

English 10A

American Literature

Vocabulary 3– “It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.” – *Ursula K. Le Guin*

Define the following words:

1. axiom – a statement or proposition that is regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true : *the **axiom that** supply equals demand.*
2. banal – so lacking in originality as to be obvious and boring : *songs with banal, repeated words.*
3. bane – a cause of great distress or annoyance : *the bane of the decorator is the long, narrow hall | the depressions that were the **the bane of** her **existence.** archaic: something, typically poison, that causes death.*
4. beget – (typically of a man, sometimes of a man and a woman) bring (a child) into existence by the process of reproduction : *they hoped that the King might beget an heir by his new queen.*
5. belabor – argue or elaborate (a subject) in excessive detail : *critics thought they belabored the obvious.*
6. beleaguer – lay siege to : *he is leading a relief force to the aid of the beleaguered city.*
7. belie – (of an appearance) fail to give a true notion or impression of (something); disguise or contradict : *his lively alert manner belied his years.*
8. belittle – make (someone or something) seem unimportant : *this is not to belittle his role | she felt belittled.*
9. bemused – puzzle, confuse, or bewilder (someone) : *her bemused expression | she was accepted with bemused resignation by her parents as a hippie.*
10. benign – gentle; kindly : *her face was calm and benign | his benign but firm manner.*
11. bequest – a legacy : *her \$135,000 was the largest bequest the library ever has received.*
12. beset – (of a problem or difficulty) trouble or threaten persistently : *the social problems that beset the inner city | she was **beset with** self-doubt | [as adj.] poverty is a besetting problem.*
13. blithe – showing a casual and cheerful indifference considered to be callous or improper : *a blithe disregard for the rules of the road. (bliss)*
14. bourgeois – of or characteristic of the middle class, typically with reference to its perceived materialistic values or conventional attitudes : *a rich, bored, bourgeois family | these views will shock the bourgeois critics.*

15. bovine – of, relating to, or affecting cattle : *bovine tuberculosis* | *bovine tissue*.
16. broach – raise (a sensitive or difficult subject) for discussion : *he broached the subject he had been avoiding all evening*.
17. bucolic – of or relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside and country life : *the church is lovely for its bucolic setting*.
18. bureaucracy – Government by bureaux; usually officialism. *the unnecessary bureaucracy in local government*.
19. burgeon – begin to grow or increase rapidly; flourish : *manufacturers are keen to cash in on the burgeoning demand*.
20. burlesque – a parody or comically exaggerated imitation of something, esp. in a literary or dramatic work : *the funniest burlesque of opera* | [as adj.] *burlesque Shakespearean stanzas*.(caricature)