

# FLO CABULARY

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With a Foreword by Dr. Ann Marie Mulready, PhD.

# **FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Chapter 1: What is Flocabulary?</b> An Introduction to the Concept.	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Chapter 2: How do I use Flocabulary?</b> Study Guides for Students and Teachers.	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Chapter 3: The Songs</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
Transformation	Page 13
Shakespeare is Hip-Hop	Page 21
Adventures of Carlito	Page 29
Phobia	Page 39
Friends	Page 46
FLO + CAB	Page 54
Myriad Operations	Page 62
I Do	Page 70
Flux	Page 78
Doctor, Doctor	Page 86
Piece of the Pie	Page 94
Bonus! It's All Mathematics	Page 102
<b>Chapter 4: Freestyles and Metaphors</b>	<b>Page 104</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Answer Key</b>	<b>Page 108</b>
<b>Chapter 6: Quick Reference Dictionary</b>	<b>Page 112</b>



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## FOREWORD

The psychological literature is replete with studies on the positive impact of rhythm, rhyme and melody on memory and verbal learning.\* Rhythm, rhyme and melody, when embedded in a learning task, significantly increase the retention of material in long term memory. Furthermore, researchers at Dartmouth are beginning to understand the biological supports for these strong connections. The musical pathway in the brain, the auditory cortex, continues to operate even when the music has stopped.

Scientific understanding aside, most of us intuitively understand the power of music and poetry. Much of early learning, academic, social and emotional, was developed with rhythm, rhyme and melody. We were introduced to academics with, "One, two, buckle my shoe," and singing the ABC's. Our poetic and musical pasts also embedded more complex aspects of language. "Like a diamond in the sky", made simile and metaphor meaningful, "monkey see-monkey do", conveyed a social message, and lines like, "...so many children, she didn't know what to do," developed humor and irony. In the emotional realm, an old lullaby can still soothe us and the babies that are rocked to sleep every night. And melody, beautiful or annoying, can become stuck in our heads.

Thus far, it's been difficult for teachers beyond the primary years of schooling to take advantage of the power of music and poetry as tools for learning. From my own experience as a high school English teacher and an elementary and secondary Language Arts Consultant, materials aimed at taking advantage of music's impact on learning are viewed as simplistic and silly by both teachers and students. With respect to vocabulary development—highly correlated to academic achievement and SAT scores—there is still little beyond drill and kill, fill in the blank, and look it up in the dictionary. Generations of teachers know that these exercises are motivation killers and the research tells us they are not very effective with long-term vocabulary acquisition.

Unlike other vocabulary programs, Flocabulary harnesses the powerful

## FLOCABULARY

forces of rhythm, rhyme and music and motivates using the adolescent's own musical culture. And it does that in a meaningful way. Words are grouped thematically, creating a context by which definitions are more meaningful. These definitions are incorporated right into the lyrics of the songs, making it easier for students to learn vocabulary in unique contexts. And Flocabulary uses hip-hop, an increasingly popular musical genre that combines music, rhythm and rhyme, to socially and academically engage students with what they're learning in a way that other programs and courses don't. Most of all, it contributes fun to the learning process. After all, most of us did not dread another round of the ABC's.

- Dr. Ann Marie Mulready, PhD

\*See:

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Gardner, H. (1993). Multiple intelligences: The theory in practice. New York: Basic Books.

Gfeller, K. (1983). Musical mnemonics as an aid to retention with normal and learning disabled students. Journal of Music Therapy, 20(4), 179-189.

Glazner, M. (1976). Intonation grouping and related words in free recall. Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior, 15, 85-92.

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Serafine, M., Crowder, R. and Repp, B. (1984). Integration of melody and text in memory for songs. Cognition, 16 (3), 285 -303.

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# WHAT IS FLOCABULARY?

## What is Flocabulary?

Welcome to Flocabulary, the brand new concept that infuses challenging vocabulary words into hip-hop music. Whether you're a high-school sophomore beginning to prepare for the SAT, a college senior studying for the GRE's, or a thirty-year old just realizing that all those words they taught you in high school never really sunk in, we're confident you're going to get a lot out of Flocabulary.

*A Dictionary and A Microphone* is our debut CD. It's packed with over 500 SAT vocabulary words on 11 hot tracks. We even added a bonus Math rap to make sure you remember how many sides a heptagon has. Unlike SAT vocabulary-building books, Flocabulary teaches you how to define, spell and *pronounce* the words so that you can use the words in papers *and* speeches, emails *and* phone calls. Furthermore, we have the only music-driven vocabulary product to include the **definitions of the words in the songs themselves**. You don't have to look up the words after you've listened to the tracks. Memorize the songs and you've already memorized the vocabulary words in real-world contexts.

## Why Hip-Hop?

Chances are that the first song you ever memorized was a rap song. Don't believe us? We're talking about the ABC's. If G didn't rhyme with P, V and Z, you wouldn't be able to memorize your ABC's until your ninth birthday. Thankfully, they do rhyme. There's even some cool inner-line rhyming between S and X to keep your head bobbing. It might not have been written by Public Enemy, but we'd argue that the shoe fits: the alphabet song is hip-hop. So now you know your ABC's.

Born on the streets of the Bronx in the late seventies, hip-hop is an expressive art form rooted in rhyming wordplay over catchy break-beats. Hip-hop capitalized on one of the most ancient and trusted methods used by poets to attract

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

a crowd: making each of their lines rhyme. This strategy made it easier for New York's first emcees to memorize their lyrics (so they didn't have to show up at a party with a notebook), and ensured that their lyrics stuck in the minds of everyone who heard them for weeks to come.

This strategy works exceedingly well. Just ask yourself: how many songs do you have memorized? How many hip-hop tracks? Instead of memorizing the meaning of the word "pellucid," most of us have filled our brain with Mos Def verses, Eminem rhymes, and TV jingles. We know people who can easily rap all the way through seven-minute hip-hop songs, who have memorized entire Outkast albums, who know every single line of every song ever performed by A Tribe Called Quest. That's hundreds of thousands of words over thousands of rhyming couplets. Flocabulary taps into this innate and uncanny ability to memorize rhymes over music. Whether you know it or not, you have this ability too.

### **Why Vocabulary?**

Because without vocabulary we couldn't talk.

Because vocabulary is one of the building-blocks of intelligence.

Because, as English-language speakers, we are lucky enough to speak the language that has the largest number of words in the history of communication. Who are we to flout the benefits of such a gift?

Because expanding your vocabulary is crucial to your success on the SAT.

Because people judge us by our written and spoken vocabulary, whether we like it or not.

Because the more words we know, the more we can express, the more we can communicate, the more we can interact with other people in creative ways.



## HOW DO I USE FLOCABULARY?

We've designed this Flocabulary Workbook to guide you as you listen to the CD: *A Dictionary and A Microphone*. We've divided the book into 11 different sections that correspond to the 11 tracks on the CD. Each section contains the lyrics to the song, definitions of the words (in addition to the definitions in the lyrics), a synonym matching exercise, ten multiple-choice sentence completion questions, and a short reading comprehension exercise.

This chapter will guide you through the best way to retain the 500+ words on *A Dictionary and A Microphone*. The first section is designed for students and everyone else who wants to improve their vocabulary. We wrote the second section for teachers who want to include the dynamism and fun of Flocabulary in their classrooms.

### Students:

At some point on your path from nonverbal baby to the charismatic college student you'll soon become, you'll probably have to take some form of standardized test, and the ones your friends email you don't count. You're probably going to need to take the SAT or the ACT, tests designed to measure your vocabulary, your reading comprehension, your knowledge of grammar, and your ability to think critically. Don't be intimidated just because the SAT is now longer than the *Lord of the Rings*; it's a test that you can master. Don't blow it off, but don't kill yourself over it either. It is just a test. Colleges look at a lot more than SAT scores when admitting students. And, obviously (though we tend to forget this), we can all achieve happiness, be creative, meet cool people, make a lot of money, cook rhubarb pies, watch Doctor Strangelove, fall in love and visit Calcutta, regardless of the college we attend and the score we get on the SAT.

**For the SAT:** With that said, taking the SAT will probably be an important part of your college application process, and the SAT puts a huge emphasis on vocabulary. Vocabulary will come into play in both the Critical Reading section

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

and the new Writing section, which together account for two-thirds of your score. Both Sentence Completions and Reading Passages will seriously test your vocabulary in the Critical Reading section, and the College Board bases part of your grade on the use of appropriate and challenging vocabulary in your essay.

Flocabulary will not single-handedly prepare you for the SAT. Like they say on those cereal commercials, we're just a *part* of your nutritious breakfast. You're going to want to spend a good amount of time familiarizing yourself with the test and learning strategies for tackling each section. There are myriad options out there for you and a vast array of SAT prep books that are as large as they are expensive. You can save yourself (and your parents) a few dollars by checking out [www.sparknotes.com](http://www.sparknotes.com), where they have entire on-line books that are not only methodical and insightful, but are completely free of charge. Whatever you choose, use Flocabulary as the vocabulary portion of your SAT preparation and you won't have to worry about a word like "prestidigitation" catching you off guard.

Because Flocabulary is fun and easy, we recommend listening to it as soon as possible. Don't wait until the SAT is two weeks away. Don't even wait until you're a junior in high school. Whether you're a precocious seventh grader, a ninth-grader who likes to listen to music in the shower, or a junior who plays it while driving home from basketball practice, you can be studying even when you're not.

**For Life:** Whether language actually creates intelligent thought or merely buttresses it, a person with a large vocabulary has at her fingertips the tools with which to think and communicate keenly, subtly and expressively. So spit big words. The painter with the most paint has the most fun with his canvas.

### **How to Study:**

While the way that you use Flocabulary is ultimately up to you, here we offer you a guide on how to use Flocabulary most effectively to expand your vocabulary. Here are the steps to follow:

## HOW DO I USE FLOCABULARY ?

1. **Listen.** Strap on some headphones, cue up the first track, *Transformation*, on your CD player, and open this workbook to the *Transformation* chapter. Play the song and follow along with the lyrics in the workbook. The first time you play the song, just listen to the words and follow along. Just as with most pieces of fiction writing, each Flocabulary track has a narrator (the character that tells the story), a central theme (the subject matter and attitude of the writing) and plenty of examples of figurative language (metaphors, similes, hyperboles, and alliteration). Try to identify the narrator (is it a frightened kid, a schizophrenic do-gooder?), the central theme, and a few examples of figurative language. Additionally, after just one listen, you should have already picked up the definition of some of the words, while the definitions of others aren't yet as clear.

2. **Play it again.** This time make sure that you understand the meaning of each vocab word in the rap. If you hear a word whose definition isn't clear to you from the lyrics of the song, circle the word in the lyrics with a pencil. When the song is finished, look up those words you've circled in the right hand column, next to the lyrics.

3. **Memorize.** Now it's time to play the song enough times to memorize the lyrics. Go somewhere where you can rap along and no one's going to laugh at you. Play the song, and rap out loud while reading along. It shouldn't take too many repetitions before you've got the entire song down, and with it the meaning of every word therein.

4. **Test Yourself.** Once you've memorized the song, it's time to test your knowledge of the vocab words. You'll find three different SAT-inspired exercises in each chapter. Follow the instructions; test yourself. The vocabulary is yours. You'll find answers in the answer key.

5. **Repeat with each track.** And have fun.

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

### Teachers:

We at Flocabulary know how difficult it can be to teach or tutor high-school aged students, how much effort it takes to get them motivated, how challenging it can be to get them to connect with the subject matter. We've been there. We've tutored and taught students in Philadelphia, Berkeley and around Boston. We have this to say to all of you who are devoting yourselves to teaching: *big ups*. And thank you.

We came up with Flocabulary as a way to let students know how painless learning can be when it involves something that interests them. It's our hope that Flocabulary will help catalyze your students' interest in learning not only vocabulary words, but all kinds of subject matter. Whether you're teaching a unit on poetry and figurative language, hip-hop and urban American art, or maybe you want to incorporate Flocabulary into your class' vocabulary curriculum, we know that bringing our music into your classroom will be an exciting and worthwhile experience.

We've created unique lesson plans to facilitate your use of Flocabulary in class. You can find those lesson plans, plus downloadable handout materials, all for free on our website. Please visit:

**[www.flocabulary.com/teachers](http://www.flocabulary.com/teachers)**



# THE SONGS



## TRANSFORMATION - 40 WORDS

### Word Bank

Myopic

Ratiocinate

Render

Recapitulate

Loquacious

Verbose

Gregarious

Elocution

Circumlocution

Recalcitrant

Cogent

Seminal

Meritorious

Redact

Placate

Tedious

Tome

Peruse

Entomology

Ostracize

Pariah

Persevere

Latent

Burgeon

Diligent

Paragon

Commodious

Clairvoyant

Cosmopolitan

Vast

Voluminous

Exorbitant

Extravagant

Colossus

Synopsis

Cadence

Cavort

Boisterous

Daft

Deft

## FLOABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

The transformation of bookworms  
into hip-hop icons,  
a dictionary and a microphone,  
a dictionary and a mic.

Now this here's a story for  
the fellows and ladies,  
sporting pocket protectors and  
socket inspectors and marking their vec-  
tors, glasses thick,  
they're **myopic**, short-sighted,  
they can't see the crumbs on their lips.  
They don't say the word think,  
they say "**ratiocinate**."  
They don't **render** "repeat,"  
they say "**recapitulate**."  
When they speak they're  
wordy and **loquacious**,  
**verbose** and **gregarious**,  
so many words it's hilarious.  
They study **elocution**,  
the art of public speaking,  
but they talk in **circumlocutions**,  
indirect language.  
They're **recalcitrant**,  
defiant and unapologetic.  
Write an essay on  
Shakespeare for extra-credit.  
So **cogent** and smart  
that it changes the field,  
it's **seminal** and original.  
Their **meritorious** work always deserves  
merit, they revise and **redact** their papers,  
they edit.

myopic (adj.) - short-sighted

ratiocinate (v.) - to think, contemplate

render (v.) - to say, or to make

recapitulate (v.) - to repeat, reiterate

loquacious (adj.) - talkative

verbose (adj.) - wordy

gregarious (adj.) - sociable

elocution (n.) - the art of public speaking

circumlocution (n.) - indirect language

recalcitrant (adj.) - defiant

cogent (adj.) - intelligent, viable

seminal (adj.) - original, ground-breaking

meritorious (adj.) - deserving of praise or  
merit

redact (v.) - to revise, edit

They **placate** their parents,  
soothe them out,  
by always getting good grades  
and never leaving the house.  
To them homework is never **tedious**,  
dull and boring, they're never snoring or  
yawning they're working  
evening and morning.  
They have **tomes**, large books  
in their homes, which they read and  
**peruse** when they're talking  
to you on the phone.  
They know about Pokemon,  
Everquest, insects, **entomology**,  
Dungeons and Dragons, and chess.

The transformation of bookworms  
into hip-hop icons,  
a dictionary and a microphone,  
a dictionary and a mic.

Now if you've ever felt left out and  
**ostracized**, like a **pariah**,  
try Flocabulary Cereal with fiber.  
We put the k in Outkast,  
**persevere**, persist and outlast,  
we're part of this complete breakfast.  
Your **latent** skills, hidden skills,  
will **burgeon** and blossom,  
after one bite, it'll be awesome.  
If you're following the serving suggestions  
**diligently**, carefully,  
you'll be more hip-hop than Run DMC.  
You'll be the **paragon** of animals,

placate (v.) - to soothe, appease

tedious (adj.) - boring, dull

tome (n.) - a large book

peruse (v.) - to examine carefully

entomology (n.) - the study of insects

ostracize (v.) - to exclude from a community

pariah (n.) - an outcast

persevere (v.) - to persist, remain constant

latent (adj.) - present but hidden

burgeon (v.) - to come forth, blossom

diligent (adj.) - careful, showing care

paragon (n.) - model of perfection

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

the model of perfection,  
blowing up the session like a  
Mormon on a mission.

Your house will be more roomy and  
**commodious**, you'll be more **clairvoyant**  
than Nostradamus.

Gaze into your crystal ball, more **cosmo-  
politan** than Carrie Bradshaw,  
with her humongous, **vast**, **voluminous**,  
**exorbitant**, extensive, **extravagant** collec-  
tion of shoes, sophisticated shoes.

You'll be larger than a **colossus**,  
Tony Danza will ask you  
who the boss is.

Summarize in a speech  
and give a **synopsis**.

Your speech will have that **cadence**,  
that rhythm, progression of sound,  
that makes people **cavort**,  
dance, and get down.

You used to have a **boisterous** loud laugh,  
people used to think of you  
as crazy and **daft**.

Now you're so **deft** and skilled  
you got mass appeal,  
people crowd around you like  
Jesus eating his last meal.

The transformation of bookworms  
into hip-hop icons,  
a dictionary and a microphone,  
a dictionary and a mic.

commodious (adj.) - spacious, roomy

clairvoyant (adj.) - able to see things that  
others cannot

cosmopolitan (adj.) - worldly, sophisticated

vast (adj.) - enormous, immense

voluminous (adj.) - large, ample

exorbitant (adj.) - excessive

extravagant (adj.) - excessive, over-the-top

colossus (n.) - an enormous structure

synopsis (n.) - a summary

cadence (n.) - rhythm

cavort (v.) - to prance, dance about

boisterous (adj.) - loud, energetic

daft (adj.) - insane, foolish

deft (adj.) - skilled, adept

**Exercises**

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. Placate _____      | A. Defiant |
| 2. Ratiocinate _____  | B. Appease |
| 3. Tedious _____      | C. Adept   |
| 4. Tome _____         | D. Prance  |
| 5. Recalcitrant _____ | E. Book    |
| 6. Redact _____       | F. Think   |
| 7. Burgeon _____      | G. Summary |
| 8. Synopsis _____     | H. Blossom |
| 9. Deft _____         | I. Boring  |
| 10. Cavort _____      | J. Revise  |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. There was a talkative girl in my English class who called herself “Chatty Cathy;” she was easily the most \_\_\_\_\_ girl in school and proud of it.

- A) Taciturn
- B) Sagacious
- C) Ribald
- D) Confounding
- E) Loquacious

2. My lawyer encouraged me to carefully \_\_\_\_\_ the cell phone contract before signing.

- A) Disregard
- B) Rebuke
- C) Peruse
- D) Ascertain
- E) Incinerate

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

3. After reading Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, in which the protagonist morphs into a cockroach, I became a fanatical student of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Ornithology
- B) Botany
- C) Ecology
- D) Scientology
- E) Entomology

4. Always calm under pressure, Pharell won the debate based on his \_\_\_\_\_ arguments and perfectly structured rebuttals.

- A) Vacuous
- B) Tenuous
- C) Cogent
- D) Boisterous
- E) Quixotic

5. The four years spent camping on the polar ice cap became worthwhile when Dr. Schnoo was awarded a Nobel Prize for completing \_\_\_\_\_ research on Penguin bathing habits.

- A) Antediluvian
- B) Discursive
- C) Ominous
- D) Frivolous
- E) Seminal

6. Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton are known as commanding Presidents and master \_\_\_\_\_, often mesmerizing audiences with the spoken word.

- A) Artisans
- B) Elocutionists
- C) Citizens
- D) Denizens
- E) Anarchists

7. Sometimes used car salesmen have a way of speaking in \_\_\_\_\_; I wish they'd just tell it like it is!

- A) Chorus
- B) Paradoxes
- C) Maledictions
- D) Circumlocutions
- E) Paradigms

8. Maria loved being a teacher for those moments when she discovered a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ talent in one of her most timid students.

- A) Latent
- B) Obvious
- C) Fortuitous
- D) Lucid
- E) Malleable

9. The Bentley is the \_\_\_\_\_ of luxury vehicles, and a staple for Hollywood's elite.

- A) Doppelganger
- B) Medley
- C) Paragon
- D) Reservoir
- E) Solvent

10. Just because Emily predicted that J. Lo and Ben Affleck would break up doesn't make her \_\_\_\_\_; that was a pretty predictable outcome!

