**9th Honors Lit/Comp Vocabulary – Lesson 3**

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| **Word** | **Definition** | **Synonyms/Antonyms** | **Sentence** |
| Capricious | *adj –* changing often and quickly, especially in mood or behavior | syn: fickle, inconsistent  ant: certain, changeless, constant | Luck is often personified as a *capricious* lady who never comes through when needed. |
| Interloper | *n –* a person who is not wanted or welcome by the other people in a situation or place | syn: meddler, intruder, buttinsky | I had hoped to help with my neighbor’s problems, but they regarded me as an *interloper*. |
| Miasma | *n –* a heavy cloud of something unpleasant or unhealthy | syn: pollution | The green, hazy *miasma* that hovered over the town was identified as an airborne toxic event. |
| Ephemeral | *adj –* lasting a very short time | syn: brief; momentary  ant: ceaseless; everlasting | Autumn’s blaze of colors is always to be treasured, all the more so because it is so *ephemeral*. |
| Fathom | *v –* to understand the reason or mechanism for something | syn: gauge; perceive  ant: misunderstand | Scott could not *fathom* the concept of a microverse. |
| Apotheosis | *n* – model of excellence or perfection of a kind; one having no equal | syn: ideal; paragon; epitome | Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy represents the *apotheosis* of the fantasy genre. |
| Amiable | *adj* – friendly, sociable, and pleasant | syn: good-natured; affable; genial  ant: disagreeable; ill-tempered | My first conversation with Mike was *amiable*, and I expect we will be great friends. |
| Sardonic | *adj* – disdainfully or skeptically humorous; derisively mocking | syn: acerbic; sarcastic; snarky  ant: amusing; merry; playful | The *sardonic* political cartoon made the dictator angry enough to arrest the cartoonist. |
| Innuendo | *n* – indirect insult, implication, or accusation | syn: insinuation; imputation | His reputation has been damaged by *innuendos* about his drinking and gambling. |
| Truculent | *adj* – easily annoyed or angered and likely to argue | syn: ferocious; aggressive  ant: easy-going; relaxed | The bully’s truculent nature resulted in his expulsion from three schools. |
| Sallow | *adj –* unhealthy in appearance, often yellow in color | syn – sickly  ant – healthy; vibrant | His skin was *sallow* and his bones pressed tightly against his skin. |
| Affront | *n* – open insult  *v* – to insult, especially to one’s face | syn – barb; put-down  ant – accolade; compliment | Their nasty laughter was an *affront* to her pride. |
| Bogus | *adj* - not genuine or true; fake. | syn: false, fraudulent  ant: authentic, honest | Her body language indicated she was preparing a bogus story. |
| Esoteric | *adj* – beyond the understanding or knowledge of most people | syn: obtuse  ant: easy; straightforward | Since Quantum Mechanics is *esoteric*, the class sizes are often small. |
| Exuberance | *n* – good health and high spirits | syn: vitality; liveliness  ant: indolence; laziness | Felicia’s *exuberance* was apparent in the way she laughed and danced. |