

American Literature II – The Fountainhead

Vocabulary for chapters 2 & 3

1. Dadoes – the lower portion of a wall, decorated differently than the upper section. Example: wainscoting



2. Davenport – sofa
3. Inexorably – doomed to happen; incapable of being stopped
4. Tenacious - tough, bounces back
5. Utility – the service of the good of society in general, rather than the individual

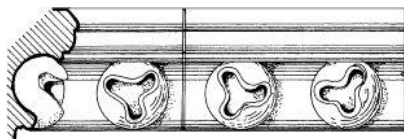
6. Cartouches – figures, often in the shape of a shield or scroll, used as architectural ornamentation



7. Fastidious – difficult to please
8. Fenestration – window pattern in the exterior design of a building
9. Pilasters – decorative features on a wall that resemble columns, but without structural support



10. Sanction – condone or accept
11. Stringcourse – horizontal band or molding used in the exterior design of a building



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Vocabulary for chapters 4 and 5

1. Apparition – ghostly image
2. Haemophilia or hemophilia – disorder by which one's blood does not clot.
3. Presumptuous – making assumptions not warranted by existing conditions
4. Speak-easy – term for an illegal bar during the years of prohibition
5. Tripe – unpleasant labor or a low-quality stew
6. Abysmal – immeasurably deep or very wretched
7. Degradation – shame or insult
8. Fasces – weapon made from bound sticks; symbol of the Roman Empire
9. Garret – room on the top floor, underneath the roof (attic)

Vocabulary for chapters 6 and 7

1. Erudition – scholarly knowledge
2. Vindicated – absolved of guilt or responsibility
3. Prescribed – suggested to the point of requirement
4. Unheedingly – carelessly, without caution

Vocabulary for chapters 8 and 9

1. Entreat – to beg or request
2. Expansively – boldly; with generosity of tone
3. Laudable – worthy of praise
4. Magnanimity – courageous spirit
5. Avid – enthusiastic about something
6. Incredulously – with doubt or disbelief
7. Lewd – vulgar, obscene

Vocabulary for chapters 10 and 11

1. Brocade – silk fabric with raised design
2. Consummate – ultimate



3. Decadent – lush, often with unnecessary richness
4. Grafter – swindler
5. Irresilient – without the stamina to overcome adversity
6. Rancorous – with conflict or hostility
7. Impervious – immune

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Vocabulary for chapters 12 & 13

Aviatrix – female aviator

Debutantes – young women making formal entry into society

Dolefully – sorrowfully

Guttersnipe – insult referring to low social class

Organdy – a stiff, sheer fabric of cotton, silk or muslin

Privation – denial of appetite, particularly of food

Fiend – devil or demon

Zealot – devoted supporter

Chapters 14 and 15

Insolent – rude or disrespectful

Mollify – to soothe or appease

Petulantly – sadly

Lucidity – clarity of thought

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Vocabulary for Part Two

Chapters 1 & 2

Chatelaine – mistress of a castle or a large, fashionable house

Ascetic – denying the self

Austerely – without unnecessary ornamentation

Onyx – translucent black stone

Chapters 3 & 4

Nomenclature – process of naming people or places

Palate – roof of mouth

Congenital – condition from birth or hereditary

Illustrious – well-respected

Sallow – dry, melancholy

Sublime – exalted, noble

Trifling – minor

Vanguard – forefront of a movement

Chapters 5 & 6

Defiled – ruined reputation

Effusive – cheerful, overflowing

Impotence – loss of effectiveness

Sacrilege – an act of blasphemy, of gross irreverence against ideals, especially religious in nature

Virile – masculine

Assignation – prearranged meeting

Debunking – revealing as false

Perfunctory – as a matter of routine, not needed

Ungainliness – clumsiness

Chapters 7 & 8

Catechism – summary or test of religious doctrine

Antithesis – complete opposite

Dowager – widow who owns property from her deceased husband

Drivel – meaningless speech

En passant – in proximity without intimacy; this is usually a chess term, in which a pawn captures another pawn without actually taking the space of the captured piece

Ostentatious – rich and boastful

Placidly – calmly

Premise – basic assumption

Relish – delight

Chapters 9 & 10

Beneficent – kind, but in a formal way

Cadaverous – resembling a dead body

Chastise – verbally reprimand

Connotation – implication of meaning

Imp – mischievous spirit

Proletariat – the working class

Scintillating – arousing, exciting

Sonorous – pleasing to the ear

Superlative – superior without question

Surreptitious – sly, sneaky

Syllogism – logical argument based on parallel structure

Zealot – passionate defender of a cause

Blighted – ugly

Clairvoyant – prophetic or psychic

Mitigating – explaining away negative aspects of a situation

Mundane – everyday, ordinary

Parquet – lower floor of a theatre

Preposterous – ridiculous

Scrupulously – ethically

Chapters 11 & 12

Bromide – a commonplace saying or cliché

Feudal – medieval land ownership

Mongrel – unmatched

Slatternly – untidy, sloppy

Austere – strict, stern

Embezzlement – a betrayal of trust, usually financial

Erudite – knowledgeable

Fiend – demonic being

Lecherously – with lust

Notorious – famous, but for negative reasons

Orgiastic – sensually uncontrolled

Parvenus – people who have risen in social standing without yet receiving acceptance of members of that social class

Tripe – ox stomach, or worthless

Chapters 13 & 14

Gawky – clumsy

Ghastly – horrid

Scurvy – low; base; beneath one

Self-effacing – putting oneself down

Servile – betting of a servant or with the attitude of a servant

Desecrate – destroy the sanctity of

Malevolent – with violent or evil intentions

Proprietorship – ownership

Chapter 15

Altruism – a selfless desire to do good for others

Caisson – watertight chamber used for underwater construction

Imperious – demanding, condescending

Jag – period of overindulgence

Opprobrium – bad reputation

Reclamation – repossession or refurbishment

American Literature II – The Fountainhead Vocabulary for
Part Three

Ch 1

Caricature – satirical portrait

Complaisance – seeming acquiescence or agreement

Depravity – acting on base instincts

Dipsomaniac – craves liquor

Innocuous – without malicious intent

Lurid – wan and ghostly

Patrician – a member of the highest social class

Prodigally – with a genius well before its time

Rudiments – simple concepts

Ch 2

Fissure – crack

Theosophy – philosophy of religion

Ch 3 blatant – intentionally obvious in purpose

Impervious – unaffected by

Placidly – calmly

Ch 4

Stanchion – upright bar or post

Ch 5

Anemic – lacking iron

Obsequious - subservient

Ch 6

Bourgeois – the middle class

Eminent – well-known, famous

Ch 7

Contagion – influence in the mind or emotions

Gluttonous – with an insatiable appetite

Immolation – to offer in sacrifice

Lavish – lush, rich

Ch 8

Eloquence – verbal expressiveness

Inanities – things said with no logical or reasonable purpose

Sordid – seedy, evil

Ch 9

Impertinence – rude, saucy