

Vocabulary *To Sir, With Love* by E.R. Braithwaite

U of D Jesuit Summer Reading Gr. 11

chivvied v To tease or annoy with persistent petty attacks

SENTENCE: They joshed and chivvied each other and the conductor in an endless stream of lewdly suggestive remarks and retorts, quite careless of being overheard by me- a Negro, and the only other male on the bus.

CHAPTER: 1 page 4

aquiline adj Curving like an eagle's beak

SENTENCE: ...the face was either tanned or olive-skinned, lean with high cheekbones and surprisingly smooth, as if the youthfulness which had deserted his hair had found permanent accommodation around the aquiline nose and full sensuous mouth;

CHAPTER: 1 page 11

nattily adj Trimly neat and tidy: smart

SENTENCE: He was carefully, even nattily dressed, and there was about him and the room a very pleasant orderliness quite at variance with the external surroundings.

CHAPTER: 1 page 11

sashayed v To strut or move about in an ostentatious or conspicuous manner

SENTENCE: The girl looked coolly into my face, then pirouetted lightly on her heel and sashayed back to rejoin her friends, her clear laugh floating back in her wake with the opening bars of the next record.

CHAPTER: 3 page 31

sycophancy n Obsequious flattery: adore

SENTENCE: We encourage them to speak up for themselves, no matter what the circumstance or the occasion; this may probably take the form of rudeness at first but gradually, through the influences of the various Committees and the Student Council, we hope they will learn directness without rudeness, and humility with sycophancy.

CHAPTER: 3 page 35

aplomb n Complete and confident composure or self-assurance: poise

SENTENCE: They knew as well as I did that there was nothing I could do about it, and I bore it with as much show of aplomb as I could manage.

CHAPTER: 8 page 78

quailed v To recoil in dread or terror: cower

SENTENCE: With once accord the girls turned to look at Potter, as if daring him; he quailed visibly before their converted eyes and said: "No, Sir."

CHAPTER: 9 page 83

mollified v To soothe in temper or disposition: appease, soften

SENTENCE: Pamela was not to be mollified.

CHAPTER: 14 page 127

cajoling v To persuade with flattery or gentle urging especially in the face of reluctance: coax

SENTENCE: It was a treat to have him there, perched on the side of one of the children's desks with his arms clasped about his knees, his eyes shining with delight as he spoke or argued with them, prodding, cajoling, encouraging them to express their own views in a clear and fearless manner.

CHAPTER: 14 page 130

pedagogic adj Of, relating to, or befitting a teacher or education

SENTENCE: I was being deliberately severe and pedagogic; she'd not want to talk about this when I was through.

CHAPTER: 16 page 156

supernumerary adj Exceeding what is necessary, required, or desired

SENTENCE: Just about this time a new supply teacher, Mr. Bell, was sent to our school as supernumerary to the Staff for a few weeks.

CHAPTER: 19 page 178

***Kaffir Boy* by Mark Mathabane**
U of D Jesuit Summer Reading Grade 11
Vocabulary

Chapter Four

Itinerant adj traveling from place to place

SENTENCE: On Tuesdays itinerant butcher continued coming by with their donkey- or pushcarts, peddling heavy bones with scraps of meat on them

Chapter Nine

Impunity n freedom from punishment, harm, or loss

SENTENCE: No one dared do that with impunity.

Chapter Fourteen

Denigrate v to express scornfully one's low opinion of

SENTENCE: I left the house for the streetcorner, where I knew a group of would be assembled- as they always did in such a night- to sing ditties denigrating the shitmen

Chapter Fifteen

Quagmire n a difficult, puzzling, or embarrassing situation from which there is no easy escape

SENTENCE: Straggling, unpaved roads, which became treacherous quagmire with each infrequent rainfall, were the only means of getting from one village to another.

Chapter Sixteen

Panacea n something that cures all ills or problems

SENTENCE: Maybe this was the panacea we had been desperately searching all these years.

Chapter Thirty

Postulate n something taken as being true or factual and used as a starting point for a course of action or reasoning

SENTENCE: “Stop saying that rubbish, you naughty boy, “Mrs. Smith said angrily as she entered the room just in time to catch the tail end of her son’s knowledge of black people’s intelligence, as postulated by the doctrine of apartheid.

Epithet n a disparaging or abusive word or phrase

SENTENCE: Sensing we were talking about them, but not understanding what we were saying, the frustrated white boys strung one “bloody Kaffir” epithet after another.

Chapter Thirty-eight

Impugn v to assail by words or arguments: oppose or attack as false or lacking integrity

SENTENCE: He, a black man, had repeatedly impugned the government of South Africa and its policies of apartheid.

Tantamount adj equivalent in value, significance, or effect

SENTENCE: In a country where the writing of political slogans on walls was considered a serious crime, talking about political matters was tantamount to treason, punishable by hanging, if you were black.

Chapter Thirty-nine

Proselytize v to induce someone to convert to one's faith

SENTENCE: My mother proceeded to tell me about her meeting that afternoon on the bus from work with members of the Twelve Apostle Church of God, who subsequently proselytized her to their religion.