

Name _____



Summer Reading Vocabulary

Predict the meaning of the each word and then write the actual meaning from the dictionary.

1. nepotism (n.)

“It’s not nepotism, it’s how the universe operates. People hire people they know; schools admit people they know—it’s natural”(21).

- Your prediction:

- What it actually means:

2. pompous (adj.)

“ In the main building...**pompous** oil paintings of past headmasters, distinguished teachers, literary figures, and board presidents hung with imposing and slightly ridiculous grandeur” (25).

- Your prediction:

- What it actually means:

3. pejorative (adj.)

“He then explained that he was using “geekiest” in its **pejorative** sense...” (27).

- Your prediction:

- What it actually means:

4. proponent (n.)

“We’ve got to replace geek bleak with geek chic,’ one proponent actually argued...” (41).

- Your prediction:

- What it actually means:

Bonus question: What word means “the opposite of a proponent”? (Hint: it’s a word also found in the plural on p. 41):_____

5. lax (adj.)

“Security at Alabaster was lax” (66).

- Your prediction:

- What it actually means:

6. cachet (n.)

“To be a mystery about which people know just enough to wonder what else there is to know, so that membership in the society holds a certain **cachet**” (147).

- Your prediction:
- What it actually means:

7. **egalitarian** (adj.) or (n.)

“Alpha was a completely **egalitarian** pie lover. He liked everything” (91).

- Your prediction:
- What it actually means:

8. **hubris**

“What led her to do what she did: things she would later view with a curious mixture of **hubris** and regret”(107).

- Your prediction:
- What it actually means:

9. **cognitive** (adj.)

“My cognitive functioning is noticeably impaired” (45).

- Your prediction:
- What it actually means:

10. **prose** (n)

“Mr. Wodehouse is a prose stylist of such startling talent that Frankie nearly skipped around with glee when she first read some of his phrases” (109).\

- Your prediction:
- What it actually means:

BONUS: What is “**schadenfreude**” (76)? Use it in a sentence!

Other words you might be confused about =