

Honors World Literature Vocabulary

2015-16

This year, our vocabulary study will include 100 words drawn from our major works of literature. Each week, you will be responsible for learning five new vocabulary words, starting with 1-5, then 6-10, and so on. Weekly quizzes will be *cumulative*; in other words, your first vocabulary quiz will cover words 1-5, the second vocabulary quiz will cover words 1-10, the third quiz will cover words 1-15, and so on.

Vocabulary quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, true and false, and matching. At times, short answer quizzes may also be used.

Definitions for each word are provided below. As you read each work of literature, be on the lookout for the word in *context* to solidify your understanding of each word's meaning.

Studying tips: 1) Create index cards with each vocabulary word, noting the part of speech and definition; 2) In addition to the definition, you may want to look up synonyms and/or antonyms of each word (students often find this to be more helpful than the definition alone); 3) Do not procrastinate (study your words a little bit each day rather than wait until the night before), and; 4) Use an online app such as Quizlet to study your words wherever you may be.

FIRST SEMESTER

Gilgamesh

1. Callous (adj): showing or having an insensitive and cruel disregard for others
2. Somber (adj): dark or dull in color or tone; gloomy
3. Billow (v): (of fabric) fill with air and swell outward; to balloon
4. Exalt (v): hold (someone or something) in very high regard; think or speak very highly of:
5. Revitalize (v): imbue (something) with new life and vitality.
6. Bellow (v): to shout with a deep, loud roar
7. Naivete (n): lack of experience, wisdom or judgment
8. Folly (n): lack of good sense; foolishness
9. Yearn (v): have an intense feeling of longing for something, typically something that one has lost or been separated from
10. Sentiment (n): 1) a feeling or emotion 2) a view of or attitude toward a situation or event; an opinion
11. Futility (n): pointlessness or uselessness
12. Impetuous (adj): acting or done quickly and without thought or care
13. Cower (v): crouch down in fear
14. Slothful (adj): lazy
15. Wrung (v): squeezed or twisted out

Much Ado About Nothing

16. Blithe (adj): 1. joyous, merry, or gay in disposition; glad; cheerful 2. showing a casual and cheerful indifference considered to be callous or improper; carefree; heedless.
17. Censure (v): to criticize or reproach in a harsh manner; judge.
18. Comely (adj): proper; seemly; becoming.
19. Flout (v): to treat with/show disdain, scorn, or contempt; scoff at; mock.
20. Libertine (n): a person, especially a man, who behaves without moral principles or a sense of responsibility.

21. Malefactor (n): 1. a person who violates the law; criminal 2. a person who does harm or evil, especially toward another.
22. Mire (v): 1. to involve; entangle 2. to soil with mire. (n): a tract or area of wet, swampy ground; bog; marsh.
23. Noisome (adj): 1. offensive or disgusting, as an odor 2. harmful to the health
24. Pestilence (n): 1. a deadly or virulent epidemic disease 2. bubonic plague 3. something that is considered harmful, destructive or evil.
25. Rancor (n): bitter, rankling resentment or ill will; hatred; malice.
26. Semblance (n): 1. outward aspect or appearance. 2. the slightest appearance or trace.
27. Slander (v): make false and damaging statements about (someone). (n): the action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.
28. Travail (n): painfully difficult or burdensome work; toil. (v): to toil or exert oneself.
29. Unmitigated (adj): not mitigated; not softened or lessened.
30. Zeal (n): great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective.

Lord of the Flies

31. Bastion (n): 1. a projecting part of a fortification built at an angle to the line of a wall 2. an institution, place, or person strongly defending or upholding particular principles, attitudes, or activities.
32. Cynicism (n): an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest; skepticism.
33. Derisive (adj): expressing contempt or ridicule
34. Ebullience (n): the quality of being cheerful and full of energy; exuberance.
35. Festooned (v): adorn (a place) with ribbons, garlands, or other decorations.
36. Gesticulated (v): use gestures, especially dramatic ones, instead of speaking or to emphasize one's words.
37. Hiatus (n): a pause or gap in a sequence, series, or process.
38. Impalpable (adj): 1. unable to be felt by touch 2. not easily comprehended
39. Impervious (adj): 1. not allowing fluid to pass through 2. unable to be affected by
40. Improvisation (n): the action of improvising; something that is improvised, created without preparation.
41. Inscrutable (adj): impossible to understand or interpret.
42. Opaque (adj): not able to be seen through; not transparent.
43. Specious (adj): 1. superficially plausible, but actually wrong 2. misleading in appearance
44. Tacit (adj): understood or implied without being stated
45. Tempestuous (adj): characterized by strong and turbulent or conflicting emotion

