingers, the five senses, and the five virtues, which were friendship, generosity, chastity, courtesy, and piety.

Example - The knight looked at the pentangle on his shield and remembered what he had to do.

Synonyms - N/A Antonyms - N/A

14. Phantom (Noun) - a ghost, apparition, or specter; an apparition or specter; an appearance or illusion without material substance, as a dream image, mirage, or optical illusion.

Example - The woman swung her sword at the monster, but it went right through it, proving it was no more than a phantom.

Synonym - Ghost, apparition, specter, illusion. Antonyms - N/A

15. Piety (Noun) - reverence for God or devout fulfillment of religious obligations.

Example - The monk led a life of piety, praying and helping others as often as possible.

Synonyms - reverence, devoutness, faith. Antonyms - Apathy, disbelief, impiety.

16. Siege (Noun) - the act or process of surrounding and attacking a fortified place in such a way as to isolate it from help and supplies, for the purpose of lessening the resistance of the defenders and thereby making capture possible.

Example - The army laid siege to the castle of their enemy for many days.

Synonyms - Beset, blockade. Antonyms - Aid, assist.

17. Stalwart (Adjective) - strongly and stoutly built; sturdy and robust.

Example - The monster feared the stalwart knight.

Synonyms - Strong, stout, sturdy, robust. Antonyms - Weak, frail, lithe.

18. Tourney (Noun) - A tournament; (Verb) - to engage in said tournament.

Example - The knights wished to know who was the best, so they entered into a tourney to joust, swordfight, and shoot bows.

Synonyms - Tournament, competition, compete. Antonyms - Surrender, retreat.

19. Yule (Noun) - Christmas or the Christmas season; prior to that, a pagan or Old Norse festival lasting for twelve days and occurring around the same time.

Example - The people got into the yule-tide spirit and sang carols, hung decorations, gave gifts, spent time with family, etc.

Synonyms - Christmas, Christmas time. Antonyms - N/A

20. Zephyr (Noun) - a gentle, fine breeze; the Greek and Roman god of the west wind.

Example - The soothing zephyr brought comfort after the unpleasant heat.

Synonyms - wind; wind spirit. Antonyms - N/A