**Expository Writing**

**Vocabulary List 3.4**

**Week of 3/7**

1. arid – (adj) 1. having little or no rain; 2. Lacking interest or excitement

*Without water, the flowers cannot thrive in the arid climate.*

*The town has an arid, empty feel.*

2. excerpt – (noun) a short part/section of a film, broadcast, music, writing

*We could only view a short excerpt of the movie because class was about to end.*

3. exhaustive – (adj) fully comprehensive; thorough

*Because the doctor was unsure of my diagnosis, he ordered exhaustive labs tests to identify my health issue.*

4. epiphany – (noun) a moment when you suddenly realize or understand something important

*During my physics class yesterday, I had an epiphany and finally understood the theory we had been discussing in class.*

5. postulate – (verb) to hypothesize; to suggest the fact or truth of (something) as a basis for reasoning

*Because John is quite arrogant, he will often postulate on subjects on which he has very little knowledge of.*

*Todd was the first person on the jury to postulate a theory about the defendant’s motives.*

6. reverie – (noun) daydream

*I was so lost in a reverie that I did not hear my teacher’s instructions.*

7. insipid – (adj) lacking vigor or interest; boring

*The chicken broth lacks the right seasoning and tastes insipid.*

*The little boy did not enjoy having to sit still during the insipid spelling lesson.*

8. austere – (adj) severe or strict in manner or appearance

*Without any decorations, the Christmas tree looked austere.*

*A monk chooses to live an austere life because of his religious beliefs.*

9. cacophony – (noun) a harsh, unpleasant mixture of sounds; clamor

*The cacophony in the classroom drowned out the principal’s morning announcement.*

*Because the band had not practiced enough, their performance was a cacophony instead of entertaining music.*

10. surreptitious – (adj) secretive (especially because it might not be approved of)

; clandestine

*The dog has his surreptitious ways of stealing food from the counter.*

*Throwing me a surprise birthday party was a surreptitious thing to do!*

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