Vocabulary Sketch

Lesson Five

1. **rancor** (rang´ kər) *n.* extreme hatred or ill will
   Whelan's double-dealing had Jack seething; he had never before felt so much *rancor* toward a lawyer.
   syn: animosity; enmity *ant: amity; sympathy*

2. **inexorable** (in ek´ sər ə bal) *adj.* unrelenting; unavoidable
   Decades of harsh weather caused the *inexorable* erosion of the tombstone.
   syn: relentless; certain *ant: avoidable; preventable*

3. **extol** (ik stōl´) *v.* to praise highly
   Emily *extolled* the virtues of her personal hero and mentor.
   syn: exalt; laud *ant: chastise*

4. **clement** (klem´ ənt) *adj.* merciful; lenient
   Despite the abhorrent nature of the crime, the judge handed down a surprisingly *clement* sentence.
   syn: forbearing; benign *ant: malevolent; harsh*

5. **cliché** (klē shā´) *n.* a worn-out idea or overused expression
   The candidate promised new ideas, but spouted the same old *clichés* after her election.
   syn: platitude; banality

6. **adamant** (ad´ ə mant) *adj.* unyielding; firm in opinion
   Despite the protests of the entire city council, the mayor remained *adamant*.
   syn: stubborn *ant: amenable; flexible*

7. **diffident** (dif´ i dənt) *adj.* lacking in self-confidence; shy
   The *diffident* student hated to speak in front of the class.
   syn: timid *ant: outgoing*

8. **opus** (ō´ pəs) *n.* a creative work, especially a numbered composition ("opus 3" would be a composer's third composition; plural: *opera*)
   My favorite composition by Antonin Dvorák is *Opus* 95.

9. **ostensible** (o sten´ sə bəl) *adj.* professed but not necessarily true
   The *ostensible* reason for inviting her up to his room was to show her his bottle cap collection.
   syn: supposed *ant: actual*

10. **disparity** (di spar´ i tē) *n.* inequality; difference
    My wife is twelve years older than I am, but we get along well despite the *disparity* in our ages.
    syn: gap *ant: similarity*