

Vocabulary #2

Name:

1. assuage (verb)
When it healed, and Jem’s fears of never being able to play football were assuaged, he was seldom self-conscious about his injury (3).
Jilted by Jane, Brent tried to assuage his heartache by indulging in ice cream. One gallon later, he had assuaged his appetite but not his grief.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

2. piety (noun)
All we had was Simon Finch, a fur-trapping apothecary from Cornwall whose piety was exceeded only by his stinginess (4).
The nuns in the convent were noted for their piety; they spent their days in worship and prayer.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

3. dictum (noun)
So Simon, having forgotten his teacher’s dictum on the possession of human chattels, bought three slaves and with their aid established a homestead on the banks of the Alabama River some forty miles above Saint Stephens (4).
University administrations still follow the old dictum of “Publish or perish.” They don’t care how good a teacher you are; if you don’t publish enough papers, you’re out of a job.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

4. taciturn (adjective)
She married a taciturn man who spent most of his time lying in a hammock by the river wondering if his trotlines were full (5).
The stereotypical cowboy is a taciturn soul, answering lengthy questions with a “Yep” or “Nope”.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

5. malevolent (adjective)
Inside the house lived a malevolent phantom. People said he existed, but Jem and I had never seen him. People said he went out at night when the moon was down and peeped in windows (10).
Iago is a malevolent villain who takes pleasure in ruining Othello.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

6. predilection (noun)
The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a predilection unforgivable in Maycomb (11).
Although I have written all sorts of poetry over the years, I have a definite predilection for occasional verse.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

7. concede (verb)
It was alright to shut him up, Mr. Radley conceded, but insisted that Boo not be charged with anything: he was not a criminal (14).
Despite all the evidence Monica had assembled, Mark refused to concede that she was right.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

8. nebulous (adjective)
Boo's transition from the basement to back home was nebulous in Jem's memory (14).
After twenty years, she had only a nebulous memory of her grandmother's face.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

9. indigenous (adjective)
"...I am Miss Caroline Fisher. I am from North Alabama, from Winston County." The class murmured apprehensively, should she prove to harbor her share of the peculiarities indigenous to that region (21).
Cigarettes are made of tobacco, a plant indigenous to the New World.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

10. illicit (adjective)
I mumbled that I was sorry and retired meditating upon my crime. I never deliberately learned to read, but somehow I had been wallowing illicitly in the daily papers (23).
The defense attorney maintained that his client had never performed an illicit action.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

11. compelling (adjective)/ compel (verb)
Now that I was compelled to think about it, reading was something that just came to me, as learning to fasten the seat of my union suit without looking around, or achieving two bows from a snarl of shoelaces (23).
The prosecutor presented a well-reasoned case, but the defense attorney's compelling arguments for leniency won over the jury.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

12. irk (verb)
Jem's free dispensation of my pledge irked me, but precious noontime minutes ticked away (31).
The seven-year-old who repeatedly poked me in the shoulder while I tried to lifeguard really irked me.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

13. amiable (adjective)
Atticus sat down in the swing and crossed his legs. His fingers wandered to his watchpocket; he said that was the only way he could think. He waited in amiable silence, and I sought to reinforce my position...(39).
In <i>Little Women</i>, Beth is the amiable daughter whose loving disposition endears her to all who know her.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

14. judicious (adjective)
In certain circumstances the common folk judiciously allowed them certain privileges by the simple method of becoming blind to some of the Ewells' activities (41).
At a key moment in his life, he made a judicious investment that was the foundation of his later wealth.
Predicted Definition:
Actual Definition:
Notes:

The first sample sentence for each word is from *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The second sample sentence is from *Barron's SAT I Prep 20th Edition* high frequency word list.

Quiz Date: _____

Note: This quiz may include these words as well as any words from Vocabulary #1