

Words from Haruki Murakami's *The Windup Bird Chronicle*

"To know one's own state is not a simple matter. One cannot look directly at one's own face with one's own eyes, for example. One has no choice but to look at one's reflection in the mirror. Through experience, we come to believe that the image is correct, but that is all."

The Windup Bird Chronicle is an ambitious exploration into the unknown. The essence of being, and the nature of the world is questioned at every corner, as you struggle to discern what lies beneath the fragile membrane of reality draped across everything you thought you understood. Toru Okada, a man who is completely ordinary and yet wholly irregular, struggles with these concepts as he looks to find his cat, his wife, and finally, himself.

Avocabo Word List 103

ASCETICALLY, ABSCONDED, AUSTERITY, CORPULENT, CYCLICITY, DAPPLED, DEMARCATION, DOWNY, EXTRICATE, FRUGAL, LANGUID, OSTENSIBLE, PEDIGREE, PENITENCE, PERFUNCTORY, PROGNOSTICATE, SARTORIAL, SLAKE, TACITURN, TRANSCENDED, UNDULATING

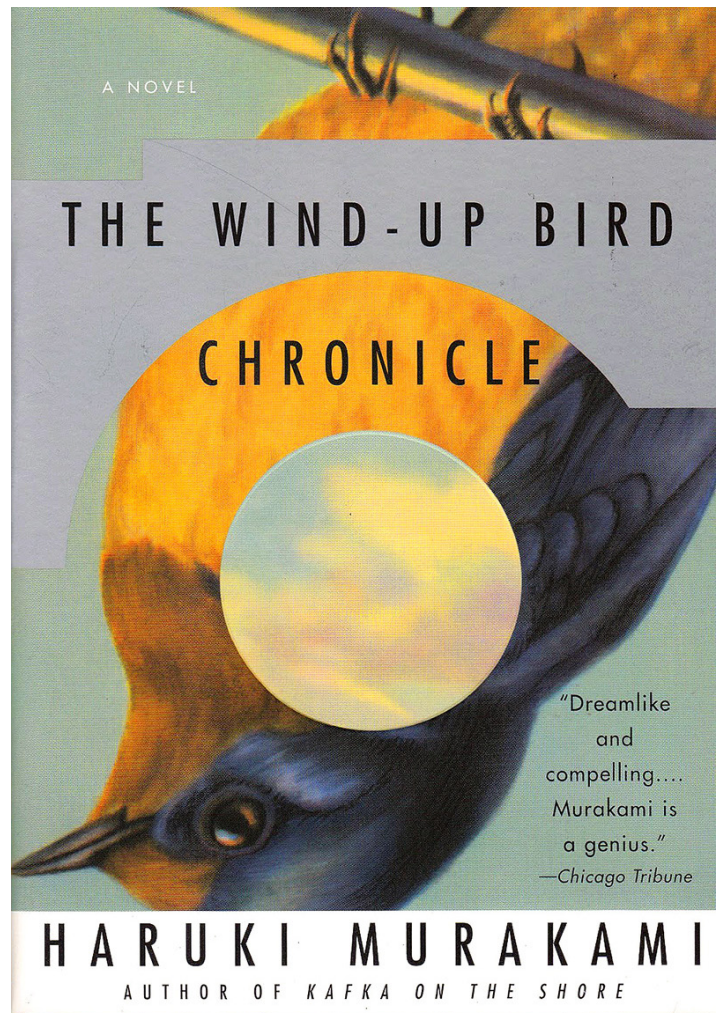
Exercise 103-1: Fill-in-the-Blanks

Complete each sentence with the most appropriate list word. Definitions of the missing word are provided to help you. (21 marks)

1. The sharp sunshine of early summer _____ the surface of the alley with the hard shadows of the branches that stretched out overhead. *n. to mark with spots or round patches*

2. When she inclined her head to one side, her hair swung away to reveal a beautifully shaped ear, smooth as if freshly made, its edge aglow with a(n) _____ fringe. *adj. covered with fine soft hair or feathers*

3. With marriage I took on not only a cohabitant but a new concept of _____: the phases of the moon. *n. the quality or state of being cyclic*



4. You must not put anything but that water in your mouth for an entire week. This is a kind of discipline that is required there. I believe it can be called a religious _____. *n. conditions characterized by severity, sternness, or asceticism*

5. She did have a touch of superstition, and she could be upset by an ominous _____, but she never went out of her way to involve herself in spiritual affairs. *n. the action of foretelling or prophesying future events*

6. Neither Kumiko nor I believed that a man like that would accept a poor, twenty-four-year-old nobody like me, without position or _____ or even decent grades of future promise, as a marriage partner for his daughter. *n. the recorded ancestry, especially upper-class ancestry, of a person or family*

7. He was apparently a rather famous fortune-teller, but he lived very simply—even _____. *adv. through the practice of extreme self-denial or self-mortification*

8. Kumiko became a difficult, _____ child in these new surroundings. There was no one she could trust, no one she could depend upon unconditionally. *adj. reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little*

