

English 10A

American Literature

Vocabulary 6 – “Life must be lived forward, but it can only be understood backward.”

- Soren Kierkegaard

Define the following words:

1. conducive - making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible : *the harsh lights and cameras were hardly **conducive to** a relaxed atmosphere.* (conduct, conductive)
2. congenial - (of a person) pleasant because of a personality, qualities, or interests that are similar to one's own : *his need for some congenial company.*
3. congenital - (esp. of a disease or physical abnormality) present from birth : *a congenital malformation of the heart.*
4. conjecture - an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information : ***conjectures about** the newcomer were many and varied | the purpose of the opening in the wall is open to conjecture.*
5. consecrate - make or declare (something, typically a church) sacred; dedicate formally to a religious or divine purpose : *the present Holy Trinity church was consecrated in 1845 | [as adj.] (**consecrated**) consecrated ground.* (sacred)
6. construe - interpret (a word or action) in a particular way : *his words could hardly be **construed as** an apology.*
7. consummate - complete (a transaction or attempt); make perfect : *his scheme of colonization was consummated through bloodshed. / showing a high degree of skill and flair; complete or perfect : she dressed with consummate elegance.*
8. contentious - causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial : *a contentious issue.*
9. contiguous - sharing a common border; touching : *the 48 contiguous states.*
10. contrite - feeling or expressing remorse or penitence; affected by guilt : *a broken and a contrite heart.*
11. contrived - deliberately created rather than arising naturally or spontaneously : *the carefully contrived image of party unity.*
12. copious - abundant in supply or quantity : *she took copious notes.*
13. corollary - a proposition that follows from (and is often appended to) one already proved. / a direct or natural consequence or result : *the huge increases in unemployment were the corollary of expenditure cuts.*
14. corroborate - confirm or give support to (a statement, theory, or finding) : *the witness had corroborated the boy's account of the attack.*
15. countenance - a person's face or facial expression : *his impenetrable eyes and inscrutable countenance give little away.* (contain)
16. covet - yearn to possess or have (something) : *the president-elect covets time for exercise and fishing | [as adj.] (**coveted**) he won the coveted Booker Prize for fiction.*
17. culpable - deserving blame : *sometimes you're just as culpable when you watch something as when you actually participate.*
18. cursory - hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed : *a cursory glance at the figures.*
19. curtail - reduce in extent or quantity; impose a restriction on : *civil liberties were further curtailed.*
20. cynic - a person who believes that people are motivated purely by self-interest rather than acting for honorable or unselfish reasons : *some cynics thought that the controversy was all a publicity stunt.*