| # | word | context | part of speech | definition |
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|  | austerity | To me this Ariel-like phenomenon was the magical child of Unitarian austerity, symbolic of the lofty attitude that sought out a primitive farmhouse as a relief from well-furnished urban comfort. | noun | seriousness, sternness, plainness |
|  | deteriorated | With her gone, he deteriorated rapidly. | intransitive verb – v.i. (past) | wore out, disintegrated, decayed |
|  | eminent | Her father was an eminent Unitarian minister… | adjective | well-known, distinguished |
|  | exploit | Sammy's boss tries to exploit him… | transitive verb | to use selfishly for one's own aims |
|  | furtive | The old Alton station was his kind of place, savoring of transit and the furtive small pleasures of city life. | adjective | secretive |
|  | homogenized | Sammy dislikes this uniform, homogenized society… | adjective | made to be similar |
|  | ostentatiously | Reverend Whitworth was ostentatiously careful in everything his hands did, and I resented this, with the implacable ressentiment of youth. | adverb | showily, flashily |
|  | passive | Sammy sees most of the people in his world as passive followers… | adjective | not participating actively; not reacting visibly to something that might be expected to produce an emotion |
|  | pentameters | How swanky that felt, to read Milton all day, the relatively colorless and hard-to-memorize pentameters of “Paradise Regained,” and, in sight of the other undergraduates disembarking, to be met and embraced on the platform by a girl—no, a woman—wearing a gray cloth coat, canvas tennis sneakers, and a ponytail. | noun | lines of verse (poetry) with five “feet” or pairs of syllables |
|  | posthumous | …posthumous suppers in an upper room… | adjective | after death |
|  | retrospective | It was in Vermont, before the others arrived, that, by our retrospective calculations, we conceived our first child, unintentionally but with no regrets. | adjective | backward-looking |
|  | reverberated | The click of her latch had reverberated above us like a thunderclap. | intransitive verb – v.i. (past) | echoed, resounded |
|  | socioeconomic | socioeconomic classes | adjective | relating to the combination of social and economic factors |
|  | transcendentalist | …some of their hip philosophy buffed up his old-fashioned transcendentalist sermons… | adjective | relating to a philosophy that says the spiritual, mystical, and supernatural are more imporant than the material and anything that can be observed |