

English 10
Vocab for Midterm

*=know the word parts for this selection

Confessions

*assiduous (13)

All the same, we were blameworthy, because we were less assiduous in reading, writing and concentrating on our studies than was expected of us.

*pedantic (13)

Moreover, was the master who flogged me any better himself? If he had been worsted by a fellow-scholar in some pedantic dispute, would he not have been racked by even more bitter jealousy than I was when my opponent in a game of ball got the better of me?

*orthographic (21)

Look upon all this, O Lord God and, as you look, patiently consider how carefully human beings observe those orthographic conventions and syllabic quantities which they have received from earlier orators, while neglecting the eternal rules directed to unending salvation which they have received from you.

*satiety (36)

O justice and innocence, fair and lovely, it is on you that I want to gaze with eyes that see purely and find satiety in never being sated.

chagrined (48)

Again, crime may be motivated by envy, as when a person in wretched circumstances envies one more fortunate, or one who is successful in an enterprise jealously injures another because he fears the other will catch up with him, or is chagrined because that person already has.

*iniquity (49)

As far as the dark blank in my memory is concerned, that period of infancy is on a par with the time I spent in my mother's womb. And if I was even conceived in iniquity, and with sin my mother nourished me in her womb, where, I beg of you, my God, where was I, your servant, ever innocent? Where, Lord, and when?

*piquancy (62)

There were other joys to be found in their company which still more powerfully captivated my mind—the charms of talking and laughing together and kindly giving way to each other's wishes, reading elegantly written books together, sharing jokes and delighting to honor one another, disagreeing occasionally but without rancor, as a person might disagree with himself, and lending piquancy by that rare disagreement to our much more frequent accord.

*disparagement (69)

I know it because if, instead of praising him, those same people had recounted his deeds with disparagement and contempt, I would not have warmed to him or felt any interest; and yet

neither the facts nor the man himself would have been different; the difference would have lain only in the attitude of those who related them.

*petulant (71)

To your little ones, 71 faithful Christians and my fellow citizens, from whom I was unwittingly exiled, I babbled away in my petulant fashion, asking, "If God made the soul, why does it fall into error?"

*probity (76)

They have fled all the same, to avoid seeing you who see them, and so in their blindness they have stumbled over you—for you abandon nothing you have made; yes, stumbled over you, these unjust folk, and justly hurt themselves; for they distanced themselves from your gentleness only to trip over your probity and fall upon the rough edges of your anger.

*recondite (80)

It was providential that this man talked so much about scientific subjects, and got it wrong, because this gave people who had truly studied them the chance to convict him of error; and then by implication his insight into other, more recondite matters could be clearly assessed.

chary (85)

Accordingly while teaching these youths I was being forced to endure those very forms of misconduct I had been chary of adopting myself in my student days; and I decided to depart for a place where, by all accounts, such things did not happen.

*perdition (87)

My fever worsened. I was on my way to perdition; for where should I have gone, if I had departed at this time?

*exculpated (89)

My pride was gratified at being exculpated by this theory: when I had done something wrong it was pleasant to avoid having to confess that I had done it, a confession that would have given you a chance to heal this soul of mine that had sinned against you.⁵

gainsaid (gainsay) (91)

While still at Carthage I had been influenced in a preliminary way by the lectures of a certain Elpidius⁶³ who disputed with the Manichees face to face, for he drew arguments from the scriptures which could not easily be gainsaid.

*salutary (94)

If I had first become well informed about your holy writings and you had grown sweet to me through my familiarity with them, and then I had afterward chanced upon those other volumes, they might perhaps have torn me loose from the strong root of piety, or else, if I had held firm in the salutary devotion I had absorbed, I might have supposed that it could be acquired equally well from those books, if everyone studied them and nothing else.

benighted (133)

As for those who are raised on the stilts of their loftier doctrine, too high to hear him calling, Learn of me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you shall find rest for your souls, even if they know God, they do not honor him as God or give him thanks; their thinking has been frittered away into futility and their foolish hearts are benighted, for in claiming to be wise they have become stupid.

cavil (135)

It follows, then, that either destruction harms nothing, which is impossible, or that all things which suffer harm are being deprived of some good; this conclusion is beyond cavil.

*ignominious (148)

These gods Rome had once vanquished, but now worshiped, and the elderly Victorinus with his terrible thunders had habitually defended their cults; yet he was not ashamed to become a child of your Christ and be born as an infant from your fount, bending his neck to the yoke of humility²⁶ and accepting on his docile brow the sign of the ignominious cross.

Beowulf

*1. scourge

There was Shield Sheafson, scourge of many tribes... (3).

*2. anathema

Cain got no good from committing that murder/because the Almighty made him anathema (9).

*3. respite

He was numb with grief, but got no respite/for one night later merciless Grendel/struck again... (11).

4. riven

There was panic after dark, people endured/raids in the night, riven by the terror (15).

*5. interlopers

So now, before you fare inland/as interlopers, I have to be informed/about who you are and where you hail from (19).

*6. recompense

This is my hope; and for his heroism/I will recompense him with a rich treasure (27).

7. stalwart

[A]nd the party sat, proud in their bearing,/strong and stalwart (235).

8. pinioned

Pinioned fast and swathed in its grip, I was granted one/final chance... (39).

*9. desolate

Such night-dangers and hard ordeals I have never heard of/nor of a man more desolate in surging waves (39).

10. reprisal

He knows he can trample down you Danes/to his heart's content, humiliate and murder/without fear of reprisal (41).

11. harrow/harrowing

a. Then he who harrowed the hearts of men/with pain and affliction in former times/and had given offence also to God/found that his powers failed him (55).

b. I suffered a long/ harrowing by Grendel (63).

12. ignominious

His fatal departure/was regretted by no-one who witnessed his trail,/the ignominious marks of his flight/where he'd skulked away... (57).

13. boons

Relish their company, but recollect as well/all of the boons that have been bestowed on you (83).

14. depredations

a. [S]he has taken up the feud/because of last night, when you killed Grendel,/wrestled and racked him in ruinous combat/since for too long he had terrorized us/with his depredations (93).

b. He laid waste to the land/and from that moment my mind was in dread/of his depredations (123).

15. scree

So the noble prince proceeded undismayed/up fells and scree, along narrow footpaths (99).

16. damascened

Next thing the damascened sword blade melted; it bloated and it burned/in their rushing blood (115).

17. felicity

Sometimes He allows the mind of a man of distinguished birth to follow its bent,/grants him fulfillment and felicity on earth... (119).

18. raucous

[T]he guest slept in [the hall]/until the black raven with raucous glee/announced heaven's joy, and a hurry of brightness/overran the shadows (123).

19. alacrity

If there is any favor on earth I can perform/beyond deeds of arms I have done already,/anything that would merit your affections more,/I shall act, my lord, with alacrity (125).

20. bulwark

The battle-famed king, bulwark of his earls,/ordered a gold-chased heirloom of Hrethel's/to be brought in (149).

21. gloaming

So the guardian of the mound,/the hoard-watcher, waited for the gloaming with fierce impatience (157).

22. virulent

Far and near, the Geat nation/bore the brunt of his brutal assaults/and virulent hate (157).