

## List 3 Vocabulary • Bellaire HS English I, Pre-AP

**1. civilize** VERB to bring out of a savage, uneducated, or rude state; make civil; elevate in social and private life; enlighten; refine *Rome civilized the barbarians.*

**civic** ADJ 1: of or pertaining to a city; municipal: civic problems 2: of or pertaining to citizenship; civil: civic duties 3: of citizens: civic pride *Variable sense of civic duty affects voter turnout.*

**civil** ADJ 1: of, pertaining to, or consisting of citizens: civil life; civil society 2: of the commonwealth or state: civil affairs 3: of citizens in their ordinary capacity, or of the ordinary life and affairs of citizens, as distinguished from military and ecclesiastical life and affairs 4: of the citizen as an individual: civil liberty 5: befitting a citizen: a civil duty. *And my guess is the last time there was two weeks of nonstop civil disobedience may have been back in the Civil Rights Movement.*

**civilization** NOUN 1: an advanced state of human society, in which a high level of culture, science, industry, and government has been reached 2: those people or nations that have reached such a state 3: any type of culture, society, etc., of a specific place, time, or group <Greek civilization> 4: the act or process of civilizing or being civilized: Rome's civilization of barbaric tribes was admirable 5: cultural refinement; refinement of thought and cultural appreciation *Civilization is a complex way of life that came about as people began to develop urban settlements. All the comforts of civilization but rustic enough to remind you nature is all around you.*

HG: Cinna and Portia seem to have a civilizing effect on Haymitch and Effie. At least they're addressing each other decently. (76)

**2. adversary** NOUN 1: a person, group, or force that opposes or attacks; opponent; enemy; foe 2: a person, group, etc., that is an opponent in a contest; contestant *But he led from conviction, but never*

**adverse** ADJ 1: unfavorable or antagonistic in purpose or effect <adverse criticism> 2: opposing one's interests or desire <adverse circumstances> 3: being or acting in a contrary direction; opposed or opposing: adverse winds

**adversity** NOUN 1: adverse fortune or fate; a condition marked by misfortune, calamity, or distress: <A friend will show his or her true colors in times of adversity> 2: an adverse or unfortunate event or circumstance *You will meet many adversities in life.*

HG: Presenting ourselves not as adversaries but as friends has distinguished us as much as the fiery costumes. (79)

**3. debt** NOUN 1: something that is owed or that one is bound to pay to or perform for another: a debt of \$50 2: a liability or obligation to pay or render something: My debt to her for advice is not to be discharged easily 3: the condition of being under such an obligation: His gambling losses put him deeply in debt 4: <Theology> an offense requiring reparation; a sin; a trespass *Money borrowed without security is a debt of honor which must be paid without fail and promptly as possible. But there's one group for whom forgiveness has not been forthcoming: ordinary consumers struggling with piles of credit-card debt.*

**debtor** NOUN a person who is in debt or under financial obligation to another (opposed to creditor) *But there is a surging resentment in creditor and debtor countries, and the risk of collapse.*

**indebted** ADJ 1: committed or obligated to repay a monetary loan <He was indebted to his friend for a large sum> 2: obligated for favors or kindness received <He was indebted to her for nursing him through pneumonia.>

HG: We both know he covered for me. So here I am in his debt again. (79)

**4. emaciated** ADJ marked by emaciation *Many of the rescued dogs that I have known have been slender-to-emaciated due to malnutrition before the rescue.*

**emaciation** NOUN abnormal thinness caused by lack of nutrition or by disease *She's turned all brittle and cynical, and she's thin to the point of emaciation.*

HG: The face of the redheaded girl intertwines with gory images from earlier Hunger Games, with my mother withdrawn and unreachable, with Prim emaciated and terrified. (86)

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**5. deluge** NOUN 1: a great flood of water; inundation; flood 2: a drenching rain; downpour 3: anything that overwhelms like a flood <a deluge of mail> 4: the Deluge, flood 5 to flood; inundate 6: to overrun; overwhelm <She was deluged with congratulatory letters.> *Spring rains can trigger a deluge of water that dumps thousands of gallons of water around the house. Record number of voters expected to deluge polls.*

HG: Slowly, I drag myself out of bed and into the shower [....] Then I'm deluged in lemony foam that I have to scrape off with a heavy bristled brush. (86)

**6. oblivious** ADJ unmindful; unconscious; unaware (usually followed by of or to ): She was oblivious of his admiration *People surge into the shallows, oblivious of the shark danger.*

