**Vocabulary List #13**

**synopsis:** a summary

- Paula studied for her biology test by reading the chapter *synopsis*. She should have read the chapter instead.
- Ms. Moser was having trouble understanding the plot of the Italian opera, so she read the *synopsis* printed in the program.

**idolize:** to greatly admire

- Joe *idolized* Michael Jordan and wanted to grow up to be just like him.
- Tiffany *idolized* her older sister and followed her around everywhere she went.

**inadvertent:** unintentional

- With an *inadvertent* key stroke, Henry deleted his whole term paper from the computer.
- Tasha *inadvertently* put too much butter in her cookies, so they were really greasy.

**verify:** to prove to be true

- Sometimes, when you order a pizza for delivery, the pizza place will call you back to *verify* that the order is not a prank.
- Shauna said the bank robber had been wearing a red ski mask, and the other witnesses *verified* her statement.

**convene:** to meet or assemble

- The meeting of Snowboarders for Peace will *convene* at 7:00 PM in the gym.
- The school board *convened* at 6:00 PM and adjourned two hours later.

**excerpt:** a passage selected from a book, speech, play, film, etc.

- “Mr. Bucco read an *excerpt* from *Huckleberry Finn* that was so interesting it made us want to read the rest of the book,” said Clarence, looking surprised.
- The speaker read an *excerpt* from one of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s speeches, and it brought tears to the eyes of the audience.
**Lucrative**: bringing in a lot of money
- Having two paper routes is more lucrative than having just one.
- The class fund-raiser was so lucrative that the students got to go on a much more expensive class trip than they had expected.

**Orb**: a sphere or circle
- The sun was a glowing orange orb rising in the east.
- Eyeballs are orbs. So are cantaloupes.

**Lament**: to mourn or grieve
- For months after his family moved to another city, Cory lamented the loss of all his friends.
- Long after the funeral, Fawn lamented the death of her favorite aunt.

**Candor**: honesty and straightforwardness
- Nina made no excuses to Ross. She told him with candor that she simply did not want to go to the prom with him.
- Jane displayed unfortunate candor when she told the principal he had bad breath.

**Bonus Words**

☆ **Faux**: false; artificial
- My mom refers to her wig as “faux hair.”
- Faux pearls cost less than real ones.

☆ **Precocious**: smart for his or her age; showing skills or abilities at an earlier age than normal
- Jamal could read when he was only two and a half. He has always been precocious.
- Six-year-old Ursula is precocious. She already understands calculus.
Vocabulary List #14

**seethe:** to boil; to be violently agitated or disturbed
- Maggie thought her parents would seethe over her cheating. But it was worse than that; they sat quietly and looked very, very disappointed.
- Tony was seething inside, but he wasn’t about to let Hank know it. He smiled calmly and walked on by.

**incompatible:** not going together well
- Bonnie and Jeff are incompatible on road trips. She likes to stop and look at every attraction, and he hates to get off the highway for any reason at all.
- Alice’s boss asked her to transfer to another department because the two of them were so incompatible.

**paunch:** a potbelly
- Ever since he stopped doing his sit-ups, Mr. Romero had been getting a bit of a paunch.
- Walt didn’t care if he developed a paunch. He would never give up his favorite snack of Mountain Dew and Oreos.

**proprietor:** the owner of a business
- Celestina Monarco became the sole proprietor of Monaco’s Grocery Store after her husband died.
- If Tom decided to buy the store, he would then become the proprietor.

**vermin:** any of various small, harmful or disgusting animals or insects
- The run-down building was full of vermin and quite unsuitable for people to live in.
- If you want to keep your sugar and flour free of vermin, store them in the refrigerator.

**smitten:** struck with a powerful feeling; inspired with love
- Tony was smitten with the new girl in his chemistry class. Because he was concentrating on her and not on his Bunsen burner, he knocked it over and burned a hole in the counter.
- Yvonne went to the pool every single day all summer long because she was smitten with the lifeguard.
List #14 continued

fickle: very changeable in affection, loyalty, etc.

