Vocabulary List #1

annual: happening once a year
  - The clothing store holds an annual back-to-school sale every September.
  - “My dad makes more money annually than your dad,” Percy bragged.

grotesque: weird; distorted
  - The costume store had a lot of really grotesque masks. Julie wanted the one of the zombie with acid on its face.
  - When Marco looked at the grotesque angle of his arm, he knew it had to be broken.

gawk: to stare stupidly
  - Kendra and Jessica gawked at Brad Pitt when he entered the elevator with them.
  - Matthew was gawking at the New York skyscrapers when he stepped into an open manhole and broke his leg.

obese: very fat
  - Eddie Murphy plays an obese man in The Nutty Professor.
  - The health teacher blames potato chips and afternoon TV for so many of today’s young people being obese.

toxic: poisonous; unhealthy; harmful
  - In the movie, Batman, the Joker fell into a large vat of toxic green stuff that melted his skin.
  - Be careful when eating wild mushrooms. Some of them are toxic and may harm you.

blunder: a stupid or clumsy mistake
  - The TV show “The Fresh Prince of Bel Air” usually ends with footage of all the blunders the actors made while rehearsing.
  - Nobody’s perfect. Everyone makes a blunder every once in a while.
List #1 continued

**bicker:** to fight or quarrel over something silly

- The children bickered over the cupcake until their mother got so irritated she took it away, and neither child got any.
- Even though he felt it was unfair, Lucas refused to bicker with his English teacher about his test grade.

**brutal:** vicious; cruel

- Southern Californians may never understand how people can survive the brutal cold and heavy snow of Minnesota winters.
- After the brutal soccer match, Joanna was bruised and sore.

**feline:** cat-like; a member of the cat family

- The dog preferred feline food to its own Puppy Chow.
- When they lost a second feline to leukemia, the Wanners decided not to get any more pets.

**tyrant:** a ruler who abuses power

- When Charlie is put in charge of his younger sisters and brothers, he often behaves like a tyrant.
- “My dad is a tyrant,” grumbled Ross. “His word is law in our house.”

**Bonus Words**

★ **dumbfounded:** speechless because of shock or amazement

- Because the lottery winner was dumbfounded, the reporters couldn’t get a direct quote from her.
- Cherisse was dumbfounded when she discovered someone had painted her Volkswagen purple and green.

★ **waiver:** a document that shows a person voluntarily gives up a right, claim or privilege

- Tawnie signed a waiver of her right to an attorney. She wanted to represent herself in court.
- Patricia’s waiver of parental guardianship made adoption of her child much easier for the Edmonds.
Vocabulary List #2

**fragile:** easily broken

- Mrs. Malmo put away all her fragile glass knickknacks whenever her one-year-old grandson came to visit.
- Raw eggs are more fragile than hard-boiled ones.

**vast:** very large

- Because Professor Montoya had been to almost every country in the world, she had a vast knowledge of many different cultures.
- Although she had a vast collection of sweaters in her closet, Joyce couldn’t find one to match her green jeans.

**swagger:** a strut; to walk or conduct yourself in a bragging, conceited way

- To make his character seem boastful and confident, the actor swaggered onto the stage.
- Television characters Fonzie and Vinnie Barbarino are both known for their cool swagger on reruns of “Happy Days” and “Welcome Back, Kotter.”

**vivid:** lively; bright; full of life or color

- Savannah can’t read horror stories because with such a vivid imagination, the stories seem real to her.
- The colors in the painting were so vivid they seemed to jump out at anyone walking into the room.

**soothe:** to calm or relieve

- When Richard has nightmares, the only thing that soothes his fears is having his cat come sleep with him.
- A good hypnotist can soothe you in minutes, using only her voice.