- A) Obdurate
- B) Clairvoyant
- C) Vivacious
- D) Vapid
- E) Trite

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the following passage and answer the questions based on the text.

The most popular kid in school was a rapper named Theo. He was the paragon of popularity at Attleboro High; so deft with a microphone that it rendered people silent with awe. He had a colossal entourage that faithfully followed him from class to class, and he dressed in the most cosmopolitan fashions. But if you asked Theo, he would have told you that he felt ostracized by one particular group: the chess club. Then, one day Theo wasn't in school. When he came in the next day, something had changed. He wore thick, black-rimmed glasses. When someone asked Theo why, he said, "Why don't you ratiocinate for a minute? Could it be because I'm myopic? Oh, and call me Theodore." Needless to say, the school didn't know what to do. Theodore stopped rapping and joined the debate team to study elocution. He joined the Ant-Lovers Club to study Entomology, and he walked the hallways with oversized Dungeons and Dragons tomes under his arm. There is a happy ending, however, for the chess club no longer treated him like a pariah. They welcomed Theodore as one of their own.

1. Which of the following *does not* attest or contribute to Theo's popularity early on in the passage?

- (A) He was a skilled rapper.
- (B) He had many followers.
- (C) He wore sophisticated clothes.
- (D) He was mostly silent.

2. Which of the following most closely describes the reaction of the school in general to Theo's transformation?

- (A) Hatred
- (B) Bewilderment
- (C) Appreciation
- (D) Apprehension
- (E) Disgust

## SHAKESPEARE IS HIP-HOP - 55 WORDS

### Word Bank

Quotidian

Fey

Gay

Pervasive

Douse

Pliable

Neologism

Commendable

Profuse

Abundant

Radiant

Fecund

Forestall

Poach

Fetter

Figurative

Myriad

Plethora

Sacrosanct

Fabricate

Facile

Fatuous

Perfunctory

Mandatory

Flaccid

Flabbergasted

Forage

Licentious

Lewd

Profane

Fortuitous

Serendipity

Abrogate

Algid

Brumal

Hiemal

Impecunious

Hapless

Hiatus

Gregarious

Inquisitor

Iniquities

Goad

Ingenious

Subsist

Notoriety

Blandish

Flattery

Innocuous

Neonate

Incessant

Narrate

Flout

Pedagogue

Buffet

## FLOABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

The foundation of the English language is wordplay.

**Quotidian**, everyday people making it stay, inventing synonyms like magical and **fey**, happy and **gay**, but the last example will show you that meanings can change. Language is **pervasive**, spreading throughout, like perfume you **doused** or dripped on your blouse when you stepped in the house. Language is **pliable**, bendable and amendable.

**Neologism** is inventing new words, that's **commendable**, deserving of praise.

We're more **profuse** than the rays, more **abundant** than sunrays on the **radiant** days.

Language offers so many choices it's fertile and **fecund**, flipping free-styling flows for all my folks on the weekend.

To **forestall** and delay the approach of Monday, approaching.

We hunt illegally so we're **poaching**.

They can't **fetter** our words, chain them or restrain them, we're liberating people, like Toussaint did the Haitians.

You'll find **figurative** language in rap and Shakespeare, symbolic meaning, similes and metaphors in there.

I love the English language, it has so many words, **myriad** words, a **plethora** of nouns and verbs.

quotidian (adj.) - daily, everyday

fey (adj.) - magical

gay (adj.) - happy, cheery, or homosexual

pervasive (adj.) - inclined to spread throughout

douse (v.) - to drench, saturate

pliable (adj.) - flexible, bendable

neologism (n.) - the creation of new words, or a new word

commendable (adj.) - worthy of praise

profuse (adj.) - abundant, lavish, prolific

abundant (adj.) - in great numbers

radiant (adj.) - bright, beaming

fecund (adj.) - fertile, fruitful

forestall (v.) - to delay, impede

poach (v.) - to hunt or fish illegally

fetter (v.) - to restrain, chain, tie

figurative (adj.) - symbolic

myriad (adj.) - many, of great numbers

plethora (n.) - a great number, an abundance

Hip-hop is Shakespeare,  
and Shakespeare is hip-hop...

A dictionary's not sacred, not **sacrosanct**,  
no it's more like a bank, put stuff  
in and take it out again.

If I **fabricate** a word like *hiphopperoperey*,  
in fifty years you might find  
that word on the SAT.

Wordplay is **facile**, every  
three year-old does it,  
saying *mo-mo* for motorcycle,  
*cuzy* for cousin.

It's **fatuous**, silly and foolish,  
to think that if you say a word  
incorrectly then you are stupid.

Some people study vocab in a  
manner that's **perfunctory**,  
showing little enthusiasm like it was  
**mandatory**, not optional.

Me without a mic is like a plant without water  
it grows limp and **flaccid**,

I get **flabbergasted** and astounded.

I **forage** through this language  
like I rummage for food.

I might find words that are rude,  
crude, **licentious** or **lewd**,  
words that are vulgar, indecent and  
**profane**, but even those dirty words  
have a specific meaning.

Sometimes I'm **fortuitous**, lucky and fortu-  
nate, I find a word like  
fortuitous on my first pick.

That's **serendipity**, oddly good luck,  
like finding a buck, or a bullet coming

sacrosanct (adj.) - sacred, holy

fabricate (v.) - to invent, make-up, con-  
coct

facile (adj.) - easy

fatuous (adj.) - silly, foolish

perfunctory (adj.) - showing little enthusi-  
asm, done as duty

mandatory (adj.) - required, not optional

flaccid (adj.) - limp

flabbergasted (adj.) - astounded, stupe-  
fied

forage (v.) - to rummage, scavenge, graze  
for food

licentious (adj.) - immoral, lewd

lewd (adj.) - vulgar, offensive, rude

profane (adj.) - indecent, blasphemous

fortuitous (adj.) - lucky, occurring by  
chance

serendipity (n.) - the act of finding things  
not sought, luck

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

at you when you duck.

Hip-hop is Shakespeare,  
and Shakespeare is hip-hop...

Some cats try to abolish and **abrogate** Fahrenheit, switch it over to centigrade, but a cold flow by any other name would be as chill, as **algid**, as frigid, as cold, as **brumal**, as **hiemal**, as wintry as snow.

But hush, what wind from yonder window blows, it's the sweet smell of synonyms, open your ears for them, yo, 'cause here they go:

A poor cat: an **impecunious** feline.

A **hapless hiatus**: an unlucky break in time.

A sociable questioner:

a **gregarious inquisitor**,  
the kind of man you'd invite  
to supper or dinner.

The seven deadly sins: seven lethal **iniquities**. He urged the clever man fast: **goaded** the **ingenious** man quickly.

He lives in infamy: **subsists** in **notoriety**.

To coax with compliments:

**blandish** with **flattery**.

The harmless baby:

the **innocuous neonate**.

Tell a never-ending story:

you **incessantly narrate**.

Don't ignore your teacher:

don't **flout** your **pedagogue**.

Don't **buffet** your canine:

don't beat your dog.

abrogate (v.) - to abolish, often by authority

algid (adj.) - frigid, cold

brumal (adj.) - wintry, relating to winter

hiemal (adj.) - wintry, relating to winter

impecunious (adj.) - excessively poor

hapless (adj.) - unlucky

hiatus (n.) - an interruption in continuity, a break

gregarious (adj.) - sociable, outgoing

inquisitor (n.) - someone who asks questions or makes an inquiry

iniquity (n.) - a wicked act, a sin

goad (v.) - to urge, provoke

ingenious (adj.) - marked by special intelligence

subsist (v.) - to live, exist

notoriety (n.) - infamy, known in bad regard

blandish (v.) - to coax through flattery

flattery (n.) - compliments, sycophancy

innocuous (adj.) - harmless

neonate (n.) - a newborn baby

incessant (adj.) - without interruption

narrate (v.) - to tell a story

flout (v.) - to scorn, ignore, show contempt for

pedagogue (n.) - a schoolteacher

buffet (v.) - to hit or strike

**Exercises**

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. Fey _____        | A. Limp     |
| 2. Pliable _____    | B. Ignore   |
| 3. Profuse _____    | C. Abundant |
| 4. Fecund _____     | D. Harmless |
| 5. Fetter _____     | E. Bendable |
| 6. Flaccid _____    | F. Fertile  |
| 7. Abrogate _____   | G. Sociable |
| 8. Gregarious _____ | H. Magical  |
| 9. Innocuous _____  | I. Restrain |
| 10. Flout _____     | J. Abolish  |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

- Brushing one's teeth should be a \_\_\_\_\_ habit.
  - Rare
  - Tedious
  - Quotidian
  - Laborious
  - Wanton
- Hip-Hop is responsible for a handful of recent \_\_\_\_\_, bringing forth words like "bling-bling" and "foshizzle."
  - Quandaries
  - Pedagogies
  - Crescendos
  - Paradigms
  - Neologisms

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

3. As the legend goes, Sisyphus was \_\_\_\_\_ to a giant boulder, which he had to roll up a mountainside over and over again.

- A) Fettered
- B) Servile
- C) Tattooed
- D) Absconded
- E) Inured

4. It was surprising that the actress accepted the Oscar in a manner that was so non-chalant and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Pert
- B) Sanguine
- C) Repentant
- D) Precocious
- E) Perfunctory

5. This rude guy named Stanley was ejected from the stands at the basketball game for taunting the opposing team and making \_\_\_\_\_ gestures with his hands.

- A) Saccharine
- B) Lewd
- C) Sacrosanct
- D) Rancid
- E) Lithe

6. The fact that I found a rare, 1924 penny in a pair of thrift-store pants is a great example of the recent \_\_\_\_\_ in my life.

- A) Enmity
- B) Apathy
- C) Serendipity
- D) Complacency
- E) Ennui

## SHAKESPEARE IS HIP-HOP

7. The impoverished *Favelas* outside of Rio de Janeiro are among the most \_\_\_\_\_ urban communities in the world.

- A) Gaudy
- B) Opulent
- C) Sprawling
- D) Venerated
- E) Impecunious

8. Wild Bill Jones has a remarkable diet; he \_\_\_\_\_ entirely on berries and bark.

- A) Modulates
- B) Transgresses
- C) Procures
- D) Subsists
- E) Palliates

9. It was supposed to be a conversation, but Muhammad was talking so \_\_\_\_\_ that Willie couldn't get a single word in edgewise.

- A) Occasionally
- B) Licentiously
- C) Sporadically
- D) Succinctly
- E) Incessantly

10. When I took my date to the county fair, all she wanted to do was play the game where you \_\_\_\_\_ the plastic gophers with a small rubber bat.

- A) Buffet
- B) Venerate
- C) Placate
- D) Truncate
- E) Yoke

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

Manny and Mykala crouched behind one of the myriad statues that dotted the prince's lawn. The day was radiant but brumal, and the two had to brace themselves against the swift, algid wind that came rolling in from the sea. But they were fortuitous: after just fifteen minutes of waiting, a giant wild turkey came strutting out of the underbrush. Three months earlier, the prince had abrogated hunting, arguing that what was once a plethora of wildlife had dwindled far enough. So Manny and Mykala were poaching, flouting the prince's decree like Romeo and Juliet flouted the wishes of their parents. It was with beating hearts that they took aim at the hapless, oblivious bird.

1. In the passage above, what *best* describes why the wild turkey is "hapless?"
  - (A) He is on the prince's land.
  - (B) He is about to be shot.
  - (C) He is vaguely aware of what is going on.
  - (D) He is poaching.
  - (E) He is giant.
2. Which of the following would best describe the weather mentioned in the passage?
  - (A) Rainy and hot
  - (B) Cloudless and cold
  - (C) Humid and breezy
  - (D) Cloudy and windy
  - (E) Stormy and freezing

## ADVENTURES OF CARLITO - 50 WORDS

### Word Bank

Fortify	Belligerent	Restitution
Dictate	Accost	Retaliation
Diminutive	Invective	Retribution
Goad	Timorous	Umbrage
Lachrymose	Circumspect	Upbraid
Obsequious	Prudent	Berate
Laud	Nefarious	Atone
Sycophant	Petulance	Benevolent
Officious	Repudiate	Bereft
Abide	Accede	Concede
Punctilious	Accommodating	
Propriety	Poised	
Amble	Masticate	
Scurrilous	Spurious	
Inimical	Abate	
Trek	Abase	
Malevolent	Laceration	
Malicious	Altercation	
Truculent	Mediate	
Pugnacious	Arbitrator	

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

If you don't stand strong  
you get knocked around,  
**fortify** like a fort or else  
you'll fall down.

Eventually every living thing  
will fall into the sea,  
how could I let someone else  
**dictate** who I'm gonna be?

I know this cat named Carlos,  
we called him Carlito,  
the poor baby brother  
had a really small ego.

**Diminutive** in size, 4 foot 9,  
if you provoked or **goaded** him,  
it would bring tears to his eyes.

He lived a **lachrymose**  
life, very tearful,  
and careful not to be out too late  
or he'd get an earful.

We'd go out with friends,  
Carlos was **obsequious**,  
submissive, crawling on his  
hands and knees for us.

*"Hey guys, can I hold the door,"  
"let me fold your napkin."*

He **lauded** and applauded us,  
he was always clapping,  
a **sycophant**, a kiss-up,  
on the court a mismatch.  
When you offer services  
and they're not wanted, that's **officious**.  
Employees act like that at their  
offices, being officious to the bosses.

fortify (v.) - to strengthen

dictate (v.) - to pronounce, command, pre-  
scribe

diminutive (adj.) - miniature, small

goad (v.) - to urge, to provoke into action

lachrymose (adj.) - tearful

obsequious (adj.) - submissive

laud (v.) - to applaud or praise

sycophant (n.) - a self-serving flatterer

officious (adj.) - offering unwanted help  
or service

So whether low or high tide,  
Carlito would **abide**,  
put up with whatever life  
threw in his eyes.

He was **punctilious**,  
eager to follow the rules,  
he buttoned every button,  
always tied his shoes.  
His number one priority  
was upholding **propriety**,  
being polite and maintaining  
the laws of society.

If you don't stand strong  
you get knocked around,  
**fortify** like a fort or else  
you'll fall down.  
Eventually every living thing  
will fall into the sea,  
how could I let someone else  
**dictate** who I'm gonna be?

One day Carlito took  
his dog for a walk,  
**ambling** through Central Park  
in New York.

He heard some guy making  
some **scurrilous** remarks,  
vulgar words and curses,  
not sounding very smart.

The man's face seemed **inimical**  
from the start, hostile and enemy-like,  
covered with scars.  
Now you should never judge a man till

abide (v.) - to put up with, tolerate

punctilious (adj.) - eager to follow rules

propriety (n.) - decency, state of being  
proper

amble (v.) - to stroll, walk

scurrilous (adj.) - crude, vulgar

inimical (adj.) - hostile, threatening

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

you've **trekked** a mile in his shoes,  
but if he doesn't wear shoes,  
what you gonna do?  
An evil, **malevolent** old man,  
wanted to spit words that were  
vicious, harmful, and **malicious**.  
The man looked angry enough  
to punch, he was **truculent**,  
**pugnacious**, ready to fight, **belligerent**.  
The man **accosted** Carlito,  
confronted him verbally,  
Carlito got cut so bad  
you'd think he was in surgery.  
See sticks and stones have never  
broken his bones,  
but **invectives** have made him cry.  
Carlito was feeling all  
**timorous** and fearful,  
he tried acting **circumspect**,  
**prudent** and careful.  
He said, "*Hola amigo, che hora es?*"  
The stranger said nothing,  
just punched him in the chest.  
**BOOM!** The man was **nefarious**,  
evil and villainous,  
colder than Sagittarius.  
The man continued with his **petulance**, his  
rudeness and irritability,  
saying, "*I want your doggie.*"  
He wanted to **repudiate** the offer,  
turn it down, but the man had his  
fists in Carlito's face now.  
He **acceded** to the request,  
Carlito said "yes."

trek (v.) - to walk, travel by foot

malevolent (adj.) - having intent to  
harm others

malicious (adj.) - malevolent, harmful

truculent (adj.) - eager to fight, violent

pugnacious (adj.) - belligerent

belligerent (adj.) - contentious, ready to  
fight

accost (v.) - to approach or confront aggres-  
sively

invective (n.) - a verbal attack

timorous (adj.) - fearful, timid

circumspect (adj.) - cautious

prudent (adj.) - cautious, careful

nefarious (adj.) - horribly villainous

petulance (n.) - irritability, impoliteness

repudiate (v.) - to reject, turn down

accede (v.) - to agree

*"I guess in this case, bro,  
you know best."*

Carlito wanted to be obliging and **accommodating**, but in fact the situation was humiliating.

If you don't stand strong  
you get knocked around,  
**fortify** like a fort or else  
you'll fall down.  
Eventually every living thing  
will fall into the sea,  
how could I let someone else  
**dictate** who I'm gonna be?

Later that day, I bumped  
into a crying Carlito.  
I was **poised** on a bench  
**masticating** on some nachos,  
chewing, I said, *"yo bro,  
how you doing?"*  
He tried to play it off like  
he was only fooling.  
He offered the **spurious** excuse  
that he had something in his eye.  
Never believe a spurious excuse,  
it's often a lie. He was crying.  
He tried to **abate** his shame,  
lessen his pain, telling me  
without his dog he would be the same.  
Then he told me the story,  
how this man had **abased** him,  
humiliated and disgraced him.  
**Lacerations** over both his eyes,

accommodating (adj.) - obliging, helpful

poised (adj.) - balanced, readied

masticate (v.) - to chew

spurious (adj.) - false but intended to seem  
believable or possible

abate (v.) - to lessen, to reduce in severity

abase (v.) - to lower, demean, degrade

laceration (n.) - a cut, a rip

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

he had scars, there had been an **altercation**, a physical confrontation.

It was up to me to **mediate** the dispute, like Judge Judy but without the lipstick and attitude.

I had to be the **arbitrator**, the go-between.

We found the man in the park where he had been.

I knew the solution, we needed revenge, **restitution**, some pay-back, **retaliation**, and **retribution**.

I said, "*I take **umbrage** at that fact that you stole my friend's pet, my heart's filled with anger and resentment.*"

He tried to down play, but I **upbraided** him, I scolded him severely, criticized and **berated** him.

I said, "*you need to give that dog back right now, plus I want you to **atone** and apologize right now.*"

*You're lucky that I'm feeling **benevolent**, nice and generous, otherwise I might leave you **bereft** of your esophagus, without your throat, without a hope.*"

The man **conceded**, he gave the dog back. That's the end of the story and the track...

altercation (n.) - an argument, dispute

mediate (v.) - to intervene, to arbitrate, to sort out

arbitrator (n.) - one who settles controversy between two sides

restitution (n.) - compensation, reimbursement

retaliation (n.) - revenge, punishment

retribution (n.) - vengeance, revenge, pay-back

umbrage (n.) - anger, offense, resentment

upbraid (v.) - to criticize, scold, reproach

berate (v.) - to scold severely

atone (v.) - to apologize, make amends

benevolent (adj.) - kind, good, caring

bereft (adj.) - without, devoid of

concede (v.) - to give in, to accept

### Exercises:

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Goad _____        | A. Hostile       |
| 2. Amble _____       | B. Scold         |
| 3. Inimical _____    | C. Truculent     |
| 4. Pugnacious _____  | D. Chew          |
| 5. Timorous _____    | E. Provoke       |
| 6. Nefarious _____   | F. Evil          |
| 7. Masticate _____   | G. Kind          |
| 8. Altercation _____ | H. Confrontation |
| 9. Upbraid _____     | I. Stroll        |
| 10. Benevolent _____ | J. Fearful       |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. My dog is so well trained, she \_\_\_\_\_ fetches my slippers every time I whistle.
  - A) Indignantly
  - B) Obsequiously
  - C) Often
  - D) Aggressively
  - E) Ostentatiously
  
2. "Nothing irritates me more in the classroom than a \_\_\_\_\_," Mrs. Rodriguez exclaimed. "They're always complimenting my hair to get better grades."
  - A) Sybarite
  - B) Hedonist
  - C) Gourmand
  - D) Sycophant
  - E) Pedagogue

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

3. Stacey D. was \_\_\_\_\_, and never listened to her Ipod in study hall because the sign strictly forbade it.

- A) Devious
- B) Hypocritical
- C) Studious
- D) Serene
- E) Punctilious

4. Some comedians make their living on \_\_\_\_\_ jokes, but in my opinion, the true comic genius can keep it clean and still get laughs.

