

Vocabulary from the Novel

Words are listed by chapter in their order of appearance. Words preceded by an asterisk (*) are general vocabulary words that may appear in *Testing on the Novel: Developing Vocabulary*.

Chapter 1

- * **alleged** — asserted without proof
- * **taciturn** — disinclined to talk; silent
- * **vapid** — not lively; without spirit
- repertoire** — a list of dramas, operas, pieces or parts that a person or company is prepared to perform
- * **malevolent** — having, showing, or arising from intense, often vicious ill will, spite, or hatred
- * **culprit** — one accused of or arraigned for a crime; one guilty of a crime or of misconduct
- * **predilection** — a predisposition in favor of something; preference
- flivver** — a small cheap automobile
- * **foray** — a quick raid or sudden attack

Chapter 2

- * **condescended** — assumed an air of superiority; exhibited a patronizing attitude
- * **illicitly** — unlawfully; without permission
- * **indigenous** — native to a particular region or species; inborn; innate
- entailment** — the restriction of property by limiting the inheritance to the owner's linear descendants or to a particular class thereof
- smilax** — a delicate twining greenhouse plant
- * **vexations** — irritations; annoyances

Chapter 3

- cootie** — slang for a head or body louse
- * **contemptuous** — scornful; despising; disdainful
- * **contentious** — belligerent; argumentative
- * **fractious** — tending to be troublesome, quarrelsome, or irritable
- * **disapprobation** — the act or state of being disapproved; condemnation

Chapter 4

- * **auspicious** — propitious; favorable
- scuppernongs** — yellowish green plum-flavored grapes
- * **arbitrated** — decided; determined
- * **mortifying** — shameful; embarrassing
- Gothic** — medieval; uncouth; barbarous

Chapter 5

- * **tacit** — silently understood; unspoken
- * **asinine** — lacking sound judgment; stupid; silly

Chapter 6

- ramshackle** — appearing ready to collapse; rickety
- * **desolate** — devoid of inhabitants or visitors; barren; empty

Chapter 7

- * **ascertaining** — making certain; discovering; determining

Chapter 8

- * **unfathomable** — unable to be measured or understood
- * **aberrations** — deviations; strays from the right or normal way
- * **perpetrated** — committed; carried out; brought about
- morphodite** — probably meant to be hermaphrodite, something that is a combination of diverse elements
- * **adjacent** — not distant; nearby
- * **perplexity** — the state of being confused or bewildered

Chapter 9

- ***inordinately** — unregulatedly; disorderly; excessively
- ***ingenuous** — noble; honorable; straightforward
- ***analogous** — showing a likeness which permits one to draw an analogy; similar
- ***wary** — marked by keen caution; cunning and watchful
- ***guilelessness** — innocence; naiveté
- trousseau** — the personal outfit of a bride, usually including clothes, accessories, and personal linen
- ambrosia** — a dessert made of oranges and shredded coconut
- (on) **tenterhooks** — being in a state of uneasiness, strain, or suspense
- ***obstreperous** — uncontrollably noisy; clamorous; unruly
- ***invective** — of, relating to, or characterized by insult or abuse; denunciatory

Chapter 10

- ***vehemently** — passionately; powerfully; fervidly
- ***articulate** — able to speak; expressing oneself clearly or effectively

Chapter 11

- passé** — behind the times, outmoded
- ***melancholy** — a depression of spirits; dejection; a pensive mood; sadness
- premise** — a proposition supporting a conclusion
- ***umbrage** — resentful displeasure; personal offense
- ***rectitude** — straightness; righteousness
- guff** — slang for back talk; a disrespectful response; gossip
- ***interdict** — prohibition; an order forbidding something to be done
- ***palliation** — reduction of violence; moderation of intensity
- ***reconnaissance** — a preliminary survey to gain information
- ***undulate** — to form or move in waves; fluctuate
- ***propensities** — natural inclinations; leanings
- cantankerous** — ill-natured; quarrelsome

Chapter 12

- ***altercation** — a noisy or angry dispute; a quarrel
- habiliments** — style of dress characteristic of an occupation or occasion; clothes
- rotogravure** — a photographic process in which the impression is produced by a rotary press; a print made by this process
- ecclesiastical** — of or relating to a church, especially as a formal and established institution
- ***austere** — stern and forbidding in appearance and manner; somber; grave

Chapter 13

- ***prerogative** — an exclusive or special right, power, or privilege
- ***obliquely** — indirectly; deviously; underhandedly

Chapter 14

- ***infallible** — incapable of error; sure; certain
- ***acquiescence** — acceptance; assent
- ***sullen** — gloomy; resentfully silent or repressed; dismal
- ***futility** — fruitlessness; uselessness

Chapter 15

- ***venerable** — respected or admired

Chapter 16

- ***formidable** — causing fear, dread, or apprehension; awe-inspiring
- connivance** — knowledge of and consent to wrongdoing

Chapter 17

- corroborating** — supporting with evidence or authority
- ***acrimonious** — biting or rancorous especially in feeling, language, or manner
- ***haughty** — disdainfully proud; arrogant

Chapter 18

- ***mollified** — appeased; assuaged

Chapter 19

ex cathedra—by virtue of or in the exercise of one's office; authoritative

***impudent**—insolent; contemptuous or cocky boldness or disregard of others

Chapter 20

***unmitigated**—not lessened; unrelieved

***temerity**—rashness; foolishness

***integrity**—honesty; incorruptibility

Chapter 22

***cynical**—critical and distrustful of human nature and motives

feral—savage; wild

Chapter 23

***credibility**—believability; plausibility

***furtive**—secretive; surreptitious

***wryly**—ironically humorous

hieroglyphic—written in, constituting, or belonging to a system of writing mainly in pictorial characters, especially associated with ancient Egyptians

***adamant**—unyielding; inflexible

***sordid**—base; vile; filthy

Chapter 24

***impertinence**—insolence; rudeness

***bovine**—of, relating to, or resembling the ox or cow

martyred—sacrificed for the sake of principle; constantly suffering

Chapter 26

***persecuted**—harassed; made to suffer because of one's beliefs

Chapter 27

***notoriety**—the state of being widely and unfavorably known

***stealthily**—secretively; slyly

purloined—appropriated wrongfully; stolen

Chapter 28

***irascible**—marked by hot temper and easily provoked to anger; touchy; cranky

pinioned—disabled or restrained by binding the arms; shackled

staccato—abrupt; disjointed; disconnected, primarily as relating to sound or movement

Chapter 29

***garishly**—glaringly; flashily; gaudily

Chapter 30

***stolidly**—unemotionally

Chapter 31

***apprehensive**—fearful; filled with anxiety