**glutton:** someone who eats or consumes an amazing amount

- John is a glutton when it comes to ice cream. He can eat a gallon at a time.
- “Nadia is now such a glutton that we have to order three pizzas just to feed the two of us,” complained the husband of the mother-to-be.
irate: very angry
• The teacher was irate when not one student turned in the homework she had assigned the day before.
• Britta’s dad was worried and also irate when she forgot to call home.

prompt: on time; done without delay
• “Prompt return of your library books is appreciated,” said the librarian. “Those who turn their books in late will have to pay a fine.”
• Emily never keeps people waiting. She is very prompt.

dictator: a ruler with absolute power and authority
• If he does not abuse his power, a dictator is not a tyrant.
• “Mr. Collins is a dictator in his classroom,” said Madison. “Nobody can take a breath without his permission.”

intoxicated: drunk; exhilarated
• It is a crime to drive a car while intoxicated.
• The fragrance of the flowers was so intoxicating it made Carmen feel dizzy.

Bonus Words
★ palatial: suitable for a palace or palace-like
• “Marble floors and gold light fixtures!” gasped Joe. “Isn’t this rather palatial for a garage?”
• With his lottery winnings, Mr. Braden bought 25 acres and created palatial gardens that were a sight to behold.

★ omen: a sign or warning of things to come
• Sneaking into her house an hour after curfew, Kelsey heard a dog bark and knew it was a bad omen. Then she saw her parents’ light switch on.
• Mary wondered if her dream about passing her driver’s license test was a good omen.
immortal: living forever; indestructible
- Lamar never wears his seat belt when he's in a car, and he never wears his helmet when he rides a bike. He must think he's immortal or something.
- When Mike survived a thirty-foot fall from a building, some people were so amazed that they thought he might be immortal.

pessimistic: feeling gloomy and hopeless; thinking the worst
- Ruthie was so pessimistic. She was just sure she would lose the student council race, get an F in algebra and not make the basketball team.
- Oscar says his belief that the world will soon end is realistic, not pessimistic.

barbaric: uncivilized; wild; crude
- Many people think that grounding is a barbaric form of punishment. These people are usually teenagers.
- The speaker shouted, "If we want to call ourselves a civilized society, this barbaric violence has got to stop."

tragic: disastrous; bringing great harm and suffering
- The tanker spilled several million gallons of oil into the sea. The tragic event left over 300 animals dead along the shore.
- Cynthia cried and carried on as though getting a flat bicycle tire was the most tragic thing in the world.

sulk: to mope around or pout
- Joe sat on the sofa frowning and refusing to talk to anyone after he failed his driver's test. "Are you going to sulk all night or start studying?" asked his father.
- The second grader was sulking in the hallway after being sent to the principal's office.

compassion: sympathy; pity; concern
- We should show caring and compassion for those less fortunate than us.
- "If you want to show compassion for the homeless," said Megan, "donate food and clothing to a homeless shelter."
**List #3 continued**

**mortal:** a being that must eventually die; deadly; fatal
- “Unlike video game characters, who seem to live forever, humans are mortal beings,” Bobby’s mother reminded him.
- The little bear cub received a mortal wound. He stopped breathing before the hunter put his gun down.

**recoil:** to draw back because of fear, surprise or disgust
- Paul recoiled when he opened the barn door and saw a rattlesnake.
- Tia’s cat is brave, but even it recoiled when the rabid raccoon attacked.

**optimistic:** hopeful; looking on the bright side
- Optimistic that he would win the election, the politician bought a new suit and tie especially for his victory party.
- Since Sally studied three hours for her algebra final, she was optimistic that she would pass it.

**vain:** conceited; having a high opinion of oneself
- Quincy is so vain he can hardly tear himself away from his mirror.
- Marie is vain about her beautiful black hair. She brushes it all the time.

**Bonus Words**

★ **gargantuan:** huge; gigantic
- Timmy picked out a gargantuan Christmas tree, but his mother said they would never find enough ornaments to cover it.
- Jake’s Aunt Gladys has a gargantuan beehive hairdo that makes her look a foot taller than she really is.

