

Words from Margaret Laurence's The Stone Angel



Avocabo Word List 36

CARP, CAUTERIZED, CHATELAINE,
CONVALESCENCE, COUNTENANCE, EFFUSIVE,
FETTLE, FINAGLED, IGNOMINY, INERTIA,
INTRUSIVE, LACONICALLY, MOLLIFY, PLAINTIVE,
QUERULOUS, RANCOR, RECRIMINATION,
RELINQUISH, SANCTIMONIOUS, TENACIOUS,
UNREGENERATE, VINDICTIVE

The novel means such a hell of a lot to me, simply because it is me... I don't mean the characters are me, naturally, although some of them are, in some ways.... My own dilemma, I see now, is closest to Hagar's son John--in fact, he is the person whom I fee the most for...

- Laurence writing to Adele Wiseman, 2 January 1963.

Exercise 36-1: Fill in the blanks

Complete the following sentences using the list word that is defined. For credit, ensure that you use the correct form of the word, as a few vary from their form above. (22 marks)

1. I looked at him with the feeling that we had traded points of view. For now I was convinced of the very thing he seemed to be _____. I was the one now who believed Arlene was taking pleasure from flaunting him like a ragged flag. *Retiring from; giving up or abandoning.*

2. I will not allow this _____ to pilfer my pride. *Shameful or disgraceful action, conduct, or character.*

3. She'd run herself ragged, toting bowls of broth and mustard plasters up and down the stairs, and when he'd had his fill of coddling, he'd find himself feeling a trifle better and would progress to raspberry jelly and _____ on the living-room sofa. *The period needed for returning to health after illness*

4. For a while you believe you carry nothing with you – all is cancelled from before, or _____, and you begin again and nothing will go wrong this time. *Deadened, as to feelings or moral scruples; calloused*

5. I know I intended doing something, but I can't think what it could have been. Tell Marvin I won't _____ his selling of the house? That must have been it. *To give or express approval to; condone*

6. "Oh- is it time?" Her voice is _____, uncertain. "Will it hurt?" *Expressing a complaint or grievance; grumbling*

7. Well I'm _____ a little, and yet embarrassed, unwilling to give in, for I know I've been unreasonable. It's not Marvin's fault. *Calmed in temper or feeling; soothed*

8. John's letters were infrequent and told me little. Two years went by. Mr. Oatley grew wispier and only poked at his food. I grew stouter and dreaded the lung-taxing climb up to my room. Nothing happened. Then, almost _____, John wrote. *Using or marked by the use of few words; terse or concise.*

9. Some gill-netter passing the point might catch an echo, perhaps, and wonder if he'd imagined it or if it could be the _____ voices of the drowned, calling through the brown kelp that's stopped their mouths, in the deep and barnacled places where their green hair ripples out and snags on the green deep rocks. *Expressing sorrow; mournful or melancholy.*

10. "Very well. I'll behave myself. I'll be what they desire. Oh, but if Doris doesn't wipe that _____ anguish off her face, I'll dig up one of Bram's epithets and fling it at her. That would do the trick." *Feigning piety or righteousness*