HG: And apparently, I have not been as oblivious to him as I imagined, either. The flour. The wrestling. I have kept track of the boy with the bread. (93)

**7. contempt** NOUN 1: the feeling with which a person regards anything considered mean, vile, or worthless; disdain; scorn 2: the state of being despised; dishonor; disgrace 3: <Law> willful disobedience to or open disrespect for the rules or orders of a court (contempt of court) or legislative body *The haves simply looked at the have nots as poor creatures barely worthy of their contempt.*

contemptuous ADJ showing or expressing contempt or disdain; scornful; disrespectful

HG: Now I see nothing but contempt in the glances of the Career Tributes. (94)

**8. scraggly** ADJECTIVE 1: irregular; uneven; jagged 2: shaggy; ragged; unkempt *Behind my mountain fortress was a vast desert, with nothing but cactus and a few scraggly bushes as far as the eye could see. He has a scraggly mustache and a small white beard growing off the bottom of his chin.*

HG: Has he been able to pick this up from just that scraggly old apple tree in his backyard? (96)

**9. mediocre** ADJ 1: of only ordinary or moderate quality; neither good nor bad; barely adequate *The car gets only mediocre mileage, but it's fun to drive. There is far too much low and mediocre quality science going on out there that does not deserve to be reported or published.*

HG: Despite Haymitch's order to appear mediocre, Peeta excels in hand-to-hand combat, and I sweep the edible plants test without blinking an eye. (96)

**10. irredeemable** ADJ 1: not redeemable; incapable of being bought back or paid off 2.: irremediable; irreparable; hopeless 3: beyond redemption; irreclaimable 4: (of paper money) not convertible into gold or silver *The father is an irredeemable lout, deserving of no sympathy.*

**redeem** VERB 1: to buy or pay off; clear by payment: to redeem a mortgage 2: to buy back, as after a tax sale or a mortgage foreclosure 3: to recover (something pledged or mortgaged) by payment or other satisfaction: to redeem a pawned watch 4: to exchange (bonds, trading stamps, etc.) for money or goods 5: to convert (paper money) into specie *Most of us learn from our mistakes and try to find a way to redeem ourselves. When prices started to fall last year, investors rushed to redeem their holdings.*

**redemption** NOUN 1: an act of redeeming or atoning for a fault or mistake, or the state of being redeemed 2: deliverance; rescue 3: theology; deliverance from sin; salvation 4: atonement for guilt 5: repurchase, as of something sold *Most of us want to believe in redemption and recovery, but not everyone who tries is successful.*

HG: The number, which is between one and twelve, one being irredeemably bad and twelve being unattainably high, signifies the promise of the tribute. (104)

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**11. defiant ADJ** characterized by defiance; boldly resistant or challenging; a defiant attitude *His walk was jaunty and his manner defiant. But it's not just defiant acts that can get you tossed into a foreign jail.*

**defy VERB** 1: to challenge the power of; resist boldly or openly <to defy parental authority> 2: to offer effective resistance to <a fort that defies attack> 3 to challenge (a person) to do something deemed impossible <They defied him to dive off the bridge.> *From electric eels to seahorses, see the fish who defy usual categorization.*

*Researchers defy the laws of physics by making a laser beam bend.*

**defiance NOUN** 1: a daring or bold resistance to authority or to any opposing force 2: open disregard; contempt (often followed by “of”): defiance of danger <His refusal amounted to defiance.> 3: a challenge to meet in combat or in a contest

HG: “...I just lost my head, so I shot an apple out of their stupid roast pig’s mouth! I say defiantly. (106)

**12. quest NOUN** 1: a search or pursuit made in order to find or obtain something <a quest for uranium mines> <a quest for knowledge> 2: <Medieval Romance> an adventurous expedition undertaken by a knight or knights to secure or achieve something <the quest of the Holy Grail> *So began my quest to discover craftspeople passing on a special kind of knowledge to the next generation. They found that students' level of spiritual quest, or seeking meaning and purpose in life, rose during college.*

**question NOUN** 1: a sentence in an interrogative form, addressed to someone in order to get information in reply 2: a problem for discussion or under discussion; a matter for investigation 3: a matter of some uncertainty or difficulty; problem (usually followed by “of”) <It was simply a question of time> 4: a subject of dispute or controversy 5: a proposal to be debated or voted on, as in a meeting or a deliberative assembly *Myths come into existence to answer a question or to serve a purpose, and one may wonder what purpose was served by this myth.*

HG: The only meat I’d shot was a squirrel that had practically run over my toes in its quest for acorns [...]