- The fickle princess was always changing her mind about which prince she wanted to marry.
- The fickle fan always cheered for whichever team was winning.

gaunt: thin and bony

- The artist was gaunt. He had been working so hard on his project that he usually forgot to take time to eat.
- Other than looking gaunt, the hostage appeared unharmed after being locked up for five days with no food.

meddle: to interfere in someone else’s business

- Since Mrs. Busby lives alone, meddling in her neighbors’ lives makes her own life seem more interesting.
- Mrs. Vance is always snooping around her daughter’s room and meddling in her personal affairs.

kleptomaniac: someone who is addicted to stealing

- After Kirsten was picked up a fifth time for shoplifting, her parents wondered if maybe she was a kleptomaniac.
- When Lila’s grandma moved in with her, she had to keep a constant eye on all her things. Her grandma was known for being a kleptomaniac who stole salt shakers, pillow cases — anything.

Bonus Words

★ astute: clever; intelligent; cunning

- Eleanor was astute about investing her money, and she soon became a millionaire.
- “These footprints are muddy. The thief must have come in after it started raining,” said the detective, making an observation that wasn’t particularly astute.

★ filibuster: the making of long speeches to prevent a vote on a bill

- The senators kept the filibuster going for six days. It’s a wonder any of them had a voice left afterwards.
- The 16-hour filibuster was successful. It prevented a vote on the bill.
Vocabulary List #15

**veto:** to reject
  - Theodore had planned on taking his mom’s brand new car on his Friday night date, but she **vetoed** that idea.
  - The principal informed the student council that she has the power to **veto** any of its decisions if she disagrees with them.

**prominent:** outstanding; distinguished; readily noticeable
  - Brenna’s aunt was such a **prominent** lawyer that she didn’t even need to advertise.
  - Jay Leno has a **prominent** chin.

**ethical:** moral or right
  - “Stealing money from your sister to buy a pack of gum is not **ethical,**” said Mrs. Howard.
  - Clarisse joined the demonstrators outside the company’s walls. “The cruel and painful experiments some companies perform on animals are not **ethical,**” she said.

**cliché:** a stale, over-used expression
  - “Quiet as a mouse” is a **cliché.** So is “You can’t have your cake and eat it, too.”
  - Since Harold uses a lot of **clichés,** it is easy to finish his sentences for him.

**introvert:** a person whose thoughts and interests are directed mostly inward.
  - Even though April seemed to be an **introvert,** the drama teacher thought she would be great as the lead in the school play.
  - An **introvert** is more likely to prefer writing in a diary to talking on the phone with friends.

**extrovert:** an outgoing person
  - An **extrovert** is more likely to prefer going to a party to writing in his diary.
  - Although she liked the **extroverts** in her class very much, the teacher often had to scold them for talking during class.
**comprehend:** to understand

- "I'll never **comprehend** this algebra lesson," muttered Evelyn, "even if I study it for 20 years!"
- To help his students **comprehend** the workings of a hot air balloon, the professor brought in a diagram.

**profound:** deep; intense; intelligent

- The editor was hoping to someday receive a book manuscript full of **profound** insight into human nature, but all she ever got was silly fluff.
- Evan expected a **profound** answer when he asked the artist the meaning of her painting, but all she said was, "It's just a painting."

**transition:** a change

- Nina's mother says lip gloss is the perfect **transition** between wearing no make-up at all and wearing lipstick.
- The **transition** between grade school and junior high is difficult for many students.

**simultaneously:** happening at the same time

- Brian **simultaneously** talked on the phone and played solitaire on the computer.
- Jonathon was a deep sleeper, so he set six alarm clocks to go off **simultaneously** the morning of his first day of school.

**Bonus Words**

★ **gobbledygook:** words that are confusing and needlessly official-sounding

- The contract was just a bunch of **gobbledygook** to Tim, so he decided to have his lawyer clarify it for him before he signed.
- Since the politician didn’t really know the answer to the reporter's question, he just spoke a lot of **gobbledygook** to try to cover up his ignorance.

