

Vocabulary in Context: Dr. Heidegger's Experiment

Using context clues, explain what the **bolded** word most likely means and explain how you came up with that conclusion – i.e. which word(s) in the sentence led you to that conclusion. This information is to come from your brain, NOT FROM YOUR PHONE OR THE TEXTBOOK!!! Pay attention to the part of speech. Check your answer by reading the sentence with your answer in place of the vocabulary word.

1. Mr. Medbourne, in the vigor of his age, had been a prosperous merchant, but had lost his all by a frantic speculation, and was not little better than a **mendicant**.
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____
2. As for the Widow Wycherly, tradition tells us that she was a great beauty in her day; but, for a long ~~white~~ past, she had lived in deep seclusion, on account of certain scandalous stories which had prejudiced the **gentry** of the town against her.
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____
3. The sunshine came through the window, between the heavy festoons of two faded damask curtains, and fell directly across this vase; so that a mild splendor was reflected from it on the ashen **visages** of five old people who sat around.
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____
4. Now Dr. Heidegger was a very strange old gentleman, whose **eccentricity** had become the nucleus for a thousand fantastic stories.
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____
5. He uncovered the vase, and threw the faded rose into the water which it contained. At first, it lay lightly on the surface of the fluid, appearing to **imbibe** none of its moisture.
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____
6. The doctor's four venerable friends made him no answer, except by a feeble and **tremulous** laugh; so very ridiculous was the idea that..they should ever go astray again."
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____
7. There was a healthful **suffusion** on their cheeks, instead of the ashen hue that had made them look so corpse-like.
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____
8. "Certainly, my dear madam, certainly!" replied the **complaisant** doctor; "see! I have already filled the glasses."
 - What does the word mean? _____
 - How do you know? _____