

# Flocabulary:

## The Hip-hop approach to SAT-Level Vocabulary Building

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## Chapter 2: The Songs

# TRANSFORMATION

### Word Bank

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Myopic

Ratiocinate

Render

Recapitulate

Loquacious

Verbose

Gregarious

Elocution

Circumlocution

Cogent

Seminal

Meritorious

Redact

Placate

Tedious

Tome

Peruse

Entomology

Ostracize

Pariah

Persevere

Latent

Burgeon

Diligent

Paragon

Commodious

Clairvoyant

Cosmopolitan

Vast

Voluminous

Recalcitrant

Exorbitant

Extravagant

Colossus

Synopsis

Cadence

Cavort

Boisterous

Daft

Deft



The transformation of bookworms  
into hip-hop icons,  
a dictionary and a microphone,  
a dictionary and a mic.

Now this here's a story for  
the fellows and ladies,  
sporting pocket protectors and  
socket inspectors and marking their vectors,  
glasses thick,  
they're **myopic**, short-sighted,  
they can't see the crumbs on their lips.  
They don't say the word think,  
they say "**ratiocinate**."  
They don't **render** repeat,  
they say **recapitulate**.  
When they speak they're  
wordy and **loquacious**,  
**verbose** and **gregarious**,  
so many words it's hilarious.  
They study **elocution**,  
the art of public speaking,  
but they talk in **circumlocutions**,  
indirect language.  
They're **recalcitrant**,  
defiant, and unapologetic.  
Write an essay on  
Shakespeare for extra credit.  
So **cogent** and smart  
that it changes the field,  
it's **seminal** and original.  
Their **meritorious** work always deserves merit,  
they revise and **redact** their papers, they edit.  
They **placate** their parents,  
soothe them out,  
by always getting good grades  
and never leaving the house.  
To them homework is never **tedious**,

**myopic** (adj.) - short-sighted

**ratiocinate** (v.) - to think, contemplate

**render** (v.) - to say, or to make

**recapitulate** (v.) - to repeat, reiterate

**loquacious** (adj.) - talkative

**verbose** (adj.) - wordy

**gregarious** (adj.) - sociable

**elocution** (n.) - the art of public speaking

**circumlocution** (n.) - indirect language

**recalcitrant** (adj.) - defiant

**cogent** (adj.) - intelligent, viable

**seminal** (adj.) - original, ground-breaking

**meritorious** (adj.) - deserving of praise or merit

**redact** (v.) - to revise, edit

**placate** (v.) - to soothe, appease

**tedious** (adj.) - boring, dull



# 🌿 Flocabulary: A Dictionary and a Microphone

dull and boring, they're never snoring or yawning  
they're working evening and morning.  
They have **tomes**, large books in their homes, which they read and **peruse** when  
they're talking to you on the phone.  
They know about Pokemon, Everquest, insects, **entomology**, Dungeons and Dragons, and chess.

The transformation of bookworms into hip-hop icons,  
a dictionary and a microphone,  
a dictionary and a mic.

Now if you've ever felt left out and **ostracized**, like a **pariah**, try Flocabulary Cereal with fiber.  
We put the k in Outkast, **persevere**, persist, and outlast, we're part of this complete breakfast.  
Your **latent** skills, hidden skills, will **burgeon** and blossom, after one bite, it'll be awesome.  
If you're following the serving suggestions **diligently**, carefully, you'll be more hip-hop than Run D.M.C.  
You'll be the **paragon** of animals, the model of perfection, blowing up the session like a Mormon on a mission.  
Your house will be more roomy and **commodious**, you'll be more **clairvoyant** than Nostradamus.  
Gaze into your crystal ball, more **cosmopolitan** than Carrie Bradshaw,

**tome** (n.) - a large book  
**peruse** (v.) - to examine carefully

**entomology** (n.) - the study of insects

**ostracize** (v.) - to exclude from a community  
**pariah** (n.) - an outcast

**persevere** (v.) - to persist, remain constant

**latent** (adj.) - present but hidden  
**burgeon** (v.) - to come forth, blossom

**diligent** (adj.) - careful, showing care

**paragon** (n.) - model of perfection

**commodious** (adj.) - spacious, roomy  
**clairvoyant** (adj.) - able to see and detect things that others cannot

**cosmopolitan** (adj.) - worldly, sophisticated



with her humongous, **vast**, **voluminous**,  
**exorbitant**, extensive,  
**extravagant** collection of shoes, sophisticated  
 shoes.

You'll be larger than a **colossus**,  
 Tony Danza will ask you who the boss is.  
 Summarize in a speech and give a **synopsis**.

Your speech will have that **cadence**,  
 that rhythm, progression of sound,  
 that makes people **cavort**, dance, and get  
 down.

You used to have a **boisterous** loud laugh,  
 people used to  
 think of you as crazy and **daft**.  
 Now you're so **deft** and skilled you got mass  
 appeal,  
 people crowd around you like Jesus eating his  
 last meal.

The transformation of bookworms  
 into hip-hop icons,  
 a dictionary and a microphone,  
 a dictionary and a mic.