★ **hoodwink:** to trick, confuse or deceive
- Ferris hoodwinked his parents into believing he was sick by heating up his forehead with the electric heating pad.
- The little girl was hoodwinked by her older brother into cleaning her room. “If you don’t clean it, Santa Claus will fill your stocking with pebbles and grass clippings,” he said.
Vocabulary List #4

fluent: able to write or speak easily and smoothly
- Roberto is bilingual; he is fluent in both Spanish and English.
- The ambassador was looking for an interpreter who was fluent in Portuguese.

console: to comfort; to make someone feel less sad
- Brenda's friends consoled her when her dog died.
- He consoled himself with a hot fudge sundae after he failed his English test.

memorabilia: things worth remembering
- Mrs. Jenkins’ closet is filled with hula hoops, poodle skirts and other memorabilia from the 1950s.
- Mr. Lindstrom had lots of World War II memorabilia, including some medals, a number of photos and his discharge papers.

expectorate: to spit
- The dentist asked Molly to expectorate into the sink.
- Bart climbed off his horse, brushed off his jeans and expectorated on the dirt street. The sheriff told him to get back on his horse and get out of town.

egotistical: conceited; selfish
- "If you constantly brag, people may start thinking you are egotistical," Jean warned her sister. "They probably won't like you, either."
- Although the straight A student was really modest about his accomplishments, everyone thought he was egotistical because of the way his mother carried on and on about him. Actually, his mother was the egotistical one.

meager: small in amount
- "Halloween hand-outs were meager this year," said Chris. "I only got three pieces of taffy and a Skittle."
- Theo scowled when he saw the meager portion of food on his plate. Was his mother putting him on a diet?
maternal: motherly; having to do with mothers

- “Our old cat surprised us by behaving in such a maternal way toward the new kitten my dad brought home,” said Melissa.
- Danielle was always very maternal, so it was no surprise when she and her husband decided to have a child.

guffaw: a loud, coarse burst of laughter

- Carl told jokes because he loved to hear guffaws from the guys.
- The comedian wasn’t satisfied with just chuckles. He wanted guffaws from the audience.

amble: to walk slowly or leisurely

- Nick ambled in 40 minutes late, ignoring the stares of everyone in the crowd.
- Susan ambled along the street, admiring the window displays.

monotonous: boring because it’s all the same

- “Having to write your spelling words 50 times each would be a monotonous task,” Mr. Donaldson said.
- Mr. Boris threw his son’s toy drum in the garbage can. He couldn’t stand the monotonous beat any longer.

Bonus Words

★ avaricious: greedy

- The avaricious storekeeper cheated little kids by giving them the wrong change for the candy they bought.
- For the avaricious billionaire, no amount of money was ever enough.

★ gumption: initiative and courage; “get-up-and-go”

- “I’m sorry you didn’t make the basketball team, but I am proud of you anyway,” said LeRoy’s father. “It took a lot of gumption for someone as short as you to try out.”
- It took a lot of gumption for Sally to start her own company.
Vocabulary List #5

intricate: complicated; involved; detailed
- Mrs. Moskowitz crocheted intricate patterns into her beautiful afghans.
- The plot of Miss Polly Got a Dolly was so intricate that Tina was confused after the first chapter.

dank: unpleasantly damp
- The basement of the abandoned mansion was dank and dark and full of creepy, crawly creatures.
- Frogs need a dank environment in order to survive.

lackluster: dull; lacking brightness
- The golden retriever's coat was usually so shiny, but it looked lackluster after the dog rolled in the dirt for 10 minutes.
- Carrie fired Troy's band because the group's performances were becoming rather lackluster.

inaudible: unable to be heard
- The noise coming from the closet was nearly inaudible, but Jeremy thought he heard the sound of a whimpering puppy.
- The sound was so soft it was almost inaudible. Still, at 3:00 AM, it scared Rick half to death.

dismember: to cut or tear off the limbs
- Rachel was pretty sure she could sit through the horror movie. However, when the zombies started to dismember a giraffe, she had to leave.
- While her family tried to finish dinner, Stacy explained how her biology class dismembered a frog.

