Mr. Valentine’s 10th Grade English – Vocabulary List for Unit 2, Week 2

**1. Ancestors – (Noun) –** One’s parents, and their parents, and so on; relatives that came before.

**2. Descendants – (Noun) –** One’s children, and their children, and so on; relatives that come after.

**3. Enigma – (Noun) –** A puzzle, riddle, or mystery, usually difficult to figure out.

**4. Ethereal – (Adjective) –** light, airy, or tenuous.

**5. Inextricable – (Adjective) –** Something from which one cannot remove or untangle oneself.

**6. Oracle – (Noun) –** Either one who foretells the future, sometimes on behalf of the gods, or the messages they give about the future (sometimes ambiguous or obscure); a seer.

**7. Scourge – (Noun or Verb) –** A whip or lash, or the act of whipping / lashing something.

**8. Torment – (Noun or Verb) –** Great pain and suffering, or the act of inflicting great pain and suffering.

**9. Transmigration – (Noun) –** The movement of souls, like from the mortal world to the afterlife.

**10. Virtue – (Noun) –** moral excellence; goodness; righteousness; conformity of one’s life to moral or ethical principles; good or effective qualities; strengths; or sometimes, chastity / virginity.

Practice Problems

1. Oedipus defeated the Sphinx by solving its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or riddle, “What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon, and three in the evening.”

2. Before sailing out on a dangerous voyage, the hero made a stop at the local \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to ask if the trip would go well, or if there were any dangers he should avoid.

3. When Dido and Anchises died, they went by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into the underworld, where Aeneas later met them again.

4. Epic heroes often need such \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as strength or courage, while others use wits and cleverness to get by.

5. Indiana Jones and circus lion-tamers both occasionally use a whip or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in their work.

6. Ghosts are often depicted not as solid, but as see through and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

7. *The Aeneid* establishes that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Romans were the survivors of fallen Troy.

8. In *The Aeneid*, Aeneas learns that his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would one day found the city of Rome.

9. The mighty warrior fell into the giant spider’s web and tried to get out, but found his bonds to be quite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

10. Some folks very easily forget bad experiences, embarrassments, or mistakes; for others, these memories \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them for years to come.