- A) Maudlin
- B) Scurrilous
- C) Sanguine
- D) Somnolent
- E) Erudite

5. Of all of the Batman characters, the \_\_\_\_\_ Penguin comes to mind as the most haunting.

- A) Munificent
- B) Sordid
- C) Nefarious
- D) Resplendent
- E) Affable

6. The ball was going, going, and then, diving into a pine tree at the fence, Sheena came up with it, her arms covered in \_\_\_\_\_ from the sharp needles.

- A) Lacerations
- B) Dogma
- C) Quagmires
- D) Excursions
- E) Munitions

## ADVENTURES OF CARLITO

7. There seems to be some \_\_\_\_\_ on Billy's part ever since Zhuyan stole his girlfriend; he scowls at Z. every time he passes him in the hall.

- A) Largess
- B) Conciliation
- C) Hubris
- D) Kudos
- E) Umbrage

8. My father \_\_\_\_\_ the dog for stealing a piece of turkey from the table.

- A) Lauded
- B) Upbraided
- C) Abolished
- D) Extolled
- E) Excommunicated

9. The \_\_\_\_\_ old magician smiled down at the small boy as he shared the secrets of his best card trick.

- A) Benevolent
- B) Inimical
- C) Repellent
- D) Cerebral
- E) Fatuous

10. A raid by hungry brown bears on a recent camping trip left me \_\_\_\_\_ of food.

- A) Negligent
- B) Critical
- C) Skeptical
- D) Bereft
- E) Tremulous

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

Damon's string of bad luck seemed to extend indefinitely. He had quit his job at a local coffee shop after his petulant boss accosted him one day for not being obsequious enough to the customers. Damon had been polite, just not overly sycophantic. Since his boss was also his landlord, Damon should have been prudent and acted circum-spectly, but he was angry that his boss had abased him in front of other employees. Damon berated his boss, yelling that he was a malicious, malevolent, nefarious old man. When his landlord-boss told him that he had better move out of the apartment, Damon found himself simultaneously bereft of his job and his place to live.

1. As used in the passage above, the word "prudent" is a(n):

- (A) Adjective
- (B) Adverb
- (C) Noun
- (D) Verb
- (E) Preposition

2. The reason that Damon's boss yelled at him at work is that:

- (A) Damon was always angry.
- (B) He thought that Damon was overly malicious.
- (C) Damon wasn't officious enough to the customers.
- (D) Damon had abased him in front of the employees.
- (E) He was Damon's landlord.

## PHOBIA - 39 WORDS

### Word Bank

Daunting

Feral

Abhor

Destitute

Abject

Domicile

Derelict

Defunct

Requisition

Renovate

Affluent

Raze

Reprehensible

Dilapidated

Exacerbate

Reel

Pacify

Allay

Assuage

Anxiety

Sedate

Sobriety

Agoraphobia

Claustrophobia

Diaphanous

Harrowing

Strenuous

Canvas

Ascetic

Quaint

Redoubtable

Formidable

Austere

Taciturn

Enervate

Abscond

Desolate

Despondent

Forlorn

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

*These some haunting raps,  
what you think about that?  
Might be a **daunting** task,  
but we on through that.  
I'm seeing nine black cats  
with some teeth to match,  
savage beasts wearing **feral** masks.*

There is this house I **abhor** and hate,  
it's all dark on the corner of my block.  
I live among the impoverished and **destitute**,  
the **abject** poor, here's the proof:  
The **domicile** was **derelict**, all run-down,  
no sun now, we call the block mud town.  
It was a **defunct** warehouse, no longer used,  
the kids used to throw bottles  
at the windows after school.  
The government demanded the house  
made a **requisition**,  
they wanted to **renovate** it, fix it up  
for the rich and the **affluent**,  
those who have money, it's crummy  
some wanted to knock it down,  
**raze** the house.  
Damn! so damn cruel and **reprehensible**  
the way the politicians treat the poor like  
they're dispensable.  
The house stayed put, remained **dilapidated**,  
in a state of disrepair so the neighbors hate it.  
My fear was **exacerbated** by this fact,  
made more intense by this fact.  
My friends tried to **pacify** me,  
**allay** my fears, stop my tears,  
**assuage** my fears,

daunting (adj.) - intimidating

feral (adj.) - savage, wild, untamed

abhor (v.) - to hate, loathe

destitute (adj.) - impoverished

abject (adj.) - of the most miserable or  
contemptible kind

domicile (n.) - a residence, a home

derelict (adj.) - run-down, abandoned

defunct (adj.) - no longer used or exist-  
ing

requisition (n.) - a demand for goods,  
often by an authority

renovate (v.) - to restore, return to orig-  
inal state

affluent (adj.) - rich, wealthy

raze (v.) - to demolish

reprehensible (adj.) - deserving of criti-  
cism

dilapidated (adj.) - in a state of disre-  
pair

exacerbate (v.) - to make more violent,  
intense

pacify (v.) - to soothe, ease

allay (v.) - to soothe, assuage

assuage (v.) - to ease, pacify

soothe me like Jimmy Page drinking a smoothie,  
before a show to calm his **anxiety**,  
**sedate** himself into a state of **sobriety**.  
Hip-hop heads screaming who's he?  
He's the ghost in these...

*Haunting raps...*

I'm **agoraphobic**: scared of open spaces,  
**claustrophobic**: scared of confined spaces,  
so I'm doubly screwed,  
know what I mean dude?  
At least I'm transparent like **diaphanous**  
screens letting light through.  
I live in fear, it sounds queer,  
I have **harrowing** experiences year after year.  
Just to step out my door is a **strenuous** task,  
requiring strength like a **canvas** needs paint,  
an **ascetic** practices restraint,  
he ain't eating caviar,  
he's sitting in his old house it's kind of **quaint**,  
but not this frickin' haunted house,  
it's all that I'm seeing, up to the ceiling,  
spider webs leaving me **reeling**.  
Against the stormy day  
this house is **redoubtable**,  
arouses dread and alarm, it's **formidable**.  
The **austere** appearance, bare and bleak,  
makes me **taciturn**, I'm too scared speak.  
This experience **enervates** me, I need sleep.  
I need to **abscond**, hide out  
and I'm gunna sneak.  
The **desolate**, deserted, dreary landscape,  
makes me wish I was at home eating

anxiety (n.) - uneasiness  
sedate (v.) - to calm, soothe  
sobriety (n.) - moderation from excess,  
or calm tranquility

agoraphobia (n.) - an abnormal fear of  
open or public places  
claustrophobia (n.) - an abnormal fear  
of closed or crowded spaces  
diaphanous (adj.) - transparent, light,  
airy

harrowing (adj.) - agonizing, distressing  
strenuous (adj.) - requiring tremendous  
strength or energy

canvas (n.) - a piece of cloth on which  
an artist paints

ascetic (n.) - one who practices  
restraint as a means of self-discipline,  
usually religious

quaint (adj.) - old-fashioned

reel (v.) - to be thrown off balance or  
feel dizzy

redoubtable (adj.) - formidable, com-  
manding respect

formidable (adj.) - arousing fear or alarm

austere (adj.) - very bare, bleak, simple

taciturn (adj.) - not inclined to talk

enervate (v.) - to weaken, make weary

abscond (v.) - to sneak away and hide

desolate (adj.) - deserted, lifeless

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

my mama's pancakes.

I'm feeling **despondent**,

distressed and hopeless,

I'm not the dopest maybe I'm just a dope,

I'm **forlorn**, I'm lonely, I have no hope,

*Haunting raps...*

despondent (adj.) - discouraged, hopeless, depressed

forlorn (adj.) - lonely, hopeless

### **Exercises**

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Domicile _____    | A. Tranquilize |
| 2. Abhor _____       | B. Uneasiness  |
| 3. Pacify _____      | C. Frightful   |
| 4. Harrowing _____   | D. Hopeless    |
| 5. Austere _____     | E. Agonizing   |
| 6. Forlorn _____     | F. Soothe      |
| 7. Abscond _____     | G. House       |
| 8. Redoubtable _____ | H. Hate        |
| 9. Sedate _____      | I. Sneak       |
| 10. Anxiety _____    | J. Simple      |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. That cat looks much too \_\_\_\_\_ to be a house-cat; it must have been raised in the wild.
- A) Charming
  - B) Grandiose
  - C) Obtuse
  - D) Feral
  - E) Delicate

2. News of yet another kidnapping \_\_\_\_\_ Jane's fear of strangers.
- A) Assuaged
  - B) Belittled
  - C) Alleviated
  - D) Elucidated
  - E) Exacerbated
3. As head of the Pacification Department, Lauren's job was to promote \_\_\_\_\_ among the populace during times of potential panic.
- A) Mutability
  - B) Anarchy
  - C) Apathy
  - D) Sobriety
  - E) Propriety
4. Quentin was never very good at indoor hide-and-seek, mainly because his \_\_\_\_\_ prevented him from hiding in the closets.
- A) Agoraphobia
  - B) Sensitivity
  - C) Claustrophobia
  - D) Gaudiness
  - E) Emaciation
5. Wen bought some \_\_\_\_\_ curtains to allow some sunlight into his room, while still maintaining his privacy.
- A) Opaque
  - B) Fetid
  - C) Diaphanous
  - D) Lucid
  - E) Ethereal

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

6. Though Siddhartha came from a wealthy family, he ended up living the life of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, devoid of luxury.

- A) Voluptuary
- B) Ascetic
- C) Anarchist
- D) Pacifist
- E) Hedonist

7. Grandma had lots of old-fashioned things in her house, but of all her ancient knick-knacks, I always found her cuckoo clock to be the most \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Vulgar
- B) Stoic
- C) Quaint
- D) Ostentatious
- E) Statuesque

8. Watching him prance nimbly in the ring before the fight, Foreman had to admit that Ali was a truly \_\_\_\_\_ opponent.

- A) Formidable
- B) Callous
- C) Profane
- D) Languid
- E) Effete

9. Shopping \_\_\_\_\_ me so much that I often fall asleep on the bus ride home from the mall.

- A) Invigorates
- B) Enervates
- C) Extricate
- D) Satiates
- E) Placate

10. Some enthusiasts who dreamed of life on mars were upset by the pictures that showed the planet's rocky, \_\_\_\_\_ landscape.

- A) Vibrant
- B) Dynamic
- C) Desolate
- D) Iridescent
- E) Diaphanous

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

I have to be honest: I don't like my mother-in-law very much. It's not that I abhor her or anything, it's just that she's so anxious all the time, it's a little hard to deal with. It's always a daunting task whenever she comes over to dinner. No matter what I cook, we have to allay all of her fears about the food before she'll take a single bite. And it's pretty hard to pacify her once she gets excited. One time, when I cooked rabbit stew, she got so worked-up that she told me that cooking rabbit was reprehensible, that you should only cook feral animals. I asked her if she considered a cow to be a feral animal, but she wouldn't answer me. Instead she ate nothing and remained taciturn for the rest of the dinner. Her visits are so exhausting and enervating!

1. The tone in the passage is best described as:

- (A) Analytical
- (B) Skeptical
- (C) Reverent
- (D) Hateful
- (E) Annoyed

2. The word "allay" in the passage above most closely means:

- (A) Cook
- (B) Assuage
- (C) Discuss
- (D) Exemplify
- (E) Answer

## FRIENDS - 54 WORDS

### Word Bank

Concoct	Inclement	Slander
Indignation	Jubilant	Malign
Patently	Alleviate	Impudent
Inextricable	Chastise	Puerile
Discreet	Elucidate	Juvenile
Surreptitious	Limpid	Guile
Alacrity	Ultimate	Bilk
Manifest	Choreograph	Telepathic
Erect	Idolatrous	Soothsayer
Grandiose	Extol	Seer
Meager	Diaphanous	Inveterate
Envious	Spectral	Delude
Magnanimous	Apparitional	Compel
Munificent	Lethargic	Camaraderie
Affable	Comatose	
Amiable	Benign	
Conciliatory	Mendacious	
Hierarchy	Calumny	
Linchpin	Defame	
Weather	Libel	

Made new friends, but I kept the old ones,  
 some are gilded and some are golden,  
 made new friends, but I kept the old ones.

Sometimes I think about the time  
 when I was five years old,  
 on the jungle gym climbing.  
 I'm not **concocting** this story,  
 not making it up,  
 I had torn my britches,  
 you could see my booty.  
 I frowned with **indignation**,  
 'cause it wasn't fair, my situation  
 was **patently**, clearly unfair.  
 I thought it was an **inextricable** situation,  
 with no way out like a hedge maze when  
 my friend Brendan came over to me,  
 and told me how to walk out of there  
**discreetly, surreptitiously**,  
 so that no one could see me.  
 We moved with **alacrity** and quickly.  
 Our friendship next **manifested** and  
 showed itself at his house,  
**erecting** pillow-forts on his couch.  
 He built a **grandiose** fort  
 with a tower in back.  
 My fort was so **meager**  
 it looked like a shack.  
 I was feeling jealous and **envious**.  
 He was **magnanimous** enough,  
 generous enough, **munificent** enough  
 to let me come into his fort  
 and play with his stuff.  
 Now that's a true friend...

concoct (v.) - to make up or invent

indignation (n.) - anger due to an unfair situation

patent (adj.) - clear, apparent

inextricable (adj.) - hopelessly confused or tangled

discreet (adj.) - prudent or inconspicuous

surreptitious (adj.) - done in a secret, or stealthy way

alacrity (n.) - speed, readiness

manifest (v.) - to show clearly

erect (v.) - to construct, to raise

grandiose (adj.) - extraordinary, grand in scope

meager (adj.) - lacking in quality or stature

envious (adj.) - jealous

magnanimous (adj.) - generous, noble

munificent (adj.) - generous, benevolent

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

Made new friends, but I kept the old ones,  
some are gilded and some are golden,  
made new friends, but I kept the old ones.

Now a girlfriend can be your best friend too,  
you can play chess and you can practice jujitsu.

My girl's so **affable** and **amiable**, she's  
always acting **conciliatory** and agreeable.

You know there's no

**hierarchy** in our relationship,  
we're on the same plane like  
Wes Snipes and terrorists.

Like the **linchpin** in my life, you know she  
holds everything together, so when we  
**weather** the storm, and whether the  
weather is

**inclement** or sunny, we carry on  
like that bunny with the drum,  
joyful, **jubilant**, always having fun.

When I'm feeling blue, she **alleviates**  
my symptoms like a drug.

If I'm acting like a thug she's going to

**chastise** me, criticize me severely,  
**elucidates** my problems, clarifies them clearly.

We keep communication **limpid**,  
not too complex, clearer than  
a window that just got Windexed.

We'll be together to the **ultimate**,  
together to the last, the way we dance  
like we've just been **choreographed**.

I don't mean to be **idolatrous**,  
fawn over her too much,

but I need to **extol** and praise her.

affable (adj.) - friendly, amiable

amiable (adj.) - friendly, affable

conciliatory (adj.) - agreeable, friendly

hierarchy (n.) - a ranking system of groups  
or individuals

linchpin (n.) - something that holds separate  
things together

weather (v.) - to withstand or survive a situ-  
ation

inclement (adj.) - stormy, bad, severe

jubilant (adj.) - joyful, happy

alleviate (v.) - to relieve

chastise (v.) - to criticize, to scold

elucidate (v.) - to clarify

limpid (adj.) - clear, easily understood

ultimate (n.) - the last part, or a fundamental  
element

choreographed (adj.) - arranged, as in dance

idolatrous (adj.) - worshipping excessively an  
object or person

extol (v.) - to praise

Made new friends, but I kept the old ones,  
 some are gilded and some are golden,  
 made new friends, but I kept the old ones.

Your friends might be less visible too,  
 I have a **diaphanous** friend  
 who's completely see-through.  
 He's **spectral** and **apparitional** like a ghost,  
 not in a coma but so **lethargic**,  
 he's **comatose**.  
 Like a tiger full of tranquilizer,  
 he's mostly **benign**,  
 but sometimes he gets **mendacious**  
 and then he starts lying.  
 He attempts **calumny**, tries to **defame** peo-  
 ple spreading lies, **libel** and **slander**,  
 he **maligns** them forever.  
 An **impudent** and rude guy,  
 he's **puerile**, **juvenile**, immature,  
 he's full of **guile**, deceitful, he **bilks** me  
 out of milk money, cheats me, beats me at  
 Guess Who,  
 he guesses correctly.  
 He's **telepathic**, a mind reader,  
 a **soothsayer**, fortune teller, a **seer**.  
 He's an **inveterate** prankster,  
 who pulled pranks since he was born,  
 he'll star-sixty-nine my friends  
 when I get off the phone.  
 He'll **delude** my friends  
 into believing he's me,  
 we have the same voice,  
 they have no choice,  
 they're **compelled** to believe.

diaphanous (adj.) - transparent, see-through

spectral (adj.) - ghostly

apparitional (adj.) - ghostly, spectral

lethargic (adj.) - lazy, apathetic

comatose (adj.) - lethargic

benign (adj.) - non-threatening, innocuous

mendacious (adj.) - inclined to lie or mislead

calumny (n.) - an attempt to defame anothe-  
 er's reputation

defame (v.) - to destroy the reputation of

libel (n.) - a statement that gives an unjust  
 or unfavorable representation of a person or  
 thing, a defamation

slander (n.) - a false statement to damage  
 the reputation of another

malign (v.) - to slander, to smear, to libel, to  
 defame, to speak evil of

impudent (adj.) - rude, improper

puerile (adj.) - immature

juvenile (adj.) - young or immature

guile (n.) - deceitful actions or behavior

bilks (v.) - to cheat, to swindle

telepathic (adj.) - capable of reading minds

soothsayer (n.) - a fortune teller

seer (n.) - a fortune teller

inveterate (adj.) - habitual, natural

delude (v.) - to deceive, to mislead

compel (v.) - to force

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

Despite that we're good friends,  
live in **camaraderie**,  
share our desserts, we share a brain,  
he's a part of me...

Made new friends, but I kept the old ones,  
some are gilded and some are golden,  
made new friends, but I kept the old ones.

camaraderie (n.) - cheerful unity among a group

### Exercises

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Discreet _____     | A. Amiable     |
| 2. Manifest _____     | B. Clarify     |
| 3. Magnanimous _____  | C. Praise      |
| 4. Affable _____      | D. Joyful      |
| 5. Jubilant _____     | E. Show        |
| 6. Elucidate _____    | F. Transparent |
| 7. Extol _____        | G. Juvenile    |
| 8. Diaphanous _____   | H. Friendship  |
| 9. Puerile _____      | I. Prudent     |
| 10. Camaraderie _____ | J. Munificent  |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. Though she did not hand in the homework assignment, you must give Yee-chin some credit for \_\_\_\_\_ such a fantastic excuse.

- A) Delineating
- B) Extrapolating
- C) Concocting
- D) Introducing
- E) Abrogating

2. Philo had planned on firing Alvaro on account of his laziness, but he soon began mopping with such consistent \_\_\_\_\_ that she had no choice but to keep him on staff.

- A) Bluster
- B) Resiliency
- C) Ennui
- D) Fortification
- E) Alacrity

3. The whole class was \_\_\_\_\_ of Joe when he rolled up to school on Monday; that new Escalade was hot!

- A) Tired
- B) Critical
- C) Judgmental
- D) Envious
- E) Possessive

4. Dave Matthews is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ rock stars; I heard he gave over a million dollars to charity in 2004.