submerge: to place under water
- The swimming teacher won't let us leave class until we have completely submerged our heads in the pool.
- Billy submerged his rubber ducky in the bath tub.
lustrous: shiny; glossy
- From the top of the mountain, Harold admired the lustrous light reflected off the ski slopes.
- The movie star’s lustrous hair shimmered under the huge stage lights.

inebriated: drunk
- The inebriated man was lucky he wasn’t killed when he drove his car into the side of a cement truck.
- Johnny never believed the wild stories his neighbor told when she was inebriated.

ponder: to think deeply or consider carefully
- The old man loved to sit on a park bench all day and ponder the meaning of life.
- Camille’s mother sent her to her room to ponder why hitting her little sister was wrong.

authentic: genuine; real
- The man was arrested because the signature on his check was not authentic.
- “This is an authentic 1920s hairbrush,” explained the antique dealer. “That’s why I’m charging $60 for it.”

Bonus Words
★ compel: to force
- Because the evidence was so overwhelming, the jury felt compelled to find Sam guilty.
- Because Lorraine was so nasty to the customers, her supervisor at Pizza Palace was compelled to fire her.

★ genial: cheerful; friendly
- Katie is always smiling. She is the most genial person at school.
- Conrad is not particularly funny or brilliant, but everybody likes him because he is so genial.
**Vocabulary List #6**

**jovial:** jolly
- Martha's grandfather was the only jovial relative she had. All the others were always whining about something.
- Isaiah's jovial laugh is contagious.

**careen:** to tip or swerve from side to side
- They heard the squeal of brakes as the car careened around the corner.
- Tracy lost control of her skateboard and careened into the chain link fence.

**minuscule:** very small
- Most insects are minuscule, but some roaches can grow as long as an adult's thumb.
- Even though the pimple on Mitzi's nose was minuscule, she thought it was the size of Mt. Everest.

**squalor:** miserable, filthy conditions
- Whenever we visit my sister's apartment, my dad gets upset about the squalor she lives in.
- The family had to live in squalor for two years before they could afford to rent a decent place.

**morbid:** gruesome
- Shannon thought the ax in Del's head was way too morbid, even if it was fake.
- Carolyn thought her grandparents were getting entirely too morbid. All they talked about were their illnesses and their funeral plans.

**wrath:** anger; fury
- Janice avoided her father's wrath by staying in her room until his good humor returned.
- Laura experienced her parents' wrath when she had a party without their permission while they were out of town.
List #6 continued

**grimace:** a facial contortion expressing pain or disgust
- Perry’s mom could tell when he *grimaced* that there was no way he was going to eat the broccoli yogurt she had placed in front of him.
- Lauren *grimaced* when she saw her report card. “I think I would rather not go home tonight,” she said.

**pseudonym:** false name; pen name
- “Dr. Seuss” is the *pseudonym* for Theodor Geisel.
- Some people use *pseudonyms* because they don’t want their real name to be known.

**tranquil:** peaceful; calm
- When Marilyn comes home from work, she turns on *tranquil* music and lies down on the couch for half an hour.
- “I saw grazing deer in the quiet meadow,” said Tiffany. “It was a *tranquil* scene.”

**sallow:** yellowish and pale
- Angel hated her dull brown hair and *sallow* complexion. She longed for raven hair and rosy cheeks.
- After having the stomach flu for five days, Yogi looked *sallow*.

**Bonus Words**

★ **intermittent:** not continuous; stopping and starting
- The weather forecaster said there would be *intermittent* showers on Saturday.
- Although Kevin tried to eat nutritious meals, he did have *intermittent* cravings for greasy chili cheese fries.