**13. spoils NOUN** 1: booty, loot, or plunder taken in war or robbery 2: valuables seized by violence, especially in war *Besides the usual spoils of war, the conquerors sought human captives, which were essential for a king to maintain power. The crew shared the spoils, with the captain and the higher-ranked crew getting extra.*

HG: And then one day, without either of us saying it, we became a team. Dividing the work and spoils. Making sure that both our families had food. (111)

**14. aloof ADJ or ADV** 1: at a distance, especially in feeling or interest; apart <They always stood aloof from their classmates.> 2: reserved or reticent; indifferent; disinterested <Because of his shyness, he had the reputation of being aloof.> *To the Greeks the gods seemed equally close and equally aloof.*

HG: Haymitch to Katniss – “Are you going to be charming? Aloof? Fierce?” (116)

**15. literal ADJ** 1: in accordance with, involving, or being the primary or strict meaning of the word or words; not figurative or metaphorical: the literal meaning of a word 2: following the words of the original very closely and exactly <a literal translation of Goethe> 3: true to fact; not exaggerated; actual or factual: a literal description of conditions 4: being actually such, without exaggeration or inaccuracy: the literal extermination of a city 5: (of persons) tending to construe words in the strict sense or in an unimaginative way; matter-of-fact; prosaic *The flooding began flushing out rat holes around the lake, triggering a literal rat race for higher ground. Turning the page is a literal touch of the thing you read.*

**literally ADV** 1: in the literal or strict sense <What does the word mean literally?> 2: in a literal manner; word for word: to translate literally 3: actually; without exaggeration or inaccuracy <The city was literally destroyed.> 4 in

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effect; in substance; very nearly; virtually *Though humans are not literally hairless, much of our hair has become so small and fine as to render it virtually invisible.*

HG: The longer the interview goes on, the more my fury seems to rise to the surface, until I'm literally spitting out answers at him. (117)

**16. elusive ADJ** 1: eluding clear perception or complete mental grasp; hard to express or define: an elusive concept 2: cleverly or skillfully evasive: a fish too elusive to catch *He was inspired by the idea that movies could be so mysterious, elusive, and unpredictable. At boarding school, a boy falls in love with an elusive girl.*

**elude VERB** 1: to avoid or escape by speed, cleverness, trickery, etc.; evade: to elude capture 2: to escape the understanding, perception, or appreciation of <The answer eludes me.> *Crime prevention seems to elude even the most advanced countries.*

**17. anecdote NOUN** 1: a short account of a particular incident or event, especially of an interesting or amusing nature 2: a short, obscure historical or biographical account *His prose is unsophisticated, but his anecdote-filled story is engaging.*

HG: He [Peeta] plays up the baker's son thing, comparing the tributes to the breads from their districts. Then he has a funny anecdote about the perils of Capitol showers. "Tell me, do I still smell like roses?" he asks Caesar, and then there's a whole run where they take turns sniffing each other than brings down the house. (130)

**18. dominate VERB** 1: to rule over; govern; control 2: to tower above; overlook; overshadow <A tall pine dominated the landscape> 3: to predominate, permeate, or characterize. *Recently discovered offshore energy reserves are spurring efforts to dominate the sea.*

**dominant ADJ** 1: ruling, governing, or controlling; having or exerting authority or influence: dominant in the chain of command 2: occupying or being in a commanding or elevated position 3: predominant; main; major; chief <Corn is the dominant crop of Iowa.> 4: Genetics - of or pertaining to a dominant gene

**dominion NOUN** 1: the power or right of governing and controlling; sovereign authority 2: rule; control; domination 3: a territory, usually of considerable size, in which a single rulership holds sway 4: lands or domains subject to sovereignty or control. *We desire no conquest, no dominion.*

HG: I have to raise my head out of the required respect and cannot avoid seeing that every screen is now dominated by a shot of Peeta and me, separated by a few feet that in the viewers' heads can never be breached.

**19. star-crossed ADJ** thwarted or opposed by the stars; ill-fated <star-crossed lovers> But his relationship with the magazine was star-crossed at virtually every turn.

