

The Complete Persepolis

Vocabulary Words

Taken from: <http://www.lsu.edu/srp/facres08.html>

Decadence (Pages 4, 133)- The act or process of falling into an inferior condition or state; deterioration; decay

Decadent (Pages 73, 270)- Characterized by or appealing to self-indulgence

Avant-garde (Page 6)-Any creative group active in the innovation and application of new concepts and techniques in a given field (especially in the arts)

Dialectic(al) Materialism (Pages 12, 53, 59)- The Marxian interpretation of reality that views matter as the sole subject of change and all change as the product of a constant conflict between opposites arising from the internal contradictions inherent in all events, ideas, and movements

Frivolities (Page 28)- Frivolous acts or things (frivolous- characterized by lack of seriousness or sense)

Clandestine (Page 33)- Marked by, held in, or conducted with secrecy

Diabolical (Page 53)- Of, relating to, or characteristic of the devil

Proletariat (Pages 62, 69)- The class of wage earners, esp. those who earn their living by manual labor or who are dependent for support on daily or casual employment; the working class

Chador (Page 75)- A large cloth worn as a combination head covering, veil, and shawl usually by Muslim women especially in Iran

Pretext (Pages 79, 302)- A purpose or motive alleged or an appearance assumed in order to cloak the real intention or state of affairs

Coup d'état (Page 82)- A sudden decisive exercise of force in politics; *especially* : the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group

Flagellate (Page 96)- To whip; scourge; flog; lash

Secular (Page 96)- Not pertaining to or connected with religion

Belligerent (Page 115)- Inclined to or exhibiting assertiveness, hostility, or combativeness

Espadrilles (Page 138)- Sandal usually having a fabric upper and a flexible sole

Insolent (Page 180)- Insultingly contemptuous in speech or conduct

Indignant (Page 180)- Feeling characterized by, or expressing, strong displeasure at something considered unjust, offensive, insulting, or base

Samovar (Page 181)- An urn with a spigot at its base used especially in Russia to boil water for tea

Structural linguistics (Page 181)- Linguistics defined as the analysis of formal structures in a text or discourse

Lackey (Page 191)- A person who tries to please someone in order to gain a personal advantage - a sycophant; someone who does menial tasks for another

Wohngemeinschaft (Page 198)- A communal apartment

Transcendental (Page 218)- Being beyond ordinary or common experience, thought, or belief; supernatural

Portrait of Dorian Gray (Page 219)- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is Oscar Wilde's novel of a fashionable young man who attains eternal youth while only his portrait grows old, hidden away in a locked room. Despite the young man's disintegration into a life of crime, his face never reflects the moral decay. Instead, his every amoral deed is shown on his portrait, turning his once handsome features into marks, signs of aging, etc. Often the title of the novel is misrepresented as *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*.

Sordid (Pages 222, 252)- Foul, run-down, and repulsive

Deplorable (Page 225)- Deserving censure or contempt

Prostrate (Page 238)- Stretched out with face on the ground in adoration or submission

Banal (Page 241)- Lacking originality, freshness, or novelty

Nihilist (Page 244)- Someone who rejects all theories of morality or religious belief

Blasé (Page 257)- Indifferent to or bored with life; unimpressed, as or as if from an excess of worldly pleasures

Incarnation (Page 258)- Assumption of human form or nature

Exude (Page 259)- To come out gradually in drops, as sweat, through pores or small openings; ooze out

Inane (Page 260)- Lacking sense, significance, or ideas

Courtesan (Page 268)- A prostitute, especially one whose clients are members of a royal court or men of high social standing

Chignon (Page 268)- A large, smooth twist, roll, or knot of hair, worn by women at the nape of the neck or the back of the head

Malaise (Page 271)- A condition of a vague or unfocused feeling of mental uneasiness, lethargy, or discomfort

Coagulating (Page 272)- The changing from a fluid into a thickened mass; curdle; congeal

Resilient (Page 278)- Recovering readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like; buoyant

Ideological (Page 283)- Concerned with or suggestive of ideas

Imam (Page 283)- The title for a Muslim religious leader or chief

Mullah (Page 284)- (in Islamic countries) A title of respect for a person who is learned in, teaches, or expounds the sacred law

Reproached (Page 285)- Expressed disapproval of, criticism of, or disappointment in (someone)

Melancholy (Page 292)- Pensive reflection or contemplation

Obscurantism (Page 293)- A policy of withholding information from the public

Intransigence (Page 294)- Stubbornly refusing to compromise

Perspicacity (Page 295)- Acuteness of perception, discernment, or understanding

Schizophrenic (Page 305)- Of, relating to, or characterized by the coexistence of disparate or antagonistic elements

Existentialist (Page 318)- A philosopher who emphasizes freedom of choice and personal responsibility but who regards human existence in a hostile universe as unexplainable