★ **a cappella:** without musical instruments as accompaniment
- The choir’s piano player got to rest during the song that the group sang *a cappella*.
- When all the orchestra instruments were stolen, the chorus had to perform their concert *a cappella*.
Vocabulary List #7

cordial: warm and friendly
- Heidi was cordial to Mr. Fugi when he was introduced as the new principal.
- Leonard was nervous about meeting the president, but she greeted him with such a cordial handshake that he soon felt very comfortable.

acquitted: found not guilty
- Bud’s friends were all relieved when he was acquitted of the charges against him.
- Because Gina was acquitted of shoplifting, she did not have to go to jail.

virtue: goodness; moral excellence; a good quality or feature
- Beth’s parents can’t wait for her to discover the virtue of keeping her bedroom clean.
- The senator was a man of great virtue and was never once involved in a scandal of any kind.

significant: full of meaning; having great impact
- The strange weather patterns are significant because they may suggest an overall change in world climates.
- The gold locket that Denise wears is significant to her because it once belonged to her grandmother.

dignity: self respect and honor
- Mr. Santini told his four children to behave with dignity at their grandfather’s funeral.
- “If you behave with dignity in this classroom, you will do well and have my respect,” said the new chemistry teacher.

melodramatic: overly emotional
- The actors were so melodramatic that it was hard to take the play seriously.
- Midge was being melodramatic when she accidentally dumped a slice of pizza in her lap and then shouted, “That does it! I’m never eating again for as long as I live!”
**eternal:** existing always, without beginning or end

- “My love for you is eternal,” Romeo whispered. “I will never love another.”
- Harvey was eternally grateful to his father for letting him drive his Corvette to the prom. He never forgot the favor.

**paranoid:** overly suspicious

- My sister is paranoid. She’s convinced that someone is spying on her.
- When Brooke saw that her locker door was ajar, she became paranoid and thought everyone in school was trying to steal her stuff.

**emerge:** to rise from; to become visible or known

- The excited crowd held up banners as the football team emerged from the locker room and ran onto the field.
- The very Saturday that Melody was supposed to go out with Gabe, a pimple emerged on her forehead.

**chaos:** extreme confusion or disorder

- The earthquake and power outage threw the city into chaos. The police, fire department and ambulances couldn’t keep up with all the calls.
- The halls were chaotic when the students burst out of the classrooms at the last bell on the last day of school.

**Bonus Words**

**★ impeccable:** faultless; free of error

- Walter’s reading of the poem was impeccable. He didn’t stumble once, and everyone could hear him clearly.
- JoAnn’s taste in clothing was impeccable. That’s why she was voted “Best Dressed.”

**★ grovel:** to humble yourself in a degrading way before someone

- “I guess I’m going to forgive Tim for breaking our date,” said Julia, “but I’m going to make him grovel first.”
- No matter how she groveled, Ericka could not persuade her sister to loan her the beautiful black sweater.
**Vocabulary List #8**

**hostile:** very unfriendly
- Lester couldn’t understand why people found him so **hostile.** Perhaps it had something to do with the way he scowled and said, “Leave me alone,” whenever anyone smiled and said hello to him.
- Mary knew she owed her father an apology for acting so **hostile** when he told her to get off the phone.

**anguish:** great suffering
- Elizabeth’s **anguish** at the death of her cat affected all her friends and relatives.
- Rory knew something was wrong when she saw the expression of **anguish** on her father’s face.

**boisterous:** noisy and rowdy
- Grandma loved the **boisterous** children, but she was used to a quiet life. She had to admit they got on her nerves after only ten minutes.
- The swimming pool sign read, “No **boisterous** play.” Donny thought, “I suppose this means I can’t chase my brother around the pool edge, push him in and dunk him.”

**interrogate:** to question
- Tyler’s favorite part of the police show is when the detectives **interrogate** the crime suspects.
- Every time Dawn left the house, her father **interrogated** her about where she was going, who she was going with and what she was going to do.

**bogus:** fake; phony; counterfeit
- The **bogus** offer involved a supposedly free trip to Acapulco.
- Henry thought he was going to be making $20.00 an hour, but it turned out that the job offer was **bogus.** He would be making only 75 cents an hour.