- A) Irascible
- B) Munificent
- C) Benevolent
- D) Stingy
- E) Frugal

5. The rice-throwing crowd was \_\_\_\_\_ as the gleaming bride and groom strolled down the stairs.

- A) Sober
- B) Jubilant
- C) Indignant
- D) Sedated
- E) Belligerent

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

6. Parker was severely \_\_\_\_\_ for carving his name in the school desk.
- A) Chastised
  - B) Lauded
  - C) Commended
  - D) Repudiated
  - E) Slandered
7. Jethro was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ Red Sox fan, and really annoyed his friends by constantly talking about how he and Johnny Damon were “pretty much the same person.”
- A) Oblivious
  - B) Obvious
  - C) Magnanimous
  - D) Licentious
  - E) Idolatrous
8. Sometimes when it rains, I get so \_\_\_\_\_ that I can't seem to do anything but watch Gilligan's Island marathons on TV Land.
- A) Lethargic
  - B) Invigorated
  - C) Satiated
  - D) Saturated
  - E) Irascible
9. I get so sick of those TV psychics who claim that they're \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A) Sympathetic
  - B) Emphatic
  - C) Telepathic
  - D) Telegraphic
  - E) Ingenious

10. Though incredulous at first, after Rosalio showed us his authentic moon rock, we were \_\_\_\_\_ to believe that he had actually visited the moon.

- A) Reluctant
- B) Eager
- C) Happy
- D) Predisposed
- E) Compelled

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

The royal palace is a building with such ornate architecture that it inspires idolatrous praise in all those who gaze upon it. A pride of benign lions lounges comatosely on the front steps, unless the weather is inclement, in which case they are brought inside. If you step through the grandiose doors, you are immediately greeted by an affable old butler who leads you discreetly past the rows of armed guards. In the royal hall, troops of jubilant dancers prance about in perfect choreography before the king. Next to the king is the ever-present seer, whose prophecies alleviate the anxieties of the nervous king as a lullaby might calm a baby. Whether the soothsayer is mendacious and just concocts his predictions or whether he has legitimate telepathic abilities remains a point of dispute in the royal court.

1. The phrase "as a lullaby might calm a baby" is an example of:

- (A) Metaphor
- (B) Simile
- (C) Personification
- (D) Allusion
- (E) Irony

2. According to the author, the thing that is most awe-inspiring about the palace for visitors is:

- (A) The royal soothsayer
- (B) The friendly butler
- (C) The grandiose doors
- (D) The ornate architecture
- (E) The pride of lions

## FLO + CAB - 37 WORDS

### Word Bank

Collusion

Exigent

Confluence

Discrete

Divergent

Divisive

Disparage

Impervious

Coalesce

Apocalypse

Juxtapose

Variegate

Differentiate

Ameliorate

Oration

Accentuate

Sanguine

Enervated

Saccharine

Maudlin

Mores

Cavity

Amalgamation

Copious

Connotation

Diverse

Terse

Preponderance

Dissonance

Cacophony

Harmony

Concord

Confound

Scourge

Scathing

Indictment

Retract

Like a boomerang we're back,  
 together again, the **collusion**,  
 two people huddled and making a plan.  
 Rocking ipods to etch-a-sketches, it's escher,  
 urgent and **exigent**, exerting mad pressure.  
 Like how peanut butter always  
 tastes better with jelly,  
 we added flow to vocab, to get Flocabulary.  
 It's the **confluence** of two **discrete** things,  
 like french fries and onion rings,  
 we make things meet that are different.  
 Now sometimes it's true that **divergent**  
 things, split people apart and are **divisive**.  
 Some people try to **disparage** our project,  
 speak ill of it and criticize us,  
 but we're **impervious** to bad vibes,  
 we're untouchable, stick together like  
 Heathcliff and Claire Huxtable.  
 Two things come together just **coalesce**  
 like when you zip up the  
 two sides of your vest.

F L O C A B

where ever you go we'll be there.

F L O C A B

rocking harder than your grandma's chair.

F L O C A B

rocking the **apocalypse** until  
 there's nothing left.

F L O C A B

a better recipe for success  
 than the iron chef.

We **juxtapose** those who know  
 and those who don't, by putting them

collusion (n.) - a conspiracy, a secret agree-  
 ment

exigent (adj.) - critical, urgent

confluence (n.) - a convergence, a coming  
 together

discrete (adj.) - separate, distinct, individual

divergent (adj.) - different, deviating, con-  
 trary

divisive (adj.) - causing conflict, opposition

disparage (v.) - to criticize, degrade, belittle

impervious (adj.) - unable to be penetrated,  
 unaffected

coalesce (v.) - to combine into one

apocalypse (n.) - total devastation, the end  
 of the world

juxtapose (v.) - to put next to each other

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

together to compare and contrast.

We **variegate** and **differentiate** these tracks, so that they don't all run together like sidewalk chalk in the rain.

We **ameliorate** our **orations**, make our speeches better, improve and troubleshoot, don't maintain.

I stress and **accentuate** positivity in life, like peas accentuate the taste of rice.

So I'm **sanguine**, optimistic and cheery, the opposite of **enervated** and weary, you hear me, clearly, we spread good vibes like Beverly Cleary, but not as **saccharine**, overly sweet.

**Maudlin** is sentimental like your dentals are your teeth.

We fight holes in our **mores**, those moral **cavities**.

The **amalgamation**, combination of two rare things,

I can't believe it's so butter...

F L O C A B

where ever you go we'll be there.

F L O C A B

rocking harder than your grandma's chair.

F L O C A B

rocking the **apocalypse**

until there's nothing left.

F L O C A B

a better recipe for success than the iron chef.

There are **copious connotations** for every single word, many meanings

variegate (v.) - to diversify

differentiate (v.) - to distinguish, to make different

ameliorate (v.) - to improve, to make better

oration (n.) - a dignified and formal speech

accentuate (v.) - to emphasize, to highlight

sanguine (adj.) - cheery, optimistic, hopeful

enervated (adj.) - lacking energy, weakened, exhausted

saccharine (adj.) - overly sweet

maudlin (adj.) - sentimental

mores (n.) - moral attitudes

cavity (n.) - a hole

amalgamation (n.) - a union, a merger

copious (adj.) - abundant, plentiful

connotation (n.) - a meaning or association suggested by a word beyond its definition

that are varied and **diverse**.  
 So I could be **terse**, and not talk  
 with too many words,  
 and a **preponderance** of  
 meanings could still emerge.  
 Some say different voices create **disso-**  
**nance**, white noise, and **cacophony**,  
 actually they make **harmony**.  
 And without harmony, Boyzllmen  
 would still be boys, and Art Garfunkel  
 would have been unemployed.  
 We're in harmonious agreement,  
 in **concord**, like the fast plane  
 and we'd like you to get on board.  
 We **confound** and frustrate those who must  
 hate us, and think hip-hop is the  
**scourge** of the English language.  
 They offer **scathing** criticism  
 and **indictments**.  
 They think that when you're studying  
 there should be no excitement,  
 but then they listen to our songs,  
 they **retract** and withdraw their  
 statements like it was a bank card.

F L O C A B  
 where ever you go we'll be there.  
 F L O C A B  
 rocking harder than your grandma's chair.  
 F L O C A B  
 rocking the **apocalypse**  
 until there's nothing left.  
 F L O C A B  
 a better recipe for success than the iron chef

diverse (adj.) - varied  
terse (adj.) - abrupt, short, brief  
preponderance (n.) - a great amount or fre-  
 quency  
dissonance (n.) - lack of harmony or agree-  
 ment  
cacophony (n.) - noise, discordant sound  
harmony (n.) - agreement, often of sound  
  
concord (n.) - agreement  
  
confound (v.) - to frustrate  
  
scourge (n.) - a plague  
scathing (adj.) - hurtful, critical  
indictment (n.) - accusation of wrongdoing  
  
  
retract (v.) - withdraw

# FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

## Exercises

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Exigent _____    | A. Sentimental |
| 2. Sanguine _____   | B. Improve     |
| 3. Saccharine _____ | C. Succinct    |
| 4. Maudlin _____    | D. Urgent      |
| 5. Concord _____    | E. Frustrate   |
| 6. Ameliorate _____ | F. Optimistic  |
| 7. Terse _____      | G. Withdraw    |
| 8. Amalgamate _____ | H. Sweet       |
| 9. Confound _____   | I. Agreement   |
| 10. Retract _____   | J. Combine     |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. Many say that Yoko Ono was a \_\_\_\_\_ force between John Lennon and the rest of The Beatles, and that she may be responsible for the band's demise.
- A) Creative
  - B) Conciliatory
  - C) Divisive
  - D) Decisive
  - E) Reputable
2. When I bought my winter coat, the zealous salesman carried on about how it was \_\_\_\_\_ to both wind and cold.
- A) Vulnerable
  - B) Susceptible
  - C) Adherent
  - D) Imperious
  - E) Impervious

3. The Peterson Triplets always dressed the same, and were nearly impossible to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Repudiate
- B) Differentiate
- C) Obfuscate
- D) Clarify
- E) Aggregate

4. Tiffany's engagement ring was a hideous \_\_\_\_\_ of gold and turquoise.

- A) Amalgamation
- B) Umbrage
- C) Amenity
- D) Discrepancy
- E) Convention

5. Rodrigo was a fantastic student and made sure to take \_\_\_\_\_ notes in every class.

- A) Shoddy
- B) Dubious
- C) Inimical
- D) Copious
- E) Disheartened

6. Dr. Bandahar was a man of few words and was known for his \_\_\_\_\_ replies in press conferences.

- A) Verbose
- B) Loquacious
- C) Sagacious
- D) Terse
- E) Tenuous

7. When the goose ran out of the pen, there arose such a clamor; the dogs howled and barked in utter \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Tranquility
- B) Cacophony
- C) Harmony
- D) Turpitude
- E) Grandiloquence

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

8. When asked what she would do with the one billion dollars, the Miss America contestant said that she would try to bring about communication and \_\_\_\_\_ between all warring nations.

- A) Enmity
- B) Tenacity
- C) Pulchritude
- D) Belligerence
- E) Harmony

9. I'll never forget the \_\_\_\_\_ words Rafael used when he viciously accused Sophia of cheating on him.

- A) Scathing
- B) Laudatory
- C) Scintillating
- D) Circumspect
- E) Saccharine

10. The CEO was served with several \_\_\_\_\_ based on his involvement with insider trading and embezzlement.

- A) Quandaries
- B) Indictments
- C) Paradoxes
- D) Quagmires
- E) Tributes

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

A few years ago, a major tobacco company came out with a controversial new product called *Baby-Smokes*. Confounded by the huge number of non-smokers in the baby community, the company developed this novel amalgamation as a way of ameliorating their revenue. The company argued that, while typically thought of as divergent things occupying two very discrete spaces in our culture and society, babies and smoking were in fact a perfect combination. Babies, the company said, loved having things in

their mouths. Why not a cigarette? Obviously this product inspired a huge amount of scathing criticism from the general public, who found that *Baby-Smokes* offended their very mores. The product was quickly recalled.

1. The main reason that the tobacco company developed *Baby-Smokes* was:

- (A) Any press is good press.
- (B) They wanted to do something novel.
- (C) They wanted to make more money.
- (D) They thought babies would like cigarettes.
- (E) Babies and smoking were a perfect combination.

2. The word "mores" in the passage above most closely means:

- (A) Paradigms
- (B) Ideas
- (C) Souls
- (D) Communities
- (E) Values

## MYRIAD OPERATIONS - 53 WORDS

### Word Bank

Espy	Pertinacious	Battery
Uncanny	Metamorphosis	Compliment
Hail	Refrain	Ethereal
Terrestrial	Foster	Sagacious
Celestial	Supplant	Aloof
Winsome	Whet	Bard
Presumptuous	Akimbo	Travesty
Brash	Swarthy	Tragedy
Brazen	Ruddy	Parody
Audacious	Exorbitant	Anomaly
Brusque	Veneer	Ubiquitous
Incisive	Complicit	Obsequious
Succinct	Obdurate	Submissive
Cursory	Cajole	
Contusion	Aggrandize	
Laceration	Pulchritude	
Acute	Torrid	
Callous	Sate	

I was at the Taqueria thinking  
taco or enchilada, when I **espied**  
this smart and pretty Latin mama.  
This girl was so beautiful  
it was supernatural and **uncanny**,  
I think she **hailed** from um, Miami.  
I told her I come from deep within the  
Earth, I'm **terrestrial**, compared to me,  
you're from the sky, you're **celestial**.  
You're **winsome**.  
I mean you win some and you lose some,  
but girl you're winsome,  
I mean very attractive.  
She scolded me told me I was overly  
bold and **presumptuous**,  
too **brash**, too **brazen**, too **audacious**.  
Her manner was **brusque**,  
her speech short and abrupt,  
with these two little letters she said,  
"loco give it up." (no!) Let me be **incisive**,  
clear sharp and direct.  
Let me be **succinct**, just as brief as I can get.  
She shot me with a quick **cursory** glance,  
hit like a dagger, caused a **contusion**,  
started bruising, and then I staggered.  
She scarred me, gave me a **laceration**  
over my heart piece, the pain was **acute**,  
sharper than a set of sharp teeth,  
but even though she acted so **callous** and cold,  
I had no **credulity**, I couldn't believe  
what I was being told.

*She said "no."*

*I said you don't know so*

espy (v.) - to catch sight of, glimpse

uncanny (adj.) - of supernatural character or  
origin

hail (v.) - to come from

terrestrial (adj.) - relating to the land

celestial (adj.) - relating to the sky or the  
heavens

winsome (adj.) - charming, attractive

presumptuous (adj.) - disrespectfully bold

brash (adj.) - hasty or lacking in sensitivity

brazen (adj.) - excessively bold, brash

audacious (adj.) - excessively bold

brusque (adj.) - short, abrupt, dismissive

incisive (adj.) - clear, sharp, direct

succinct (adj.) - marked by compact preci-  
sion

cursory (adj.) - brief to the point of being  
superficial

contusion (n.) - bruise, injury

laceration (n.) - a cut, tear

acute (adj.) - sharp, severe

callous (adj.) - harsh, cold, unfeeling

credulity (n.) - readiness to believe

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

*there are **myriad** operations I could undergo.*

I don't mean to be **pertinacious** as in stubbornly persistent.

I would operate on myself, girl, if you was my assistant,

I would undergo a total **metamorphosis**, and more than this, I would **refrain** from eating all them bacon bits and sausages.

To **foster** good health and promote good health within myself,

I would **supplant** my supply of whole milk with skim milk on my shelf.

You **whet** my appetite, is yours whet back?

It's 'round midnight, how 'bout a late night snack?

Oh, I sounded like a bimbo, a salesman who couldn't sell though.

She stood arms **akimbo**, bent at the elbow.

My skin was more **swarthy** and **ruddy** than the fur of Elmo, dark and red,

I was blushing **exorbitantly**, excessively.

I tried to smile to keep up the

**veneer** of respectability,

but my tongue was **complicit** in my mind's crimes like an accessory to murder,

and I was killing any chance of a first date.

She didn't yield to my persuasions, she was **obdurate**.

It's pathetic how I tried to get a date by

**cajoling** and coaxing,

**aggrandizing** my traits,

exaggerating

and boasting.

myriad (adj.) - consisting of a very great number

pertinacious (adj.) - stubbornly persistent, holding to a belief or position

metamorphosis (n.) - a change of form, shape, substance

refrain (v.) - to hold oneself back, forbear

foster (v.) - to stimulate, promote, encourage

supplant (v.) - to displace and substitute for another

whet (v.) - to make more keen, stimulate

akimbo (adj.) - with hands on hips and elbows extending outward

swarthy (adj.) - of dark color or complexion

ruddy (adj.) - having a healthy, reddish color

exorbitant (adj.) - excessive

veneer (n.) - a superficial or deceptively attractive appearance, façade

complicit (adj.) - being an accomplice in a wrongful act

obdurate (adj.) - unyielding to persuasion or moral influences

cajole (v.) - to urge, coax

aggrandize (v.) - to increase or make greater

She said, "oh no you didn't,"  
like she had an attitude.  
I was staring at her physical beauty,  
her **pulchritude**.

*she said no...*

This is not a love song,  
'cause no love was created,  
dreamt of a **torrid** hot love,  
but it wasn't fated.  
I thought she was hungry for love,  
she was **sated** and **satiated**,  
no appetite so I had to **abort** the effort  
so I gave it up, and tried  
to launch a **battery** of flattery at her,  
an assault of **compliments**, it made no dent  
on her presence.  
So heavenly, she was **ethereal**,  
delicate and refined, I knew I'd never, ever  
find someone of her kind.  
She was wise and **sagacious**  
like a wisdom tooth, while I tried to get in  
closer she remained **aloof**.  
I tried to spit some poetry  
like a poet or a **bard**,  
but it came out kind of corny,  
spitting poetry is hard.  
It was a **travesty**, now kids don't think that  
a travesty's the same thing as a **tragedy**,  
'cause a tragedy is the opposite of a comedy.  
A travesty is a bad imitation or a **parody**.  
I'd like to say the interaction was weird  
like an **anomaly**, but honestly

pulchritude (n.) - physical beauty

torrid (adj.) - giving off intense heat, passionate

sate (v.) - to satisfy (an appetite) fully

satiate (v.) - to satisfy excessively

abort (v.) - to give up on a half-finished project or effort

battery (n.) - an assault or an array of similar things intended for use together

compliment (n.) - an expression of esteem or approval

ethereal (adj.) - heavenly, exceptionally delicate or refined

sagacious (adj.) - shrewd, showing sound judgment

aloof (adj.) - reserved, distant

bard (n.) - a poet, often a singer as well

travesty (n.) - a grossly inferior imitation

tragedy (n.) - a disastrous event, or a work of art in which the hero meets a terrible fate

parody (n.) - a satirical imitation

anomaly (n.) - something that does not fit into the normal order

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

this stuff happens quite often to me,  
and shorteez frowning at me  
appear **ubiquitously**,  
they're everywhere in the world  
like American currency,  
I bow down to them **obsequiously**  
and **submissively**.

*she said no....*

ubiquitous (adj.) - existing everywhere, wide-spread

obsequious (adj.) - excessively compliant or submissive

submissive (adj.) - easily yielding to authority

### Exercises

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Uncanny _____     | A. Coax         |
| 2. Winsome _____     | B. Severe       |
| 3. Incisive _____    | C. Beauty       |
| 4. Acute _____       | D. Attractive   |
| 5. Cajole _____      | E. Reserved     |
| 6. Pulchritude _____ | F. Supernatural |
| 7. Aloof _____       | G. Direct       |
| 8. Obsequious _____  | H. Encourage    |
| 9. Parody _____      | I. Submissive   |
| 10. Foster _____     | J. Satire       |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

## MYRIAD OPERATIONS

1. Planets and stars are \_\_\_\_\_ bodies.
  - A) Abnormal
  - B) Celestial
  - C) Static
  - D) Terrestrial
  - E) Orbital
2. The tightrope walker planned a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ feat: to walk on a rope from Paris to London.
  - A) Feeble
  - B) Presumptuous
  - C) Ribald
  - D) Despondent
  - E) Audacious
3. When Becky fell off her bike it left several blue \_\_\_\_\_ up and down her leg.
  - A) Kudos
  - B) Infamy
  - C) Lacerations
  - D) Contusions
  - E) Panacea
4. Finally Tim gave in to his sister's \_\_\_\_\_ insistence that he name his pet lobster, 'the Fobster.'
  - A) Flaccid
  - B) Cogent
  - C) Pertinacious
  - D) Dour
  - E) Callous
5. Not only was the young man late for work, but during the night he had undergone a \_\_\_\_\_ from a human to a cockroach.
  - A) Denigration
  - B) Immersion
  - C) Transportation
  - D) Transposition
  - E) Metamorphosis

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

6. He was a confidant pirate, but he still had a tendency to blush and had to wave a fan in front of his \_\_\_\_\_ face.

- A) Swarthy
- B) Supple
- C) Equine
- D) Pallid
- E) Sordid

7. The \_\_\_\_\_ old woman refused to pay the milkman, swearing she hadn't had a glass of milk in over a decade.

- A) Munificent
- B) Insightful
- C) Opulent
- D) Obdurate
- E) Magnanimous

8. When it came to electing a Corn Growers Association president, everyone turned to the most \_\_\_\_\_ member: old Jim "Corn Eyes".

