

Ella Minnow Pea Vocabulary List

Note: This list does not include made-up words in the novel.

Allayed—diminished or put at rest

Amphora—a tall ancient Greek or Roman jar with two handles and a narrow neck

Apoplectic—overcome with anger

Aposiopesis—a sudden breaking off in speech

Appellation—name or title

Armada—a fleet of warships

Asinine—extremely stupid or foolish

Attendant (adj.)—occurring with or as a result of; accompanying

Bastinado—a form of punishment or torture that involves caning the soles of someone's feet

Beleaguered—besieged

Blasphemous—sacrilegious against God or sacred things; profane

Caesura—a pause in a poetic line

Capitulation—the action of surrendering or ceasing to resist an opponent or demand

Cenotaph—a monument to someone buried elsewhere

Cephalus—head

Commensurately—proportionately

Complacency—a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements

Concomitant—naturally accompanying or associated

Contingent (n.)—representative group

Corps—a main subdivision of an armed force in the field (used metaphorically in the book)

Degeneration—decline or deterioration

Deleterious—causing harm or damage

Deracinating—uprooting

Disquieting—inducing feelings of anxiety or worry

Dissimilar—not alike; different

Effrontery—insolent or impertinent behavior

Egregious—outstandingly bad; shocking

Elision—the omission of a sound or syllable when speaking

Epistle—letter

Epithet—an adjective or descriptive phrase expressing a quality characteristic of the person or thing mentioned

Fealty—loyalty

Fenster—window

Fettle—condition of fitness

Fixant—glue

Foundering—collapsing, sinking

Frenetic—fast and energetic in a rather wild and uncontrolled way

Grippe—the flu

Hallowed—made holy; consecrated

Imbecile-savant—person who is intellectually deficit in one area and incredibly gifted in another

Immotility—paralysis

Impertinence—lack of respect; rudeness

Importunities—persistence, especially to the point of annoyance

Indolents—lazy people

Invidious—(of an action or situation) likely to arouse resentment or anger

Lacuna—an unfilled space or interval; a gap

Languor—the state or feeling, often pleasant, of tiredness or inertia

Lexically—relating to the words or vocabulary of a language

Lunette—and arched aperture or window, especially one in a domed ceiling

Mellifluous—(of a voice or words) sweet or musical; pleasant to hear

Meritorious—deserving reward or praise

Milieu—physical or social environment

Misconstrual—misinterpretation

Missive—a letter, especially a long or official one

Nascent—(especially of a process or organization) just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential

Obeisance—deferential respect

Ostracism—exclusion from a society or group

Pall—a gloomy dark cloud or covering of smoke, dust, or similar matter (often used metaphorically)

Pantomimical—including communication only by means of gesture or facial expression

Perspicacity—the quality of having a ready insight into things; shrewdness

Pharisaic—characterized by hypocritical self-righteousness

Piscivorous—(of an animal) feeding on fish

Portiere—curtain hung over a door or doorway

Precariousness—the state of being dangerously likely to fall or collapse

Promulgated—promoted or made widely known (an idea or cause)

Pyrrhic—(of a victory) won at too great a cost to have been worthwhile for the victor

Raison (d'être)—the most important reason or purpose for someone or something's existence

Reprisal—an act of retaliation

Requisite—made necessary by particular circumstances or regulations

Rubbernecking—turning one's head to stare at something in a foolish manner

Sagacity—wisdom

Salvo—a simultaneous discharge of artillery or other guns in a battle, or a sudden, vigorous act or series of acts

Sans—without

Sapience—wisdom

Scintilla—a trace or spark

Selfsame—identical

Septuagenarian—a person who is between 70 and 79 years of age

Taciturn—(of a person) reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little

Tome—a big book

Transmogrified—transformed in a surprising or magical manner

Trenchancy—vigorousness or incisiveness in expression or style

Verboten—forbidden, especially by authority

Vituperative—bitter and abusive

Wont—one's customary behavior in a particular situation