SECOND SEMESTER

Things Fall Apart

46. **Approbation (n):** approval or praise, often publicly
47. **Arduous (adj):** involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring
48. **Audacity (n):** 1) the willingness to take bold risks 2) rude or disrespectful behavior; impudence
49. **Capricious (adj):** given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; unpredictable
50. **Discern (v):** perceive or recognize (something); distinguish
51. **Feign (v):** pretend to be affected by (a feeling, state, or injury)
52. **Harbinger (n):** a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another; forerunner
53. **Improvident (adj):** not having or showing foresight; spendthrift or thoughtless
54. **Incipient (adj):** in an initial stage; beginning to happen or develop
55. **Kindle (v):** 1) light or set on fire 2) to arouse or inspire
56. **Plaintive (adj):** sounding sad or mournful
57. **Poignant (adj):** evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; touching
58. **Tentative (adj):** not certain or fixed; provisional; hesitant
59. **Voluble (adj):** speaking or spoken incessantly and fluently; loquacious
60. **Wily (adj):** skilled at gaining an advantage, especially deceitfully

Purple Hibiscus

61. **Coup (n):** overthrowing of a current government; seizure of power from a government.
62. **Desecrate (v):** to violate the sacred character of a place or language.
63. **Discernment (n):** the ability to judge well.
64. **Étagère (n):** piece of furniture displaying small objects.
65. **Flippant (adj):** showing inappropriate levity; not showing a serious or respectful attitude.
66. **Heathen (n):** a person who does not belong to a widely held religion (especially one who is not a Christian, Jew, or Muslim) as regarded by those who do.
67. **Intercede (v):** to intervene on behalf of another.
68. **Lilt (n):** a jaunty rhythm in music.
69. **Missal (n):** book that contains what is said in mass in a Catholic church; book of prayers and devotions.
70. **Penitent (adj):** Feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong.
71. **Pilgrimage (n):** a journey to a sacred place.
72. **Presumptuous (adj):** excessively forward.
73. **Thwart (v):** to oppose successfully; to prevent or stop.
74. **Traditionalist (n):** one who adheres to time-honored views.
75. **Veranda (n):** a porch along the outside of a building.

Persepolis

76. **Avante-garde (adj):** new and unusual or experimental ideas, especially in the arts, or the people introducing them
77. **Celestial (adj):** 1) positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in astronomy; belonging to or related to heaven 2) supremely good
78. **Circumspect (adj):** wary and unwilling to take risks
79. **Clandestine (adj):** kept secret or done secretly
80. **Decadent (adj):** characterized by or reflecting a state of moral or cultural decline; self-indulgent
81. **Defeatist (adj):** demonstrating expectation or acceptance of failure
82. **Emanate (v):** give out or emit (something abstract but perceptible)

83. Pretext (n): a reason given in justification of a course of action that is not the real reason
84. Subversive (adj): seeking or intended to undermine, weaken, or overthrow an established system or institution
85. Veritable (adj): used as an intensifier, often to qualify a metaphor

Kite Runner

86. Acrid (adj): having an irritatingly strong and unpleasant taste or smell
87. Aloof (adj): having an irritatingly strong and unpleasant taste or smell
88. Chortle (v): laugh in a breathy, gleeful way; chuckle.
89. Guileless (adj): devoid of guile; innocent and without deception
90. Havoc (n): widespread destruction
91. Indignation (n): anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment
92. Melee (n): 1. a confused fight, skirmish, or scuffle 2. a confused mass of people
93. Palliative (adj): (of a treatment or medicine) relieving pain or alleviating a problem without dealing with the underlying cause
94. Proverbial (adj): 1. (of a word or phrase) referred to in a proverb or idiom. 2. well known, especially so as to be stereotypical
95. Reveries (n): (plural) a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts; a daydream
96. Rueful (adj): expressing sorrow or regret, especially when in a slightly humorous way
97. Ruminates (v): think deeply about something.
98. Shrewd (adj): having or showing sharp powers of judgment; astute
99. Surreal (adj): having the qualities of surrealism; bizarre, unusual, fantastical
100. Vehement (adj): showing strong feeling; forceful, passionate, or intense