- A) Inarticulate
- B) Obdurate
- C) Aloof
- D) Brash
- E) Sagacious

9. She was a feisty \_\_\_\_\_, wandering from village to village composing little tunes about acorns, squash, and the coming apocalypse.

- A) Insurgent
- B) Maelstrom
- C) Bard
- D) Antagonist
- E) Deacon

10. Leena disliked Lauren Hill's singing voice and thought that her version of *Killing Me Softly* was a complete \_\_\_\_\_ of the original.

- A) Tragedy
- B) Travesty
- C) Imitation
- D) Duplicate
- E) Manifestation

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

One day, when Juana was walking down the street, she espied a man holding a delicious looking burrito, the sight of which whet her appetite to such an extent that she decided to hop into a nearby taqueria and see if she couldn't sate her growing hunger. The exorbitant prices on the menu inside (six dollars for a taco) made the restaurant a true anomaly in the typically cheap neighborhood. Juana, who usually refrained from spending too much money on food, considered aborting her taco-run, but then reconsidered when she caught sight of the myriad fresh salsas they had lined up on a table. Juana ordered a chicken super-burrito and asked the clerk, "I don't mean to be too presumptuous, but could you please supplant the cheese with extra sour cream?" The clerk, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Christopher Walken, nodded brusquely in response.

1. The tone that Juana uses with the clerk in the taqueria is one of:

- (A) Flippancy
- (B) Politeness
- (C) Annoyance
- (D) Brashness
- (E) Bashfulness

2. The restaurant was relatively unique in the neighborhood because:

- (A) They served tacos and burritos.
- (B) They had bad service.
- (C) They had a large selection of salsas.
- (D) They could easily make substitutions.
- (E) They had high prices.

## I DO - 50 WORDS

### Word Bank

Infuse  
Quid Pro Quo  
Gluttonous  
Portly  
Surfeit  
Gourmand  
Noisome  
Noxious  
Baleful  
Odious  
Toothsome  
Pungent  
Putrid  
Rancid  
Forsaken  
Somnolent  
Vivacious  
Abbreviated  
Aphorism  
Abridged

Pellucid  
Acumen  
Maxim  
Dutiful  
Captivate  
Abduct  
Henchman  
Stagnate  
Stagnant  
Torpid  
Doppelganger  
Mimic  
Excursion  
Tortuous  
Surmise  
Espouse  
Matrimony  
Laudatory  
Euphoric  
Gay

Ruse  
Cavort  
Carouse  
Buffet  
Bourgeois  
Lavish  
Buffet  
Bloated  
Lethargic  
Corpulent

We inject and **infuse** vocab into raps,  
 raps into the classroom, it's 2 class acts.  
 If I give something to you and get some-  
 thing else back,  
 that's a **quid pro quo**,  
 like we scratch each others backs.  
 To a **gluttonous** man,  
 a hamburger is a snack.  
 Often gluttonous people end up  
**portly** and fat.  
 If Jared ate half the food and  
 became half the Jared, then  
 where's the other half of the Jared?  
 I had a **surfeit** of tacos, plus nine burritos,  
 my favorite Mexican food?  
 ummm...Doritos.  
 I'm a **gourmand**, fond of  
 the food and the drink,  
 sink piled with dishes, giving a **noisome**  
 stink, a stinky stink, an annoying stink,  
 a **noxious** stink, harmful and **baleful**.  
 Speaking of stink I had the  
**odious** task of cleaning all those dishes.  
 The food was no longer  
**toothsome** and delicious.  
 The odor was so **pungent**  
 you could smell it down the block.  
**Putrid, rancid**, and rotten,  
 I had **forsaken** and forgotten.  
 I get **somnolent** during the day,  
 sleepy in daylight, wide awake and **viva-**  
**cius** in the moonlight.

I do.  
 Yes and I do.  
 I do.

infuse (v.) - to inject

quid pro quo (n., latin) - a mutually benefi-  
 cial exchange

gluttonous (adj.) - insatiable in appetite

portly (adj.) - fat, chubby, round

surfeit (n.) - an excess, a surplus, an over-  
 abundance

gourmand (n.) - one who likes eating and  
 drinking

noisome (adj.) - foul, offensive, particularly  
 to the sense of smell

noxious (adj.) - harmful, toxic

baleful (adj.) - harmful, threatening

odious (adj.) - meriting strong displeasure

toothsome (adj.) - delicious, luscious

pungent (adj.) - having a sharp, strong qual-  
 ity especially related to smell

putrid (adj.) - rotten, rancid, foul

rancid (adj.) - rotten, spoiled, disgusting in  
 smell or taste

forsake (v.) - to abandon, forget

somnolent (adj.) - sleepy

vivacious (adj.) - lively, spirited, full of life

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

I like things that are cut short and **abbreviated**, like crew cuts, **aphorisms**, and speed dating.

I've read *Moby Dick*, **abridged**, *War and Peace*, abridged,

I found the writing to be so clear it was **pellucid**.

Here's a piece of **acumen**, keen insight: there wouldn't be global warming if we all rode bikes.

Here's a **maxim** to live by: do unto others as you would have them do unto you too.

Fulfill obligations, and be **dutiful**, act cool, like my man Dizzee Rascal.

**Captivate** the audience, capture their attention, don't return it, but **abduct** it, kidnap it, like a **henchman**.

We're the opposite of **stagnate**, 'cause we got flow, **stagnant** waters grow old with no where to go.

**Torpid**, the opposite of a torpedo, moving so slow, that's why I switched into my Speedo.

*But I don't look good in a Speedo*, who said that?

It must have been my twin, my **doppelganger**, my copy-cat,

**mimicking** me, going on **excursions** dressed like me, picnics by the sea, olives and sea breeze...

abbreviate (v.) - to shorten, reduce

aphorism (n.) - a short saying

abridge (v.) - to shorten, cut down

pellucid (adj.) - clear

acumen (n.) - keen insight

maxim (n.) - a common saying of advice or virtue

dutiful (adj.) - obedient, compliant

captivate (v.) - to hold the interest of, to gain the attention of

abduct (v.) - to kidnap

henchman (n.) - a trusted follower, goon

stagnate (v.) - to be idle, to be still

stagnant (adj.) - still, not flowing

torpid (adj.) - lazy, lethargic, moving slowly

doppelganger (n.) - a ghostly double of a living person

mimic (v.) - to imitate, to copy

excursion (n.) - a trip, an outing

I do.

Yes and I do.

I do.

I've wandered through the **tortuous** streets of Prague, those windy roads and confusing boulevards.

At a wedding, I **surmised** who was the bride, figured out that she was the one standing by my side.

I love marriage,

and **espouse matrimony**,

I support it like the cheese supports the bologna.

I make **laudatory** comments and praise brides, but I had never seen this **euphoric**, and happy, **gay** bride.

Someone had set me up,

played a trick and a **ruse**,

had gotten the two of us together but didn't introduce.

Then we were jumping up and down,

**cavorting** around, **carousing** all night long, partying, and getting down.

Someone called the coppers,

but they couldn't stop us,

they **buffeted** us with their clubs, hit us like thugs.

I love **bourgeois** weddings,

they serve **lavish** dishes,

always offer a choice between chicken and fishes.

Usually not a **buffet**, though sometimes there is,

in which case I get **bloated**

tortuous (adj.) - winding, twisted

surmise (v.) - to guess, infer, suppose

espouse (v.) - to support, or to marry  
matrimony (n.) - marriage

laudatory (adj.) - admiring, praising

euphoric (adj.) - elated, overjoyed

gay (adj.) - happy

ruse (n.) - a trick

cavort (v.) - to frolic, leap, prance

carouse (v.) - to revel, to party

buffet (v.) - to strike, to pound

bourgeois (adj.) - middle class

lavish (adj.) - extravagant

buffet (n.) - a spread of food involving choices

bloated (adj.) - swollen, bigger than desired

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

from the free coleslaw,  
so **lethargic** and lazy  
that I can't even rap,  
more **corpulent** and fat than  
Rush Limbaugh.

I do.

Yes and I do.

I do.

lethargic (adj.) - sluggish, weary, apathetic

corpulent (adj.) - very fat

### Exercises

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Infuse _____    | A. Corpulent |
| 2. Portly _____    | B. Happy     |
| 3. Noxious _____   | C. Clear     |
| 4. Acumen _____    | D. Inject    |
| 5. Espouse _____   | E. Trick     |
| 6. Tortuous _____  | F. Lazy      |
| 7. Euphoric _____  | G. Toxic     |
| 8. Ruse _____      | H. Insight   |
| 9. Lethargic _____ | I. Winding   |
| 10. Pellucid _____ | J. Support   |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. I could smell the \_\_\_\_\_ odor of putrid fertilizer as I drove through rural Nebraska.
- A) Winsome
  - B) Noisome
  - C) Olfactory
  - D) Saccharine
  - E) Palatable

2. I often grow \_\_\_\_\_ while watching foreign films; reading subtitles can be exhausting.
- A) Vivacious
  - B) Nocturnal
  - C) Diurnal
  - D) Somnolent
  - E) Soporific
3. To impress his students, Mr. Roberts tended to speak in \_\_\_\_\_ language, saying things like, "F.Y.I, he just needs some T.L.C.".
- A) Random
  - B) Pedantic
  - C) Abbreviated
  - D) Circuitous
  - E) Elongated
4. "That which does not kill you makes you stronger" is an example of one of Nietzsche's famous \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) Tomes
  - B) Tracts
  - C) Essays
  - D) Ruses
  - E) Aphorisms
5. There is an increasingly large population of people who claim to have been \_\_\_\_\_ by aliens and taken to another planet.
- A) Usurped
  - B) Abducted
  - C) Vexed
  - D) Dispatched
  - E) Extolled

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

6. My \_\_\_\_\_ cat lies on the windowsill all afternoon, taking the sun and dreaming about cat heaven.

- A) Torpid
- B) Vivacious
- C) Boisterous
- D) Lachrymose
- E) Cordial

7. Captain Redbeard, a swarthy pirate, was known for his parrot “Pepe” who \_\_\_\_\_ every word the pirate said.

- A) Demeaned
- B) Coveted
- C) Despised
- D) Savored
- E) Mimicked

8. Full of energy after signing their record deal, the euphoric band \_\_\_\_\_ until dawn.

- A) Caroused
- B) Wallowed
- C) Pillaged
- D) Reposed
- E) Transgressed

9. The wedding guests showered such \_\_\_\_\_ gifts on us that we had almost too many nice presents.

- A) Emollient
- B) Lewd
- C) Lavish
- D) Gaudy
- E) Atypical

10. My basset hound is so \_\_\_\_\_ he can hardly walk to his food bowl.

- A) Svelte
- B) Puerile
- C) Agile
- D) Euphoric
- E) Corpulent

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

Though today we might find them indispensable, plastic sandwich bags are a relatively recent invention. Before the wonderful plastic sandwich bag captivated the world's attention, most people lived rather torpid, stagnant lives, with little variation. Portly construction workers would complain that the sandwiches their husbands had made for them that morning were too putrid to eat. Without a plastic bag, many of the sandwiches grew rancid in the paper bag, especially if the paper bag was stored near a source of heat. Consequently, many construction workers began showing fatigue, working at a torpid rate and acting generally lethargic. Once the plastic bag arrived, the world rejoiced that a toothsome sandwich could keep its flavor all day long.

1. According to the passage, which of the following did not occur before the invention of plastic bags?

- (A) Construction workers found their sandwiches putrid.
- (B) The populace led slow, boring lives.
- (C) Sandwiches were less complex.
- (D) Construction workers were lazier.
- (E) Sandwiches grew rotten.

2. Together, the words "rancid" and "toothsome" in the passage are examples of:

- (A) Antonyms
- (B) Homonyms
- (C) Synonyms
- (D) Metaphors
- (E) Rhymes

## FLUX - 50 WORDS

### Word Bank

Fluctuate  
Flux  
Aberration  
Aghast  
Wane  
Diminish  
Wax  
Augment  
Static  
Steadfast  
Dynamic  
Espy  
Illusory  
Precarious  
Fickle  
Capricious  
Lull  
Mercurial  
Protean

Gape  
Rectify  
Recalibrate  
Amend  
Redress  
Vicissitudes  
Undulate  
Bide  
Antechamber  
Variance  
Pittance  
Suffice  
Zeitgeist  
Mutability  
Entity  
Surreptitious  
Physiognomy  
Misogyny  
Monogamy

Uniform  
Unilateral  
Unique  
Remiss  
Relish  
Savor  
Vacillate  
Invariable  
Immutable  
Dutiful

Lunar cycles, we wax and we wane,  
we **fluctuate** and change, it's never the  
same,  
it's the alternation bringing  
all the **flux** to this game,  
we vary the variables, it's never the same.

**Aberration** is a deviation from right,  
an albino is a man whose skin is all white.  
So you can stand **aghast**, shocked and amazed,  
while the moon waxes and wanes  
through various phases.  
When it **wanes**, you know  
the bright light is **diminishing**,  
and when it is **waxing**, it's **augmenting**.  
My life's not **static**, no it's not **steadfast**,  
it's **dynamic**, ever-changing and prone to blast.

I **espy** with my own eye a sliver of moonshine,  
but it's **illusory**, I can barely see.  
My future hangs in the balance,  
it's **precarious**, lacking security,  
dependent on various conditions,  
so I embark on all types of missions.  
Listen, here's **fickle**:  
*"What a charming performance!  
Actually I did not like that performance.  
On third thought I really enjoyed it!"*  
That's what scientists call being  
**capricious**,  
it's when you keep changing  
your wish list for Christmas.

...That was a **lull** in the song,  
but it didn't last long,

fluctuate (v.) - to vary irregularly

flux (n.) - a state of constant change or a  
flow

aberration (n.) - a deviation from the expect-  
ed course

aghast (adj.) - struck by amazement or ter-  
ror

wane (v.) - to decrease gradually in size or  
degree

diminish (v.) - to decrease or make smaller

wax (v.) - to increase gradually in size or  
degree

augment (v.) - to increase or make larger

static (adj.) - not moving, being at rest

steadfast (adj.) - fixed or unchanging

dynamic (adj.) - characterized by continuous  
change or activity

espy (v.) - to catch sight of, glimpse

illusory (adj.) - deceptive, produced by an  
illusion

precarious (adj.) - dangerously lacking in  
security or stability

fickle (adj.) - characterized by changeable-  
ness, whimsical

capricious (adj.) - impulsive, unpredictable,  
subject to whim

lull (n.) - a relatively calm interval, as in a  
storm

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

'cause nothing stays the same, get it?  
I'm **mercurial**, first I smile then I frown,  
my attitude is all just up and then down.  
I swear I change colors like a chameleon,  
I take on diverse forms like I'm **protean**.  
I'm **malleable**, like play-dough, easily shaped.  
The student rapped for the teacher,  
but the teacher just **gaped**.

\*hook\*

We've got to **rectify**, **recalibrate**, and  
repair,  
revise, improve, fix, shape up and get  
square.  
We must correct, adjust, reform and scrub,  
**amend**, **redress**, put right, and straighten up.  
The **vicissitudes** of life, those ups and down,  
you're born naked, but soon  
you're wearing caps and gowns.  
Time flows in like waves, **undulating**.  
I **bide** my time in this **antechamber**,  
I'm just waiting for a **variance**,  
just a **pittance** would **suffice**  
of the spirit of the times, you know the  
**Zeitgeist**.

**Mutability** is the property that allows an  
**entity** to change just what it's going to be.  
If you follow me we could travel **surrepti-**  
**tiously**, don't believe me?  
Read my **physiognomy**, check my face.  
When it comes to choosing  
with whom you want to be,

mercurial (adj.) - quick and changeable in  
temperament

protean (adj.) - readily taking on various  
shapes or forms

malleable (adj.) - easily shaped or formed

gape (v.) - to open the mouth and stare stu-  
pidly

rectify (v.) - to set right, correct

recalibrate (v.) - to readjust or make correc-  
tions to

amend (v.) - to change for the better, improve

redress (v.) - to set right or remedy

vicissitudes (n.) - the unexpected changes and  
shifts often encountered in one's life

undulate (v.) - to move in a smooth wavelike  
motion

bide (v.) - to wait, or remain in a condition

antechamber (n.) - a waiting room

variance (n.) - a difference between what is  
expected and what actually occurs

pittance (n.) - a very small amount

suffice (v.) - to meet needs

Zeitgeist (n.) - the spirit of the time

mutability (n.) - capability of change

entity (n.) - something that exists as a discrete unit

surreptitious (adj.) - done by stealthy means,  
clandestine

physiognomy (n.) - the art of judging human  
character from facial features

never mix **misogyny** with your **monogamy**.  
I don't know, but I imagine that **polygamy**  
for those who practice it could get  
kind of messy...

I'd rather be with one person,  
**uniform, unilateral,**  
united, **unique**, exquisite and un-paralleled.  
If I were negligent with my rhymes,  
you'd think I was **remiss**,  
but I never was remiss with my missus.  
I **relish** her flavor, it's what I love to **savor**,  
my love doesn't **vacillate** neither does it waver.  
It's **invariable**, constant and **immutable**,  
no permutation is suitable. I'm **dutiful**,  
fulfilling obligations, 'cause I am obliged  
to open up my eyes, and gaze at the sky,  
...it's quite beautiful.

misogyny (n.) - hatred of women  
monogamy (n.) - having only one spouse at  
a time

polygamy (n.) - having more than one  
spouse at a time

uniform (adj.) - unvarying, conforming to  
one principle

unilateral (adj.) - having only one side

unique (adj.) - being the only one of its kind

remiss (adj.) - negligent, exhibiting carelessness

relish (v.) - to take zestful pleasure in, enjoy  
the flavor of

savor (v.) - to appreciate fully, enjoy

vacillate (v.) - to sway from one side to  
another

invariable (adj.) - not susceptible to change

immutable (adj.) - not susceptible to change

dutiful (adj.) - careful to fulfill obligations

### Exercises

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Espy _____          | A. Negligent   |
| 2. Capricious _____    | B. Clandestine |
| 3. Bide _____          | C. Glimpse     |
| 4. Remiss _____        | D. Increase    |
| 5. Savor _____         | E. Enjoy       |
| 6. Aberration _____    | F. Waiver      |
| 7. Surreptitious _____ | G. Whimsical   |
| 8. Vacillate _____     | H. Wait        |
| 9. Immutable _____     | I. Deviation   |
| 10. Augment _____      | J. Invariable  |

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. The crowd stood \_\_\_\_\_ as the famous celebrity unbuckled his belt and mooned everyone.

- (A) Aghast
- (B) Tarnished
- (C) Adept
- (D) Bloated
- (E) Adamant

2. Though he started with nearly \$200, after shopping for a turntable and some records, Pablo's funds had \_\_\_\_\_ to five or six dollars.

- (A) Merged
- (B) Burnished
- (C) Diminished
- (D) Admonished
- (E) Forged

3. Despite constant criticism, the president remained \_\_\_\_\_ in her policy of taking every other Tuesday off.

- (A) Random
- (B) Steadfast
- (C) Inquisitive
- (D) Perfect
- (E) Munificent

4. The scary moment is not when you hear the thunder itself; it's the \_\_\_\_\_ between the lightning and the sound of the thunder that is so frightening.

