

Year 11 English Vocabulary List

(Tier 2 and Tier 3)



Anagnorisis – the point in a play, novel, etc., in which a principal character recognises or discovers another character's true identity or the true nature of their own circumstances.

Apparition – a ghostly appearing figure.

Aside – a remark or passage in a play that is intended to be heard by the audience but unheard by the other characters in the play.

Bounteous – given or giving freely.

Contrive – make or work out a plan for; devise.

Culminate – end, especially to reach a final or climactic stage.

Depict – if you depict something, you create a picture of it.

Divine Right of Kings – God chooses the next monarch.

Elicit – if you elicit a response or feeling from someone you draw it out of him or her.

Emasculate – make a male weaker or less effective.

Eminence – high status importance due to superiority.

Equivocate – be deliberately ambiguous or unclear.

Hamartia – a fatal flaw leading to the tragic hero's downfall.

Hubris – excessive pride or self-confidence.

Malevolence – the quality of threatening evil.

Machiavellian – cunning, scheming, and unscrupulous, especially in politics.

Peripeteia – a sudden reversal of fortune or change in circumstances, especially in reference to fictional narrative.

Persevere – if you persevere with something, you keep doing it even though it is difficult.

Posterity – all of the offspring of a given ancestor.

Regicide – the killing of the king.

Soliloquy – an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself by a character in a play.

Thane – a lord, baron, nobleman.

Turmoil – a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.

Tragic hero – a great or virtuous character in a dramatic tragedy who is destined for downfall, suffering, or defeat.

Treason – a crime that undermines the government.

Unsanctified – not holy due to impurities or defilement.

Usurp – to take a position of power by force or illegally.

Valiant – having or showing heroism or courage.

Vengeance – harming someone in retaliation for something they have done.

Wayward – resistant to guidance or discipline.