★ **carcinogenic:** cancer-causing

- Although cigarettes are **carcinogenic**, many people unwisely smoke them anyway.
- If you're worried about getting cancer, use sunscreen when you're outside. The sun's UV rays are **carcinogenic**.
Vocabulary List #16

**indignant:** angry over something that is mean or unjust

- The Hendersons were **indignant** when the Homeowners Association told them they could not paint their house lime green with electric blue trim.
- When her darling little daughter didn’t make the drill team, Frances was **indignant**.

**grisly:** terrifying; gory; gruesome

- The jury members were **terribly upset** by the **grisly** pictures of the murder scene.
- Uma picked three **grisly** movies to show at her Halloween party.

**consequence:** result; outcome; effect

- One **consequence** of not doing your homework is bad grades.
- Sasha suffered the **consequences** of eating too much candy when she had to have six cavities filled.

**versatile:** adaptable

- Sonya’s coat is very **versatile**. She can wear the whole thing on cold days or take the two layers apart and wear only the windbreaker on warmer days.
- Jerry is a **versatile** musician who plays accordion, clarinet, drums and saxophone.

**abundant:** plentiful; many

- Good food was **abundant** at the Thanksgiving feast.
- The right side of the tree has an **abundance** of berries, but the left side has none.

**somber:** gloomy; sad

- Lorenzo’s mom wouldn’t let him paint his room all black because she felt it was too **somber**.
- The **somber** mood at the funeral home made Marjorie even more depressed over the death of her grandmother.
List #16 continued

**erroneous:** mistaken
- The painter made the **erroneous** assumption that the Hudson family wanted their house painted purple.
- Derek **erroneously** believed everyone forgot his 16th birthday. He had no idea his friends had planned a surprise party for him.

**pungent:** strong, sharp-smelling or tasting
- The diaper pail emitted a **pungent** odor when the lid was opened.
- Rotten fruit produces a **pungent** odor.

**secluded:** isolated from others
- Thornfield Manor sits on sixteen **secluded** acres. The people who live there rarely run into their neighbors.
- The cabin was completely **secluded**, with no phone, radio or TV. Sandy was miserable.

**fiasco:** a complete failure
- The school dance turned into a **fiasco** when the sprinkler system accidentally went off and flooded the gymnasium.
- The girls knew the Valentine's party would be a **fiasco** when the only boys who showed up were Joanie's little brothers.

**Bonus Words**

★ **translucent:** semi-transparent; can be seen through only slightly
- Although Carl could see a figure through the **translucent** curtain, he could not tell who it was.
- Stained glass windows are **translucent**. Regular windows are perfectly clear.

★ **placate:** to do something to make someone stop being angry
- Victor got sick of his mom's complaint that he was never home. He decided to stay home one Saturday evening just to **placate** her.
- For a year Mallory complained about the broken garage door. Finally her husband **placated** her by buying a new one.
Vocabulary List #17

**morale:** the state of a group's or a person's spirits

- The football team's **morale** was sinking, so the cheerleaders did several more cheers than they had planned.

- **Morale** was low in algebra class. Instead of explaining what they did wrong and showing them the right way to solve an equation, Mrs. Stojak just gave everyone an F.

**sarcastic:** said in a sneering or mocking way, often indicating the opposite of what is obvious

- "Yeah, you’re real tough, aren’t you?" said the bully in a **sarcastic** tone to his latest victim, who was lying on the ground with a bloody nose.

- When Liza returned the sweater she borrowed from Erin with a hole in it, Erin said **sarcastically**, “Thanks a lot!”

**vice:** a shortcoming; an immoral habit

- Nan's Grandpa Dominic eats well, gets plenty of sleep and doesn't drink. His only **vice** is smoking cigars.

- “My biggest **vice** is eating too much chocolate,” said Morris.

**contempt:** scorn; dislike

- Amy expressed her dislike of the new mayor in a letter filled with **contempt** to the city council.

- To show his **contempt** for all people who didn’t speak at least three languages, Mr. Dunn yelled at them in one of the languages they didn’t know.

**virtuoso:** someone who shows great technical skill in some fine art, especially music

- Georgia was such a **virtuoso** on the fiddle that she joined a bluegrass band when she was only 13.

- Picasso was a **virtuoso** with a paintbrush.

**oblivious:** unaware

- As she dripped ice cream all over her face, Janie's little sister just smiled, **oblivious** to the bumble bee circling her head.

