Mr. Valentine’s 12th Grade English Class - Vocabulary List 2 - Honors

1. Bane - (Noun) - Death, destruction, ruin.

Example - When Anna-Jo killed the dragon, she named her sword the dragon’s bane.

Synonyms - Death, destruction, ruin. Antonyms - Aid, boon, blessing, benefit.

2. Billow - (Noun) - A great wave or surge of the sea.

Example - Gilbert sailed across the mighty billows of the stormy sea.

Synonyms - Breaker, crest, roller, surge, swell, tide, wave. Antonyms - N/A

3. Blithe - (Adjective) - joyous, merry, or gay in disposition; glad; cheerful.

Example - Everyone loved her for her blithe spirit.

Synonyms - Carefree, joyous, merry. Antonyms - Depressed, troubled, worried.

4. Boon - (Noun) - something to be thankful for; a blessing, favor, benefit, or gift.

Example - The knight asked for the boon of a kiss should he return from his quest.

Synonyms - Blessing, favor, benefit, gift. Antonyms - Disadvantage, loss, hindrance, misfortune.

5. Courtier - (Noun) - A person who is often in attendance at the court of a king or other royal personage.

Example - When the theater group was hired to stay at the king’s court permanently, they want from being simple penniless actors to courtiers.

Synonyms - Attendant, train, retinue. Antonyms - N/A

6. Doughty - (Adjective) - Steadfastly courageous and resolute; valiant.

Example - The doughty warrior faced the hundred dragons rather than running away.

Synonyms - Courageous, brave, valiant. Antonyms - Cowardly, craven, fearful.

7. Hoary - (Adjective) - gray or white with age.

Example - As the man became old, his hair grew hoary.

Synonyms - White, old. Antonyms - New, young.

8. Prowess - (Noun) - exceptional valor, bravery, or ability, especially in combat or battle.

Example - The warrior’s reputation for killing monsters and never running from battle showed his great prowess.

Synonyms - Valor, bravery, courage. Antonyms - Cowardice, weakness, inability.

9. Respite - (Noun) - a period of delay, rest, or relief from a difficult or tiring task.

Example - The travellers had been on the road for days and required respite at the nearest inn.

Synonyms - Rest, delay, relief, breather. Antonyms - Continuation, advance.

10. Sentinel - (Noun) - a person or thing that watches or stands as if watching.

Example - The sentinel stood at the top of the tower, looking for signs of approaching enemies.

Synonyms - Sentry, watchman, guard, lookout. Antonyms - N/A

11. Succor - (Noun) - help; relief; aid; assistance.

Example - The water was a welcome succor for the thirsty man.

Synonyms - Help, relief, aid, assistance. Antonyms - Hindrance, hurt, injury.

12. Wanton - (Adjective) - deliberate and without motive or provocation; uncalled-for; headstrong; willful.

Example - He supposed her behavior was wanton, for she defied the rules without any reason whatsoever.

Synonyms - Uncalled for, headstrong, willful, rash, reckless. Antonyms - Reasonable, sensible, careful, wise.

13. Winsome - (Adjective) - sweetly or innocently charming; winning; engaging.

Example - She won the crowd over with a winsome smile.

Synonyms - charming, winning, engaging. Antonyms - N/A

SPRINGBOARD VOCABULARY – Found in Unit 1 of SPRINGBOARD

14. Allegory – (noun) - a type of extended metaphor in which authors represent complex or abstract ideas about the real world through characters, events, and other elements.

15. Diction – (noun) - is the writer’s choice of words. Writers make stylistic choices about which words to use to convey a particular voice and tone.

16. Paradox – (noun) - a statement that appears to contain two contradictory or incompatible points, but upon closer examination it can reveal a hidden truth to the reader or viewer.

17. Perception – (noun) - one person’s interpretation of sensory or conceptual information. (pg 6)

18. Literary Criticism – (noun) - the formal practice of interpreting, evaluating, and explaining the meaning and significance of literary works.

19. Literary Theories (noun) - Systematic, conceptual methods of analyzing texts; looking at a text with a specific interpretive lens or point of view in mind, rather than close reading, which only looks at what’s actually / strictly in the text itself.

20. Rhetorical Devices – (noun) specific techniques that are used in writing to create a literary effect or enhance the effectiveness of an author’s message.