- (A) Munificence
- (B) Lull
- (C) Encore
- (D) Touchdown
- (E) Collusion

5. "So I'm moody and unpredictable!" the gnome told his friend. "Gnomes are supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_!"
- (A) Diminutive
  - (B) Pale
  - (C) Emollient
  - (D) Excellent
  - (E) Mercurial
6. One of the most frightening monsters of cinema history is the \_\_\_\_\_ Terminator 2, who could melt into the floor or disguise himself as a carton of milk.
- (A) Protean
  - (B) Inimical
  - (C) Punctilious
  - (D) Affable
  - (E) Gregarious
7. What better embodies the current \_\_\_\_\_ than a couple walking in the park hand-in-hand, each one talking on a cell phone to a different person.
- (A) Hurdle
  - (B) Zeitgeist
  - (C) Linchpin
  - (D) Inclination
  - (E) Harmony
8. The theory of evolution posits that over time most species demonstrate remarkable \_\_\_\_\_ when faced with the threat of extinction.
- (A) Hubris
  - (B) Forage
  - (C) Scarcity
  - (D) Susceptibility
  - (E) Mutability

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

9. Many 19<sup>th</sup> Century novelists studied the science of \_\_\_\_\_ and subsequently gave all of their villains crooked noses or warts.

- (A) Physiognomy
- (B) Philosophy
- (C) Sodomy
- (D) Psychiatry
- (E) Botany

10. The new waiter \_\_\_\_\_ polished the silverware as his boss had instructed him to do.

- (A) Soothingly
- (B) Movingly
- (C) Coyly
- (D) Dutifully
- (E) Callously

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

Abraham Lincoln was not a politician so much as he was a person of strong morals who happened to hold a political office. He remained steadfast in his beliefs, even in the face of harsh criticism and threats. Amid a time of such upheaval and flux, with a civil war beginning and slavery tearing the nation apart, Lincoln wasn't fickle, didn't fluctuate in his opinions or vacillate between different positions. In fact, it was this unwavering strength that allowed him to attempt to rectify the terrible slavery situation in America. But Lincoln's death prevented him from finishing the job he started, and his successors never kept Lincoln's promise to give every former slave forty acres of land and a mule in an attempt to redress and make amends for the evils of slavery

1. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Abraham Lincoln was America's greatest president.
- (B) Abraham Lincoln contributed to the end of slavery.
- (C) Abraham Lincoln was a man of unflinching beliefs.
- (D) The promises of Abraham Lincoln were only realized much later.
- (E) Without the help of the army, Lincoln wouldn't have accomplished much.

2. Which of the following was *not* a reason that Lincoln succeeded in helping to end slavery?

- (A) He was wise.
- (B) He was a man of strong moral values.
- (C) He was steadfast.
- (D) He didn't waiver in the face of threats.
- (E) He didn't change his position on issues.

**Word Bank**

Salient

Sybarite

Voluptuary

Hedonist

Immaculate

Deluge

Inclination

Propensity

Tantamount

Incredulous

Novel

Deleterious

Frenetic

Grotto

Irascible

Malaise

Modicum

Neonate

Ominous

Portentous

Presage

Premonition

Volition

Predestination

Prestidigitation

Tenuous

Obfuscate

Purport

Feign

Vim

Vigor

Veracious

Erroneous

Fallacious

Histrionic

Melodramatic

Dearth

Rife

Luminescence

Lithe

Limber

Pique

Peregrinate

Innate

Penchant

Rustic

Morose

Mollify

It's true my most **salient** characteristic,  
 my most notable trait is that I love to kick it.  
 I'm a **sybarite** all right  
 my life's devoted to pleasure.  
 I'm a **voluptuary**,  
 the seven senses are my treasure.  
 I'm from a great long line of **hedonists**,  
 those who seek pleasure,  
 lick wine from lips,  
 so when I see a sky so blue and **immaculate**,  
 spotless, perfect, I give thanks for it.  
 I don't want to spend that day  
 locked up in a classroom,  
 unless it's a mad storm, a **deluge**  
 or monsoon.  
 I have a natural **inclination**,  
 a **propensity** to be free,  
 I'm running through the fields and the trees.  
 I'm so sick of florescent lights,  
 it's **tantamount** to being actually sick.  
 I told that to my doctor but he didn't buy it,  
 he was **incredulous**, a non-believer,  
 even though I was running a 101 fever.  
*"That's a **novel** problem."*  
 I said, *"a problem with a book?"*  
 He said, *"a problem that's new  
 so let me take another look."*  
 Leaves me shook, not to see the sun  
 is **deleterious**,  
 it causes injury and it leaves me delirious.  
 After six hours in a room I get  
 frantic and **frenetic**,  
 I get freakier than circus freaks  
 and I start to panic.  
 In a **grotto** or a cave I always misbehave,  
 I'm hot-tempered and **irascible**  
 when I'm at a rave.

salient (adj.) - significant, conspicuous

sybarite (n.) - someone devoted to pleasure  
 and luxury, a voluptuary

voluptuary (n.) - someone devoted to senso-  
 ry pleasure and luxury, a sybarite

hedonist (n.) - one whose primary pursuit is  
 pleasure

immaculate (adj.) - impeccably clean, spot-  
 less, pure

deluge (n.) - a great flood or something that  
 overwhelms like a flood

inclination (n.) - a tendency, propensity

propensity (n.) - an inclination, preference

tantamount (adj.) - equivalent in value or  
 significance

incredulous (adj.) - skeptical, disbelieving

novel (adj.) - strikingly new, unusual, or dif-  
 ferent

deleterious (adj.) - harmful

frenetic (adj.) - frenzied, hectic, frantic

grotto (n.) - a small cave or cavern

irascible (adj.) - easily angered

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

*I can't think when the sun's shining bright outside...*

Doctor, I feel some kind of **malaise**,  
a general unease and my mind's in a haze.  
I'm so sure,

I don't have a **modicum** of a doubt  
that I'm too sick to leave this bed  
and go up out.

I feel like a newborn infant, a **neonate**,  
the world looks new, and I don't feel great.  
I'm having some **olfactory** problems  
with my sense of smell.

Everything smells like waffles  
and I'm tense as well.

I think I've got a fracture in my **fortitude**,  
I think my courage is breaking,  
and I'm not faking.

I also think it's kind of **ominous**,  
a **portentous** sign that every time  
I try to rhyme my eyes start crying.

I have this **presage**, a future-thought,  
a **premonition** that by two weeks from  
Friday I'll be no longer living,  
dead in the kitchen, keys in the ammunition.

My doctor said, "If you die  
it's your own **volition**."

You can exercise your free will,  
it's not **predestination**,  
and if it seems so it's just a **prestidigitation**,  
just a trick, just a sleight of God's big hands.  
It's just a **tenuous** argument  
with no substance.

You're **obfuscating** the discussion,"  
my doctor said,  
"You're adding irrelevant facts

malaise (n.) - a vague feeling of discomfort

modicum (n.) - a small amount of something

neonate (n.) - a newborn infant

olfactory (adj.) - relating to the sense of  
smell

fortitude (n.) - strength, bravery

ominous (adj.) - foreboding or foreshadow-  
ing evil, portentous

portentous (adj.) - foreboding or foreshad-  
owing evil, ominous

presage (n.) - an omen

premonition (n.) - a presentiment of the  
future

volition (n.) - a conscious choice or decision

predestination (n.) - the concept of destiny  
or fate

prestidigitation (n.) - a sleight of hand

tenuous (adj.) - having little substance or  
strength

obfuscate (v.) - to render incomprehensible

to screw up my head.

You **purport** to be sick,  
you claim that you're ill,  
but you're **feigning**, faking  
and that's the real deal."

*I can't think when the sun's shining bright  
outside...*

Now typically, doctor,  
I'm full of **vim** and **vigor**,  
Now I feel hung over, but I drank no liquor.  
Would it be a little quicker if you just stop  
all the talk, doc, call the paramedics or cops.  
I'm being honest, I tell you,  
I'm being **veracious**,  
I'm not lying, it's not **erroneous**  
and not **fallacious**.  
You know I don't engage in **histrionics**,  
I'm not **melodramatic** and I don't throw fits.  
I'm not a **fabulist**, these here are no fables,  
I flow on turntables, I scoop with no ladles.  
I just want to get better,  
want some **convalescence**,  
want to escape from schools  
and the basements.  
There's a **dearth** of sunlight in my daily life.  
I want the days of farmer  
'cause his days must be **rife** with sunlight,  
full of **luminescence** and brightness.  
I become **lithe** and **limber** in the sun  
there's no tightness.  
You pull down those shades  
you **pique** my anger, you prick my finger,  
you start up the danger.  
I travel on foot so I **peregrinate**.

purport (v.) - to present an intention that is  
often false

feign (v.) - to fake or pretend to

vim (n.) - vitality and energy, vigor

vigor (n.) - vitality and energy, vim

veracious (adj.) - honest, truthful

erroneous (adj.) - mistaken, incorrect

fallacious (adj.) - incorrect, misleading

histrionic (adj.) - excessively dramatic or emo-  
tional

melodramatic (adj.) - exaggeratedly emotional  
or sentimental; histrionic

fabulist (n.) - a teller of fables; a liar

convalescence (n.) - the gradual return to  
health after illness

dearth (n.) - a lack, scarcity

rife (adj.) - abundant

luminescence (n.) - light from non-thermal  
sources

lithe (adj.) - graceful, flexible, supple

limber (adj.) - bending or flexing readily, pliable

pique (v.) - to provoke or to cause indignation

peregrinate (v.) - to travel from place to place  
on foot

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

My love of nature's natural so it's **innate**.

I have a **penchant** for **rustic** walks  
up and down the coast.

When I can't take a walk

I get gloomy and **morose**.

The only way that I could be **mollified**

or appeased, is to tear the roofs  
off the schools and let us all free.

*I can't think when the sun's shining bright  
outside...*

innate (adj.) - inborn, native, inherent

penchant (n.) - a tendency, partiality, preference

rustic (adj.) - relating to country life

morose (adj.) - gloomy or sullen

mollify (v.) - to soften in temper

### Exercises

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Voluptuary _____       | A. Limber          |
| 2. Deluge _____           | B. Cavern          |
| 3. Grotto _____           | C. Truthful        |
| 4. Presage _____          | D. Sybarite        |
| 5. Fortitude _____        | E. Sleight-of-hand |
| 6. Prestidigitation _____ | F. Courage         |
| 7. Vim _____              | G. Dramatic        |
| 8. Veracious _____        | H. Vigor           |
| 9. Histrionic _____       | I. Flood           |
| 10. Lithe _____           | J. Omen            |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. One of the \_\_\_\_\_ differences between Derek and Nate is that Derek is completely bald.

- A) Discordant
- B) Defiant
- C) Ambiguous
- D) Salient
- E) Distorted

2. Long hours at the bowling alley after school had a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ effect on Suparna's schoolwork.

- A) Amicable
- B) Skeptical
- C) Deleterious
- D) Innocuous
- E) Jovial

3. It only took a few negative words before Julio, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ old cowboy, would start looking for a fight.

- A) Endangered
- B) Serene
- C) Irascible
- D) Erudite
- E) Elated

4. Crotchety old Pierre didn't even feel a \_\_\_\_\_ of happiness when he learned that his neighbor had a new baby.

- A) Discrepancy
- B) Facade
- C) Doubt
- D) Rejection
- E) Modicum

5. The looming thunderclouds certainly looked \_\_\_\_\_, especially for the TV meteorologist who had predicted sun all afternoon.

- A) Dubious
- B) Topographic
- C) Ominous
- D) Bovine
- E) Inviting

## FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

6. The plumber, who believed seriously in \_\_\_\_\_, thought that God had hand picked him to fix people's toilets.

- A) Hegemony
- B) Predestination
- C) Pulchritude
- D) Pathology
- E) Superstition

7. Since Claire couldn't remember the statistics to back up her point, her argument remained \_\_\_\_\_ at best.

- A) Superfluous
- B) Obsolete
- C) Tenuous
- D) Tacit
- E) Flawless

8. He stayed up half the night reading, but whenever his father came by, Tyrone quickly turned off his light and \_\_\_\_\_ sleep.

- A) Feigned
- B) Obfuscated
- C) Relished
- D) Absconded
- E) Loathed

9. He loved to \_\_\_\_\_, and made sure to walk from Philadelphia to New York City at least twice a year.

- A) Cavort
- B) Peregrinate
- C) Innovate
- D) Sojourn
- E) Wonder

10. Rob liked all music, but he had a particular \_\_\_\_\_ for the mariachi guitar.

- A) Sagacity
- B) Umbrage
- C) Indignation
- D) Acumen
- E) Penchant

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

A recent study purported that lack of daily exposure to sunlight is the leading cause of malaise among teenagers. The study quoted scores of students who argued that despite their innate propensity to be outside when it is sunny, many of their teachers not only kept them inside but even closed the blinds on these sunny days. One student noted, "I'm not hedonistic, but I need a little sun on my face." He demonstrated the deleterious effects of lack of sunlight by lifting his shirt and showing off his sickly, pallid abdomen.

1. According to the recent study, students feel sick due to:

- (A) Boredom after school.
- (B) An overabundance of daily sunlight.
- (C) The amalgamation of sunlight and breezes.
- (D) A dearth of exposure to sunlight.
- (E) The fact that they are hedonists.

2. The word "innate" in the passage above most closely means:

- (A) Natural
- (B) Strong
- (C) Lackluster
- (D) Overwhelming
- (E) Dutiful

## PIECE OF THE PIE - 42 WORDS

### Word Bank

Firmament

Trite

Cliché

Reiterate

Permeate

Pervasive

Existential

Sedentary

Tranquil

Labyrinthine

Boisterous

Manifold

Conduit

Vocation

Vicariously

Familial

Aggregate

Exemplary

Ambivalent

Vacillate

Amorous

Amorphous

Nebulous

Abort

Placid

Repose

Revel

Salutation

Sordid

Repulse

Licentious

Judicious

Stupefied

Pithy

Empathetic

Sympathetic

Sympathy

Empathy

Inundate

Rife

Strife

Every piece of the pie of life is me,  
 from the love songs and trees, to the SUVs.  
 Find the roots the connect you  
 to every living thing,  
 like a link from your pinky  
 to all the dead kings.

O brave o'er hanging **firmament**,  
 O majestic roof, you're much more than  
 the vapors that make up you.  
 It might be a **trite cliché**,  
 that doesn't mean that it's dumb,  
 every atom in all of us was once in the sun.  
 I'll **reiterate** it, repeat it, in case it snuck by,  
 every piece of you is made out of the sky.  
 If my love spreads out and  
**permeates** the globe,  
 then the feeling is **pervasive**,  
 everywhere you go.  
 To be or not to be, that is the question,  
 it's **existential** 'cause it has  
 to do with existence.  
 I'm **sedentary** right now,  
 sitting by this window,  
 meditating, feeling calm, feeling **tranquil**.  
 This world is **labyrinthine** curvy like a  
 snake and I'm trying to decide which path  
 to take  
 or if I even have a choice.  
 I make noise and act **boisterous**  
 just to raise my voice, like a chorus,  
 as **manifold** people have before us.

Every piece of the pie of life is me,

firmament (n.) - the sky, the heavens

trite (adj.) - overused, hackneyed

cliché (n.) - a trite, overused expression

reiterate (v.) - to repeat

permeate (v.) - to spread out, to pervade

pervasive (adj.) - inclined to spread through-  
 out

existential (adj.) - relating to existence

sedentary (adj.) - sitting

tranquil (adj.) - calm, serene, peaceful

labyrinthine (adj.) - intricate, maze-like

boisterous (adj.) - loud, energetic

manifold (adj.) - many

# FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

from the love songs and trees, to the SUVs.  
Find the roots the connect you  
to every living thing,  
like a link from your pinky  
to all the dead kings.

I hope this song is a **conduit**  
between you and me,  
like a pipeline of tight  
rhymes and communication.  
We listen for the ring of our calling,  
our **vocation**, I'm too far in the mountains,  
and I get no reception.

I please my mother, don't live life  
through deeds of others,  
**vicariously** through actions  
of sisters and brothers.

**Familial** like mothers and daughters,  
fathers to sons, we **aggregate** and gather  
like pigeons around breadcrumbs.

I'd like to be the best example of me,  
**exemplary**, why do I act  
superficial and petty?

I'm **ambivalent** towards how I feel to  
the Earth, I love it and hate it,  
I've **vacillated**, back and forth.

My **amorous** feelings of love towards the world  
are **amorphous**, **nebulous**,  
with no shape or borders.

I won't **abort** give up this life,  
no matter how ill I feel,  
'cause love turns like a wheel.

Every piece of the pie of life is me,  
from the love songs and trees, to the SUVs.

conduit (n.) - a pipe, passage, channel

vocation (n.) - one's work or professional  
calling

vicarious (adj.) - experienced through another's  
actions

familial (adj.) - relating to family

aggregate (v.) - to gather, amass

exemplary (adj.) - serving as an example

ambivalent (adj.) - having contradictory feelings

vacillate (v.) - to go back and forth, fluctuate

amorous (adj.) - relating to or showing love

amorphous (adj.) - without shape or borders

nebulous (adj.) - indistinct, hazy

abort (v.) - to give up unfinished

Find the roots that connect you  
to every living thing,  
like a link from your pinky  
to all the dead kings.

The **placid**, calm surface of a  
puddle in the morning,  
or the rest and **repose** that you  
get when you're snoring,  
I **revel** in the early-morning  
sun on my forehead, like a **salutation** or  
greeting from life, however **sordid**  
or dirty I might see shanty towns on the TV,  
I might see people act in a way that  
**repulses** me, disgusts me.  
People who don't have  
morals act **licentiously**.  
If they'd just think first,  
they'd act **judiciously**.  
Sometimes I open my eyes,  
I'm astounded and **stupefied**,  
by the way some of these folks  
are living their lives.  
I guess Kweli was right with his **pithy**  
insight; we're all just hustling  
and bustling to get by.  
When I can relate to how you feel,  
I feel **empathetic**.  
When I feel bad for you, I feel **sympathetic**.  
I have **sympathy** for those who  
don't have toes, my three-toed gramps  
had **empathy** for those folks.  
I **inundate** and flood every part of my life,  
'till it's **rife** and filled with love  
to overcome the **strife**.

placid (adj.) - calm, tranquil

repose (n.) - rest, sleep

revel (v.) - to enjoy

salutation (n.) - a greeting

sordid (adj.) - dirty

repulse (v.) - to cause disgust or distaste, or  
to drive back, repel

licentious (adj.) - amoral, lawless, lewd

judicious (adj.) - of sound judgment

stupefy (v.) - to astound

pithy (adj.) - succinctly meaningful

empathetic (adj.) - feeling another's pain as  
one's own

sympathetic (adj.) - compassionate

sympathy (n.) - an expression of pity for  
another, compassion

empathy (n.) - the experience of another's  
feelings as one's own

inundate (v.) - to flood

rife (adj.) - full, replete

strife (n.) - conflict

# FLOCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

I drew my bath, now I'll sit in it,  
every coin has an infinite number of sides,  
keep flippin' it...

## Exercises

**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Reiterate _____  | A. Replete    |
| 2. Tranquil _____   | B. Lewd       |
| 3. Repose _____     | C. Rest       |
| 4. Repulse _____    | D. Calm       |
| 5. Licentious _____ | E. Flood      |
| 6. Stupefied _____  | F. Conflict   |
| 7. Rife _____       | G. Compassion |
| 8. Strife _____     | H. Repeat     |
| 9. Sympathy _____   | I. Disgust    |
| 10. Inundate _____  | J. Astounded  |

**Sentence Completions:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. The smell of sizzling bacon \_\_\_\_\_ the house on Sunday mornings, reaching my nose even when I was in the third-floor bedroom.
- A) Captivated
  - B) Ameliorated
  - C) Permeated
  - D) Masticated
  - E) Nauseated

2. Despite the many losses they had suffered, there was a \_\_\_\_\_ feeling of triumph and togetherness throughout the locker room.

- A) Juvenile
- B) Superfluous
- C) Tenuous
- D) Placid
- E) Pervasive

3. Mr. Piat had one of those \_\_\_\_\_ chuckles that brought a smile to everyone's face and that could be heard from across the street.

- A) Boisterous
- B) Tranquil
- C) Intrepid
- D) Sensual
- E) Serene

4. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ about a lot of things; Coke vs. Pepsi, MTV vs. Vh1, Baseball vs. Football, I really can't decide.

- A) Sagacious
- B) Ambivalent
- C) Steadfast
- D) Immutable
- E) Invariable

5. While Emily and Pedro were just buddies in Middle School, \_\_\_\_\_ feelings definitely began to blossom at the High School dances.