- Mr. Ricken continued his boring lecture, **oblivious** to the fact that half the class was falling asleep.
List #17 continued

**apprehend:** to capture

- The thief ran fast, but the police officer ran faster and was able to apprehend him.
- Jarrod couldn't figure out how to apprehend the person who was stealing from his locker.

**terrain:** ground

- The terrain was so rough that Adrienne couldn't hike it in her new high heels.
- The scientists tried to build a robot that could move around on the rocky terrain of the moon without tipping over.

**diligent:** careful and hard-working

- Rachel was diligent about practicing the tuba. Her brother was diligent about stuffing his ears with cotton before she started.
- Loralee diligently did her homework every night for a week. Then she decided she liked watching TV more than studying.

**prudent:** exercising good judgment or common sense

- It is not prudent to put off your homework on the chance that we might get five feet of snow and not have to go to school tomorrow.
- Dylan's new friends wanted him to ignore his curfew. No matter how much he wanted to fit in, he didn't think it was prudent to follow their advice.

**Bonus Words**

★ **extemporaneous:** impromptu; done or spoken with little preparation

- Patrick launched into an extemporaneous explanation of what he had seen at the museum. Although he hadn't taken notes or planned a speech, he did a good job.
- Tim wasn't good at extemporaneous speeches. But when he had time to prepare and rehearse, he was the best in class.

★ **altruistic:** unselfishly interested in the welfare of others

- Mother Theresa was known as an altruistic person because of all the time she devoted to helping the needy.
- Not all volunteers are altruistic. Some just want to beef up their resumés or get their picture in the paper.
Vocabulary List #18

**subsequent**: coming after; following in time, place or order

- Because she did such a great job baby-sitting the Davis children, Maria was asked back to baby-sit each subsequent Saturday.
- Catherine committed a technical foul at the end of the game, so her coach benched her for three subsequent games.

**facsimile**: an exact copy or reproduction

- Using some aluminum pipe and scrap metal he found in the garage, Ryan created a miniature facsimile of the jumbo jet.
- Katrina's bracelet was a cheap facsimile of the expensive one Penny owned.

**retrieve**: to get something back

- With a piece of gum and a string, Emma was able to retrieve her earring when it fell down the drain.
- Most dogs can learn to retrieve a Frisbee if you teach them when they are puppies.

**engrossed**: totally absorbed in

- The teacher and principal were so engrossed in a conversation about Carl's falling grades that they barely heard the sirens outside.
- Margaret was so engrossed in her soap opera that she left her noodles boiling until they stuck to the pot.

**concise**: brief and to the point

- "Don't give me a 10-minute speech about this," said the principal. "I just want a concise explanation of your behavior."
- Concise writing is good writing. A lot of extra words clutter your sentences and muddle your meaning.

**fortnight**: two weeks

- Crystal planned to be gone a fortnight. She would miss classes for 10 full days.
- A typical year is made up of 26 fortnights.
mediate: to settle a dispute between two opposing sides
  • When the baseball players went on strike, someone was called in to mediate the dispute.
  • The baby-sitter found herself forever mediating the children's arguments.

corpulent: fat
  • He was a corpulent boy who loved potato chips and hot fudge sundaes with pecans and whipped cream.
  • Santa Claus is a corpulent man with rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes.

bravado: false, showy bravery
  • J.J. strutted up to the lion with a lot of bravado, but as soon as the animal opened his mouth to yawn, J.J. ran away at full speed.
  • Achilles marched onto the field with such bravado that all the other warriors were frightened.

terrorism: use of terror or violence as a means of getting what you want
  • To discourage terrorism, security guards patrolled the airport 24 hours a day.
  • Terrorism struck Oklahoma City when the federal building was blown up.

Bonus Words
★ despondent: dejected, hopeless
  • After failing her driver's test three times, Charlotte grew despondent and didn't want to practice anymore.
  • Whitney was despondent over her break-up with Charlie — until Corrine brought over half a gallon of ice cream and her handsome cousin Luke.

