

Countdown by Deborah Wiles

Vocabulary for Chapter 1

integrated	adj.	A group or society whose members interact on the basis of commonly held norms or values.
subtle	adj.	Fine or delicate in meaning or intent; difficult to perceive or understand.
maneuver	v	To steer in various directions as required.
isthmus	n	A narrow strip of land, bordered on both sides by water, connecting two larger bodies of land.

Vocabulary for Chapter 2

annihilation	n	destroyed completely.
communist	n	1. a member of the Communist party or movement. 2. an advocate of communism. 3. a person who is regarded as supporting politically leftist or subversive causes.
communism	n	1. a theory or system of social organization based on the holding of all property in common, actual ownership being ascribed to the community as a whole or to the state. 2. a system of social organization in which all economic and social activity is controlled by a totalitarian state dominated by a single and self-perpetuating political party.

Vocabulary for Chapter 3

laden	vb	loaded
clutch 2	n	a number of similar individuals.
loon	n	any of several large, short-tailed, web-footed, fish-eating, diving birds of the genus <i>Gavia</i> , of the Northern Hemisphere.

Vocabulary for Chapter 4

accosted	vb	confront boldly.
meandering	vb	to proceed by or take a winding or indirect course.
grotesque	adj	odd or unnatural in shape, appearance, or character; fantastically ugly or absurd; bizarre.
leprosy	n	a chronic, mildly infectious disease caused by <i>Mycobacterium leprae</i> , affecting the peripheral nervous system, skin, and nasal mucosa. Characterised by ulcerations, sores and loss of sensation that sometimes leads to amputation of the affected part.

Vocabulary for Chapter 5

blathering	vb	to talk or utter foolishly; blither; babble.
compelled	vb	to force or drive, especially to a course of action.
beau	n	a frequent and attentive male companion. (boyfriend)
manifesto	n	a public declaration of intentions, opinions, objectives, or motives, as one issued by a government, sovereign, or organization.

Vocabulary for Chapter 6

inquisition	n	any harsh, difficult, or prolonged questioning.
expedient	adj	suitable for bringing about a desired result often without regard to what is fair or right.
contempt	n	the feeling with which a person regards anything considered mean, vile, or worthless; disdain; scorn.
nonchalant	adj	coolly unconcerned, indifferent, or unexcited; casual.
gist	n	the main or essential part of a matter.
sector	n	<i>Military.</i> A designated defense area, usually in a combat zone, within which a particular military unit operates and for which it is responsible.
self-reliant	adj	relying on oneself or on one's own powers, resources, etc.
anti-semitism	n	discrimination against or prejudice or hostility toward Jews.
kindred	adj	having the same belief, attitude, or feeling.
solidarity	n	union or fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests, as between members of a group or between classes, peoples, etc.
wail	v	<i>Slang.</i> to express emotion musically or verbally in an exciting, satisfying way.
snippets	n	a small piece snipped off; a small bit, scrap, or fragment.
lapse	v	to cease being in force; terminate.
treason	n	the offense of acting to overthrow one's government or to harm or kill its sovereign
sovereign	n	1. a monarch; a king, queen, or other supreme ruler. 3. a group or body of persons or a state having sovereign authority
emblazoned	v	to decorate with brilliant colors.

Vocabulary for Chapter 7

rendition	n	a translation or an interpretation.
banishment	vb	forced to leave.
dignity	n	nobility or elevation of character; worthiness.
impending	adj	about to happen; imminent
banished	v	to expel from or relegate to a country or place by authoritative decree; condemn to exile
terse	adj	abruptly concise; curt; brusque
waif	n	a person, especially a child, who has no home or friends
condiments	n	something used to give a special flavor to food, as mustard, ketchup, salt, or spices
rifle 2	v	to ransack and rob.

Vocabulary for Chapters 8-9

winsome	adj	sweetly or innocently charming; winning; engaging.
pedal pushers	n	slacks that extend to about the midpoint of the calf worn by girls and women originally used when cycling.
reveille	n	a signal, as of a drum or bugle, sounded early in the morning to awaken military personnel and to alert them for assembly.
jocular	adj	given to, characterized by, intended for, or suited to joking or jesting.
emphatic	adj	using emphasis in speech or action.
insubordinate	adj	not submitting to authority; disobedient.
reverent	adj	deeply respectful.
jubilant	adj	showing great joy, satisfaction, or triumph; rejoicing; exultant.

Vocabulary for Chapters 10-18

morose	adj	gloomily or sullenly ill-humored, as a person or mood.
commissary	n	a store that sells food and supplies to the personnel or workers in a military post, mining camp, lumber camp, or the like.
shrewish	adj	(esp of a woman) bad-tempered and nagging
insouciant	adj	free from concern, worry, or anxiety; carefree; nonchalant
pistachio	n	the nut of a Eurasian tree, <i>Pistacia vera</i> , of the cashew family, containing an edible, greenish kernel.
confabulator		derived from confabulate vb. to converse informally; chat
curt	adj	1. rudely brief in speech or abrupt in manner. 2. brief; concise
epitome	n	a person or thing that is typical of or possesses to a high degree the features of a whole class: He is the epitome of goodness.
discretion	n	the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid social embarrassment or distress.
divulge	v	to disclose or reveal (something private, secret, or previously unknown).
scintilla	n	a minute particle; spark; trace
flaunt	v	to parade or display oneself conspicuously, defiantly, or boldly.
accordion	v	to fold, crush together, or collapse in the manner of an accordion.
pilfer	v	to steal, especially in small quantities
hooligan	n	a ruffian or hoodlum
swanky	adj	elegant
pizzazz	n	(informal) 1. energy; vitality; vigor. 2. attractive style; dash; flair
swoon	v	1. to faint; lose consciousness. 2. to enter a state of hysterical rapture or ecstasy: The teenagers swooned at the sight of the singing star.
vigor	n	active strength or force.
exiles	n	anyone separated from his or her country or home voluntarily or by force of circumstances.
debacle	n	a complete collapse or failure
dignity	n	nobility or elevation of character; worthiness

