

Vocabulary AP ENGLISH LIT Summer Reading Vocab list

Atonement

PART 1 - CHAPTER 1

cryptographic adj of, relating to secret writing, encoding, decoding, or ciphers
SENTENCE: But hidden drawers, lockable diaries and cryptographic systems could not conceal from Briony the simple truth: she had no secrets.

PART 1 – CHAPTER 2

stuccoed v to apply a fine plaster used in decoration and ornamentation on interior walls
SENTENCE: What remained was the artificial lake...and, by the water's edge, a crumbling stuccoed temple.

PART 1 – CHAPTER 3

unambiguous adj clear, precise, not ambiguous or vague
SENTENCE: Running and dancing are kinetic activities.

PART 1 – CHAPTER 6

unadulterated adj. not modified, changed, altered, or marred; pure, clean
SENTENCE: Finding her would mean exposure to unadulterated sunlight...

PART 1 – CHAPTER 8

soliciter adj. relating to the sense of organse of hearing, to sound, or the science of sounds
SENTENCE: A solicitor's letter informed her that the freehold of the bungalow was now hers, irrespective of the position she held with the Tallises.

PART 1 – CHAPTER 9

austere adj stern and cold in appearance or manner; somber, grave; morally strict
SENTENCE: She hated the thought of appearing austere.

PART 1 – CHAPTER 11

Flummoxed adj completely unable to understand; utterly confused or perplexed
SENTENCE: She didn't know how to answer and she looked at him, quite flummoxed.

PART 1 – CHAPTER 14

acoustic adj of ore relating to the sense or organs of hearing, to sound, or the science of sounds
SENTENCE: As she went across the hallway she gave out a cry of sheer vexation which was amplified by the raw acoustic of the bare floor tiles.

PART II

ignominy n. deep personal humiliation and disgrace

SENTENCE: Turner felt, for the first time, the full ignominy of the retreat.

chassis n. the supporting frame of a structure

SENTENCE: He pressed himself into the darkness of the chassis by the front wheel.

opaque adj. blocking the passage of radiant energy and especially light; hard to understand

SENTENCE: Desperate, he thought of running to the weir to fish her out from there but the water was an opaque muddy green.

PART III

chilblain n. an inflammatory swelling or sore caused by exposure to cold

SENTENCE: Washing her hands a dozen times a day under stinging cold water with a block of soda brought on her first chilblains.

reproach n. an expression of rebuke or disapproval

SENTENCE: What she dreaded more than the removal of the dressing, was the look of reproach in his large brown eyes.

gaunt adj. excessively thin and angular

SENTENCE: I was haunted by the thought of Lola, the severity of that gaunt old painted face...

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Oedipus Rex

façade n. the front of a building; the surface, appearance, covering
SENTENCE: Double doors dominate the façade, a stone altar stands at the center of the stage.

blight n. a disease or injury of plants marked by the withering and death of parts; something that impairs or destroys; a deteriorated condition
SENTENCE: A blight on the fresh crops and the rich pastures, cattle sicken and die...

implore v. to make an earnest request to someone

SENTENCE: Oedipus, king, we bend to you, your power – we implore you, all of us on our knees...

kinsman n. relative
SENTENCE: Creon, prince, my kinsman, what do you bring us?

Thracian n. a native or inhabitant of Thrace (a region of Greece)
SENTENCE: ...death to all where the Thracian surf comes crashing.

denounce v. to pronounce especially publicly to be blameworthy or evil
SENTENCE: Nothing to fear, even if he must denounce himself, let him speak up...

decree n. an order usually having the force of law
SENTENCE: I charge you, then, submit to that decree you just laid down...

infamy n. evil reputation brought about by something grossly criminal, shocking, or brutal
SENTENCE: I tell you, you and your loved ones live together in infamy...

outstripping v. to go faster or farther than; to get ahead of
SENTENCE: ...wealth and empire, skill outstripping skill in the heady rivalries of life...

bristling v. to make aggressive or angry; to rise and stand stiff
SENTENCE: Now under bristling timber up through rocks and caves he stalks like the wild mountain bull...

marauding v. to roam about and raid in search of plunder
SENTENCE: I see it all, the marauding thief himself scheming to steal my crown and power!

qualm n. a feeling of uneasiness about a point especially of conscience or propriety
SENTENCE: How could kingship please me more than influence, power without a qualm?

hinterlands n. a region remote from urban areas and lying inland from a coast
SENTENCE: ...pleading with me to send him into the hinterlands, to pasture, far as possible...

abomination n. something regarded with disgust or hatred
SENTENCE: I am abomination – heart and soul!

racked v. to cause to suffer torture, pain, anguish, or ruin
SENTENCE: Racked with anguish, no longer a man of sense...

dirge n. a song or hymn of grief or lamentation
SENTENCE: Now I weep like a man who wails the dead and the dirge comes pouring forth...