★ albatross: a burden
  • Carlos finally quit the debate team. It took so much time it had become an albatross.
  • Sponsoring student council, with all the phone calls, elections and arguments that it required, had become such an albatross that Mr. Miller finally quit.
Vocabulary List #19

**quibble:** to argue over picky, unimportant details

- “I don’t mean to **quibble,**” said Jane, “but don’t you think violet would be a better color for that poster than lavender?”
- The committee members didn’t get anything accomplished because they spent all their time **quibbling** over who would get the last cream puff.

**malady:** illness; disease

- Isabelle was disappointed when her doctor told her that her **malady** would keep her from attending Brenda’s 16th birthday party.
- Don’s **malady** made him tired and achy.

**condone:** to forgive or overlook

- The landlord warned his new tenants that he did not **condone** loud parties.
- The substitute teacher **condoned** talking during the test, so—not surprisingly — everyone had the same answers to the test questions.

**sentimental:** very emotional (sometimes overly so)

- Elsa is so **sentimental** she cries just thinking about the movie *E.T.*
- The necklace held **sentimental** value for Tess. It was a gift from her grandmother.

**obstinate:** stubborn

- The **obstinate** child refused to put her toys away, even after being asked four times to do so.
- Greg and Gina’s argument will never be resolved because they are both so **obstinate.**

**tangible:** real; actual; capable of being touched

- Opal broke up with Bill because all he ever did was **say** he loved her. She wanted something more **tangible,** like a diamond ring.
- Isaac liked the respect he received at work, but he also enjoyed the more **tangible** rewards, like money.
profit: gain; benefit

- Before she went to jail, Tanya made money by stealing things and then selling them for a **profit**.
- "How can we make a **profit** if we sell the machine for less than it cost to make it?" asked the frustrated business owner.

innovation: a new idea or way of doing things

- E-mail is an **innovation** that has made writing letters to people a lot less trouble than it used to be.
- Linda's **innovation** changed the rubber band industry forever.

replenish: to fill again

- The cowboys stopped at the stream to **replenish** their water supply.
- Ms. Malone got up three times during supper to **replenish** the bowl of delicious mashed potatoes.

irrelevant: off the subject; unimportant

- The history teacher's stories about his two-year-old son were completely **irrelevant** to the discussion the class was trying to have about World War II.
- Mean Mr. Stanton told Shannon, "The fact that your house burned down last night is **irrelevant**. You should always have your homework done when you come to class."

**Bonus Words**

★ **chastise:** to punish; to discipline

- After the jury found her guilty of burglary, the defendant was **chastised** severely by the judge, who sentenced her to two years in jail.
- Mr. Flanbeck **chastised** his daughters for giggling during the sermon. "Reverend Adams couldn't help it if his toupee slipped," he said sternly.

★ **countenance:** facial expression

- Jacey didn't say a word, but her **countenance** revealed her true feelings for Martin.
- Gary peeked at Shari from the window, and she could tell from his **countenance** that he was scared.
**Vocabulary List #20**

**dupe:** to fool, trick or cheat someone

- Lyle was **duped** into thinking he would make thousands of dollars in a week just by selling banana-flavored bubble gum to little kids.
- Morgan **duped** his older sister into letting him go along to the mall by pretending their mother had asked him to buy something for her there.

**cantankerous:** quarrelsome

- Sonya hoped her grandfather would be nicer and more patient after he married Patsy, but she was wrong. He was as **cantankerous** as ever.
- Although the new mayor was **cantankerous**, the committee members still hoped they could reach some agreement with him.

**insolent:** boldly disrespectful and arrogant

- Sara’s nephew was so **insolent** that she hated visiting her sister when he was around.
- Mrs. Tucker was the first teacher to stand up to the bully’s **insolent** behavior.

**coddle:** to pamper or protect too much

- “Terrell’s mom **coddles** him too much,” said Carolyn. “He’s such a mamma’s boy!”
- “We don’t **coddle** our recruits!” shouted the drill sergeant. “I don’t care if you have an ingrown toenail! Get in line!”

**reciprocate:** to return a favor or feeling

- After Emilio threw her a party, Lindy felt she should **reciprocate**, so she took him out to dinner.
- Bumble the clown landed a punch. His partner **reciprocated** by snapping Bumble’s suspenders so hard he fell over.

