

# Writing Focus and AP Literature Vocabulary

## List 1

1. Abbreviate: shorten, abridge
2. Abstinence: act of refraining from
3. Adulation: high praise, excessive flattery
4. Adversity: misfortune, hardship
5. Aesthetic: pertaining to beauty
6. Amicable: agreeable, friendly
7. Anachronistic: out-of-date, chronological inconsistency
8. Anecdote: short account of event
9. Anonymous: not identified by name
10. Antagonist: a person who actively opposes; an adversary

## List 2

1. Arid: extremely dry
2. Assiduous: hard-working
3. Asylum: sanctuary, institution of protection
4. Benevolent: friendly, helpful
5. Camaraderie: trust among friends
6. Censure: to criticize harshly
7. Circuitous: indirect, roundabout
8. Clairvoyant: able to see the future
9. Collaborate: to work together
10. Compassion: sympathy, mercy

### **List 3**

1. Compromise: to settle differences
2. Condescending: patronizing superiority; snobbish
3. Conditional: provisional, contingent, dependent upon, relative
4. Conformist: follower of customs
5. Congregation: crowd of people
6. Convergence: joining of parts
7. Deleterious: harmful
8. Demagogue: rabble-rousing, manipulative leader
9. Digression: straying from main point
10. Diligent: hard-working

### **List 4**

1. Discredit: dishonor, disgrace
2. Disdain: to regard with scorn, look down upon, despise
3. Divergent: variant, moving apart, deviating
4. Empathy: sharing or experiencing feelings of others
5. Emulate: follow an example
6. Enervating: tiring, weakening, depriving of strength
7. Enhance: improve, augment, raise value
8. Ephemeral: momentary, fleeting
9. Ensconce: establish firmly in a position
10. Exasperation: irritation, frustration

### **List 5**

1. Exemplary: serving as a model, outstanding
2. Extenuating: make guilt less serious

3. Florid: flushed, ornate, intricate, complicated
4. Fortuitous: lucky, happening by accident
5. Frugal: thrifty, sparing with regard to money
6. Hackneyed: overused, clichéd
7. Haughty: arrogant, condescending, snobbish
8. Hedonist: person who believes that seeking pleasure is most important
9. Hypothesis: theory requiring proof
10. Impetuous: acting quickly without thought; rash, impulsive

#### **List 6**

1. Impute: to attribute something undesirable to someone else
2. Incompatible: unable to work together
3. Inconsequential: trivial, not important
4. Inevitable: unavoidable, certain
5. Integrity: honesty, decency
6. Intrepid fearless, adventurous
7. Intuitive: instinctive, untaught
8. Jubilation: joy, exultation, great happiness
9. Lobbyist: persuader of legislators
10. Longevity: long life

#### **List 7**

1. Mundane: ordinary, common
2. Nonchalant: calm, casual
3. Novice: beginner
4. Opulent: wealthy
5. Orator: speaker

6. Ostentatious: displaying wealth
7. Parched: dried up
8. Perfidious: disloyal
9. Precocious: talented beyond one's age
10. Pretentious: pompous, self-important

#### **List 8**

1. Procrastinate: to delay unnecessarily
2. Prosaic: run-of-the-mill
3. Prosperity: wealth, success
4. Provocative: inflammatory
5. Prudent: wise, careful, cautious
6. Querulous: irritable
7. Rancorous: hateful
8. Reclusive: withdrawn, hermit-like
9. Reconciliation: agreement after a quarrel
10. Renovation: state of being renewed

#### **List 9**

1. Resilient: quick to recover
2. Restrained: controlled, restricted
3. Reverence: profound respect
4. Sagacity: wisdom
5. Scrutinize: to observe carefully
6. Spontaneity: impulsive action
7. Spurious: phony, false
8. Submissive: meek

9. Substantiate: to verify, confirm

10. Subtle: elusive, sly, ambiguous

#### **List 10**

1. Superficial: lacking in depth

2. Superfluous: more than enough

3. Suppress: to end an activity

4. Surreptitious: secret, stealthy

5. Tactful: diplomatic, polite

6. Tenacious: persistent, resolute

7. Transient: temporary, fleeting

8. Venerable: respectable due to age

9. Vindicate: to clear from blame

10. Wary: watchful, alert

#### **List 11**

1. Abject: extremely bad, unpleasant, and degrading.

2. Antecedent: preceding in time or order; previous or preexisting.

3. Aspiration: a hope or ambition of achieving something.

4. Assent: express approval or agreement, typically officially.

5. Compulsive: irresistibly interesting or exciting; compelling

6. Concur: happen or occur at the same time; coincide.

7. Consensus: general agreement

8. Credulous: gullible; ready to believe anything

9. Cursory: hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed.

10. Demise: a death

**List 12**

1. Dissension: disagreement that leads to discord
2. Eclectic: ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources
3. Electorate: the people in a country or area who are entitled to vote in an election
4. Emancipate: set free, especially from legal, social, or political restrictions.
5. Emissary: a person sent on a special mission, usually as a diplomatic representative
6. Esprit: the quality of being lively, vivacious, or witty
7. Exposition: description and explanation of an idea or theory
8. Expulsion: process of forcing someone to leave a place
9. Extrasensory: outside one's normal sense perception
10. Genealogy: a line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor

