

Vocabulary From Literature for...

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by Edith Wharton

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Reorder No. 201966
ISBN 978-1-58049-274-4

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Introduction and Chapter I

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

chronicle (11) garrison (13) oracle (14) spume (18)
querulously (20) suppleness (23) wistful (18) furrows (21)

1. _____ adaptability, compliance
2. _____ a person who gives wise advice
3. _____ a narrative or fictional account
4. _____ troops stationed at a military post
5. _____ froth, foam
6. _____ narrow grooves or trenches in the ground
7. _____ sad, melancholy
8. _____ constantly whining or complaining

taciturnity (12) undulations (21) reticent (14) ebb (14)
fatuity (25) exanimate (18) gale (19)

9. _____ foolishness
10. _____ habitual silence or reserve
11. _____ reluctant to talk
12. _____ a decline
13. _____ a very strong wind
14. _____ spiritless, lifeless
15. _____ wavy appearances, waves

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapter II-IV

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

unbidden (50)
repugnant (35)

draughts (37)
genial (46)

loutish (29)

1. _____ gusts of wind
2. _____ ill-mannered and graceless
3. _____ gracious and friendly
4. _____ not wished or asked for
5. _____ disgusting

stricken (45)
cessation (44)

valise (39)
latent (51)

pantomime (30)
malice (50)

6. _____ the desire to cause harmful acts
7. _____ a suitcase, bag
8. _____ a person who acts without speaking
9. _____ present but underdeveloped
10. _____ deeply affected by
11. _____ a stop or pause

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Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapters V-VII

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

resolute (64)
wainscot (56)

emitted (71)
vehemence (67)

compunction (69)

1. _____ anxiety from guilt
2. _____ a type of paneling for walls (usually wooden)
3. _____ uttered, voiced, expressed
4. _____ bold and steady
5. _____ intensity

desolately (71)
scant (60)

stolid (62)
sacrilege (72)

indolent (53)

6. _____ lazy
7. _____ joylessly, sadly
8. _____ not sufficient
9. _____ the violation or desecration of something holy
10. _____ showing no emotion, indifferent

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Chapters VIII, IX, and the Epilogue

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

induce (78)
austere (97)

ventured (96)
boles (84)

drone (95)

1. _____ a continuous monotonous sound
2. _____ somber and grave
3. _____ to persuade or influence
4. _____ to express at the risk of being criticized
5. _____ tree trunks

protuberances (74)
indignantly (83)

exultantly (89)
placidly (84)

adjured (87)

6. _____ pleaded
7. _____ angrily aroused by something unjust; outraged
8. _____ jubilantly
9. _____ peacefully
10. _____ bumps, knots, lumps

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity II
Writing Definitions
from Context Clues
Chapters VIII, IX, and the Epilogue

Directions: For each excerpt from these chapters, select the correct definition from the choices provided for each vocabulary word. As a last resort, you may use the dictionary but the definition you select for each word must make sense in the context it is being used in the passage.

1. When Ethan was called back to the farm by his father's illness his mother gave him, for his own use, a small room behind the **untenanted** "best parlour." here had had nailed up shelves for his books, built himself a box-sofa out of boards and a mattress, laid out his papers on the kitchen-table, hung on the rough plaster wall an engraving of Abraham Lincoln and a calendar with "Thoughts from the Poets," and tried, with these **meagre** properties, to produce some likeness to the study of a "minister" who had been kind to him and lent him books when he was at Worcester. He still took refuge there in summer, but when Mattie came to live at the farm he had to give her his stove, and consequently the room was **uninhabitable** for several months of the year. (Pg. 73)

Definition of **untenanted**:

- A. surrounded
- B. unoccupied
- C. worked
- D. dirty, grimy
- E. filled

Definition of **meagre**:

- A. a valuable object
- B. a quiet place
- C. a large amount
- D. a small amount
- E. uncultivated

Definition of **uninhabitable**:

- A. unusually warm
- B. filled
- C. decorated
- D. valuable
- E. not fit to live in