**verbatim:** exactly word for word

- Meg got an F on her research paper because the teacher discovered she had copied it **verbatim** from the encyclopedia.
- “The speaker used my words **verbatim** and didn’t even give me credit!” complained Sue.
**diffuse:** to spread out

- The light above the table was too bright and harsh. Monica wished she could **diffuse** it so her eyes wouldn't get so tired.
- When the hazardous chemicals expert opened the canister, the gas **diffused** through the room.

**peal:** a loud sound

- A **peal** of laughter filled the room when the comedian made his Jaba the Hut face.
- When it turned midnight on New Year's Eve, there was a **peal** from the bell at St. Bernadette's Church.

**interval:** space or time between two items or events

- A football field is marked with a white chalky powder at ten-yard **intervals**.
- "The **interval** between bells is too long," sighed David as he sat through another endless biology class.

**abhor:** to hate or detest

- "I **abhor** Coke, ice cream and pizza," said Missy. "I guess I'm not normal."
- Bonnie **abhors** spiders and faints at the sight of them.

**Bonus Words**

★ **innate:** having ever since birth; not learned

- Jamie's high self-esteem is **innate**. She was confident even as a baby.
- Since both his parents were artists, Sean has an **innate** talent for drawing.

★ **omnipotent:** all-powerful

- The dictator believed he was **omnipotent** — until he was overthrown.
- "Around our house, my parents are **omnipotent,**" said Jo Lynn. "What they say goes."

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abolish: to do away with

- The student council hopes to abolish the school rule against holding hands in the hallway. The members think holding hands is fine.
- Poor Mrs. Stafford wished that bubble gum could be abolished so she would never again have to find a wad of it stuck to the desks.

qualms: feelings of uneasiness or doubt

- “Do you have any qualms about the ski trip this weekend, or do you think everything will be all right?” asked Kim.
- Sandy had qualms about letting Shane copy her homework, but she liked him so much she let him do it anyway.

coincidental: happening by chance

- “Surely it wasn’t coincidental that my diary disappeared the night I caught you snooping in my room,” Alissa said to her brother.
- It was not coincidental that Laurel ran into Tyler at the mall. Her best friend told her he would be there.

benevolent: kind

- Even though Alfred won the lottery, he didn’t lose his benevolent spirit. He still volunteered at the soup kitchen and took in stray animals.
- “You are truly a benevolent woman, Ms. Stanley,” said the orphanage director as he accepted her large donation.

futile: useless; in vain

- Jay’s attempts to lose weight were futile. He just kept gaining and gaining.
- After a full year of trying to get her students to turn in their homework on time, Miss Craig decided her efforts were futile and just gave up.

ludicrous: laughable; absurd

- Harlan thought the idea of holding the prom in a gas station parking lot was ludicrous, but he was polite and listened to the idea anyway.
- Juliet warned her younger sister that it was ludicrous to expect their parents to let her stay out until midnight on a school night.
ambrosia: food of the gods in Greek and Roman mythology; something that tastes or smells really delicious

- "Ah, ambrosia!" sighed the food critic, taking another bite of the restaurant's specialty.
- Zeus and Apollo finished off their ambrosia with a gallon of sweet nectar.

incensed: angry; enraged

- Nick’s refusal to go to college incensed his father.
- Mrs. Vance was incensed when she saw green chili all over the white sweater she had loaned her daughter.

stringent: severe; strict

- Lindsey’s parents set stringent rules. She has to be home by 5:00 PM every night and finish her homework by 8:00 PM.
- John was on a stringent diet that allowed him only one snack food a week.

coalition: a union, group or alliance

- A coalition of school, religious and community groups fought the proposed amendment.
- Mr. Baker knew he couldn’t fight the school board on his own, so he formed a coalition of teachers who shared his opinion.

Bonus Words

★ vicariously: through someone else, as in experiencing something by imagined participation in someone else’s experience

- Gabby’s Aunt Rita is so addicted to her soap operas that she has begun to live vicariously through the characters.
- Vicariously, through his quarterback son, Mr. Hooper lived out his dream of being a football star.

