

Vocabulary From Literature

The Scarlet Letter

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The Custom House

Activity I

Matching Definitions

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.

decorous (14)
vicissitude (19)
esoteric (27)

discern (15)
vitiated (23)
fathomed (36)

propensities (32)
unmalleable (25)
effusion (30)

1. _____ limited to a small group of people
2. _____ impaired; made ineffective
3. _____ perceive; understand
4. _____ inclinations
5. _____ a pouring forth
6. _____ understood
7. _____ proper behavior
8. _____ change; reversal; fluctuation
9. _____ unchangeable

tenacity (18)
unobtrusive (35)
expatiate (23)
torpid (34)

slumberous (26)
arduous (20)
indolent (19)

inefficacious (35)
rankling (15)
contrivance (22)

10. _____ difficult
11. _____ slow; dull; static
12. _____ unable to produce a desired result; ineffective
13. _____ hardly noticeable
14. _____ sleepy
15. _____ irritating
16. _____ persistence
17. _____ to speak at length
18. _____ ingenious plan
19. _____ lazy

Chapters I-IV

Activity I

Matching Definitions

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.

sojourn (52)
expound (53)
quaff (61)

impracticable (57)
hypocrisy (56)
ligaments (63)

requital (61)
transgress (56)
sepulchres (41)

1. _____ to explain in detail
2. _____ to overstep; to go beyond
3. _____ not workable
4. _____ things which join together; bonds; ties
5. _____ to swallow
6. _____ a temporary stay
7. _____ a repayment
8. _____ a pretense of virtue; falsehood; deceptiveness
9. _____ burial vaults

brazen (46)
mien (47)
scourged (43)

autumnal (44)
infamy (44)
rotundity (44)

sumptuary (46)
remonstrance (49)
gentility (49)

10. _____ driven as if by a whip
11. _____ old; mature
12. _____ an objection
13. _____ appearance; aspect
14. _____ disgrace; shame
15. _____ fullness of sound
16. _____ related to expenses or luxuries
17. _____ bold
18. _____ refinement and elegance; belonging to the upper class

Chapters V-IX

Activity I

Matching Definitions

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.

vivify (66)	inscrutable (66)	purge (66)	ascetic (68)
voluptuous (69)	imbibed (70)	mutability (74)	delusive (63)
pestilence (83)	extant (83)	annals (86)	

- _____ absorbed; assimilated
- _____ relating to the pleasure of the senses; luxurious; elegant
- _____ to make real; animate
- _____ mysterious
- _____ self-denying
- _____ to cleanse of impurities or sin
- _____ changeability
- _____ deceptive
- _____ historical records
- _____ a plague
- _____ in existence; not destroyed or lost

erudition (100)	muster (85)	refutation (101)	mountebank (91)
sundering (93)	gesticulation (79)	importunate (97)	apothecary (96)
burnished (85)	labyrinth (79)	manifold (68)	

- _____ polished
- _____ a military inspection
- _____ gestures
- _____ a complicated problem; maze
- _____ denial
- _____ a pharmacist or druggist
- _____ a charlatan; quack
- _____ breaking
- _____ persistent
- _____ scholarly knowledge
- _____ many; various

Chapters X-XIV

Activity I

Matching Definitions

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.

palliate (108)
lore (112)
pith (115)

somniferous (109)
defiled (114)
usurp (134)

presentiments (112)
introspection (115)
abstruse (112)

1. _____ knowledge or learning
2. _____ the essential part; substance; gist
3. _____ self-examination; a looking into one's own mind, feelings
4. _____ difficult to learn or understand
5. _____ polluted; corrupted
6. _____ premonitions
7. _____ alleviate; make less severe
8. _____ causing sleep; hypnotic
9. _____ to take without right

despotic (127)
repose (125)
stigmatized (128)

tremulous (118)
conjunction (121)
gibe (126)

impute (123)
auspicious (130)
defunct (120)

10. _____ trembling; timid; cowardly
11. _____ to attribute, ascribe, or credit to
12. _____ characterized or marked as disgraceful; stained
13. _____ having a potentially favorable outcome
14. _____ dead, missing, or inactive
15. _____ peace
16. _____ tyrannical; dictatorial
17. _____ a joining together
18. _____ an insult

Chapters XV-XIX

Activity I

Matching Definitions

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.

precocity (140)

asperity (141)

transfiguration (152)

acrid (140)

interpose (151)

enfeebled (152)

talisman (141)

atheist (150)

consecration (153)

1. _____ made weak
2. _____ a person who believes there is no God
3. _____ the act of making or declaring sacred
4. _____ a change in outward appearance
5. _____ to introduce; interject
6. _____ harshness; severity
7. _____ bitter; bad-tasting
8. _____ a good luck piece; charm
9. _____ mature qualities at an unusually early age

cumber (155)

suffice (158)

colloquy (157)

minuteness (158)

cankered (166)

nuptial (138)

citadel (158)

alloy (167)

repining (147)

10. _____ of marriage or a wedding; marital
11. _____ a conversation; formal discussion
12. _____ to hinder
13. _____ to make less pure; debase; devalue
14. _____ corrupted; diseased
15. _____ to be enough; sufficient
16. _____ smallness; tinyness
17. _____ a fortress; stronghold
18. _____ discontented; complaining