

Vocabulary in *What is a Homosexual*

Compiled by AcadeMe for the Homer Project

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wonk	adj.	having or showing a lot of interest in and knowledge about the details of a particular subject :having the qualities of a wonk <i>a wonky bureaucrat in the State Department</i>
traumatize	v.	to cause (someone) to become very upset in a way that often leads to serious emotional problems :to cause (someone) to suffer emotional trauma <i>He was traumatized by the experience.</i>
marginalize	v.	to put or keep (someone) in a powerless or unimportant position within a society or group <i>We are protesting policies that marginalize women. [=that do not allow women to have important or powerful positions in a society]</i>
netherworld	n.	the world of the dead :hell <i>The book describes the author's journey into the netherworld of drug dealers.</i>
foible	n.	a minor fault in someone's character or behavior usually plural <i>We all have our little foibles.</i>
attune	v.	to cause (a person, company, etc.) to have a better understanding of what is needed or wanted by a particular person or group usually + to <i>It is important to attune the company to the needs of its customers.</i>
unlearn	v.	to forget and stop doing (something, such as a habit) in a deliberate way because it is bad or incorrect <i>It is hard to unlearn bad habits.</i>
dignify	v.	to cause (something) to have more serious and important quality :to give dignity or importance to (something) <i>She felt that formal clothing would help dignify the occasion.</i>
flaunt	v.	to show (something) in a very open way so that other people will notice <i>She liked to flaunt her wealth by wearing furs and jewelry.</i>
terrify	v.	to cause (someone) to be extremely afraid :to frighten (someone) very much <i>Big dogs terrify me.</i>
inhere	v.	to be a natural part of (someone or something) <i>He believes that liberty inheres in [= (more commonly) is inherent in] humanity as a natural right.</i>
parliamentarian	n.	a member of a parliament
schoolwork	n.	work that is done in classes in a school or given to students to be done at home
slovenly	adj.	messy or untidy <i>slovenly clothes</i>
discus	n.	a heavy disk (as of wood or plastic) that is thicker in the center than at the perimeter and that is hurled for distance as a track-and-field event
patronize	v.	to give money or support to (someone or something) <i>The family patronizes the arts/symphony.</i>
mimesis	n.	imitation mimicry
mannerism	n.	a person's particular way of talking or moving <i>The actor can mimic the President's mannerisms perfectly.</i>

quirk	n.	an unusual habit or way of behaving <i>Everyone has their little quirks.</i>
dint	n.	because of (something) :by means of (something) <i>They succeeded by dint of hard work.</i>
jock	n.	someone who is very involved in sports :athlete <i>She was a jock in high school and led her basketball team to the state championship.</i>
promiscuous	adj.	having or involving many sexual partners <i>a promiscuous man/woman</i>
otherness	n.	the quality of being different or unusual <i>As an American growing up in Africa, I always felt a sense of otherness.</i>
lamentable	adj.	deserving to be criticized or regretted <i>The region has a long and lamentable [=regrettable] history of ethnic fighting.</i>
brazen	adj.	acting or done in a very open and shocking way without shame or embarrassment <i>He exhibited a brazen disregard for other people's feelings.</i>
stunt	v.	to stop (someone or something) from growing or developing <i>Poor soil can stunt a plant's growth.</i>
anathema	n.	someone or something that is very strongly disliked usually + to <i>ideas that are anathema to me [=ideas that I strongly dislike]</i>
banal	adj.	boring or ordinary :not interesting <i>He made some banal remarks about the weather.</i>
veracity	n.	truth or accuracy <i>We questioned the veracity of his statements.</i>
sameness	n.	the quality or state of being alike or of not changing <i>the sameness of the two methods</i>
clothe	v.	to provide (someone) with clothes <i>the cost of feeding and clothing your children</i>
trump	v.	to beat (another card) by playing a card from the suit that beats the other suits :to play a trump card to beat (another card) <i>She trumped my ace to win the trick.</i>
embarrass	v.	to make (someone) feel confused and foolish in front of other people <i>Unexpected laughter embarrassed the speaker.</i>
forlorn	adj.	sad and lonely <i>a forlorn old widow</i>
inflection	n.	a rise or fall in the sound of a person's voice :a change in the pitch or tone of a person's voice <i>She spoke with no inflection.</i>
subculture	n.	a group that has beliefs and behaviors that are different from the main groups within a culture or society <i>a subculture of local painters/writers</i>
rebuke	v.	to speak in an angry and critical way to (someone) often + for <i>She was rebuked [=reprimanded] for being late.</i>
locker	n.	a cupboard or cabinet that has a door which can be locked and that is used to store personal items (such as books, clothes, shoes, etc.) <i>a school locker</i>
breathless	adj.	unable to take enough air into your lungs :breathing very hard because you are trying to get more air <i>The workout left me breathless. [(more commonly) out of breath]</i>
interchangeable	adj.	capable of being used in place of each other <i>These words have similar meanings but they're not (freely) interchangeable (with each other).</i>
deceit	n.	dishonest behavior :behavior that is meant to fool or trick someone

