

Personal Dictionary

For each text we read, you are to select words from the reading that you would like to add to your oral and written vocabulary. You will compile these terms in an alphabetized personal dictionary. Each time you complete a daily reading assignment identify one word to define in the following way:

1. **Identify the word:** wanton/wantonness (one point)
2. **Identify the source:** Hamlet, act three, scene one, p.191, line 192. This is the scene in which Hamlet is scolding Ophelia. (one point)
3. **Identify the sentence/verse in which you've found the word, underlining the word itself:** HAM I have heard of your paintings too, well enough; God has given you one face and you make yourselves another: you jig, you amble and you lisp, and nick-name God's creatures, and make your wantonness your ignorance. (one point)
4. **Guess the meaning of the word:** Given this sentence, I think wanton may mean knowledge because knowledge is the opposite of ignorance, and it might be suggested by the "two-face" imagery earlier in the sentence. (one point)
5. **Write the dictionary/glossary definitions of the word:** *adj.* 1. Reckless, heartless, or malicious: *wanton cruelty*. 2. Without reason or excuse: *wanton mischief*. 3. Not moral, not chaste. 4. Frolicsome; playful: *a wanton child*. 5. Not restrained: *a wanton mood*. –*n.* a wanton person. –*v.i.* act in a wonton manner: *the wind wantoned with the leaves*. –*v.t.* waste foolishly; squander: *wanton away one's time*. –**wantonly, *adv.* –wantonness, *n.*** (one point)
6. **Explain the meaning of the word in the text:** The footnote at the bottom of the page 191 helps me to realize that the phrase "make your wantonness your ignorance" means "excuse your wantonness on the grounds of ignorance." As Hamlet addresses Ophelia, he is accusing her of having the predilection he has come to believe all the women possess: to be unfaithful to marriage vows. (He has fostered much resentment toward his mother for having married his uncle so quickly after Hamlet's father's death.) He seems to say here that women get away with their wantonness (lack of chastity- the third definition- in this case) by pleading ignorance to what they're doing. (For example, his mother seems to remain blissfully ignorant of her new husband's own wanton acts.) (five points)
7. **Use the word in two or more sentences you might use:** 1. Bill Clinton was impeached for his wantonness with Monica Lewinsky. 2. The wantonness of freshmen in my Spanish class usually gets them into trouble. 3. Sometimes chemical companies demonstrate wanton disregard for the environment. (five points)
8. **As you go through the semester use your new word whenever possible in class discussion, speeches, poetry, essays, journals entries, and stories.** When you use your words in writing, underline them. When you use them in discussion, remind me of the usage by making quotation marks with your fingers. Each time you use one of your words, write the sentence you used it in on the bottom of the page where you defined it. You will receive one point each time you document the use of one of your words. Document the date and context of your usage (e.g.2/18/00: In a discussion of The Bluest Eye I stated in a Socratic seminar that Cholly Breedlove's treatment of his daughter was wanton.) (bonus points)