

Vocabulary and Related Issues in the 2014 AFYE book:

Magary, D. (2011), *The Postmortal*, Penguin Books

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Preface

The CSUN freshmen reading for 2014 uses some vocabulary that may be new to some readers. This document was generated to assist faculty in helping their students address potential language difficulties. This document may also stimulate English faculty and other faculty to generate one or more short exercises to assist our motivated freshman. Any errors or omissions in this document should be attributed to Wayne only.

This document contains the following four sections:

1. Vocabulary – English
2. Vocabulary – Geographic
3. Reference
4. Composition

The page numbers below refer to the 2011 paperback edition (green cover).

Section 1: Vocabulary – English

The following are some of the more challenging terms.

Notes:

1. If a word appeared more than once in the original text, then only the first page reference is listed.
2. Geographic references and regional idioms are listed in the "Vocabulary-Geographic" worksheet.
3. Proper nouns (or narrowly-defined terms and phrases) are listed in the "Reference" worksheet.
4. Words that appear with a foreign spelling were spelled that way in the original text.
5. In general, the following words in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary (<http://www.m-w.com/>).

Section	Page	Term		
I	1	veracity	I	2 abridged
I	2	fastidious	I	2 Incontrovertible
I	2	brevity	I	6 gauzy
			I	6 pristine

I	6	recesses	I	51	socialite
I	6	dweebier	I	56	engulfed
I	6	shepherded	I	57	castigate
I	8	entails	I	60	bereavement
I	8	vanity	I	71	appeaser
I	8	inexplicably	II	75	bestowed
I	11	cursor	II	76	intolerant
I	11	puce	II	76	semblance
I	12	edict	II	79	indelible
I	12	affront	II	82	monstrosity
I	13	fleeting	II	86	atrium
I	13	blasphemy	II	86	edifice
I	13	excommunicable	II	87	diorama
I	13	reverence	II	87	fabled
I	15	hypothetical	II	90	insurgents
I	16	snaggletooth	II	96	staunchly
I	19	irony	II	101	bassinet
I	19	ruminating	II	105	catatonic
I	19	provocation	II	106	extricate
I	20	unmoor	II	107	phantom
I	20	inscrutable	II	112	lavishness
I	24	defaced	II	122	blissful
I	24	scythe	II	123	dawdled
I	24	impaling	II	126	organic
I	24	polarized	II	127	gregarious
I	24	omen	II	127	effusive
I	25	niggling	II	128	circumnavigation
I	25	raspy	II	128	figuratively
I	26	inquisitive	II	128	indelibility
I	29	ebullient	II	130	scaffolding
I	29	fanatical	II	130	facade
I	32	diatribe	II	131	nondenominational
I	33	blight	II	131	whims
I	33	utopian	II	132	dogmas
I	34	subsidizing	II	133	crudités
I	36	annulment	II	137	suitor
I	36	pretenses	II	138	coven
I	36	parameters	II	139	coarsen
I	36	abide	II	140	unencumbered
I	38	introspective	II	151	bequeath
I	42	pathetic	II	153	abating
I	42	proximity	II	162	cynicism
I	50	presumptuous	II	168	atrophying

II	175	chasm	III	286	mirage
III	187	pillaging	III	289	futile
III	188	cheesy	III	289	swaths
III	188	wifebeaters	III	289	burgeoning
III	189	revelation	III	289	involuntary
III	190	befuddled	IV	302	cuticle
III	198	pragmatic	IV	302	cul-de-sac
III	198	evangelicals	IV	304	remorse
III	208	collectivist	IV	307	gait
III	209	skeevy	IV	307	sashaying
III	212	calloused	IV	309	bipedal
III	215	pined	IV	313	demise
III	215	elongate	IV	314	swaddled
III	216	superfluous	IV	318	proactive
III	216	rancor	IV	318	merciful
III	217	gingerly	IV	318	rebuffed
III	217	goaded	IV	319	quarantined
III	218	begrudge	IV	320	demeanor
III	222	vestigial	IV	320	manic
III	222	prattled	IV	320	wraith
III	222	grimaced	IV	320	specters
III	222	vagrants	IV	321	ensconced
III	225	scrum	IV	321	slumber
III	227	ferment	IV	331	spores
III	232	shebang	IV	333	destitute
III	241	vaporized	IV	333	ransack
III	245	tranquil	IV	337	behest
III	249	accentuated	IV	339	stymied
III	256	proselytizing	IV	346	summon
III	270	muse	IV	346	fugitive
III	270	clotheshorse	IV	346	taunt
III	271	phosphorescent	IV	353	rift
III	275	trance	IV	350	cacophony
III	275	lance	IV	356	bedraggled
III	277	convulsing	IV	356	fuselage
III	277	discernable	IV	356	smoldering
III	278	profoundly	IV	357	mosh
III	279	monolith	IV	359	morass
III	284	retch	IV	360	tethered
III	284	mortified	IV	360	beckoned
III	285	vener			
III	285	seethe			

Section 2: Vocabulary – Geographic

The following are some of the more challenging geographic references and idioms.