**vast** (adj.) - enormous, immense  
**voluminous** (adj.) - large, ample  
**exorbitant** (adj.) - excessive  
**extravagant** (adj.) - excessive, over-the-top  
**colossus** (n.) - an enormous structure

**synopsis** (n.) - a summary  
**cadence** (n.) - rhythm

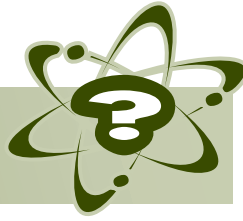
**cavort** (v.) - to prance, dance about

**boisterous** (adj.) - loud, energetic

**daft** (adj.) - insane, foolish  
**deft** (adj.) - skilled, adept



# Do You Remember?



**Synonym Matching:** In the space provided, write the letter of the synonym on the right that corresponds to the word on the left.

- |                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. Placate _____      | A. Defiant |
| 2. Ratiocinate _____  | B. Appease |
| 3. Tedious _____      | C. Adept   |
| 4. Tome _____         | D. Prance  |
| 5. Recalcitrant _____ | E. Book    |
| 6. Redact _____       | F. Think   |
| 7. Burgeon _____      | G. Summary |
| 8. Synopsis _____     | H. Blossom |
| 9. Deft _____         | I. Boring  |
| 10. Cavort _____      | J. Revise  |

**Sentence Completion:** Each sentence below has one blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words labeled A through E. Choose the word that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. There was a talkative girl in my English class who called herself "Chatty Cathy"; she was easily the most \_\_\_\_\_ girl in school and proud of it.

- A) Taciturn
- B) Sagacious
- C) Ribald
- D) Confounding
- E) Loquacious

2. My lawyer encouraged me to carefully \_\_\_\_\_ the cell phone contract before signing.

- A) Disregard
- B) Rebuke
- C) Peruse
- D) Ascertain
- E) Incinerate



3. After reading Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, in which the protagonist morphs into a cockroach, I became a fanatical student of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Ornithology
- B) Botany
- C) Ecology
- D) Scientology
- E) Entomology

4. Always calm under pressure, Pharell won the debate based on his \_\_\_\_\_ arguments and perfectly structured rebuttals.

- A) Vacuous
- B) Tenuous
- C) Cogent
- D) Boisterous
- E) Quixotic

5. The four years spent camping on the polar ice cap became worthwhile when Dr. Schnoo was awarded a Nobel Prize for completing \_\_\_\_\_ research on penguin bathing habits.

- A) Antediluvian
- B) Discursive
- C) Ominous
- D) Frivolous
- E) Seminal

6. Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton are known as commanding presidents and master \_\_\_\_\_, often mesmerizing audiences with the spoken word.

- A) Artisans
- B) Elocutionists
- C) Citizens
- D) Denizens
- E) Anarchists



7. Sometimes used-car salesmen have a way of speaking in \_\_\_\_\_; I wish they'd just tell it like it is!

- A) Chorus
- B) Paradoxes
- C) Maledictions
- D) Circumlocutions
- E) Paradigms

8. Maria loved being a teacher for those moments when she discovered a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ talent in one of her most timid students.

- A) Latent
- B) Obvious
- C) Fortuitous
- D) Lucid
- E) Malleable

9. The Bentley is the \_\_\_\_\_ of luxury vehicles, and a staple for Hollywood's elite.

- A) Doppelganger
- B) Medley
- C) Paragon
- D) Reservoir
- E) Solvent

10. Just because Tessa predicted that J. Lo and Ben Affleck would break up doesn't make her \_\_\_\_\_; that was a pretty predictable outcome!

- A) Obdurate
- B) Clairvoyant
- C) Vivacious
- D) Vapid
- E) Trite



**Reading Comprehension:** Read the passage below and answer the questions based on the text.

The most popular kid in school was a rapper named Theo. He was the paragon of popularity at Attleboro High; so deft with a microphone that it rendered people silent with awe. He had a colossal entourage that faithfully followed him from class to class, and he dressed in the most cosmopolitan fashions. But if you asked Theo, he would have told you that he felt ostracized by one particular group: the chess club. Then, one day, Theo wasn't in school. When he came in the next day, something had changed. He wore thick, black-rimmed glasses. When someone asked Theo why, he said, "Why don't you ratiocinate for a minute? Could it be because I'm myopic? Oh, and call me Theodore." Needless to say, the school didn't know what to do. Theodore stopped rapping and joined the debate team to study elocution. He joined the Ant-Lovers Club to study entomology, and he walked the hallways with oversized Dungeons and Dragons tomes under his arm. There is a happy ending, however, for the chess club no longer treated him like a pariah. They welcomed Theodore as one of their own.

1. Which of the following does not attest or contribute to Theo's popularity early on in the passage?

- (A) He was a skilled rapper.
- (B) He had many followers.
- (C) He wore sophisticated clothes.
- (D) He was mostly silent.
- [(E) is missing?]

2. Which of the following most closely describes the reaction of the school in general to Theo's transformation?

- (A) Hatred
- (B) Bewilderment
- (C) Appreciation
- (D) Apprehension
- (E) Disgust

