

AP English 12: English Literature and Composition

Heart of Darkness Vocabulary Assignment

Directions: The diction of *Heart of Darkness* is rich, and much of the complexity of the novella is attributable to the subtlety and nuance of Conrad's choice of words. Thus, to read *Heart of Darkness* well, one must delve into the language of the text, mining it for meaning.

While you are reading the novella, you will document your investigation of its diction. **For each of the three chapters of the novella, you will select eight words that you find particularly rich and effective.** You may choose words from the list below if you like. For each, complete the following tasks:

1. Record the sentence from the text with a parenthetical citation.
2. Define the word as it is used contextually.
3. Explain how the use of this particular word enhances the meaning of the sentence.
4. Write your own grammatically correct sentence using the word in a contextually accurate way.

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| • abject | • disparagingly | • intrepidity | • propensity |
| • alacrity | • edifying | • joviality | • prudently |
| • allude | • emissary | • languidly | • pulsating |
| • apparition | • enigma | • lugubrious | • rapacious |
| • ascetic | • evanescent | • luminous | • repose |
| • askew | • exultation | • malevolently | • reproachful |
| • aspiration | • farcical | • moribund | • sedentary |
| • atrocious | • fecund | • morose | • sententiously |
| • audacity | • guileless | • noxious | • sepulcher |
| • august | • harlequin | • obsequiously | • servile |
| • beguile | • immutability | • ostentation | • sombre |
| • benevolence | • impalpable | • pacifically | • superciliousness |
| • brusque | • impudence | • perceptible | • taint |
| • circumvent | • indefatigable | • perdition | • tepid |
| • conflagration | • inexorable | • pestilence | • traverse |
| • confound | • innate | • philanthropic | • trenchant |
| • declivity | • inscrutable | • placidity | • tumult |
| • desolation | • insidious | • precarious | • venerable |
| • diaphanous | • insipid | • prevaricator | • vivaciously |
| • discourse | • interminable | • primeval | • voracious |