9. He was just a college instructor at the time, long before he had written his book, and long before his _____ conversion. *adj. of or relating to tailoring, clothes, or style of dress*

10. I put fresh coffee in a cup in front of her. She added cream and gave it a(n) _____ stir. No sugar. *adj. displaying or having a disinclination for physical exertion or effort; slow and relaxed*

11. We were well off, but my parents did not believe in giving their children extra money for frills. I suppose I had a rather _____ upbringing. *adj. sparing or economical with regard to money or food*

12. Most Japanese realized that the war with China would turn into a muddy swamp from which we could never _____ ourselves. *v. to free from a constraint or difficulty*

13. My obedience to him was to be something that _____ the usual laws and regulations. *v. to have surpassed or to have gone beyond*

14. Like a(n) _____ snake, the Khalkha flowed on below us to the left. *adj. to be moving with a smooth wavelike motion*

15. I have decided not to kill you. Think of this as my own small expression of _____ for having pointlessly killed your friend in spite of myself. *n. the action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done something wrong; repentance*

16. To _____ my thirst, I licked the morning dew that clung to the stone wall. The amount of water was minuscule, of course, but to me it tasted like a bounty from heaven. *v. to quench or satisfy*

17. When the man finished singing, there w scattered applause, neither overly enthusiastic not entirely _____. *adj. carried out with a minimum of effort or reflection*

18. So sometimes I get this feeling like part of me _____ with the Miyawakis and just disappeared. I guess that's pretty weird, huh, to feel like part of you is gone because it absconded with people you hardly know? *v. to have left hurriedly and secretly*

19. As long as we caused no trouble ad met our production quotas, they would leave us alone. That was the _____ policy of the new politburo member. *adj. stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so*

20. The stars up there were visible only from the bottom of a well. All that hung in the sky was a nearly full, _____, moon. *adj. fat*

21. I will abandon the name of Creta Kano as well. In order to do that, however, I want to have a clearly visible point of _____, something that says, 'it ends here.' *n. a boundary or limit*

Exercise 103-2: Anagrams

Each of the following words/phrases are anagrams of one of the provided words. Write the word beside its anagrams. (10 marks)

1. _____ Elastic Lacy
2. _____ Coed Bands
3. _____ A Rusty Tie
4. _____ Aromatic End
5. _____ A Rice Text
6. _____ Bee Tonsils
7. _____ Greed Pie
8. _____ Sailor Art
9. _____ Dancer Dents
10. _____ Rat Tunic

Exercise 103-3: Parts of Speech

Convert the word provided into the stated form of the same word. (10 marks)

- _____ 1. dappled (noun)
- _____ 2. absconded (noun)
- _____ 3. ostensible (noun)
- _____ 4. taciturn (noun)
- _____ 5. frugal (noun)
- _____ 6. austerity (adj.)
- _____ 7. corpulent (noun)
- _____ 8. transcended (adj.)
- _____ 9. downy (noun)
- _____ 10. ascetically (noun)

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Exercise 103-4: Appropriate vs Inappropriate Usage

Indicate whether the bolded word is used either properly or improperly in the provided sentence. The bolded words will be a form of one of the list words.

1. Chris aspired to become an affluent member of his company, through diligent **corpulence** and hard work.

2. The **ascetic** qualities of the luxurious mansion made it a wonderful place to live.

3. The economics class provided him with valuable lessons in **frugality**, and thriftiness.

4. The boy **dappled** to the island, only to realize he'd forgotten his supplies.

5. Extroversion and charisma often come hand in hand with **taciturnity**.

6. Here at the Fashion Academy, we have many students with a **sartorial** career plan.

7. The lazy toad, lying beneath the summer sun, stuck out his tongue **perfunctorily** as he wearily attempted to capture a passing fly.

8. Proper kitchen equipment often includes a knife, stove, **slake**, pots and pans, and much more.

9. To many, a god is a **transcendent** being who has powers that exceed mere mortals.

10. Pumped with adrenaline, his actions became quicker, **languid**, and more agile.

Exercise 103-5: Synonyms

Choose the word that acts best as a synonym for each of the provided words (10 marks)

1. ascetic
a) beautiful b) relating to appearance c) self-denying

2. languid
a) jaunty b) lazy c) skeptical

3. taciturn
a) mundane b) quiet c) exceptional

4. corpulent
a) financial b) cooperative c) overweight

5. abscond
a) surpass b) escape c) offer

6. demarcation
a) cleanliness b) boundary c) departure

7. perfunctory
a) casual b) obligatory c) unwilling

8. extricate
a) explain b) extract c) simplify

9. undulating
a) wavy b) soft c) moist

10. downy
a) soft b) unhappy c) relaxed

Exercise 103-5: Making Connections. Establish the connection between the following pairs of words in a sentence response. (10 marks)

1. Ascetic ---- Eremite

2. Lackadaisical --- Languid

3. Dappled --- Mackerel

4. Rescue --- Extricate

5. Transcended --- Eclipsed

Unit by Kenji Marshall, May 2015