

Lesson Schedule

- Quiz on last weeks' words (15 mins)
- Opening activity (10 mins)
- Read extract (10 mins)
- Comprehension questions (15 mins)
- Read through vocabulary (10 mins)

Opening Activity

- Time for a challenge!
- Split into two teams and see how many words you can get through on the Quizlet test in five minutes!
- Make sure to say your team name before your answer!
- The winning team gets a special shout out on the group forum!

Westminster School Admissions Test English (2019)

Read this extract from the novel 'The Way of All Flesh' by Samuel Butler

Difficult words are highlighted in bold, but do make a note as we read of any words that you are finding difficult.

Like all houses, Dr Skinner's had its **peculiar** smell. In this case the **prevailing odour** was one of leather, but along with it there was a **subordinate savour** as of a **chemist's** shop. This came from a small **laboratory** in one corner of the room—the possession of which, together with the free use of such words as "carbonate," "hyposulphite," "phosphate," and "affinity," was enough to convince even the most **sceptical** that Dr Skinner had a **profound** knowledge of chemistry. I may say in passing that Dr Skinner had **dabbled** in a great many other things as well as chemistry. He was a man of many small knowledges, and each of them dangerous.

But to return to Dr Skinner's library; over the **chimney**-piece there was a Bishop's half length portrait of Dr Skinner himself, painted by the **elder** Pickersgill, whose **merit** Dr Skinner had been among the first to **discern** and **foster**. There were no other pictures in the library, but in the dining-room

there was a fine collection, which the doctor had got together with his usual **consummate** taste. The table of the library was loaded with books many deep; **manuscripts** of all kinds were confusedly mixed up with them,—boys' exercises, probably, and examination papers—but all **littering** untidily about.

The room in fact was as depressing from its **slatternliness** as from its **atmosphere** of **erudition**. Theobald and Ernest as they entered it, stumbled over a large hole in the carpet, and the dust that rose showed how long it was since it had been taken up and beaten. This was due to the Doctor himself, who **declared** that if his papers were once disturbed it would be the death of him. Near the window was a green cage containing a pair of turtle doves, whose **plaintive cooing** added to the **melancholy** of the place. The walls were covered with book shelves from floor to ceiling, and on every shelf the books stood in double rows. It was horrible. **Prominent** among the most prominent upon the most prominent shelf were a series of **splendidly** bound volumes **entitled** "Skinner's Works."

Boys are sadly **apt** to rush to conclusions, and Ernest believed that Dr Skinner knew all the books in this terrible library, and that he, if he were to be any good, should have to learn them too. His heart fainted within him

Comprehension Questions

1. Summarise the passage in one or two sentences.
2. Using the passage to help you, write down the meaning of:
 - a) 'slatternliness' (line 16)
 - b) 'erudition' (line 17)
3. Does the writer approve of Mr Skinner? Support your answer with a short quotation and explanation.
4. Would you like Mr Skinner to be your teacher? Why or why not? Refer closely to details in the passage above, in order to explain your answer. Make sure you give lots of reasons.

Vocabulary

Is the word a noun, verb, adverb or adjective? And what does it mean? Can you think of any synonyms or antonyms?

1. **Peculiar** – different to what is normal or expected; strange
2. **Prevailing** – current; existing at a particular time
3. **Odour** – a smell, usually unpleasant
4. **Subordinate** – lower in rank or position
5. **Savour** – taste and enjoy to the full
6. **Chemist** – someone who works with chemicals
7. **Laboratory** – a room or building designed for scientific experiments
8. **Sceptical** – not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations
9. **Profound** – (of a state or quality or emotion) very intense
10. **Dabble** – take part in something in a casual or superficial way
11. **Chimney** – a pipe or channel above a fire or furnace designed to funnel smoke
12. **Elder** – someone of greater age
13. **Merit** – as a noun, the quality of being good or worthy, and as a verb to deserve or be worthy of something
14. **Discern** – recognise or find out
15. **Foster** – encourage the development of something
16. **Consummate** – adjective, showing a high degree of skill and flair
17. **Manuscripts** – a book or document written by hand
18. **Litter** – verb, to discard, make a place untidy with rubbish
19. **Slatternly** – dirty or untidy
20. **Atmosphere** – pervading tone or mood of a place
21. **Erudition** – the quality of having or showing great knowledge
22. **Declare** – to proclaim or announce
23. **Plaintive** – sounding sad or mournful
24. **Cooing** – the sound a dove makes, soft murmuring
25. **Melancholy** – sad in a pensive way
26. **Prominent** – important or famous
27. **Splendidly** – in a magnificent or very impressive manner
28. **Entitled** – believing oneself to be inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment
29. **Apt** – appropriate, suitable

Homework

- Revise today's terms
- Write a story that contains every single one of the words learnt today.
This is a big task, but it can be done! Feel free to make the stories as bizarre as you need to!