

THE BLACKBIRD GIRLS VOCABULARY

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Chapters 1-5	Student-friendly definition
billow (p.2)	if something made of cloth billows, it moves in the wind
insignia (p. 6)	a badge or sign that shows what official or military rank someone has, or which group or organization they belong to
patrol (p. 7)	to go around the different parts of an area or building at regular times to check that there is no trouble or danger
truant (p. 8)	a student who stays away from school without permission
solemn (p. 11)	very serious and not happy, for example because something bad has happened or because you are at an important occasion a solemn expression
snivel (p. 13)	to behave or speak in a weak complaining way, especially when you are crying
socialist (p. 16)	based on socialism or relating to a political party that supports socialism
radiation (p. 27)	a form of energy that comes especially from nuclear reactions, which in large amounts is very harmful to living things
lapel (p. 30)	the part of the front of a coat or jacket that is joined to the collar and folded back on each side
rivulet (p. 36)	a very small stream of water or liquid
possession (p. 36)	if something is in your possession, you own it, or you have obtained it from somewhere

Chapters 2	Student-friendly definition
midwife (p. 42)	a specially trained nurse whose job is to help women when they are having a baby
conscript (p. 43)	to make someone join the army, navy etc

Chapters 6-10	Student-friendly definition
exile (p. 53)	a situation in which you are forced to leave your country and live in another country, especially for political reasons in exile
revolution (p. 54)	a time when people change a ruler or political system by using force or violence
agonize (p. 57)	to think about a difficult decision very carefully and with a lot of effort
dither (p. 58)	to keep being unable to make a final decision about something
dosimeter (p. 61)	a device used to measure an absorbed dose of ionizing radiation.
nuisance (p. 62)	a person, thing, or situation that annoys you or causes problems a real/awful/terrible etc nuisance
impertinent (p. 63)	rude and not respectful, especially to someone who is older or more important
nape (p. 70)	the bottom part of the back of your neck, where the hair ends

Chapters 11-15	Student-friendly definition
luminescence (p. 79)	a soft shining light
contaminate (p. 80)	to make a place or substance dirty or harmful by putting something such as chemicals or poison in it
incinerator (p. 85)	a machine designed to burn things in order to destroy them
accommodation (p. 85)	a place for someone to stay, live, or work
contagious (p. 97)	a person who is contagious has a disease that can be passed to another person by touch
compartment (p. 106)	a smaller enclosed space inside something larger
deliberate (p. 107)	intended or planned
exhaustion (p. 107)	extreme tiredness
dilapidated (p. 107)	a dilapidated building, vehicle etc is old and in very bad condition

Chapters 16-20	Student-friendly definition
trundle (p. 118)	to move slowly along on wheels, or to make something do this by pushing or pulling it
usher (p. 119)	to help someone to get from one place to another, especially by showing them the way
accustomed to...(p. 121)	to be familiar with something and accept it as normal
seamstress (p. 122)	a woman whose job is sewing and making clothes
linoleum (p. 125)	a floor covering made from strong shiny material
gilded (p. 145)	to cover something with a thin layer of gold or with something that looks like gold
marrow (p. 146)	the soft fatty substance in the hollow centre of bones

Chapters 21-25	Student-friendly definition
ramshackle (p. 151)	a ramshackle building or vehicle is in bad condition and in need of repair
bureau (p. 151)	an office or organization that collects or provides information
obedient (p. 160)	always doing what you are told to do, or what the law, a rule etc says you must do
reprieve (p. 162)	a delay before something bad happens or continues to happen
maggot (p. 164)	a small creature like a worm that is the young form of a fly and lives in decaying food, flesh
surveillance (p. 168)	when the police, army etc watch a person or place carefully because they may be connected with criminal activities
hazardous (p. 170)	dangerous, especially to people's health or safety

Chapters 26-30	Student-friendly definition
turkish (p. 229)	relating to Turkey, its people, or its language
grudge (p. 232)	a feeling of dislike for someone because you cannot forget that they harmed you in the past

Chapters 26-30	Student-friendly definition
smother (p. 237)	to completely cover the whole surface of something with something else, often in a way that seems unnecessary or unpleasant

Chapters 31-35	Student-friendly definition
remnant (p. 243)	a small part of something that remains after the rest of it has been used, destroyed, or eaten
eternity (p. 253)	the state of existence after death that some people believe continues forever
intact (p. 253)	not broken, damaged, or spoiled
sensible (p. 262)	reasonable, practical, and showing good judgment
unbearable (p. 274)	too unpleasant, painful, or annoying to deal with
antic (p. 278)	grotesque or bizarre
reprisal (p. 278)	something violent or harmful which you do to punish someone for something bad they have done to you

Chapters 36-40	Student-friendly definition
varnish (p. 319)	a clear liquid that is painted onto things, especially things made of wood, to protect them, or the hard shiny surface produced by this
monopolize (p. 319)	to have complete control over something so that other people cannot share it or take part in it
accusation (p. 319)	a statement saying that someone is guilty of a crime or of doing something wrong