Vocabulary #4

Answer the questions using the vocabulary word. Responses should be at least 4 sentences in length. Please underline the vocabulary word.

1. mundane

* (adj) ordinary and not interesting or exciting; boring. Mundane, from the Latin word mundus, "world," originally referred to things on earth. Such things were supposed to be uninteresting when compared to the delights of Heaven; hence the word's present meaning.
* Sentence: "Superman hid his heroic feats by posing as his mundane alter ego, Clark Kent."
* Describe some of the more mundane chores you have to do at home.

2. abdicate

* (v) to give up, such as power, as of monarchs and emperors, or duties and obligations; to refuse to be responsible for something when you should be or were before
* Sentence: The government has largely abdicated its responsibility in dealing with housing needs.
* What responsibilities would you willingly abdicate if given the chance?

3. impetuous

* (adj) acting in a rash, hasty manner without fully considering the consequences ; impulsive.
* Someone impetuous acts too hastily or carelessly. Impetuous has to do with doing things on the spur of the moment — and not good things. Being impetuous usually goes along with being impatient and easily angered.
* Sentence: She might live to regret this impetuous decision.
* Describe a time when you were impetuous. What happened? Did you realize you were being impetuous in the moment?

4. surreptitious

* (adj) marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed; done secretly or quickly because you do not want other people to notice
* Sentence: Rory tried to sneak a surreptitious glance at Adam's wristwatch.
* While surreptitious means secret, it has the added sense of "sneaky" or "hidden." You'll see surreptitious applied mostly to actions, rather than to things or ideas. One might surreptitiously look at the clock during an important meeting he or she is eager to be over with or surreptitiously observe someone he or she likes.
* Describe a situation when you were surreptitious in your observations. Explain why and what you were doing.

5. pragmatic

* (adj) concerned with practical matters; dealing with problems in a sensible, practical way instead of strictly following a set of ideas
* To describe a person or a solution that takes a realistic approach, consider the adjective pragmatic. The opposite of idealistic is pragmatic, a word that describes a philosophy of "doing what works best." From Greek pragma "deed," the word has historically described philosophers and politicians who were concerned more with real-world application of ideas than with abstract notions.
* Sentence: The four-year-old who wants a unicorn for her birthday isn't being very pragmatic.
* Describe someone you know who is pragmatic. Give specific examples.