Vocabulary 6

On a separate sheet of paper, respond in paragraphs, underlining the vocabulary word in your answer.

1. venerate

* (v) to respect, honor or revere
* Venerate sounds like veteran, so it might help you to remember that we venerate our veterans on Veteran’s Day.
* What qualities must a person have to be venerated as a leader? Describe a leader you venerate and explain why.

1. abstain

* (v) to choose not to participate
* Many Catholics abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.
* Many vegetarians abstain from eating meat for health reasons, and others abstain for their love of animals.
* Compare the word *abstain* to the word *boycott*. How is it similar and how is it different?

1. complacent

* (adj) unconcerned; pleased or satisfied with the way things currently are
* In his memoir *Night*, Elie Wiesel tries to convey the message that we must not be complacent when we see wrongs done to others.
* Describe a time (real or fictional) when you were complacent in a situation but looking back realized you should have done something to change the outcome.

1. talisman

* (n) an object which supposedly contains certain magical properties which protects the possessor from evil or harm, or provides good luck; a lucky charm
* For a long time, a purple-dyed rabbit’s foot was my talisman that I brought to school whenever I’d have a math test. After my brother stole my rabbit’s foot, and I still did well on math exams, I realized I didn’t need to carry a dead rabbit part for luck.
* Have you ever possess a talisman? If so, what was it, how did you come to have it and what gave you the impression this object would bring you luck? If you have not ever possessed one personally, describe the types of objects people associate with luck.

1. vilify

* (v) to speak or write about in a derogatory manner; to make someone appear lower in importance.
* TIP: Vilify sounds like villain and the definition is similar to making someone appear as if he/she is a villain.
* In political campaigns, the opposition frequently attempts to vilify the other candidates.
* Describe a situation in history, current events or your life where you have observed someone unjustly vilified. Explain what happened.