

THE BLACKBIRD GIRLS VOCABULARY

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Chapters 1-3	Student-friendly definition
Fierce (p. 2)	a fierce person or animal is angry or ready to attack, and looks very frightening
scowl(p. 3)	to look at someone in an angry way
Slingshot(p. 5)	a small Y-shaped stick with a thin band of rubber across the top, used to throw stones
miniature (p. 5)	much smaller than normal
mastodon (p. 6)	a large extinct elephant-like mammal of the Miocene to Pleistocene epochs, having teeth of a relatively primitive form and number.
dynamite (p. 6)	a powerful explosive used especially for breaking rock
midget (p. 7)	someone who is not very tall
humanoid (p. 10)	having a human shape and human qualities
propel (p. 13)	to move, drive, or push something forward
propulsion (p. 13)	the force that drives a vehicle forward
ornithopter(p. 13)	a machine designed to achieve flight by means of flapping wings.

Chapters 4-6	Student-friendly definition
sobriquet (p. 15)	an unofficial title or name
postulate (p. 16)	to suggest that something might have happened or be true

Chapters 4-6	Student-friendly definition
invincible(p. 17)	too strong to be destroyed or defeated
deplete (p. 26)	to reduce the amount of something that is present or available
regurgitate (p. 27)	to bring food that you have already swallowed, back into your mouth
deficiency (p. 31)	a lack of something that is necessary
Chapters 7-9	Student-friendly definition
trajectory (p. 34)	the events that happen during a period of time, which often lead to a particular aim or result
cavalry (p. 38)	the part of an army that fights on horses, especially in the past
bugle (p. 38)	a musical instrument like a trumpet, that is used in the army to call soldiers
sentimental (p. 43)	someone who is sentimental is easily affected by emotions such as love, sympathy, sadness etc, often in a way that seems silly to other people
evasive (p. 43)	not willing to answer questions directly
walrus (p. 44)	a large sea animal with two long tusks
vegetate (p. 44)	to live without doing much physical or mental activity and to feel bored as a result
archetype (p. 45)	a perfect example of something, because it has all the most important qualities of things that belong to that type
divulge (p. 51)	to give someone information that should be secret
bionic (p. 51)	bionic arms, legs etc are electronic and therefore stronger or faster than normal arms etc
cardiac (p. 52)	relating to the heart
respiratory (p. 52)	relating to breathing or your lungs
Chapters 10-12	Student-friendly definition
pledge (p. 58)	a serious promise or agreement, especially one made publicly or officially

Chapters 10-12	Student-friendly definition
optimum (p. 56)	the best or most suitable for a particular purpose or in a particular situation
fealty (p. 58)	loyalty to a king, queen etc
dismal (p. 62)	if a situation or a place is dismal, it is so bad that it makes you feel very unhappy and hopeless
defect (p. 71)	a fault or a lack of something that means that something or someone is not perfect
strut (p. 73)	to walk proudly with your head high and your chest pushed forwards, showing that you think you are important

Chapters 13-15	Student-friendly definition
miraculous (p. 84)	very good, completely unexpected, and often very lucky
parole (p. 91)	permission for someone to leave prison, on the condition that they promise to behave well

Chapters 16-18	Student-friendly definition
hypnotize (p. 100)	to produce a sleep-like state in someone so that you can influence their thoughts and actions
deprive (p. 103)	deny (a person or place) the possession or use of something.

Chapters 19-21	Student-friendly definition
skitter (p. 124)	to move very quickly and lightly, like a small animal
aberration (p. 137)	an action or event that is very different from what usually happens or what someone usually does

Chapters 22-25	Student-friendly definition
obnoxious (p. 143)	very offensive, unpleasant, or rude
telemetry (p. 148)	the process of recording and transmitting the readings of an instrument.