★ ruminate: to think about or to meditate on

- The boys didn’t have a car for their big date. “Let’s ruminate for a while,” said Joseph. “I’ll bet we can find a solution.”
- Newton was sitting under a tree ruminating about the problem of gravity when an apple fell on his head.
Vocabulary List #22

coaagulate: to clot

- If your blood doesn’t coagulate when you cut yourself, you could bleed to death.
- The grease coagulated in the jar, forming a solid whitish lump that smelled bad.

equitable: fair to all concerned

- The jury decided on an equitable settlement for Jonathan, who was injured when the plant exploded.
- When two children fight over a toy, the only equitable solution is to take the toy away completely and let them both be unhappy.

obsolete: no longer in use or in fashion

- Natalie’s dad loves his old eight-track tape player, even though he knows it is obsolete.
- The word used in the old manuscript was obsolete, so no one knew quite what it meant.

belligerent: showing a readiness to argue or quarrel

- “It’s because you’re so belligerent that we argue all the time,” said Marcie.
- “Maybe you would get along with people better if you weren’t so belligerent every time anyone has the least little criticism of your work,” said Hank’s boss.

candid: open and honest

- “I’ll be candid with you, Calvin,” said Mr. Silverstein. “The reason you flunked is because you never did any work.”
- Jenni was candid with Tom about his bad breath. She told him to brush his teeth after every meal and to stop eating so much garlic.

infallible: incapable of error; never wrong

- Zelda seemed to think she was infallible, even though just last week she missed a word on her spelling test.
- “Okay, I marked your test incorrectly,” apologized Mr. Kline. “I’m not infallible, you know.”
**acronym**: a word formed from the first letters of several other words
- S.A.D.D. is an **acronym** for Students Against Drunk Driving.
- H.E.L.P. is an **acronym** for Haybailers Eating Lemon Pies.

**substantial**: considerable; large; significant
- Maria saved a **substantial** amount of money by buying only clothes that were on sale.
- Desi complained that there was **substantially** more homework in her geometry class than there had been last year in her algebra class.

**tactic**: strategy, plan or scheme for reaching a goal
- Molly's **tactic** for getting her own way was to sit in the corner and pout until someone gave her what she wanted.
- The sergeant had to devise a **tactic** for getting his troops into the country without being seen.

**facetious**: playful or humorous; joking
- Mike was only being **facetious** when he told Kyle to go jump in the lake.
- Everyone knew Yolanda's remark was **facetious**, so they didn't take offense.

**Bonus Words**

★ **mismomer**: a wrong or inaccurate name for something
- "The name 'Sunny' is a **mismomer** for that girl. She is the grumpiest person I know," said Dean.
- "The Good Eat Diner' is definitely a **mismomer**," said Samantha. "After eating at that crummy restaurant last night, I still feel sick!"

★ **skulk**: to slink or move in a slinking way
- Eli **skulked** into the kitchen in the middle of the night and stole a bag of potato chips.
- You could tell Richard was the villain in the school play by the way he **skulked** onto stage.
abyss: a bottomless pit; something immeasurably deep
- Putting something in Christopher's locker is like throwing it into an abyss. He'll never find it.
- The submarine sank into the abyss and was never seen again.

fluke: luck; chance
- When Alexis hit the bull's eye the very first time she played darts, everyone said it was just a fluke.
- Everyone thought it was a fluke when Salvador won the race. They didn't know he had been training for over a year.

plausible: appearing reasonable or possible
- "You didn't finish your homework because your arm froze up last night when it snowed? I'm sorry Richard, but that's just not a plausible excuse," said Mrs. Ehroy.
- Libby was relieved when the excuse seemed plausible to her swimming teacher, but she vowed never to lie again.

itinerary: a detailed plan for a journey
- The itinerary for our vacation was so full that we never got to slow down and relax.
- The travel agency usually includes an itinerary with a person's plane tickets.

picturesque: beautiful and scenic
- With a clear running stream, beautiful wildflowers and deer grazing in the grass, the valley was truly picturesque.
- The countryside in England is picturesque, especially in the springtime when the trees and flowers bloom.

frivolous: silly; impractical
- Sondra spent her allowance on frivolous things like bubble gum and glittery gold nail polish.
- Kyla spent her time studying for the college entrance exams. Twyla spent her time on more frivolous things like cruising the mall and sun bathing.
✓ perjure: to lie while under oath
  - You can get in a lot of trouble if you perjure yourself. It's best to tell the truth.
  - To protect his friend from going to jail with him, the thief perjured himself in court and said he was alone the night of the burglary.