- A) Inimical
- B) Gregarious
- C) Amicable
- D) Pugnacious
- E) Amorous

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

6. “\_\_\_\_\_ the mission,” I screamed dramatically as our sled spun out of control toward a massive snow drift.

- A) Abort
- B) Espouse
- C) Despise
- D) Parlay
- E) Find

7. The sea was \_\_\_\_\_, like glass, as we headed out to pick up our lobster traps at 5:00 AM.

- A) Turbulent
- B) Agitated
- C) Placid
- D) Aquatic
- E) Fathomable

8. “Greetings and \_\_\_\_\_,” proclaimed the small Martian as he strolled down the gangway of his flying saucer to greet us cordially.

- A) Maledictions
- B) Salutations
- C) Hexes
- D) Benedictions
- E) Orations

9. I was downright \_\_\_\_\_ by the astounding scale of the Grand Canyon; it was more gigantic than I ever could have dreamed.

- A) Mollified
- B) Satisfied
- C) Perplexed
- D) Stupefied
- E) Vexed

10. I have incredible \_\_\_\_\_ for those with sports injuries; I busted my knee in a tetherball tournament back in '69.

- A) Sympathy
- B) Disdain
- C) Gratefulness
- D) Leniency
- E) Empathy

**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

Sedentary below a sycamore tree, Noa squinted her eyes and tilted her head back to gaze at the bright-blue firmament. A pervasive feeling of utter tranquility swept over her suddenly, and she sighed. Amorphous images of past loves, nebulous forms like souls without bodies aggregated before her mind's eye and she reveled in their presence. Reposing under this ancient tree, Noa was overcome by the placidity of life, by the relaxed existential reality of most objects: rocks, trees, the wind. How labyrinthine are the paths that guide us through this world! How amazing!

1. The narrator in the passage above is:

- (A) Unaware of Noa's thoughts.
- (B) Vaguely aware of Noa's thoughts.
- (C) Analytical towards Noa's thoughts.
- (D) Keenly aware of Noa's thoughts.
- (E) More interested in his own thoughts than in Noa's thoughts.

2. The phrase "relaxed existential reality" in the passage above most probably describes:

- (A) The way it's so easy to relax when you are in nature.
- (B) The way that objects are unaware of the bustle of human existence.
- (C) The way that nature will always prevail.
- (D) The way that people and nature are exactly the same on some level.
- (E) The way that people fall asleep at night.

## IT'S ALL MATHEMATICS - BONUS TRACK

*It's all mathematics.*

*We add like addicts.*

*We subtract like taxes,*

*multiply like rabbits.*

*We divide like axes.*

*It's all mathematics.*

Now a **Polygon** is a shape,  
with a bunch of sides  
you can't make a polygon out of just two lines.

If you got sides of the same length,

then you know it's on,

what you're dealing with there is

a **Regular Polygon**.

**Triangle** three sides,

three sides to every story in a love triangle,

I'd suggest you don't tangle.

**Quadrilateral** has four sides,

the stage might have four sides

it's proof that the stage show's live.

**Pentagon** has five sides,

my eyes staring at the **Pentacle**,

the five pointed star inside.

Now it's a sextet standing

in **Hexagon** formation,

six people, six sides, mix stays live.

**Heptagon** is the one that everyone forgets,

seven sides, seven sins, so don't ever forget,

ruled by the **Heptarchy**,

the seven person government,

the fun of it is that I joined so now

eight people running it.

**Octagon** with eight sides,

Octopus with eight tentacles,

octane gas has eight molecules.

Nona means nine,

Strega Nona dressed to the nines.

The **Nonagon's** a polygon with nine sides.

**Decimate** comes from killing one in every ten.

Now it means to destroy or kill all of them.

A **Decagon** has ten sides,

**Decimal's** a tenth-part,

**Decimeter** ten yards,

listen now the hook's gonna start...

*It's all mathematics.*

*We add like addicts.*

*We subtract like taxes*

*We multiply like rabbits.*

*We divide like axes*

*It's all mathematics.*

**Congruent** is equal, like the  
congregation under the steeple,  
cause no matter your religion  
all people are equal.

**Equidistant** is equally distant, equally close,  
the Pacific is adjacent to the West Coast.

**Perpendicular** is two lines that  
form ninety degrees,

So they look like X's, crossbones and T's.

**Parallel** is two lines that will not cross,  
no matter how far they travel across  
the universe.

A **Plane** is 2-D, flatter than sheets  
and definitely, when I say 2-D

I mean flatter than concrete.

Painting pictures, on this

geometric journey, I'm your mentor.  
In a **Circle** every point  
is equidistant from the center.  
So if we both eat the same donut  
at the same time,  
and you start on your side and I start on mine,  
we'll each eat through the **Radius**, to the  
center where we get a Lady and Tramp kiss.  
The distance from one side,  
through the middle to the other side  
is the **Diameter**, so never say die.  
**Perimeter**, distance around a  
circle is  $2\pi R$ .  
**Area** is  $\pi R^2$ , how much space is in  
there, do you care? Well I sure hope you do  
or I'll be eating pancakes,  
and you'll be eating Froot-Loops.

*It's all mathematics.*

*We add like addicts.*

*We subtract like taxes*

*We multiply like rabbits.*

*We divide like axes*

*It's all mathematics.*



## FREESTYLES & METAPHORS

### Freestyling

Freestyling is spitting words off the top of your head in real time. No rehearsal. No do-overs. Just off-the-top-of-your-dome lyrics to impress your girl or boy and keep your friends' heads bobbing. It is an art form of lucidity, feats of wordplay and occasional, painful, mistakes. Here are a few things to keep in mind if you're looking to work on your freestyling.

\* **Listen to good hip-hop.** One of the best ways to learn how to spit is to listen to the pros. Listen to the rhymes, write out the lyrics, rap along. Mos Def once promised that, "I spit lyrics so visual you can rent my rhyme books at your nearest home-video." We haven't found that store yet, but they do have his albums at the local library. Check out [allmusic.com](http://allmusic.com) for great music info, and the Original Hip-Hop Lyrics Archive - [ohhla.com](http://ohhla.com) - for the lyrics of all your favorite artists.

\* **Practice.** Practice. Even Big Boi sounded bad when he started. If you're just starting, you're probably going to sound bad too. Just keep spitting! Spit during commercials, under bridges and over breakfast. Flow in the shower, in your car, running around, with your friends. Rap over downloaded beats, instrumental tracks on CD's, or just over a song on the radio: blues, jazz, classical, hip-hop, whatever. Rap yourself to sleep at night.

\* **Rhyme.** Start out easy, using "Doctor Seuss" vocabulary, and focus on rhyming. Work your way up to bigger words. As you practice you'll start to memorize rhyming pairs that you like, which you can use again and again. Some over-done examples are: *devil/level*, *college/knowledge*, *making/bacon*, *hip-hop/tip-top*, etc... You'll come up with your own favorites. I knew a sick emcee in Florence who liked to rhyme the word *hurtles* with *ninja turtles*.

\* **Finish the line.** The real key to freestyling is to figure out in your mind what word you are going to end your first line with as soon as possible. As soon as you know this word, your mind should start racing to think up a word that rhymes (and is maybe somehow related) that you can use at the end of the next line. This is tricky, because even as you're spitting you need to be thinking about the cleverest, hardest, or most beautiful way to get to that word. For

example, if you know that your first line is going to end with the word *flapjacks*, your mind should start choosing a rhyme even *before* you say *flapjacks*. Rhyme lists should quickly run through your head: *map tax, chapsticks, packrats, backpacks*. By the time you get to *flapjacks*, your second line should roll off your tongue like your last name.

*It's outrageous, the way I flip the script like flap-jacks,  
You're trying to catch a free ride on my shoulders like a backpack.*

## Metaphors and Vocabulary in Hip-Hop

What we're doing with Flocabulary is novel, but it's also intimately connected with the evolving tradition of hip-hop music, which has always featured interesting wordplay, innovative metaphors, double-entendres and examples of difficult vocabulary. Here are our top ten lists of great use of creative metaphors and of vocabulary. To add your own favorite to our online list, please go to:

**[www.flocabulary.com/hiphop](http://www.flocabulary.com/hiphop).**

## Our Nine Favorite Uses of Creative Metaphors and Similes

9. "See, I drop the greats **like** clumsy waiters drop plates  
I got rhymes by the crates to erase the duplicates."

- **Mr. Man** on *Fortified Live*, [Fortified Live](#)

8. "RRRRROAW RRRROAW **like** a dungeon dragon,  
change your little drawers because your pants are saggin'."

- **Busta Rhymes** on *Scenario*, [Low End Theory](#)

7. "Coming from the deep black **like** the Loch Ness,  
now bring apocalypse **like** the Heart of Darkness"

- **Talib Kweli** on *We Got the Beat*, [The Beautiful Struggle](#)

6. "**Like** Slick Rick the Ruler I'm cooler than a ice brick,  
got soul **like** those afro picks, with the black fist,  
and leave a crowd dripping **like** John the Baptist,"

- **Black Thought** on *Mellow My Man*, [Do You Want More?!?!?!?](#)

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

5. "I'm cooler **than** a polar bear's toenails...  
bend corners **like** I was a curve, I struck a nerve,"  
- **Big Boi** on *Atlans*, [Atlans](#)
4. "Me without a mic is **like** a beat without a snare...  
I'm sweet **like** licorice, dangerous **like** syphilis."  
- **Lauryn Hill** on *How many mics*, [The Score](#)
3. "I come fresh **like** your breath after you brush,  
wack Mc's **like** that orange soda get crushed,"  
- **Fatlip** on *Pharcyde*, [LabcabinCalifornia](#)
2. "Throwing out the wicked **like** God did the devil,  
funky **like** your grandpa's drawers, don't test me,  
we're in like that, you're dead **like** Presley,"  
- **Q-Tip** on *Steve Biko*, [Midnight Marauders](#)
1. "My rhymes are **like** shot clocks,  
interstate cops and blood clots,  
my point is your flow gets stopped."  
- **Talib Kweli** on *Hater Players*, [Mos Def and Talib Kweli Are Blackstar](#)

### Our Ten Favorite Uses of Big Vocabulary

10. "My rep grows like the nose of Pinocchio,  
Just because I've mastered the art of **braggadocio**."  
- **Akrobatik** on *U Can't..*, [The Lost Adats](#)
9. "I gaze into the sky and measure planets by **parallax**,  
check out the **retrograde** motion..."  
- **Wyclef Jean** on *Zealots*, [The Score](#)
8. "I'm known for causing **spontaneous combustion**,  
constantly jumping through **miscellaneous** subjects,"  
- **Roscoe** on *What I Look Like*, [Young Roscoe Philaphornia](#)

## FREESTYLES & METAPHORS

7. "Holding my raps, Olden is golden and black,  
**extolling** virtues of rap, with monkeys riding my back,"  
- **K-Os** on *Emcee Murdah*, Joyful Rebellion
6. "Dreams of **euphoria**, **aurora**, to another galaxy,  
**fallacy**, be this microphone, but get lifted, lyrically I'm gifted."  
- **Lauryn Hill** on *The Score*, The Score
5. "Wes Jackson had the vision, and brought it to **fruition**  
with a little hard work, **perseverance** and **intuition**,"  
- **Aheru** on *Soon Come*, Soon Come...
4. "Phased from your original plan, you **deviated**,  
I **alleviated** the pain, with a long-term goal."  
- **Pharoahe Monch** on *Simon Says*, Internal Affairs
3. "We don't sell dope that you distribute,  
we don't contribute to your **clandestine** activity,  
my **soliloquy** may be hard for some to swallow."  
- **Andre (3000)** on *Wheelz of Steal*, ATLiens
2. "Claiming that you've got a new style, your attempts are **futile**,  
ooh child, your **puerile** brain waves are **sterile**."  
- **Lauryn Hill** on *How Many Mics*, The Score
1. "You stopping us is **preposterous** like an **androgynous misogynist**,  
you picking the wrong time, stepping to me when I'm in my prime  
like Optimus, Transforming..."  
- **Talib Kweli** on *Twice Inna Lifetime*, Mos Def and Talib Kweli Are Blackstar



# ANSWER KEY

## Transformation

### Synonym Matching

1. B
2. F
3. I
4. E
5. A
6. J
7. H
8. G
9. C
10. D

### Sentence Completions

1. E
2. C
3. E
4. C
5. E
6. B
7. D
8. A
9. C
10. B

### Reading Comprehension

1. D
2. B

## Shakespeare is Hip-Hop

### Synonym Matching

1. H
2. E
3. C
4. F
5. I
6. A
7. J
8. G
9. D
10. B

### Sentence Completions

1. C
2. E
3. A
4. E
5. B
6. C
7. E
8. D
9. E
10. A

### Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. B

## Adventures of Carlito

### Synonym Matching

1. E
2. I
3. A
4. C
5. J
6. F
7. D
8. H
9. B
10. G

### Sentence Completions

1. B
2. D
3. E
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. E
8. B
9. A
10. D

### Reading Comprehension

1. A
2. C

## ANSWER KEY

### Phobia

#### Synonym Matching

1. G
2. H
3. F
4. E
5. J
6. D
7. I
8. C
9. A
10. B

#### Sentence Completions

1. D
2. E
3. D
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. C

#### Reading Comprehension

1. E
2. B

### Friends

#### Synonym Matching

1. I
2. E
3. J
4. A
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. F
9. G
10. H

#### Sentence Completions

1. C
2. E
3. D
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. E
8. A
9. C
10. E

#### Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. D

### FLO + CAB

#### Synonym Matching

1. D
2. F
3. H
4. A
5. I
6. B
7. C
8. J
9. E
10. G

#### Sentence Completions

1. C
2. E
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. B
8. E
9. A
10. B

#### Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. E

## FLOABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

### Myriad Operations

#### Synonym Matching

1. F
2. D
3. G
4. B
5. A
6. C
7. E
8. I
9. J
10. H

#### Sentence Completions

1. B
2. E
3. D
4. C
5. E
6. A
7. D
8. E
9. C
10. B

#### Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. E

### I Do

#### Synonym Matching

1. D
2. A
3. G
4. H
5. J
6. I
7. B
8. E
9. F
10. C

#### Sentence Completions

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. E
5. B
6. A
7. E
8. A
9. C
10. E

#### Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. A

### Flux

#### Synonym Matching

1. C
2. G
3. H
4. A
5. E
6. I
7. B
8. F
9. J
10. D

#### Sentence Completions

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. E
6. A
7. B
8. E
9. A
10. D

#### Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. A

## ANSWER KEY

### Doctor, Doctor

#### Synonym Matching

1. D
2. I
3. B
4. J
5. F
6. E
7. H
8. C
9. G
10. A

#### Sentence Completions

1. D
2. C
3. C
4. E
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. E

#### Reading Comprehension

1. D
2. A

### Piece of the Pie

#### Synonym Matching

1. H
2. D
3. C
4. I
5. B
6. J
7. A
8. F
9. G
10. E

#### Sentence Completions

1. C
2. E
3. A
4. B
5. E
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. D
10. E

#### Reading Comprehension

1. D
2. B

# QUICK REFERENCE DICTIONARY

**abase (v.)** - to lower, demean, degrade

**abate (v.)** - to lessen, to reduce in severity

**abbreviate (v.)** - to shorten, reduce

**abduct (v.)** - to kidnap

**aberration (n.)** - a deviation from the expected course

**abhor (v.)** - to hate, loathe

**abide (v.)** - to put up with, tolerate

**abject (adj.)** - of the most miserable or contemptible kind

**abort (v.)** - to give up unfinished

**abridge (v.)** - to shorten, cut down

**abrogate (v.)** - to abolish, often by authority

**abscond (v.)** - to sneak away and hide

**abundant (adj.)** - in great numbers

**accede (v.)** - to agree

**accentuate (v.)** - to emphasize, to highlight

**accommodating (adj.)** - obliging, helpful

**accost (v.)** - to approach or confront aggressively

**acumen (n.)** - keen insight

**acute (adj.)** - sharp, severe

**affable (adj.)** - friendly, amiable

**affluent (adj.)** - rich, wealthy

**aggrandize (v.)** - to increase or make greater

**aggregate (v.)** - to gather, amass

**aghost (adj.)** - struck by amazement or terror

**agoraphobia (n.)** - an abnormal fear of open or public places

**akimbo (adj.)** - with hands on hips and elbows extending outward

**alacrity (n.)** - speed, readiness

**algid (adj.)** - frigid, cold

**allay (v.)** - to soothe, assuage

**alleviate (v.)** - to relieve

**aloof (adj.)** - reserved, distant

**altercation (n.)** - an argument, dispute

**amalgamation (n.)** - a union, a merger

**ambivalent (adj.)** - having contradictory feelings

**amble (v.)** - to stroll, walk

**ameliorate (v.)** - to improve, to make better

**amend (v.)** - to change for the better, improve

**amiable (adj.)** - friendly, affable

**amorous (adj.)** - relating to or showing love

**amorphous (adj.)** - without shape or borders

**anomaly (n.)** - something that does not fit into the normal order

**antechamber (n.)** - a waiting room

**anxiety (n.)** - uneasiness

**aphorism (n.)** - a short saying

**apocalypse (n.)** - total devastation, the end of the world

**apparitional (adj.)** - ghostly, spectral

**arbitrator (n.)** - one who settles controversy between two sides

**ascetic (n.)** - one who practices restraint as a means of self-discipline, usually religious

**assuage (v.)** - to ease, pacify

**atone (v.)** - to apologize, make amends

**audacious (adj.)** - excessively bold

**augment (v.)** - to increase or make larger

**austere (adj.)** - very bare, bleak, simple

**baleful (adj.)** - harmful, threatening

**bard (n.)** - a poet, often a singer as well

**battery (n.)** - an assault or an array of similar things intended for use together

**belligerent (adj.)** - contentious, ready to fight

**benevolent (adj.)** - kind, good, caring  
**benign (adj.)** - non-threatening, innocuous  
**berate (v.)** - to scold severely  
**bereft (adj.)** - without, devoid of  
**bide (v.)** - to wait, or remain in a condition  
**bilk (v.)** - to cheat, to swindle  
**blandish (v.)** - to coax through flattery  
**bloated (adj.)** - swollen, bigger than desired  
**boisterous (adj.)** - loud, energetic  
**bourgeois (adj.)** - middle class  
**brash (adj.)** - hasty or lacking in sensitivity  
**brazen (adj.)** - excessively bold, brash  
**brumal (adj.)** - wintry, relating to winter  
**brusque (adj.)** - short, abrupt, dismissive  
**buffet (n.)** - a spread of food involving choices  
**buffet (v.)** - to hit or strike  
**burgeon (v.)** - to come forth, blossom  
**cacophony (n.)** - noise, discordant sound  
**cadence (n.)** - rhythm  
**cajole (v.)** - to urge, coax  
**callous (adj.)** - harsh, cold, unfeeling  
**calumny (n.)** - an attempt to defame another's reputation  
**camaraderie (n.)** - cheerful unity among a group  
**canvas (n.)** - a piece of cloth on which an artist paints  
**capricious (adj.)** - impulsive, unpredictable, subject to whim  
**captive (v.)** - to hold the interest of, to gain the attention of  
**carouse (v.)** - to revel, to party  
**cavity (n.)** - a hole  
**cavort (v.)** - to frolic, leap, prance  
**celestial (adj.)** - relating to the sky or the heavens  
**chastise (v.)** - to criticize, to scold