**charisma:** quality in a person that inspires or attracts others; charm or allure
- The candidate had so much **charisma** that huge crowds gathered every time she spoke.
- Mr. Wonka was the most popular teacher at school. His **charisma** made going to class a pleasure.
List #8 continued

dilapidated: falling to pieces; broken down
  • The dilapidated house was said to be haunted by a headless old woman.
  • The old junk yard was full of dilapidated automobiles and household appliances.

ecstatic: joyous; extremely happy
  • James was ecstatic when he got Michael Jordon’s autograph.
  • The children were ecstatic when they heard they were flying to Disneyland for their vacation.

sinister: evil
  • Louisa knew it wasn’t just her imagination. Something sinister lurked in the shadows, and she shivered at the thought of what it might be.
  • The man in the dark overcoat had a sinister look about him, so Pat and Kelly immediately turned around and walked the other direction.

philanthropist: a person (usually wealthy) who gives money to charity
  • Andrew Carnegie, the great philanthropist, established foundations to give money to worthwhile causes.
  • The Montgomery brothers couldn’t be any more different from one another. While Bryon was a great philanthropist, Milton was stingy with his money.

Bonus Words
★ ambiguous: unclear; having more than one meaning
  • The math assignment was so ambiguous that none of the students knew exactly what they were supposed to do.
  • Rita got lost trying to find her new school because the directions she had been given were ambiguous.

★ befuddle: to confuse
  • Mr. Macfee never did his own taxes because the tax forms always befuddled him.
  • The whole class was befuddled by Mrs. Stafford’s lecture on adverbial phrases.
Vocabulary List #9

infatuated: extremely attracted to something or someone

- Brad was hopelessly infatuated with Katie, the only girl in his day care group.
- Maria had been infatuated with the idea of becoming a Chicago Bear ever since she could remember.

habitually: repeatedly or continuously

- Reality was just not exciting enough for Ralph, so he lied habitually whenever he was asked “What's new with you?”
- Since Marty was habitually late to class, Ms. Wilson automatically marked him tardy when she took roll.

ebony: black; a type of dark, heavy wood

- The black keys on the piano were made out of ebony.
- Gina loved Grandpa Romano's dignified look — his snow white beard, his unchanged ebony hair and his stately walk.

mortified: humiliated; embarrassed

- Josh was mortified when he slipped and fell as he walked on stage to get his diploma.
- Melinda had only one line in the whole play. She was mortified when she came on stage and forgot it.

plagiarize: to pass off someone else's words or ideas as your own; to copy

- “If your essay sounds like it came straight from the encyclopedia, I'm going to think you plagiarized it,” said Mr. Gutierrez.
- The reporter was not just dishonest; he was stupid. He plagiarized an article his own boss had written!

venomous: filled with deep hatred

- Vivian shot Liz a venomous glare when she saw her talking to her boyfriend.
- Mr. Brown's comments are so venomous that no one voluntarily signs up for any of his classes.
List #9 continued

**remorseful:** filled with sorrow or guilt

- "If you seemed even a little remorseful about skipping class, I would go easy on you," said the principal, "but you don’t, so I’m assigning you three weeks of detention."
- The last piece of apple pie tasted so good that Dillon wasn’t even remorseful about eating it — at least not until he saw his mom standing in the doorway watching him.

**opaque:** not transparent; can’t be seen through

- "Move out of the way," Alan yelled at his sister as she stood right in front of the television. "You do know you’re opaque, don’t you?"
- Superman uses X-ray vision to see through opaque walls.

**guerrilla:** having to do with “underground” army members specializing in harassment and sabotage

- The rebel army troops used guerrilla tactics to take over the capital city.
- He was killed by guerrilla gunfire just before his troops reached the battlefield.

**succinct:** brief and to the point

- Surprisingly, a succinct one-page essay is harder to write than a three-page paper.
- "I’ll be succinct," said Sophie’s mother. "No."

**Bonus Words**

★ **vindictive:** wanting revenge; unforgiving

- When Paul started a rumor about Kayla just because she broke off their date, she knew he was being vindictive.
- "I know the reason I didn’t get invited to Kelly’s party is because of that remark I made," said Joella. "She can be so vindictive."

