

Vocabulary: *Ella Minnow Pea*
Contemporary Literature

The citizens of Nollop hold language in high regard. They pride themselves on their elevated vocabulary and linguist creativity. Indeed, this becomes the very problem at the center of the story. As such, *Ella Minnow Pea* is a novel lexically rich and rife with wordplay (look those up!). To miss a word might be to miss the entire meaning of a sentence. Use this list as a reference guide while reading. These words reside inside the book. They were chosen carefully by the author. They create the narrative. They will appear on exams and quizzes. **You are responsible for your words.**

July 23 – August 7

1. Paternal: of or appropriate to a father
2. Sojourn: a temporary stay
3. Apprise: inform or tell (someone)
4. Cenotaph: a monument to someone buried elsewhere
5. Terrestrial: of or on dry land
6. Happenstance: coincidence
7. Beneficence: goodness
8. Reprisal: an act of retaliation
9. Semblance: the outward appearance of something
10. Manifestation: an event, action, or object that clearly embodies something, especially an abstract idea
11. Bier: a moveable frame on which a coffin is placed before burial
12. Empyrean: relating to heaven or sky
13. Excise: cut out surgically
14. Superfluous: unnecessary, especially through being more than enough
15. Complacency: a feeling of uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements
16. Fealty: sworn loyalty
17. Sagacity: keen mental discernment or good judgement
18. Anemic: lacking in color, spirit, or vitality
19. Cusp: a point of transition between two different states
20. Moratorium: temporary prohibition
21. Lenience: the quality of being more merciful or tolerant than expected
22. Confluence: an act or process of merging
23. Jocular: humorous or playful
24. Ostracize: to exclude someone from society or a group
25. Ineffable: too great to be described in words

August 8 – August 23

26. Proscribe: forbid
27. Aposiopesis: the device of suddenly breaking off in speech
28. Caesura: an interruption or break
29. Appellation: a name or title
30. Edict: an official order or proclamation
31. Obeisance: a gesture expressing respect, such as a bow or curtsy

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32. Missive: a letter
33. Contempt: the feeling that someone or something is beneath consideration, worthless
34. Contemplative: expressing or involving long thought
35. Disquiet: a feeling of anxiety or worry
36. Precarious: uncertain
37. Procure: obtain
38. Comprise: consist of
39. Insolent: rude
40. Recourse: a source of help in a difficult situation
41. Abject: (of something bad) present to the maximum degree
42. Burgeoning: flourishing
43. Despondent: in low spirits from loss of hope
44. Languor: feeling of tiredness
45. Lexical: relating to the words or vocabulary of a language
46. Succor: assistance or aid
47. Ebb: recede
48. Intrinsic: belonging naturally; essential
49. Abashed: embarrassed, disconcerted, or ashamed

August 28 – September 11

50. Orthodoxy: generally accepted theory, doctrine, or practice
51. Allay: relieve or alleviate
52. Founder: fail
53. Sentient: able to perceive or feel things
54. Manacled: to be chained
55. Flout: openly disregard
56. Pernicious: having a harmful effect
57. Commensurate: corresponding in size or degree
58. Transmogrify: transforming in a surprising or magical manner
59. Nascent: just coming into existence
60. Circumvent: find a way around
61. Misconstrue: interpret wrongly
62. Pious: devoutly religious
63. Cynic: a person who believes people are motivated purely by self-interest
64. Apostate: a person who renounces a religious or political belief or principle
65. Explicate: analyze for meaning
66. Salient: noticeable or important
67. Invidious: likely to arouse resentment or anger in others

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- 68. Deleterious: harmful
- 69. Concomitant: naturally associated
- 70. Heresy: opinion profoundly at odds with what is generally accepted
- 71. Mete: dispense justice
- 72. Perspicacity: the quality of having insight into things
- 73. Omnipotent: having unlimited power
- 74. Omniscient: having unlimited knowledge

September 11 – October 5

- 75. Elision: the omission of a sound when speaking or a passage in a book
- 76. Imminent: about to happen
- 77. Milieu: a person's social environment
- 78. Pyrrhic: won at too great a cost
- 79. Diatribe: forceful and bitter attack against someone or something
- 80. Mellifluous: musical or pleasant to hear
- 81. Alacrity: brisk and cheerful readiness
- 82. Verboten: forbidden
- 83. Venerate: revere
- 84. Asinine: extremely stupid or foolish
- 85. Rampart: defensive wall
- 86. Brevity: concise
- 87. Epithet: term of abuse

October 13 – November

- 88. Cephalo: relating to the head
- 89. Vulpine: relating to a fox
- 90. Canine: relating to a dog
- 91. Grapheme: smallest meaningful unit in a writing system
- 92. Perpetuity: the quality of lasting forever
- 93. Poltroon: a coward
- 94. Apoplectic: overcome with anger
- 95. Veritable: used as an intensifier, often to qualify a metaphor
- 96. Vituperative: bitter and abusive
- 97. Salvo: a sudden, vigorous, or aggressive act