**Based On Meltzer Critical Reading Lesson #10**

**Vocabulary**

1. **Prejudice - an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially when formed without enough thought or knowledge.**

Sentence example - Laws against racial prejudice must be strictly enforced.

1. **Disperse - to scatter or move away over a large area, or to cause this to happen.**

Sentence example - It took several hours for the crowd to disperse.

1. **Usurpation - the act of taking control of something without having the right to, especially of a position of power.**

Sentence example - There are still those who regard the move as an unconstitutional usurpation of private property.

1. **Folly - the fact of being stupid, or a stupid action, idea, etc.**

Sentence example - It would be folly for the country to become involved in the war.

1. **Scorn - a very strong feeling of no respect for someone or something that you think is stupid or has no value.**

Sentence example - She has nothing but scorn for the new generation of politicians.

1. **Ensnare - to catch or get control of something or someone.**

Sentence example - Spiders ensnare flies and other insects in their webs.

1. **Judicious - having or showing reason and good judgment in making decision.**

Sentence example - We should make judicious use of the resources available to us.

1. **Ruse - a trick intended to deceive someone.**

Sentence example - It was just a ruse to distract her while his partner took the money.

1. **Irreproachable - without fault and therefore impossible to criticize.**

Sentence example - Her conduct throughout was irreproachable.

1. **Posterity - the people who will exist in the future.**

Sentence example - Every attempt is being made to ensure that these works of art are preserved for posterity.

1. **Amelioration - the process of making a bad or unpleasant situation better.**

Sentence example - Regular exercise can provide gradual amelioration of anxiety.

1. **Vice - a moral fault or weakness in someone's character.**

Sentence example - My one real vice (= bad habit) is chocolate.

1. **Subterranean - under the ground. (adj.)**

Sentence example - These portals lead to subterranean passages that pass deep into the hillside, some of which have been blocked by earthfalls.