Notes:

1. If a word appeared more than once in the original text, then only the first page reference is listed.

Section	Page	Term	Region	Notes
I	3	Midtown	NY	part of Manhattan Island
I	13	Rikers	NY	prison [on an island]
I	17	Lusardi's	NY	upscale restaurant in Manhattan
I	18	São Paulo	Brazil	city
I	19	Metro-North	NY	train line
I	29	The Forties	NY	Manhattan street area
I	37	Majorca	Spain	island in the Mediterranean Sea
I	37	Hamptons	NY	upscale New York resort town
I	38	uptown	NY	"above" (North of) mid-town Manhattan
I	41	Hudson	NY	river
I	56	Penn Station	NY	major subway/railway hub
II	89	LaGuardia	NY	airport named after a mayor
III	201	Beltway	DC	I-495 "loop" freeway
III	210	Falls Church	VA	city
III	213	Queens	NY	borough
III	221	Great Falls	NY	city
III	245	Annandale	VA	city
III	269	Adams Morgan	DC	neighborhood
III	270	Dulles	DC	airport named after a diplomat
III	271	Cuernavaca	Mexico	City
IV	313	Fredericksburg	VA	City

Section 3: Reference

The following are some of the important figurative or literal references (or very specific nouns).

Notes:

1. If a word appeared more than once in the original text, then only the first page reference is listed.
2. Words that appear in italics were italicized in the original text.
3. Words that appear in brackets (i.e., "[" and "]") also appeared in the original text.

4. Words that appear in parentheses (i.e., "(" and ")") were added to help in disambiguation.

Section	Page	Term/Phrase
I	3	evil bridge troll
I	7	DNA
I	7	vector [,or a carrier]
I	8	allergens
I	8	heaven and seventy-two virgins
I	9	(Thomas) Malthus's theory
I	9	scalpel
I	17	degrees of separation
I	17	[guardian of] the fountain
I	17	polygraph
I	18	[glass of] Shiraz
I	27	gimp mask
I	29	placebo effect
I	32	fascist
I	32	activist judge
I	36	hedge fund [guy]
I	37	Majorca
I	39	Mother Teresa
I	48	Prefontaine Classic
I	51	CAT scan
I	64	Kent State
II	82	Fountain of Youth
II	101	vernix [caseosa]
II	120	Peter Pan [cases]
II	134	<i>The Sound of Music</i>
II	141	Wicked Witch of the West
II	147	Benevolent [Association]
II	165	Gorgonzola
III	183	plug-in [car]
III	187	McMansions
III	187	Winnebagos
III	189	Hunter S. [Thompson]
III	193	AA
III	201	compound
III	213	sari
III	213	toga party
III	214	khakis
III	221	lumbar [region]

III	222	sciatica
III	230	D-Day in Normandy
III	230	Armstrong on the moon
III	231	[the] Joe Cocker [arrangement]
III	245	hippie
III	245	blacklight
III	248	Bridgestones
III	260	malignant [tissue]
III	261	fools errand
III	270	Keith Richards
III	272	Joe Francis [type]
III	284	EKG
III	285	MRI
IV	304	soft assets [transferred]
IV	305	[tried in] absentia
IV	209	Parkour [superstar competitions]
IV	314	Sharpie
IV	315	biplor (disorder)
IV	320	manic-depressive
IV	322	secessionists
IV	322	neofeudalist [bunkers]
IV	323	Picasso
IV	334	whack one mole
IV	335	[gave you that] mulligan
IV	347	plague of locuts
IV	356	Venus (planet)

Section 4: Composition

The following are sundry composition issues.

Notes:

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Section	Page	Term/Phrase	Notes
I	13	alight	used correctly in the book?
I	16	cure-dar	hyphenated blend
II	151	forevergreen	blend
III	183	schtupping	Yiddish origin
III	188	steakheads	slang

III	198	journo	slang
III	202	deathgram	blend
III	215	pined	used correctly in the book?
III	244	glampire	slang
III	249	poofy	used correctly in the book?
III	259	robovaccine	blend?
III	261	fools errand	idiomatic phrase
IV	307	schlepping	Yiddish origin
IV	346	crunchy [eco-lawyer]	slang