

English 10A

American Literature

Vocabulary 4 – “Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time.” – E.B. White

Define the following words:

1. cacophony - a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds : *a cacophony of deafening alarm bells* | *figurative a cacophony of architectural styles* | *songs of unrelieved cacophony. (bad sound)*
2. cadence - a modulation or inflection of the voice : *the measured cadences that he employed in the Senate. (cadere ‘to fall’ - caer)*
3. cajole - persuade someone to do something by sustained coaxing or flattery : *he hoped to cajole her into selling the house* | [*intrans.*] *she pleaded and cajoled as she tried to win his support. (often cajole someone into doing something)*
4. callow - (esp. of a young person) inexperienced and immature : *earnest and callow undergraduates*
5. candor - the quality of being open and honest in expression; frankness : *a man of refreshing candor. (candid)*
6. capitulate - cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; surrender : *the patriots had to capitulate to the enemy forces.*
7. capricious - given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior : *a capricious and often brutal administration* | *a capricious climate.*
8. castigate - reprimand (someone) severely : *he was castigated for not setting a good example.*
9. catalyst - a person or thing that precipitates an event : *the governor's speech acted as a catalyst for debate.*
10. categorical - unambiguously explicit and direct : *a categorical assurance.*
11. catharsis - the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions.
12. caustic - sarcastic in a scathing and bitter way : *the players were making caustic comments about the refereeing. (to burn - think haulocaust)*
13. celibacy - abstaining from marriage and sexual relations, typically for religious reasons : *a celibate priest.*
14. censure - express severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement : *a judge was censured in 1983 for a variety of types of injudicious conduct.*
15. cerebral - intellectual rather than emotional or physical : *photography is a cerebral process. (brain)*
16. chagrin - distress or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated : *Jeff, much to his chagrin, wasn't invited.*
17. charisma - compelling attractiveness or charm that can inspire devotion in others : *she enchanted guests with her charisma.*
18. chastise - rebuke or reprimand severely : *he chastised his colleagues for their laziness.*
19. chicanery - the use of trickery to achieve a political, financial, or legal purpose : *an underhanded person who schemes corruption and political chicanery behind closed doors.*
20. chimera - a thing that is hoped or wished for but in fact is illusory or impossible to achieve : *the economic sovereignty you claim to defend is a chimera.*