★ **amend:** to change for the better; to remove faults

- The citizens of Elkville decided to amend the constitution to allow gambling.
- The Harley Club decided that the minutes should be amended to include the results of the vote taken at the last meeting.
Vocabulary List #10

**taboo:** strongly forbidden
- Since she has already broken one dish, it is now **taboo** for Angela to touch her mom’s china.
- Talking about weird Aunt Lorraine was **taboo** at Rick’s house, at least around company.

**persnickety:** too fussy or picky
- Mark is so **persnickety** about his hair that he is always combing it or looking at it in the mirror.
- Cheri’s grandma is so **persnickety** about manners she won’t speak to anyone who hasn’t sent her a thank-you card within one week of receiving a gift.

**haphazard:** random; by accident; not planned
- The **haphazard** placement of the spice jars made it difficult for Chang to find the spice he wanted when he wanted it.
- Since Eric and Shay’s bikes were lying **haphazardly** in the driveway, their dad had to park the car on the street.

**imperceptible:** very slight; hardly noticeable
- Mario’s little brother cried and carried on, even though the bump on his head was almost **imperceptible**.
- The difference in color between the two paint samples was **imperceptible**.

**atheist:** someone who doesn’t believe there is a god
- Salina doesn’t pray or go to church because she is an **atheist**.
- A group of **atheists** protested the use of a Nativity scene at the courthouse.

**shun:** to intentionally avoid someone
- Regina’s friends were **shunning** her, so she tried to make the best out of eating lunch and walking to class alone.
- Since Patsy wouldn’t let Kurt borrow her new camera, all his friends **shunned** her.
anecdote: a short entertaining story

- The biography of Abraham Lincoln was full of interesting anecdotes about his life.
- Uncle Bill is full of anecdotes about his years as a stunt man. He said that he once had to jump from a moving car that was on fire.

concur: to agree; to have the same opinion

- As depressing as it was, Brandy had to concur with Melissa's observation that the only cute boy in the whole town was Robert, who already had a girlfriend.
- His mother and his teacher concurred that Travis had a problem, but they could not agree on how to solve it.

vivacious: full of life; spirited

- Annie was so friendly and vivacious that people always enjoyed being around her.
- Keenan was such a vivacious child that he had an extra hard time sitting still and keeping quiet in church.

perplexed: confused, puzzled or bewildered

- Gretchen was perplexed by her brother's odd behavior. She couldn't figure out why he was suddenly taking showers all the time and wearing after shave lotion.
- The mayor wasn't very smart. Even the simplest problems perplexed him.

Bonus Words

★ capitulate: to give up; to stop resisting

- After her sons whined and promised to help with the dishes every night for the rest of their lives, Ms. Zeller capitulated and let them go to the concert.
- The father finally capitulated to the kidnapper's demands and paid the ransom.

★ consensus: general agreement

- The consensus in the classroom was that there should be no more homework.
- There was seldom a consensus in the Hegge household, but tonight, everyone agreed that ordering a pizza would be a good idea.
Vocabulary List #11

infinite: never-ending; going on forever

- Her mother seemed to have an infinite number of questions about Jenny’s date with Silas.
- The teacher had infinite patience and never lost her temper, no matter how far her students pushed her.

abduct: to kidnap

- Mrs. Jenkin’s biggest fear was that her daughter would be abducted, so she watched her closely whenever they went to the park.
- Kent’s parents didn’t believe his story about being abducted by aliens and taken away in their spaceship for three hours.

textiles: woven materials; cloth

- The interior designer had a collection of textiles for her customers to browse through.
- Clothing manufacturers make many purchases from textile factories.

loathe: to hate

- George loathed cooked carrots and groaned every time his dad made them for dinner.
- “I loathe cleaning the toilet,” said Mike. “I’d rather vacuum the whole house every day for a week.”