Vocabulary for chapters 19-24

civilly	adj	polite or courteous.
nincompoop	n	a fool or simpleton
resolute	adj	firmly resolved or determined; set in purpose or opinion.
mesmerize	v	1. to hypnotize. 2. to spellbind; fascinate. 3. to compel by fascination.
aberrant	adj	1. departing from the right, normal, or usual course. 2. deviating from the ordinary, usual, or normal type; exceptional; abnormal.
demeanor	n	conduct; behavior.
strident	adj	making or having a harsh sound; grating; creaking
propaganda	n	information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc.

Vocabulary for chapters 25-26

ominous	adj	portending evil or harm; foreboding; threatening; inauspicious: an ominous bank of dark clouds.
reconnaissance	n	Military = a search made for useful military information in the field, especially by examining the ground.
chide	v	to express disapproval of; scold; reproach.
solemn	adj	serious or earnest
composure	n	serene, self-controlled state of mind; calmness; tranquillity.
wan	adj	lacking in forcefulness, competence, or effectiveness.
archipelago	n	a large group or chain of islands.

Vocabulary for chapters 27-28

impending	adj	about to happen.
incinerate	v	to burn or reduce to ashes; cremate.
overwrought	adj	extremely or excessively excited or agitated.
exertion	n	vigorous action or effort.
paraphernalia	n	personal belongings.
memento	n	an object or item that serves to remind one of a person, past event, etc.; keepsake; souvenir.
dire	adj	causing or involving great fear or suffering; dreadful; terrible.
pacifist	n	a person who believes in pacifism or is opposed to war or to violence of any kind.
defcon	n	any of several alert statuses for U.S. military forces, ranked numerically from normal, 5, to maximum readiness, 1.
cogitating	v	to think hard; ponder; meditate.
sharecropper	n	a tenant farmer who pays as rent a share of the crop.
ridicule	v	to deride; make fun of.
galvanize	v	to startle into sudden activity; stimulate.
compatriots	n	a native or inhabitant of one's own country; fellow countryman or countrywoman.

Vocabulary for chapters 29-37

classical	adj	3. <i>music</i> a. Relating to or denoting any music or its period of composition marked by stability of form, intellectualism, and restraint b. accepted as a standard: <i>the classical suite</i> 4. of or relating to a style of music composed, especially at Vienna, during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This period is marked by the establishment of sonata form, especially by Haydn and Mozart.
tone-deaf	adj	unable to distinguish differences in pitch in musical sounds when producing or hearing them.
sauntering	v	to walk with a leisurely gait; stroll.
auspicious	adj	1. promising success; propitious; opportune; favorable: an auspicious occasion. 2. favored by fortune; prosperous; fortunate.
momentous	adj	of great or far-reaching importance or consequence: a momentous day.
pièce de résistance		French the most noteworthy or prized feature, aspect, event, article, etc., of a series or group; special item or attraction
trousseau	n	an outfit of clothing, household linen, etc., for a bride.
gesture	n	1. a movement or position of the hand, arm, body, head, or face that is expressive of an idea, opinion, emotion, etc.: the gestures of an orator; a threatening gesture. 2. the use of such movements to express thought, emotion, etc. 3. any action, courtesy, communication, etc., intended for effect or as a formality; considered expression; demonstration: a gesture of friendship. –verb (used without object) 4. to make or use a gesture or gestures. –verb (used with object) 5. to express by a gesture or gestures.
potent	adj	powerful, mighty.
loblolly	n	a pine tree with bright red-brown bark, green needle-like leaves, and reddish-brown cones.
reprieve	n	temporary relief.
pummel	v	to beat or thrash with or as if with the fists.
tentatively	adj	unsure; uncertain; not definite or positive; hesitant.
abyss	n	a deep, immeasurable space, gulf, or cavity; vast chasm.
dire	adj	1. causing or involving great fear or suffering; dreadful; terrible: a dire calamity. 2. indicating trouble, disaster, misfortune, or the like: dire predictions about the stock market. 3. urgent; desperate: in dire need of food.
alabaster	adj	smooth and white.
bliss	n	supreme happiness; utter joy or contentment.
disgorge	v	1. to eject or throw out from the throat, mouth, or stomach; vomit forth. 2. to surrender or yield (something, especially something illicitly obtained). 3. to discharge forcefully or as a result of force.
lumens	n	the unit of luminous flux, equal to the luminous flux emitted in a unit solid angle by a point source of one candle intensity. Abbreviation: lm
awe	n	an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, etc., produced by that which is grand, sublime, extremely powerful, or the like.
affirm	v	to state or assert positively; maintain as true.

Vocabulary for chapter 38

addled	adj	mentally confused; muddled.
laud	v	to praise; extol.
calamity	n	1. a great misfortune or disaster, as a flood or serious injury. 2. grievous affliction; adversity; misery: the calamity of war.

