

English 10A

American Literature

Vocabulary 7 – “Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.” Chinese Proverb

Define the following words:

1. daunt - verb [ trans. ] (usu. **be daunted**)  
make (someone) feel intimidated or apprehensive : *some people are daunted by technology.*
2. dearth - a scarcity or lack of something : *there is a dearth of evidence.*
3. debacle - a sudden and ignominious failure; a fiasco : *the economic debacle that became known as the Great Depression.*
4. debauchery - excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures.
5. debilitate - verb [ trans. ] [often as adj. ] ( **debilitating** ) make (someone) weak and infirm : *a debilitating disease* | [as adj. ] ( **debilitated** ) *a woman who had felt chronically debilitated and unwell for years.* • hinder, delay, or weaken : *the debilitating effects of underinvestment.*
6. decadent - characterized by or reflecting a state of moral or cultural decline. • luxuriously self-indulgent : *a decadent soak in a scented bath.*
7. decimate - kill, destroy, or remove a large percentage or part of : *the project would decimate the fragile wetland wilderness* | *the American chestnut, a species decimated by blight.*
8. decorous - in keeping with good taste and propriety; polite and restrained : *dancing with decorous space between partners.*
9. deduce - arrive at (a fact or a conclusion) by reasoning; draw as a logical conclusion : *little can be safely deduced from these figures* | [with clause ] *they deduced that the fish died because of water pollution.*
10. defame - damage the good reputation of (someone); slander or libel : *he claimed that the article defamed his family.*
11. deference - humble submission and respect : *he addressed her with the deference due to age.*
12. deleterious - causing harm or damage : *divorce is assumed to have deleterious effects on children.*
13. delineate - describe or portray (something) precisely : *the law should delineate and prohibit behavior that is socially abhorrent.*
14. delude - impose a misleading belief upon (someone); deceive; fool : *too many theorists have deluded the public* | [as adj. ] ( **deluded** ) *the poor deluded creature.*
15. deluge - a severe flood. *a deluge of rain hit the plains.*
16. demagogue - a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument.
17. denizen - an inhabitant or occupant of a particular place : *denizens of field and forest.*
18. depravity - moral corruption : *a tale of wickedness and depravity.*
19. deprecate - express disapproval of : [as adj. ] ( **deprecating** ) *he sniffed in a deprecating way.*
20. deride - express contempt for; ridicule : *critics derided the proposals as clumsy attempts to find a solution.*