HG: "[...] You're all they're talking about. The star-crossed lovers from District Twelve!" says Haymitch. (135)

**20. gnaw VERB** 1: to bite or chew on, especially persistently 2: to wear away or remove by persistent biting or nibbling 3: to form or make by so doing: to gnaw a hole through the wall 4: to waste or wear away; corrode; erode 5: to trouble or torment by constant annoyance, worry, etc.; vex; plague *Do not leave bags of salt or leather items where animals can gnaw them.*

**21. arbitrary ADJ** 1: subject to individual will or judgment without restriction; contingent solely upon one's discretion <an arbitrary decision> 2: having unlimited power; uncontrolled or unrestricted by law; despotic; tyrannical <an arbitrary government> 4: capricious; unreasonable; unsupported: an arbitrary demand for payment *We just need something less arbitrary than a coin flip.*

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HG: Slowly, I drag myself out of bed and into the shower. I arbitrarily punch buttons on the control board and end up hopping from foot to foot as alternating jets of icy cold and steaming hot water assault me. (86)

**22. surly ADJ** 1: churlishly rude or bad-tempered: a surly waiter. Synonyms: sullen, uncivil, brusque, irascible, splenetic, choleric, cross; grumpy, grouchy, crabby 2: unfriendly or hostile; menacingly irritable: a surly old lion. Synonyms: threatening, malevolent *Nevertheless they tease and worry, poke and tickle the animal continually, so that he is surly and snappish. He even thinks fondly of the surly drill instructors who shouted in his face.*

HG: Peeta is more patient, but I become fed up and surly. (99)

**23. reprieve NOUN** 1: a respite from impending punishment, as from execution of a sentence of death 2: a warrant authorizing this 3: any respite or temporary relief *After a decades-long reprieve, bed bugs have returned with a vengeance, plaguing rich and poor alike. He was granted a reprieve so that the state could determine whether he was mentally competent to be executed.*

HG: I escape to my room as quickly as possible and burrow down under the covers. The stress of the day, particularly the crying, has worn me out. I drift off, reprieved, relieved, and with the number eleven still flashing behind my eyelids. (109)

**24. pretense NOUN** 1: pretending or feigning; make-believe <My sleepiness was all pretense.> 2: a false show of something <a pretense of friendship> 3: a piece of make-believe 4: the act of pretending or alleging falsely 5: a false allegation or justification <He excused himself from the lunch on a pretense of urgent business>

HG: [...] I'm relieved we [Peeta and Katniss] can stop the pretense of being friends. (114)

**25. sullen ADJ** 1: showing irritation or ill humor by a gloomy silence or reserve 2: persistently and silently ill-humored; morose 3: indicative of gloomy ill humor *Miserable, sullen and homesick, she has a difficult time adjusting.*

HG: "What's Peeta's approach? Or am I not allowed to ask?" I say. "Likable. He has a sort of self-deprecating humor naturally," says Haymitch. "Whereas when you open your mouth, you come across as more sullen and hostile." (116)

**26. banal ADJ** devoid of freshness or originality; hackneyed; trite *Indie rock aficionados may hold themselves above the pop-idol-worshiping masses, but their culture can be just as banal.*

HG:

**27. self-deprecating ADJ** belittling or undervaluing oneself; excessively modest *Pleasantly self-deprecating, he acknowledges that he is not always right.*

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**28. bluff VERB** 1: to mislead by a display of strength, self-confidence, or the like <He bluffed me into believing that he was a doctor.> 2: to gain by bluffing <He bluffed his way into the job.> 3: in Poker - to deceive by a show of confidence in the strength of one's cards *He thought it sometimes right for the police to bluff even about incriminating evidence.*  
**bluff NOUN** an act or instance or the practice of bluffing *Her pathetic story was all a bluff to get money from us. His assertive manner is mostly bluff.*

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to call someone's bluff **IDIOM** to expose a person's deception; challenge someone to carry out a threat *He always said he would quit, so we finally called his bluff.*

HG: Peeta, talking about Gale: "[...] I bet he's smart enough to know a bluff when he sees it." (136)

29. cutting **ADJ** 1: piercing, as a wind 2: wounding the feelings severely; sarcastic *During our brief conversations, he has made cutting remarks about his fellow colleagues that have made him unpopular.*

HG:

30. catacombs **NOUN** 1: an underground cemetery, especially one consisting of tunnels and rooms with recesses dug out for coffins and tombs 2: the Catacombs, the subterranean burial chambers of the early Christians in and near Rome, Italy 3: an underground passageway, especially one full of twists and turns *Ruins of other ancient buildings, aqueducts and catacombs are scattered throughout the old city.*

HG: The arenas are historic sites, preserved after the Games. Popular destinations for Capitol residents to visit, to vacation. Go for a month, rewatch the Games, tour the catacombs, visit the sites where the deaths took place. You can even take part in the reenactments." (144-5)