**Based On Meltzer Critical Reading Lesson #9**

**Vocabulary**

1. **Proficiency - the fact of having the skill and experience for doing something.**

Sentence example - The job ad said they wanted proficiency in at least two languages.

1. **Shirk - to avoid work, duties, or responsibilities, especially if they are difficult or unpleasant.**

Sentence example - I will not shirk from my obligations.

1. **Unaccountable - not able to be explained or understood.**

Sentence example - For some unaccountable reason, he forgot his car keys.

1. **Profligacy - the act of spending money or using something in a way that wastes it and is not wise.**

Sentence example - The party took 12 months to plan and featured the type of profligacies that only the super-rich can afford.

1. **Tyranny - government by a ruler or small group of people who have unlimited power over the people in their country or state and use it unfairly and cruelly.**

Sentence example - This, the president promised us, was a war against tyranny.

1. **Shortcoming - a fault or a failure to reach a particular standard.**

Sentence example - Whatever his shortcomings as a husband, he was a good father to his children.

1. **Upscale - Upscale goods and products are of very high quality and intended to be bought by people who are quite rich.**

Sentence example - The old hotel has gone upscale in recent years.

1. **Trivial - having little value or importance.**

Sentence example - I don't know why he gets so upset about something so trivial.

1. **Distraught - extremely worried, nervous, or upset.**

Sentence example - The missing child's distraught parents made an emotional appeal for information on TV.