Vocabulary From Literature for…

Brave New World
by Aldous Huxley

written by Chris Curtis
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Activity II
Writing Definitions from
Context Clues
Chapters 1-3

Directions: For each excerpt from these chapters, select the correct definition from the choices provided for each vocabulary word. As a last resort, you may use the dictionary but the definition you select for each word must make sense in the context it is being used in the passage.

1. Only from the yellow barrels of the microscopes did it borrow a certain rich and living substance, lying along the polished tubes like butter, streak after luscious streak in long recession down the work tables. (Pg. 3)

Definition for recession:
A. a marching line
B. a withdrawing or going back
C. a forward motion
D. a bump
E. a gathering

2. Bent over their instruments, three hundred Fertilizers were plunged, as the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning entered the room, in the scarcely breathing silence, the absentminded, soliloquizing hum or whistle, of absorbed concentration. A troop of newly arrived students, very young, pink and callow, followed nervously, rather abjectly, at the Director’s heels. Each of them carried a notebook, in which, whenever the great man spoke, he desperately scribbled. (Pg. 4)

Definition for soliloquizing:
A. concentrating closely
B. whispering
C. speaking aloud to oneself
D. annoying others
E. pondering

Definition for callow:
A. lacking maturity
B. friendly
C. lacking knowledge
D. dignified
E. healthy in appearance
Activity VI
Crossword Puzzle
Chapters 1-3

Across
1. a belt with small loops for holding bullets
4. after death
6. a charitable gift or deed
9. excessively moralistic; using proverbs or maxims
11. expressing regret over
13. hard to figure out or understand
19. bitterly; angrily
20. large narrow-necked jars
22. giving birth to a live offspring
23. one who takes the place of another; a substitute
24. impossible to overcome
25. excessive emotional expression

Down
2. impaired, often by rage
3. related to basic facts or principles; fundamental
5. stated and assumed something is true
7. most favorable; best
8. to decide upon in advance
10. given assistance, usually financial
12. unnecessary
14. characterized by a hissing sound
15. dirty and horrid; characterized by poverty
16. to multiply rapidly
17. lacking sophistication; artless
18. something that is bothersome; inconvenient
21. to spread throughout
9. “…Because I never could make him understand that that was what civilized people ought to do. Being mad’s infectious, I believe. Anyhow, John seems to have caught it from the Indians.” (Pg. 122)

Definition for infectious:
A. creates confusion  
B. energizing  
C. opposite of the norm  
D. easily passed from one to another  
E. a current trend

10. Mitsima squeezed and patted, stroked and scraped; and there at last it stood, in shape the familiar water pot of Malpais, but creamy white instead of black, and still soft to the touch. The crooked parody of Mitsima’s, his own stood beside it. Looking at the two pots, he had to laugh. (Pg. 134)

Synonym for parody:
A. opposite  
B. duplicate  
C. inferiority  
D. version  
E. spoof

11. Bernard had entered the room and was advancing between the rows of fertilizers toward them. A veneer of jaunty self-confidence thinly concealed his nervousness. (Pg. 148)

Definition for veneer:  
A. posture, stance  
B. a thin surface that covers another  
C. a friendly greeting  
D. a controlled or restrained response  
E. an attitude

Synonym for jaunty:
A. calm  
B. regal  
C. lively  
D. false  
E. hostile
insinuating – to suggestively introduce a thought
insurmountable – impossible to overcome
intercepted – interrupted the intended course of
intravenals – injections administered directly into the veins
largesse – generosity
luminously – glowing; emitting light
lupus – a disease that affects skin, joints, and body systems
maniacally – characterized by excessive enthusiasm; suggestive of insanity
maudlin – sentimental
monogamy – the practice of having a single mate or partner
mutation – a change in a gene or chromosome resulting in a difference
mutton – the flesh or meat of a sheep
nuisance – something that is bothersome; inconvenient
obscene – morally offensive
officiously – unwanted and overly eager; inappropriately
optimum – most favorable; best
ova – eggs; plural of ovum; the female reproductive cell
pallid – pale
paradoxically – seemingly self-contradictory; illogically
patronizing – with an air of superiority
peritoneum – a membrane that lines the walls of the abdominal cavity
phials – small containers, usually for liquid; vials
porous – allowing gas or liquid to pass through
posthumous – after death
postulated – stated and assumed something is true
predestine – to decide upon in advance
proliferate – to multiply rapidly
prominent – projecting outward; protuberant
promiscuous – not restrictive about sexual partners; indiscriminate
recession – a withdrawing or going back
reluctant – demonstrating unwillingness
remorses – incidents of sadness
revert – to return to a former condition
rigorously – strongly; emphatically
rudimentary – related to basic facts or principles; fundamental
sadism – pleasure received from inflicting pain on others
sententiously – excessively moralistic; using proverbs or maxims
sibilant – characterized by a hissing sound
slavish – showing no originality
soliloquizing – speaking aloud to oneself
spasmodic – occurring in sudden outbursts
squalid – dirty and horrid; characterized by poverty
sterile – incapable of producing offspring
stigmata – marks of disgrace or infamy
subsidized – given assistance, usually financial
suffuse – to spread throughout
sultry – hot and humid
superfluous – beyond what is necessary
surreptitious – marked by secretive behavior
surrogate – one who takes the place of another; a substitute
syringe – a hollow needle used to inject or withdraw liquids from the
triumphantly – with pride in victory
truculently – bitterly; angrily
utterance – something spoken
viscose – thick
viviparous – giving birth to a live offspring
waggishly – wittily