

Part One Vocabulary Definitions

Harmattan: a dry dusty on the Atlantic coast of Africa from December to February.

improvident: not having forethought, thoughtless

kola: a nut in Africa with a high caffeine content

impending: to be about to happen

intricate: very complicated and detailed

cowrie: small seashell used as currency in Africa and Southeast Asia

prowess: skill or expertise in a particular field

ultimatum: final demand or statement of terms

potent: powerful

imperious: assuming power and authority without justification

emissary: a person sent on a special mission

interim: the intervening time

capricious: given to sudden and unaccountable changes in mood or behavior

malevolent: evil

oracle: prophet,

void: empty space

machete: broad heavy knife used as a tool or weapon

abomination: a thing that causes disgust or hatred

cassava: a tropical starchy tuberous root

tendrils: slender threadlike appendage of a climbing plant

sisal: plant fiber used to make rope or matting

luxuriant: rich

tubers: roots

brusqueness: act of being abrupt

kindred: one's family and relations

benevolent: good and kind

atone: to make payment

exacting: making great demands on one's skills or attention

poignant: evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret

plait: to braid hair

calabashes: gourd

foo-foo: West African food made from cassava

tentative: not certain, provisional, done without confidence

pottage: stew

consoled: comforted in a time of disappointment

persistent: continuing firmly in spite of difficulties or obstacles

Part One Vocabulary Definitions

grantees: people of high rank or status

propheesied: predicted the future

entrails: intestines or internal organs

feign: to pretend to be affected by something

harbinger: person who signals the approach of another; a forerunner of something

plantains: starchy banana-like plant; cooked as a vegetable in tropics

raffia: fiber from a specific tropical plant used to make baskets, clothing...

coiffure: hair do

thatch: roof covering of straw, palm leaves, reeds, or similar material

amiss: not quite right

devoid: entirely lacking; free from

mutilate: inflict violent and disfiguring injury

esoteric: intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest

approbation: approval or praise

specious: superficially plausible, but actually wrong

voluble: speaking or spoken incessantly and fluently

sullen: bad-tempered, gloomy, sulky

discern: perceive or recognize something

incipient: in an initial stage: beginning to happen or develop

orator: speaker

omen: event that is regarded as a portent of good or evil

lamentation: cry; passionate expression of grief or sorrow

tremulous: shaking or quivering

inadvertent: not resulting from deliberate planning

brandishing: to wave something as a threat or in extreme anger or excitement

tethered: tied

close-fisted: stingy; unwilling to spend money.