№ balderdash: nonsense
  - If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true. It is balderdash to think that you can save a thousand dollars just by changing phone companies.
  - "That's balderdash!" cried the mayor when his opponent accused him of fraud.

№ ingenuity: cleverness; imagination
  - Audrey showed incredible ingenuity by making a costume out of nothing but black plastic trash bags.
  - One thing the winners of the science fair had in common was their ingenuity.

✓ accentuate: to emphasize
  - The model used dark red blusher to accentuate her cheekbones.
  - Lorraine shouldn't wear green because it just accentuates her sickly green complexion.

Bonus Words

№ ★ epitome: someone or something that shows all the typical qualities of a group or class
  - Some people thought Elwood was the epitome of success. Others thought he was just a conceited, arrogant fake.
  - Francie thought her father's girlfriend was the epitome of evil, but her dad thought she was pretty nice.

★ affluent: wealthy
  - When Lucinda saw the huge yards, fountains and six-car garages, she knew the neighborhood was affluent.
  - One of Izzie's grandmas lives in a tiny studio apartment. The other lives in a fancy mansion in an affluent part of town.
Vocabulary List #24

culmination: the high point

- For Susan, the culmination of the weekend’s festivities was when her favorite poet read her favorite poem.
- The culmination of Hannah’s birthday party was when she got to blow out the candles on her cake.

ominous: threatening

- There was something ominous about the man’s face and movements. The couple decided to get away from him, fast.
- The dark, rolling clouds were ominous, so the picnickers packed up and went home.

diminutive: tiny

- The Chihuahua is a diminutive breed of dog. You could probably fit one in your pocket.
- La Donna’s cat was diminutive, especially when compared to Val’s cat, who weighed nearly 20 pounds.

perpetual: going on forever

- The town seemed to be experiencing a perpetual winter. The snow kept falling and falling, even though it was summer.
- “Candace’s perpetual complaining leaves me tired and wanting to pull my hair out,” said her mother.

terse: brief; to the point

- Corey was a coward. Instead of breaking up with Hillary face to face, he wrote her a terse letter.
- When Samuel asked why he was being sent to the principal’s office, Mr. Walker gave only a terse reply.

purge: to get rid of something undesirable

- The club officers purged the secret club of members who might betray the organization.
- Before he skipped town, the crooked accountant purged his files of any evidence that he had been embezzling.
**List #24 continued**

**panorama:** a full view of an area

- The **panorama** from the Empire State building is breathtaking.
- After reaching the summit of Pike’s Peak, Jody had a **panoramic** view of the whole area.

**gregarious:** sociable; fond of the company of others

- Madison was elected captain because her **gregarious** nature made her so popular.
- Karlie was so **gregarious** she never missed a chance to attend a party.

**rebuttal:** a “return” argument to something just said

- “Your **rebuttal** is full of holes and lies,” said the prosecutor to the defense team.
- When a group of adults wrote a letter to the newspaper complaining about MTV, a group of teens wrote a **rebuttal** listing the good things about the channel.

**effervescent:** bubbly; lively

- After Heath shook up the can of Coke and opened it, the **effervescent** liq- uid spilled all over the desk.
- Bethany will be a perfect beauty pageant contestant because she is so **effe- vescdent**.

**Bonus Words**

★ **emulate:** to strive to equal or surpass

- James practiced his violin everyday, trying to **emulate** his uncle who played with a symphony orchestra.
- Rex’s dad would like it better if Rex tried to **emulate** Albert Einstein or Isaac Newton instead of Sylvester Stallone.

★ **vacillate:** to go back and forth

- Her biggest fault was that she couldn’t seem to make a decision. She could **vacillate** forever.
- Elmer **vacillated** between asking Cassie and asking Pauline to the dance.