**List 13**

1. Genesis: the origin or mode of formation of something.
2. Gratification: pleasure, especially when gained from the satisfaction of a desire
3. Gratis: without charge; free.
4. Gratuitous: uncalled for; lacking good reason; unwarranted.
5. Homogeneous: of the same kind; alike.
6. Impelled: forced or urged (someone) to do something
7. Impending: about to happen
8. Impound: seize and take legal custody of (something,
9. Inception: beginning, start
10. Incessant: continuing without pause or interruption

**List 14**

1. Incorrigible: not able to be corrected, improved, or reformed
2. Incursion: an invasion or attack, especially a sudden or brief one.

3. Ingratiate: bring oneself into favor with someone by flattering or trying to please them
4. Insurrection: an act or instance of rising in revolt, rebellion, or resistance
5. Interjection: the utterance of a word or phrase expressive of emotion; the uttering of an exclamation.
6. Intermittent: occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady
7. Ostensible: stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.
8. Ostentatious: characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice
9. Pendulous: hanging down loosely.
10. Perceptive: having or showing sensitive insight

#### **List 15**

1. Portend: a sign or warning that (something, especially something momentous or calamitous) is likely to happen
2. Precedent: an earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances.
3. Precursor: a person or thing that comes before another of the same kind
4. Predilection: a preference or special liking for something; a bias in favor of something.
5. Progeny: a descendant or the descendants of; offspring
6. Projectile: a missile designed to be fired from a rocket or gun
7. Propensity: an inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way
8. Proponent: a person who advocates a theory, proposal, or project
9. Rectify: put (something) right; correct
10. Regalia: the distinctive clothing worn and ornaments carried at formal occasions

#### **List 16**

1. Remission: the cancellation of a debt; a temporary recovery.
2. Repellent: causing disgust or distaste
3. Repose: a state of rest, sleep, or tranquility.
4. Sacrilege: violation or misuse of what is regarded as sacred.

5. Secede: withdraw formally from membership
6. Sprightly: lively; full of energy
7. Susceptible: likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing
8. Tenuous: slender or fine; insubstantial; weak
9. Trajectory: the path followed by a projectile flying or an object moving
10. Transpired: occur; happen

#### **List 17**

1. Abhor: regard with disgust and hatred
2. Bigot: narrow-minded, prejudiced person
3. Counterfeit: fake; false
4. Enfranchise: give voting rights
5. Hamper: hinder; obstruct
6. Kindle: to start a fire
7. Noxious: harmful; poisonous; lethal
8. Placid: calm; peaceful
9. Remuneration: payment for work done
10. Talisman: lucky charm

#### **List 18**

1. Abrasive: rough; coarse; harsh
2. Bilk: cheat; defraud
3. Covert: hidden; undercover
4. Engender: cause or give rise to (a feeling, situation, or condition)
5. Hangar: storage area (like garage) for a plane
6. Knotty: complex; difficult to solve
7. Nuance: something subtle; a fine shade of meaning



8. Plagiarism: taking credit for someone else's writing or ideas
9. Renown: being known or talked about by many people; fame
10. Tangent: going off the main subject

#### **List 19**

1. Abasement: humiliation; degradation
2. Billowing: swelling; fluttering; waving
3. Cower: recoil in fear or servility; shrink away from
4. Enhance: improve; make better or clearer
5. Harangue: noisy, attacking speech
6. Labyrinthine: complicated; highly convoluted
7. Nullify: to counter; make unimportant
8. Plaintiff: petitioner (in court of law)
9. Replete: filled or well-supplied with something
10. Tangible: can be touched

#### **List 20**

1. Abrogate: cancel; deny; repeal
2. Blasphemy: speech which offends religious sentiments
3. Credible: believable
4. Enigma: puzzle; mystery
5. Harbingers: indicators; bringers of warnings
6. Nuzzle: cuddle; snuggle
7. Plaudit: statement giving strong praise
8. Reprehensible: shameful; very bad
9. Absolution: forgiveness; pardon; release
10. Blatant: obvious