

American Literature - Study Guide

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Chapter 1

Vocabulary

1.1 Unit 1

approbation to express approval or praise

assuage to make easier or to calm

coalition a combination or union

decadence to decline or decay; excessive self-indulgence

elicit to draw forth

expostulate to attempt to dissuade someone from some course of action by earnest reasoning

hackneyed used so often such that it lacks freshness

hiatus a gap or opening, a break in something

innuendo an indirect reference to something

intercede to plead on behalf of someone else

jaded wearied, worn-out (due to excessive self-indulgence)

lurid causing shock, horror

meritorious worthy, deserving of praise

petulant peevish, annoyed by small things

perogative a right or privilege

provincial pertaining to an outlying area

simulate to make a pretense of, to show the outer signs of

transcend to rise above or beyond something

umbrage shade cast by trees

unctuous very smooth, smug

1.2 Unit 2

ameliorate to improve or make better

aplomb poise, assurance, great self-confidence

bombastic pompous or overblown

callow without experience, immature

drivel saliva, mucus flowing from the mouth; aimless talk (nonsense); to let saliva from the mouth; to speak aimlessly

epitome a summary, an instance that represents a larger reality

exhort to urge strongly

ex officio by virtue of holding a certain office

infringe to violate or trespass

ingratiate to make oneself agreeable in order to gain favor of others

interloper one who moves in where he or she is not wanted

intrinsic belonging to something by its very nature

inveigh to make a violent attack in words; to express strong opinion

lassitude a weariness of body or mind

millenium a period of 1,000 years

occult something not detectable by ordinary means; matters involving the super-natural; to conceal

permeate to spread through

percipitate to fall as moisture; moisture

stringent strict, severe

surmise to think or believe without evidence

1.3 Unit 3