11. Again the wolfish voices, eager and _____. They'd not spare a soul if they had their way. *Marked by or resulting from a desire to hurt; spiteful*
12. The Shipley house was square and frame, two storied, the furniture shoddy and second-hand, the kitchen reeking and stale, for no one had scoured there properly since Clara died. Yet, seeing it, I wasn't troubled in the slightest, still thinking of myself as _____. *the mistress of a chateau or large country house*
13. How he hates all this, the bicker-bicker of women, the _____. He ought to have been a hermit or a monk and lived somewhere beyond the reach of human voices. *mutual accusations*
14. Dan was fond of clothes, and when we had a party he would appear in something new, the money having been _____ from Auntie Doll. *obtained or achieved by indirect, usually deceitful methods*
15. I stayed and kept my father's accounts, played hostess for him, chatted diplomatically to guests, did all he expected of me, for I felt, (sometimes with _____, sometimes with despair) that I would reimburse him for what he spent, whatever it cost me. *bitter, long-lasting resentment; deep-seated ill will*
16. He is the kind of player that comes along once every century. The kind of individual who has taken his God-given talents and combined them with a(n) _____ work ethic that is not only inspiring, it's a joy to watch. *Holding or tending to hold persistently to something, such as a point of view.*
17. Here were the wrecks of cutters and buggies, the rusty springs and gashed seats, the skeletons of conveyances purchased in fine _____ by the town fathers and grown as racked and ruined as the old gents, but not afforded a decent concealment in earth. *a state of fitness*
18. Half asleep, I pondered answering, and then, prompted by _____ or curiosity, I kept silent. He went up the stairs from the kitchen, and came back down in a moment. *Resistance or disinclination to motion, action, or change.*
19. To _____ like this – it's my only enjoyment, that and cigarettes, a habit I acquired only ten years ago, out of boredom. *To find fault in a disagreeable way; complain fretfully*
20. Mr. Troy has chosen a bad day to call. The rib pain is not so _____ this afternoon, but my belly growls and snarls like a separate beast. *interrupting inappropriately, especially without invitation, fitness, or permission*
21. Oh, I am unchangeable, _____. I go on speaking the same way, always, and the same touchiness rises within me at the slightest thing. *(adjective) Stubborn; obstinate; not repentant*
22. I hate my breathless agreement, but I've no choice. I mouth _____ thanks, unable to stop myself. *Unrestrained or excessive in emotional expression; gushy*

Exercise 36-2: Synonyms

Circle the list word's closest synonym. (22 marks)

- using a **tenacious** fullcourt defense
a) sorrowful b) resolute c) arrogant
- the compound is used to **cauterize** wounds
a) sear b) relax c) sever
- unwilling to **countenance** a delay
a) approve of b) consider c) forbid
- explained to his **querulous** companion
a) cranky b) agreeable c) nervous
- relinquish** his sentry duty
a) maintain b) cherish c) abandon
- in an effort to **mollify** critics
a) choler b) conciliate c) vociferate
- finagled** his way into the tournament
a) strutted b) wangled c) galloped
- the **inertia** of an entrenched bureaucracy
a) inactivity b) speed c) capacity
- laconically** replied, "You people judge."
a) concisely b) quietly c) obnoxiously
- began with a clarinet's **plaintive** wail
a) sorrowful b) happy c) angry
- the **ignominy** of a prison record
a) dishonor b) respect c) esteem

- 12. **effusive** in praise for him
a) offensive b) inexpressive c) gushing
- 13. **sanctimonious** old man
a) honest b) self-righteous c) cheerful
- 14. I didn't miss her incessant **carping**
a) fishing b) fault-finding c) mournful singing
- 15. a detention camp for **unregenerate** individuals
a) obstinate b) lowly c) flexible
- 16. I am in fine **fettle** physically
a) appeal b) grain c) form
- 17. his daughter and **chatelaine**
a) castle mistress b) super model c) cow
- 18. adopted a **vindictive** attitude
a) revengeful b) intelligent c) inspired
- 19. failure followed by **recrimination**
a) blessing b) accusation c) investigation
- 20. emerged after a month's **convalescence**
a) sleep b) activity c) recuperation
- 21. very **intrusive** neighbours
a) inviting b) invasive c) interesting
- 22. leaks that spread **rancor**
a) lies b) animosity c) pleasure

Exercise 36-3: Etymologies

Determine the word based on its etymology (5 marks)

- 1. _____ from the Latin word meaning 'soft'
- 2. _____ from Old French, from *contenir*, 'to behave'
- 3. _____ from the Greek word for 'Spartan', as the Spartans had a reputation for brevity of speech.
- 4. _____ from Old Norse *karpa*, 'to boast'
- 5. _____ from the Latin word for 'to stink, be rotten'

Exercise 36-4: Making Connections

In a few sentences describe the relationship between each pair of words. (5 x 2 marks = 10 marks)

1. unregenerate flexible

2. rancor Holocaust

3. sanctimonious pharisaical

4. ignominy Janet Jackson

5. vindictive merciful

This unit was contributed by Mrs. Sharon Neibert and her Grade 11 class, February 2004.