**choreographed (adj.)** - arranged, as in dance  
**circumlocution (n.)** - indirect language  
**circumspect (adj.)** - cautious  
**clairvoyant (adj.)** - able to see things that others cannot  
**claustrophobia (n.)** - an abnormal fear of closed or crowded spaces  
**cliché (n.)** - a trite, overused expression  
**coalesce (v.)** - to combine into one  
**cogent (adj.)** - intelligent, viable  
**collusion (n.)** - a conspiracy, a secret agreement  
**colossus (n.)** - an enormous structure  
**comatose (adj.)** - lethargic  
**commendable (adj.)** - worthy of praise  
**commodious (adj.)** - spacious, roomy  
**compel (v.)** - to force  
**complicit (adj.)** - being an accomplice in a wrongful act  
**compliment (n.)** - an expression of esteem or approval  
**concede (v.)** - to give in, to accept  
**conciliatory (adj.)** - agreeable, friendly  
**concoct (v.)** - to make up or invent  
**concord (n.)** - agreement  
**conduit (n.)** - a pipe, passage, channel  
**confluence (n.)** - a convergence, a coming together  
**confound (v.)** - to frustrate  
**connotation (n.)** - a meaning or association suggested by a word beyond its definition  
**contusion (n.)** - bruise, injury  
**convalescence (n.)** - the gradual return to health after illness  
**copious (adj.)** - abundant, plentiful

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**corpulent (adj.)** - very fat  
**cosmopolitan (adj.)** - worldly, sophisticated  
**credulity (n.)** - readiness to believe  
**cursorly (adj.)** - brief to the point of being superficial  
**daft (adj.)** - insane, foolish  
**daunting (adj.)** - intimidating  
**dearth (n.)** - a lack, scarcity  
**defame (v.)** - to destroy the reputation of  
**deft (adj.)** - skilled, adept  
**defunct (adj.)** - no longer used or existing  
**deleterious (adj.)** - harmful  
**delude (v.)** - to deceive, to mislead  
**deluge (n.)** - a great flood or something that overwhelms like a flood  
**derelict (adj.)** - run-down, abandoned  
**desolate (adj.)** - deserted, lifeless  
**despondent (adj.)** - discouraged, hopeless, depressed  
**destitute (adj.)** - impoverished  
**diaphanous (adj.)** - transparent, light, airy  
**dictate (v.)** - to pronounce, command, prescribe  
**differentiate (v.)** - to distinguish, to make different  
**dilapidated (adj.)** - in a state of disrepair  
**diligent (adj.)** - careful, showing care  
**diminish (v.)** - to decrease or make smaller  
**diminutive (adj.)** - miniature, small  
**discreet (adj.)** - prudent or inconspicuous  
**discrete (adj.)** - separate, distinct, individual  
**disparage (v.)** - to criticize, degrade, belittle  
**dissonance (n.)** - lack of harmony or agreement  
**divergent (adj.)** - different, deviating, contrary  
**diverse (adj.)** - varied  
**divisive (adj.)** - causing conflict, opposition  
**domicile (n.)** - a residence, a home

**doppelganger (n.)** - a ghostly double of a living person  
**douse (v.)** - to drench, saturate  
**dutiful (adj.)** - careful to fulfill obligations  
**dynamic (adj.)** - characterized by continuous change or activity  
**elocution (n.)** - the art of public speaking  
**elucidate (v.)** - to clarify  
**empathetic (adj.)** - feeling another's pain as one's own  
**empathy (n.)** - the experience of another's feelings as one's own  
**enervate (v.)** - to weaken, make weary  
**enervated (adj.)** - lacking energy, weakened, exhausted  
**entity (n.)** - something that exists as a discrete unit  
**entomology (n.)** - the study of insects  
**envious (adj.)** - jealous  
**erect (v.)** - to construct, to raise  
**erroneous (adj.)** - mistaken, incorrect  
**espouse (v.)** - to support, or to marry  
**espy (v.)** - catch sight of, glimpse  
**ethereal (adj.)** - heavenly, exceptionally delicate or refined  
**euphoric (adj.)** - elated, overjoyed  
**exacerbate (v.)** - to make more violent, intense  
**excursion (n.)** - a trip, an outing  
**exemplary (adj.)** - serving as an example  
**exigent (adj.)** - critical, urgent  
**existential (adj.)** - relating to existence  
**exorbitant (adj.)** - excessive  
**extol (v.)** - to praise  
**extravagant (adj.)** - excessive, over-the-top  
**fabricate (v.)** - to invent, make-up, concoct  
**fabulist (n.)** - a teller of fables; a liar

- facile (adj.)** - easy
- fallacious (adj.)** - incorrect, misleading
- familial (adj.)** - relating to family
- fatuous (adj.)** - silly, foolish
- fecund (adj.)** - fertile, fruitful
- feign (v.)** - to fake or pretend to
- feral (adj.)** - savage, wild, untamed
- fetter (v.)** - to restrain, chain, tie
- fey (adj.)** - magical
- fickle (adj.)** - characterized by changeableness, whimsical
- figurative (adj.)** - symbolic
- firmament (n.)** - the sky, the heavens
- flabbergasted (adj.)** - astounded, stupefied
- flaccid (adj.)** - limp
- flattery (n.)** - compliments, sycophancy
- flout (v.)** - to scorn, ignore, show contempt for
- fluctuate (v.)** - to vary irregularly
- flux (n.)** - a state of constant change or a flow
- forage (v.)** - to rummage, scavenge, graze for food
- forestall (v.)** - to delay, impede
- forlorn (adj.)** - lonely, hopeless
- formidable (adj.)** - arousing fear or alarm
- forsake (v.)** - to abandon, forget
- fortify (v.)** - to strengthen
- fortitude (n.)** - strength, bravery
- fortuitous (adj.)** - lucky, occurring by chance
- foster (v.)** - to stimulate, promote, encourage
- frenetic (adj.)** - frenzied, hectic, frantic
- gape (v.)** - to open the mouth and stare stupidly
- gay (adj.)** - happy, cheery, or homosexual
- gluttonous (adj.)** - insatiable in appetite
- goad (v.)** - to urge, to provoke into action
- gourmand (n.)** - one who likes eating and drinking
- grandiose (adj.)** - extraordinary, grand in scope
- gregarious (adj.)** - sociable, outgoing
- grotto (n.)** - a small cave or cavern
- guile (n.)** - deceitful actions or behavior
- hail (v.)** - to come from
- hapless (adj.)** - unlucky
- harmony (n.)** - agreement, often of sound
- harrowing (adj.)** - agonizing, distressing
- hedonist (n.)** - one whose primary pursuit is pleasure
- henchman (n.)** - a trusted follower, goon
- hiatus (n.)** - an interruption in continuity, a break
- hiemal (adj.)** - wintry, relating to winter
- hierarchy (n.)** - a ranking system of groups or individuals
- histrionic (adj.)** - excessively dramatic or emotional
- idolatrous (adj.)** - worshiping excessively an object or person
- illusory (adj.)** - deceptive, produced by an illusion
- immaculate (adj.)** - impeccably clean, spotless, pure
- immutable (adj.)** - not susceptible to change
- impecunious (adj.)** - excessively poor
- impervious (adj.)** - unable to be penetrated, unaffected
- impudent (adj.)** - rude, improper
- incessant (adj.)** - without interruption
- incisive (adj.)** - clear, sharp, direct
- inclement (adj.)** - stormy, bad, severe
- inclination (n.)** - a tendency, propensity
- indictment (n.)** - accusation of wrongdoing
- indignation (n.)** - anger due to an unfair situation
- inextricable (adj.)** - hopelessly confused or tangled

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**infuse (v.)** - to inject

**ingenious (adj.)** - marked by special intelligence

**inimical (adj.)** - hostile, threatening

**iniquity (n.)** - a wicked act, a sin

**innate (adj.)** - inborn, native, inherent

**innocuous (adj.)** - harmless

**inquisitor (n.)** - someone who asks questions or makes an inquiry

**inundate (v.)** - to flood

**invariable (adj.)** - not susceptible to change

**invective (n.)** - a verbal attack

**inveterate (adj.)** - habitual, natural

**irascible (adj.)** - easily angered

**jubilant (adj.)** - joyful, happy

**judicious (adj.)** - of sound judgment

**juvenile (adj.)** - young or immature

**juxtapose (v.)** - to put next to each other

**labyrinthine (adj.)** - intricate, maze-like

**laceration (n.)** - a cut, a rip

**lachrymose (adj.)** - tearful

**latent (adj.)** - present but hidden

**laud (v.)** - to applaud or praise

**laudatory (adj.)** - admiring, praising

**lavish (adj.)** - extravagant

**lethargic (adj.)** - sluggish, weary, apathetic

**lewd (adj.)** - vulgar, offensive, rude

**libel (n.)** - a statement that gives an unjust or unfavorable representation of a person or thing

**licentious (adj.)** - amoral, lawless, lewd

**limber (adj.)** - bending or flexing readily, pliable

**limpid (adj.)** - clear, easily understood

**linchpin (n.)** - something that holds separate things together

**lithe (adj.)** - graceful, flexible, supple

**loquacious (adj.)** - talkative

**lull (n.)** - a relatively calm interval, as in a storm

**luminescence (n.)** - light from non-thermal sources

**magnanimous (adj.)** - generous, noble

**malaise (n.)** - vague feeling of discomfort

**malevolent (adj.)** - having intent to harm others

**malicious (adj.)** - malevolent, harmful

**malign (v.)** - to slander, to smear, to libel, to defame, to speak evil of

**malleable (adj.)** - easily shaped or formed

**mandatory (adj.)** - required, not optional

**manifest (v.)** - to show clearly

**manifold (adj.)** - many

**masticate (v.)** - to chew

**matrimony (n.)** - marriage

**maudlin (adj.)** - sentimental

**maxim (n.)** - a common saying of advice or virtue

**meager (adj.)** - lacking in quality or stature

**mediate (v.)** - to intervene, to arbitrate, to sort out

**melodramatic (adj.)** - exaggeratedly emotional or sentimental; histrionic

**mendacious (adj.)** - inclined to lie or mislead

**mercurial (adj.)** - quick and changeable in temperament

**meritorious (adj.)** - deserving of praise or merit

**metamorphosis (n.)** - a change of form, shape, substance

**mimic (v.)** - to imitate, to copy

**misogyny (n.)** - hatred of women

**modicum (n.)** - a small amount of something

**mollify (v.)** - to soften in temper

- monogamy (n.)** - having only one spouse at a time
- mores (n.)** - moral attitudes
- morose (adj.)** - gloomy or sullen
- munificent (adj.)** - generous, benevolent
- mutability (n.)** - capability of change
- myopic (adj.)** - short-sighted
- myriad (adj.)** - consisting of a very great number
- narrate (v.)** - to tell a story
- nebulous (adj.)** - indistinct, hazy
- nefarious (adj.)** - horribly villainous
- neologism (n.)** - the creation of new words, or a new word
- neonate (n.)** - a newborn baby
- noisome (adj.)** - foul, offensive, particularly to the sense of smell
- notoriety (n.)** - infamy, known in bad regard
- novel (adj.)** - strikingly new, unusual, or different
- noxious (adj.)** - harmful, toxic
- obdurate (adj.)** - unyielding to persuasion or moral influences
- obfuscate (v.)** - to render incomprehensible
- obsequious (adj.)** - excessively compliant or submissive
- odious (adj.)** - meriting strong displeasure
- officious (adj.)** - offering unwanted help or service
- olfactory (adj.)** - relating to the sense of smell
- ominous (adj.)** - foreboding or foreshadowing evil, portentous
- oration (n.)** - a dignified and formal speech
- ostracize (v.)** - to exclude from a community
- pacify (v.)** - to soothe, ease
- paragon (n.)** - model of perfection
- pariah (n.)** - an outcast
- parody (n.)** - a satirical imitation
- patent (adj.)** - clear, apparent
- pedagogue (n.)** - a schoolteacher
- pellucid (adj.)** - clear
- pendant (n.)** - a tendency, partiality, preference
- peregrinate (v.)** - to travel from place to place on foot
- perfunctory (adj.)** - showing little enthusiasm, done as duty
- permeate (v.)** - to spread out, to pervade
- persevere (v.)** - to persist, remain constant
- pertinacious (adj.)** - stubbornly persistent, holding to a belief or position
- peruse (v.)** - to examine carefully
- pervasive (adj.)** - spread throughout
- petulance (n.)** - irritability, impoliteness
- physiognomy (n.)** - the art of judging human character from facial features
- pique (v.)** - to provoke or to cause indignation
- pithy (adj.)** - succinctly meaningful
- pittance (n.)** - very small amount
- placate (v.)** - to soothe, appease
- placid (adj.)** - calm, tranquil
- plethora (n.)** - a great number, an abundance
- pliable (adj.)** - flexible, bendable
- poach (v.)** - to hunt or fish illegally
- poised (adj.)** - balanced, readied
- polygamy (n.)** - having more than one spouse at a time
- portentous (adj.)** - foreboding or foreshadowing evil, ominous
- portly (adj.)** - fat, chubby, round
- precarious (adj.)** - dangerously lacking in security or stability
- predestination (n.)** - the concept of destiny or fate

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**premonition (n.)** - a presentiment of the future

**preponderance (n.)** - a great amount or frequency

**presage (n.)** - an omen

**prestidigitation (n.)** - a sleight of hand

**presumptuous (adj.)** - disrespectfully bold

**profane (adj.)** - indecent, blasphemous

**profuse (adj.)** - abundant, lavish, prolific

**propensity (n.)** - an inclination, preference

**propriety (n.)** - decency, state of being proper

**protean (adj.)** - readily taking on various shapes or forms

**prudent (adj.)** - cautious, careful

**puerile (adj.)** - immature

**pugnacious (adj.)** - belligerent

**pulchritude (n.)** - physical beauty

**punctilious (adj.)** - eager to follow rules

**pungent (adj.)** - having a sharp, strong quality especially related to smell

**purport (v.)** - to present an intention that is often false

**putrid (adj.)** - rotten, rancid, foul

**quaint (adj.)** - old-fashioned

**quid pro quo (n., latin)** - a mutually beneficial exchange

**quotidian (adj.)** - daily, everyday

**radiant (adj.)** - bright, beaming

**rancid (adj.)** - rotten, spoiled, disgusting in smell or taste

**ratiocinate (v.)** - to think, contemplate

**raze (v.)** - to demolish

**recalcitrant (adj.)** - defiant

**recalibrate (v.)** - to readjust or make corrections to

**recapitulate (v.)** - to repeat, reiterate

**rectify (v.)** - to set right, correct

**redact (v.)** - to revise, edit

**redoubtable (adj.)** - formidable, commanding respect

**redress (v.)** - to set right or remedy

**reel (v.)** - to be thrown off balance or feel dizzy

**refrain (v.)** - to hold oneself back, forbear

**reiterate (v.)** - to repeat

**relish (v.)** - to take zestful pleasure in, enjoy the flavor of

**remiss (adj.)** - negligent, exhibiting carelessness

**render (v.)** - to say, or to make

**renovate (v.)** - to restore, return to original state

**repose (n.)** - rest, sleep

**reprehensible (adj.)** - deserving of criticism

**repudiate (v.)** - to reject, turn down

**repulse (v.)** - to cause disgust or distaste, or to drive back, repel

**requisition (n.)** - a demand for goods, often by an authority

**restitution (n.)** - compensation, reimbursement

**retaliation (n.)** - revenge, punishment

**retract (v.)** - withdraw

**retribution (n.)** - vengeance, revenge, pay-back

**revel (v.)** - to enjoy

**rife (adj.)** - abundant

**ruddy (adj.)** - having a healthy, reddish color

**ruse (n.)** - a trick

**rustic (adj.)** - relating to country life

**saccharine (adj.)** - overly sweet

**sacrosanct (adj.)** - sacred, holy

**sagacious (adj.)** - shrewd, showing sound judgment

**salient (adj.)** - significant, conspicuous

- salutation (n.)** - a greeting
- sanguine (adj.)** - cheery, optimistic, hopeful
- sate (v.)** - to satisfy (an appetite) fully
- satiate (v.)** - to satisfy excessively
- savor (v.)** - to appreciate fully, enjoy
- scathing (adj.)** - hurtful, critical
- scourge (n.)** - a plague
- scurrilous (adj.)** - crude, vulgar
- sedate (v.)** - to calm, soothe
- sedentary (adj.)** - sitting
- seer (n.)** - a fortune teller
- seminal (adj.)** - original, ground-breaking
- serendipity (n.)** - the act of finding things not sought, luck
- slander (n.)** - a false statement to damage the reputation of another
- sobriety (n.)** - moderation from excess, calm, tranquility
- somnolent (adj.)** - sleepy
- soothsayer (n.)** - a fortune teller
- sordid (adj.)** - dirty
- spectral (adj.)** - ghostly
- spurious (adj.)** - false but intended to seem believable or possible
- stagnant (adj.)** - still, not flowing
- stagnate (v.)** - to be idle, to be still
- static (adj.)** - not moving, being at rest
- steadfast (adj.)** - fixed or unchanging
- strenuous (adj.)** - requiring tremendous strength or energy
- strife (n.)** - conflict
- stupefy (v.)** - to astound
- submissive (adj.)** - easily yielding to authority
- subsist (v.)** - to live, exist
- succinct (adj.)** - marked by compact precision
- suffice (v.)** - to meet needs
- supplant (v.)** - to displace and substitute for another
- surfeit (n.)** - an excess, a surplus, an overabundance
- surmise (v.)** - to guess, infer, suppose
- surreptitious (adj.)** - done in a secret, or stealthy way
- swarthy (adj.)** - of dark color or complexion
- sybarite (n.)** - someone devoted to pleasure and luxury, a voluptuary
- sycophant (n.)** - a self-serving flatterer
- sympathetic (adj.)** - compassionate
- sympathy (n.)** - an expression of pity for another, compassion
- synopsis (n.)** - a summary
- taciturn (adj.)** - not inclined to talk
- tantamount (adj.)** - equivalent in value or significance
- tedious (adj.)** - boring, dull
- telepathic (adj.)** - capable of reading minds
- tenuous (adj.)** - having little substance or strength
- terrestrial (adj.)** - relating to the land
- terse (adj.)** - abrupt, short, brief
- timorous (adj.)** - fearful, timid
- tome (n.)** - a large book
- toothsome (adj.)** - delicious, luscious
- torpid (adj.)** - lazy, lethargic, moving slowly
- torrid (adj.)** - giving off intense heat, passionate
- tortuous (adj.)** - winding, twisted
- tragedy (n.)** - a disastrous event, or a work of art in which the hero meets a terrible fate
- tranquil (adj.)** - calm, serene, peaceful
- travesty (n.)** - a grossly inferior imitation
- trek (v.)** - to walk, travel by foot
- trite (adj.)** - overused, hackneyed
- truculent (adj.)** - eager to fight, violent
- ubiquitous (adj.)** - existing everywhere, widespread

## FLOCCABULARY: A DICTIONARY AND A MICROPHONE

**ultimate (n.)** - the last part, or a fundamental element

**umbrage (n.)** - anger, offense, resentment

**uncanny (adj.)** - of supernatural character or origin

**undulate (v.)** - to move in a smooth wavelike motion

**uniform (adj.)** - unvarying, conforming to one principle

**unilateral (adj.)** - having only one side

**unique (adj.)** - being the only one of its kind

**upbraid (v.)** - to criticize, scold, reproach

**vacillate (v.)** - to sway from one side to another

**variance (n.)** - a difference between what is expected and what actually occurs

**variegate (v.)** - to diversify

**vast (adj.)** - enormous, immense

**veneer (n.)** - a superficial or deceptively attractive appearance, façade

**veracious (adj.)** - honest, truthful

**verbose (adj.)** - wordy

**vicarious (adj.)** - experienced through another's actions

**vicissitudes (n.)** - the unexpected changes and shifts often encountered in one's life

**vigor (n.)** - vitality and energy, vim

**vim (n.)** - energy, vigor

**vivacious (adj.)** - lively, spirited, full of life

**vocation (n.)** - one's work or professional calling

**volition (n.)** - a conscious choice or decision

**voluminous (adj.)** - large, ample

**voluptuary (n.)** - someone devoted to sensory pleasure and luxury, a sybarite

**wane (v.)** - to decrease gradually in size or degree

**wax (v.)** - to increase gradually in size or degree

**weather (v.)** - to withstand or survive a situation

**whet (v.)** - to make more keen, stimulate

**winsome (adj.)** - charming, attractive

**Zeitgeist (n.)** - the spirit of the time