unscrupulous: dishonest; immoral

- The unscrupulous coach encouraged his team to cheat whenever they could.
- The businessman was so unscrupulous that he cheated people who lived in nursing homes.

controversial: debatable; likely to cause disagreement

- The decision to eliminate school uniforms at St. Mary’s School was quite controversial.
- Many of Madonna’s music videos are controversial.
turbulent: wild; unstable

- Everyone wishes Molly and Zeke would break up. They have such a turbulent relationship.
- The injured seal was having trouble staying afloat in the turbulent waters.

nocturnal: active at night

- Many owls are nocturnal. That's why they see so well in the dark.
- "My cat is nocturnal and loves to go out at 2:00 AM," said Marta.

tout: to praise highly

- James Brown has been touted as the "Godfather of Soul."
- Mr. Octave had been touted as one of the best drama directors in the state, so the school was delighted to hire him.

smug: self-satisfied to an annoying degree

- Marcos was smug about the A he got on his grammar test. He bragged about it to anyone who would listen.
- Charla was smug about knowing the answer when no one else did.

Bonus Words

★ façade: the face or front part of something, especially an artificial or false front

- Jessica's bravery was just a façade. Deep down, she was terrified.
- The building had a brick façade, but it was really constructed of wood.

★ vehement: forceful; full of intense feeling

- Ella took a vehement dislike to tomatoes after she ate too many of them and got sick.
- The defendant vehemently denied having stolen the car.
Vocabulary List #12

**aghast:** feeling great horror or dismay
- Tiffany was **aghast** to discover she had toilet paper stuck to her shoe while she was being crowned homecoming queen.
- Kate was **aghast** to learn she hadn't made the volleyball team.

**redundant:** needlessly repetitive
- "Saying **two twins** is **redundant**," said the English teacher.
- "It is important," said Lou's father. "It's vital. It's crucial. It's . . ." He stopped and sighed. "I guess I'm being **redundant**."

**gullible:** easily fooled or taken in
- Roseanne was so **gullible** she always believed the outlandish stories Maurice told her.
- Sven lost $500 in a telephone scam because he is so **gullible**.

**eccentric:** out-of-the-ordinary; odd; unconventional
- The **eccentric** woman kept a slice of pepperoni pizza under her mattress in case she got hungry during the night.
- The play is funny because it has so many **eccentric** characters. You never know what they're going to do next.

**inanimate:** not living
- Shelley didn't think of her stuffed animals as **inanimate** objects. They seemed so alive and real to her.
- A computer is an **inanimate** object, but a hamster is not.

**jeer:** to make fun of in a rude, sarcastic manner
- When the football team fell behind by another seven points, the fans **jeered** instead of cheered.
- The crowd **jeered** Elaine when her comedy routine flopped.

**paradox:** a statement that seems inconsistent or contradictory but may be true
- "You say you love him yet hate him," said LuAnn. "That seems like a **paradox**"
dox to me."

• "That funny clown is sad," said Craig. "That seems like a paradox, but I believe it's true.

ravenous: extremely hungry

• A full day of skiing left Luisa ravenous. She ate three plates of spaghetti when she got back to the lodge.
• No matter how much he eats for breakfast, Paul is always ravenous by second period.

valiant: brave; courageous

• Even though Wendy didn’t win the race, her coach praised her valiant effort.
• He was a valiant knight who saved damsels in distress.

flourish: to prosper or thrive

• Abe’s house plants flourished because he took such good care of them.
• Business at the coffee house flourished when the owner hired a popular young band.

Bonus Words
★ mesmerize: to hypnotize

• Paige sat staring at the TV screen, mesmerized by Tom Cruise.
• Blaine's blue eyes can mesmerize even the crankiest customer at Hooligan's Market.

★ destitute: living in poverty

• The family was destitute and had to live in their car.
• Mr. Bandower knew that if he quit his job, his family would be destitute.

Directions: The first 10 words listed above belong in the story below. Read the story and use the clues in the text to place each word in the correct blank space provided. You may change the form of a word to fit the story, if you need to. (For example, you might need to