

## **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