

Useful Vocabulary in Fussell's "Thank God for the Atom Bomb"

Agitprop – political propaganda

Cant - insincere talk, especially where morals and religion are concerned

Consign - to dispose of something or somebody, usually for a very long time if not permanently, and often to somewhere unpleasant or difficult

Dubious – of doubtful or questionable quality

Dysentery - the disease of the lower intestine caused by infection with bacteria, protozoa, or parasites and marked by severe diarrhea, inflammation, and the passage of blood and mucus

Efface - to remove or obliterate something by or as if by wearing away or rubbing out; to act in an inconspicuous manner, especially because of shyness or modesty

Ex post facto - applying to events that have already occurred as well as to subsequent events

Gentle - having or displaying refinement and good manners, especially manners that suggest, or are thought typical of, an upper-class background

Hierarchy - categorization of members of a group according to the importance of each

Implacable - impossible to pacify or to reduce in strength or force (formal)

Impudence – brazen disrespect

Inept - lacking the competence or skill for a particular task

Intuitive - known directly and instinctively, without being discovered or consciously perceived

Mendacious – characterized by lies, misrepresentations, and falsehoods

Mettle - courage, spirit, or strength of character

Pacifist - someone who refuses to perform military service or take part in a war

Parochialism – state of being concerned only with narrow local concerns without any regard for more general or wider issues

Pestilence - an epidemic of a highly contagious or infectious disease such as bubonic plague

Phlegm – stolid calmness or composure that is not easily disturbed

Pulverize – to destroy by reducing to particles

Quintessence - the purest or most perfect example of something

Reciprocal - given or done in return for something else

Reconstitute - to bring specified matter or a material back to its original state, usually by adding water to a concentrated, dried, or powdered form

Sadism - the gaining of pleasure from causing physical or mental pain to people or animals

Scurrilous – coarse, evil, or obscene

Slander - a false and malicious statement that damages somebody's reputation

Taciturnity – condition of being habitually uncommunicative or reserved in speech and manner

Tenacious - tending to stick firmly to any decision, plan, or opinion without changing or doubting it; difficult to loosen, shake off, or pull away from

Tendentious - written or spoken by somebody who obviously wants to promote a particular cause or who supports a particular viewpoint

Unremitting - continuing, persisting, or recurring without diminishing or ceasing

Vice – an immoral habit or wicked characteristic

Virtue – a noble trait or quality