		<i>He achieved his goals through lies and (a web of) deceit. [=deception]</i>
shameful	adj.	very bad :bad enough to make someone ashamed <i>There is no excuse for such shameful behavior.</i>
intensify	v.	to become stronger or more extreme :to become more intense <i>We could hear the wind howling outside as the storm intensified.</i>
marvel	v.	to feel great surprise, wonder, or admiration <i>The audience marveled at the magician's skill.</i>
upbringing	n.	the way a child is raised :the care and teaching given to a child by parents or other people usually singular <i>My wife had a very sheltered upbringing.</i>
stereotype	v.	to believe unfairly that all people or things with a particular characteristic are the same <i>It's not fair to stereotype a whole group of people based on one person you don't like.</i>
repressive	adj.	controlling people by force <i>a repressive government</i>
wary	adj.	not having or showing complete trust in someone or something that could be dangerous or cause trouble <i>The store owner kept a wary eye on him.</i>
predicament	n.	a difficult or unpleasant situation <i>The governor has gotten himself into quite a predicament.</i>
heterosexual	adj.	sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex <i>a heterosexual male</i>
divert	v.	to change the direction or use of (something) <i>Police diverted traffic to a side street.</i>
obsession	n.	a state in which someone thinks about someone or something constantly or frequently especially in a way that is not normal <i>He was fascinated by the actress and tracking her every move had become an obsession.</i>
doom	v.	to make (someone or something) certain to fail, suffer, die, etc. <i>A criminal record will doom your chances of becoming a politician.</i>
trajectory	n.	the curved path along which something (such as a rocket) moves through the air or through space <i>the trajectory of the missile</i>
wrap	v.	to cover (something) by winding or folding a piece of material around it <i>They were busy wrapping presents late on Christmas Eve.</i>
retrospect	n.	when thinking about the past or something that happened in the past <i>In retrospect, I made the right decision.</i>
crush	v.	to press or squeeze (something) so hard that it breaks or loses its shape <i>Unfortunately some of the flowers got crushed when we were moving them.</i>
lesbian	n.	a woman who is sexually attracted to other women :a female homosexual <i>lesbians and gay men</i>
closet	adj.	hiding the fact that you are a particular type of person <i>She's a closet racist. [=she does not want people to know that she is a racist]</i>
surround	v.	to be on every side of (someone or something) <i>A wall surrounds the old city.</i>
reflective	adj.	causing light, sound, or heat to move away :reflecting light, sound, or heat <i>The material is highly reflective. [=it easily reflects light]</i>
unavoidable	adj.	not able to be prevented or avoided <i>The accident was unavoidable.</i>
ethic	adj.	involving questions of right and wrong behavior :relating to ethics

		<i>ethical [=moral] principles/standards</i>
cod	abbreviation	ash on delivery; collect on delivery used to indicate that payment must be made when something is delivered <i>The merchandise was shipped C.O.D.</i>
tolerant	adj.	willing to accept feelings, habits, or beliefs that are different from your own <i>a tolerant society/community</i>
disguise	v.	to change the usual appearance, sound, taste, etc., of (someone or something) so that people will not recognize that person or thing <i>He tried to disguise his voice on the phone but I could tell it was him.</i>
manifold	adj.	many and various <i>the country's manifold problems</i>
deception	n.	the act of making someone believe something that is not true :the act of deceiving someone <i>She accuses the company of willful deception in its advertising.</i>
conclusive	adj.	showing that something is certainly true <i>conclusive evidence/proof</i>
traumatic	adj.	causing someone to become very upset in a way that can lead to serious mental and emotional problems <i>She had a traumatic childhood.</i>
envy	v.	to feel a desire to have what someone else has :to feel envy because of (someone or something) <i>I envy you for your large group of friends.</i>
torture	v.	to cause (someone) to experience severe physical pain especially as a form of punishment or to force that person to do or say something <i>The report revealed that prisoners had been repeatedly tortured.</i>
aspiration	n.	something that a person wants very much to achieve <i>I've never had any aspiration to become famous. [=I've never wanted to become famous]</i>
homosexual	adj.	sexually attracted to people of the same sex <i>a homosexual man</i>
suppress	v.	to end or stop (something) by force <i>Political dissent was brutally suppressed.</i>
reinforce	v.	to strengthen (a group of people) with new supplies or more people <i>The captain sent out another squad to reinforce the troops.</i>
journalism	n.	the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio <i>investigative/broadcast journalism</i>
amateur	n.	a person who does something (such as a sport or hobby) for pleasure and not as a job <i>She played soccer as an amateur before turning professional.</i>
masculine	adj.	of, relating to, or suited to men or boys <i>a masculine voice/perspective/name</i>
definitive	adj.	not able to be argued about or changed :final and settled <i>We need a definitive answer to this question.</i>
prone	adj.	likely to do, have, or suffer from something usually + to <i>They are prone to (making) errors/mistakes. = They are error-prone/mistake-prone. [=they make many errors/mistakes]</i>
arena	n.	a building for sports and other forms of entertainment that has a large central area surrounded by seats <i>a basketball/hockey arena</i>
handful	n.	an amount that you can hold in your hand <i>The children collected seashells by the handful.</i>
ridiculous	adj.	extremely silly or unreasonable

		<i>She looks ridiculous in that outfit.</i>
substantive	adj.	important, real, or meaningful <i>substantive issues/matters</i>
exploit	v.	to get value or use from (something) <i>He has never fully exploited his talents.</i>
proximity	n.	the state of being near <i>People are attracted to the area by the proximity [=nearness] of several beaches.</i>
odds	n.	the possibility that something will happen :the chance that one thing will happen instead of a different thing <i>She wanted to improve her odds [=chances] of winning.</i>