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**Middle School Words: Word/Explanation for Grade 8 (List 6)**

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**pestilence:** n. any epidemic disease with a high death rate

**phenomenon:** n. appearance; anything visible, in matter or spirit; extraordinary or very remarkable person, thing, or occurrence

**pithy:** a. precisely meaningful; forceful and brief

**pittance:** n. very small portion or allowance assigned, whether of food or money

**pivot:** n. the central point, pin, or shaft on which a mechanism turns or oscillates; axis; center

**pollination:** n. fertilization of plants by the agency of insects that carry pollen from one flower to another

**porous:** a. full of pores; able to absorb fluids; full of tiny pores that allow fluids or gasses to pass through

**posterity:** n. descendants collectively; the race that proceeds from a progenitor; future generations

**precarious:** a. uncertain; risky; dangerously lacking in security or stability

**precedent:** n. act or instance that may be used as example in subsequent similar cases

**precipice:** n. cliff; overhanging or extremely steep mass of rock; dangerous position

**precipitous:** a. extremely steep; descending rapidly, or rushing onward

**precocious:** a. advanced in development; appearing or developing early

**predecessor:** n. former occupant of post; ancestor or forefather

**preface:** n. a short introductory essay preceding the text of a book