Vocabulary #8 (from “Flowers for Algernon”)

1. **perplex (verb)** to cause to be confused or puzzled over what is not understood
   - ex: I was **perplexed** by Sue’s behavior when she ignored me for 2 weeks.

2. **degenerate (noun)** a person whose behavior deviates from what is acceptable
   - ex: Some people considered Charley a **degenerate** because they didn’t understand him.

3. **degeneration (noun)** the process of declining from a higher to a lower level
   - ex: When you have a disease like Alzheimer’s, your brain goes through **degeneration** slowly each day.

4. **interim (noun)** the time between one event, process, or period and another
   - ex: In the **interim**, when we were waiting for our new car, we used the bus when we needed to get home.

5. **opportunist (noun)** a person who adapts actions, decisions, etc. above ethical principles
   - ex: Bob is such an **opportunist**; whenever he sees a chance to eat some of my lunch, he helps himself.

6. **begrudge (verb)** to be envious of
   - ex: I do not **begrudge** any celebrities or politicians, because their every move is criticized daily.

7. **blasphemous (adj)** grossly irreverent toward what is held to be sacred; disrespectful
   - ex: My grandma would consider wearing jeans at church **blasphemous**; she believes in dressing your best!

8. **blunder (noun)** an embarrassing mistake
   - ex: Students made several **blunders** on the test, but they were allowed to retake it to fix their errors.

9. **coalesce (verb)** to fuse or cause to come together
   - ex: The whole basketball season really **coalesced** when the team came together to win their last 10 games!

10. **cynical (adj)** believing the worst of human nature and motives
    - ex: My teacher is so **cynical**; she always assume I am cheating whenever we take a test!

11. **docile (adj)** easily handled or managed
    - ex: **Docile** students make a teacher’s job much easier, because they follow directions without arguments.

12. **lethargic (adj)** deficient in alertness or activity; slow-moving; lacking energy
    - ex: After 2 basketball practices last night, Luke was very **lethargic** and couldn’t wait to go to sleep.

13. **juxtapose (verb)** to place side by side, especially for comparison or contrast
    - ex: If you **juxtapose** the twins and put them near each other, you can tell them apart.

14. **patronizing (adj)** condescending, pretentious or arrogant; looking down on others
    - ex: That guy was so **patronizing** to teenagers; he thought he knew more than them & treated them badly.

15. **waver (verb)** to sway, shake or become unsteady; to show doubt or indecision; to fluctuate or vary
    - ex: My decision will not **waver**; I am not going to change my mind no matter what you do.

This week’s vocabulary assignment MUST include: (1) word (spelled correctly) (2) part of speech (3) definition & (4) a sentence WITH CONTEXT CLUES and RELATING TO ONE OR MORE OF THE SCI FI STORIES WE’VE READ. Pictures & antonyms/synonyms are extra credit.