**Vocabulary List: Romeo and Juliet Acts IV and V**

**Aloof - remote in manner**

* Someone who's aloof isn't warm and friendly, instead being distant and reserved. That emotionally cold and detached fellow who keeps to himself, drinking espresso and reading French philosophy, would best be described as aloof.

**Caitiff - a cowardly and despicable person**

**Cordial - strong highly flavored sweet liquor often drunk after a meal**

* The noun cordial originally referred to a medicine or drink that stimulates the heart, but its current sense is "a liqueur."

**Cull - remove something that has been rejected**

* When you use cull as a verb, the things you gather can be the good or bad ones from a group. In your garden, you can cull the good vegetables for dinner, or the rotten ones for the compost pile.

**Descry - catch sight of**

* If you spot something, you descry it. When you spy it, you descry it. It's a good verb to use when you catch a glimpse of a rare bird in the trees. Or when you finally spot Waldo in a "Where's Waldo?" book.

**Dispatch - the act of sending off something**

* Anything that needs to be mailed, sent off, or quickly shipped needs to be dispatched. Letters, official reports, teams of police — if it has somewhere to be, you can dispatch it to get there.

**Enamor - attract**

* When you are enamored by something or someone, you love it. It attracts you. You might say that you're enamored with your new car, or enamored of the new kid in school.

**Entreat - ask for or request earnestly**

* To entreat is to ask for something that is really important, like when you entreat the jury to spare your life.

**Haughty - having or showing arrogant superiority**

* Someone who is haughty is arrogant and full of pride. When you're haughty, you have a big attitude and act like you're better than other people.

**Immoderate - beyond reasonable limits**

* If someone's behavior is unreasonable or extreme, you can call it immoderate. Immoderate spending results in arms full of shopping bags and a whole lot of credit card debt, and immoderate eating at a huge breakfast buffet can give you a stomach ache for the rest of the day. Immoderate is the opposite of the adjective moderate, which means calm or restrained.

**Inexorable - not to be placated or appeased or moved by entreaty**

* This is a word for people and things that will not change direction. An inexorable person is hard-headed and cannot be convinced to change their mind, no matter what. You can also say that a process, like the progress of a deadly illness, is inexorable because it can't be stopped. A speeding train with no brakes is inexorable; it's not stopping till it crashes. When you see the word inexorable, think "No one's stopping that."

**Inter - place in a grave or tomb**

* Most of the time, the word inter is going to be about burying someone or something. Often times, a family owns a plot of land in a cemetery where all family members are interred when they die.

**Liege - a feudal lord entitled to allegiance and service**

* Ah, the Medieval era, where we find the word liege as we know it, a term used by underlings for the lord of their land.

**Livery - uniform worn by some menservants and chauffeurs**

* The noun livery also refers to a uniform sometimes worn by male servants, like doormen, footmen, and chauffeurs. Your cousin works for a prominent and wealthy family, and he is required to wear the livery of that family when he is on duty. He isn't allowed to say where he works, but he calls his boss, "Your Highness."

**Maw - informal terms for the mouth**

* There's something ravenous as well as ferocious about the term maw. Often maw is used to describe the open mouth of a terrifying creature such as a lion, crocodile, or monster.

**Pensive - deeply or seriously thoughtful**

* If you're pensive, you might simply be thinking hard about something. Having no expression or maybe even frowning can be a result of being so engrossed in your thoughts — it might not reflect a melancholy attitude.

**Probity - complete and confirmed integrity**

* Probity means being morally and ethically above reproach or having integrity. If you show fiscal probity, it means you are responsible and ethical with your money.

**Prostrate - stretched out and lying at full length along the ground**

* If you are prostrate, you feel thrown down and laid flat. It can describe lying on the ground in a helpless position, or it can be used to describe someone who has been overcome or made unable to function, such as someone who is prostrated by grief or illness.

**Purgatory - a temporary state of the dead in Roman Catholic theology**

* In Roman Catholic doctrine, souls atoned for past sins in purgatory before entering heaven. In fact, for centuries, purgatory was often regarded as an actual physical place.

**Sepulcher - a chamber that is used as a grave**

* A sepulcher is a burial vault or tomb, like the one that is featured prominently in the final scenes of Romeo and Juliet. Authors will use sepulchers in literature to establish tone and mood because the word instantly conveys sadness, spookiness, and other unpleasant emotions.

**Shrift - the act of being shriven**

* As a noun, shrift is the act of going to give a religious confession.
* As a verb, shrive is to hear or receive a confession (of sins etc).

**Solace - comfort in disappointment or misery**

* Consolation and solace are similar in meaning as they share a root in the Latin verb sōlārī "to comfort." In fact, solace and consolation are synonyms meaning relief from grief or disappointment.

**Sunder - break apart or in two, using violence**

* Think of the word sunder as violently tearing something apart. A frequent line in a wedding ceremony is, "What God has joined together, let no man tear asunder." Keep that in mind, and you'll have the meaning of the word.