VOCABULARY
“The Scarlet Ibis”

Directions: Read each quote from the short story. From the context of each sentence, see if you can determine the meaning of the underlined word.

1. “Doodle was both tired and frightened, and when he stepped from the skiff he collapsed onto the mud, sending an **armada** of fiddler crabs rustling off into the marsh grass.”
   
   What you think **armada** means = 
   
   Actual meaning = 

2. “That summer, the summer of 1918, was **blighted**. In May and June there was no rain and the crops withered, curled up, and then died under the thirsty sun.”
   
   What you think **blighted** means = 
   
   Actual meaning = 

3. “A **grindstone** stands where the bleeding tree stood, just outside the kitchen door, and now if an oriole sings in the elm, its song seems to die up in the leaves, a silvery dust.”
   
   What you think **grindstone** means = 
   
   Actual meaning = 

4. “With success so **imminent**, we decided not to tell anyone until he could actually walk.”
   
   What you think **imminent** means = 
   
   Actual meaning = 

5. “He might, as long as he lived, lie on the rubber sheet in the center of the bed in the front bedroom where the white **marquisette** curtains **billowed** out in the afternoon sea breeze.”
   
   What you think **marquisette** means = 
   
   Actual meaning = 

   What you think **billowed** means = 
   
   Actual meaning =
6. “The knowledge that Doodle’s and my plans had come to *naught* was bitter, and that streak of cruelty within me awakened.”

   What you think *naught* means =
   
   Actual meaning =

7. “At first I just paraded him up and down the *piazza*, but then he started crying to be taken out into the yard and it ended up by my having to lug him wherever I went.”

   What you think *piazza* means =
   
   Actual meaning =

8. “What are the words that can *solder* cracked pride?”

   What you think *solder* means =
   
   Actual meaning =

9. “He lay very awkwardly, with his head thrown far back, making his *vermillion* neck appear unusually long and slim.”

   What you think *vermillion* means =
   
   Actual meaning =

10. “To discourage his coming with me, I’d run with him across the ends of the cotton rows and *careen* him around corners on two wheels.”

    What you think *careen* means =
    
    Actual meaning =

11. “The excitement of our program had now been gone for weeks, but still we kept on with a tired *doggedness*.”

    What you think *doggedness* means =
    
    Actual meaning =

12. “On the topmost branch a bird the size of a chicken, with scarlet feathers and long legs, was perched *precariously*.”

    What you think *precariously* means =
    
    Actual meaning =