A Tale of Two Cities Vocabulary #1

Vocabulary words from Book the First

1. **epoch**
   a period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event
   
   **NOTES:**
   "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity..." (5)

2. **incredulity**
   doubt about the truth of something
   
   **NOTES:**
   "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity..." (5)

3. **superlative**
   the highest level or degree attainable; the highest stage of development
   
   **NOTES:**
   "...in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only" (5)

4. **potentate**
   a ruler who is unconstrained by law
   
   **NOTES:**
   "that magnificent potentate, the Lord Mayor of London, was made to stand and deliver on Turnham Green, by one highwayman, who despoiled the illustrious creature in sight of all his retinue" (7)

5. **despoil**
   steal goods; take as spoils
   
   **NOTES:**
   "that magnificent potentate, the Lord Mayor of London, was made to stand and deliver on Turnham Green, by one highwayman, who despoiled the illustrious creature in sight of all his retinue" (7)

6. **retinue**
   the group following and attending to some important person
   
   **NOTES:**
   "that magnificent potentate, the Lord Mayor of London, was made to stand and deliver on Turnham Green, by one highwayman, who despoiled the illustrious creature in sight of all his retinue" (7)

7. **requisition**
   the act of requiring; an authoritative request or demand, especially by a military or public authority that takes something over
8. pilfer
make off with belongings of others

NOTES:
"to-day, taking the life of an atrocious murderer, and to-morrow of a wretched pilferer who had robbed a farmer's boy of sixpence" (7)

9. capitulate
surrender under agreed conditions

NOTES:
"and the team had capitulated and returned to their duty" (8)

10. adjuration
a solemn and earnest appeal to someone to do something

NOTES:
"With this hurried adjuration, he cocked his blunderbuss, and stood on the offensive." (10)

11. inexorable
not to be placated or appeased or moved by entreaty

NOTES:
"it is this inexorable consolidation and perpetuation of the secret that was always in that individuality" (15)

12. evince
give expression to

NOTES:
"The messenger rode back at an easy trot, stopping pretty often at ale-houses by the way to drink, but evincing a tendency to keep his own counsel..." (15)

13. inscrutable
of an obscure nature

NOTES:
"What time, the mail-coach lumbered, jolted, rattled, and bumped upon its tedious way, with its three fellow inscrutables inside." (16)
| 14. | **placid**  
(of a body of water) free from disturbance by heavy waves | ✓ |
| 15. | **sonorous**  
full and loud and deep | ✓ |
| 16. | **evanescence**  
the event of fading and gradually vanishing from sight | ✓ |
| 17. | **stolid**  
having or revealing little emotion or sensibility; not easily aroused or excited | ✓ |
| 18. | **pecuniary**  
relating to or involving money | ✓ |
| 19. | **supplicatory**  
humbly entreating | ✓ |
| 20. | **compatriot**  
a person from your own country | ✓ |