

Name _____

Date _____

8th Grade Vocabulary List

WORD	DEFINITION
abet (v.)	to help, especially with crime
beacon (n.)	something, especially a light, that warns or guides
braggart (n.)	someone who boasts about themselves
cache (n.)	a safe, hidden supply
celestial (adj.)	having to do with the sky or heavens
chasten (v.)	to punish or correct
clarification (n.)	the act of making clear
coherent (adj.)	holding together
despondent (adj.)	very sad, despairing, hopeless
detract (v.)	to belittle, to take away from
embezzle (v.)	to steal something entrusted to your care
encore (n.)	an additional performance called for by the audience
etymology (n.)	study of word origins
heartrending (adj.)	causing grief or sorrow
leisurely (adj., adv.)	at a slow, comfortable pace
lethargic (adj.)	at a slow pace, sluggish
malady (n.)	ailment, disease
nomadic (adj.)	traveling from place to place, without a permanent home
pantomime (n.)	performance with elaborate gestures but no words
pessimism (n.)	the state of expecting the worst
piecemeal (adj.)	done bit by bit or in pieces
precaution (n.)	a protective action done in advance
prosecute (v.)	to pursue or attack, especially a crime in a court of law
reinforce (v.)	to increase in amount or make stronger
retaliate (v.)	to strike back against something done to you
seclusion (n.)	isolation, privacy
thwart (v.)	to stop from happening, to hinder
uncouth (adj.)	clumsy or impolite
underscore (v.)	to emphasize, especially by underlining
wistful (adj.)	full of sad desire, yearning

Texas Academic Vocabulary Lists For Middle Schools

Richard Bailey



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