Vocabulary Sketch

Lesson Seven

1. **cynical** (sin´ i kəl) *adj.* doubtful or distrustful of the goodness or sincerity of human motives
   Keith made the *cynical* observation that Jamie's new girlfriend was probably just interested in his money.
   syn: skeptical *ant: idealistic; optimistic*

2. **ambivalent** (am biv´ ə lənt) *adj.* having opposing attitudes or feelings toward a person, thing, or idea; unable to decide
   Doug felt *ambivalent* about his job; although he hated the pressure, he loved the challenge.
   syn: uncertain; wavering *ant: certain; resolute*

3. **demagogue** (dem´ ə gôg) *n.* a leader who appeals to citizens' emotions to obtain power
   The *demagogue* evoked the sympathy of the public to justify his crimes in office.
   syn: rabble-rouser

4. **demure** (di myoor´) *adj.* quiet and modest; reserved
   Her *demure* behavior was really a ruse to cover up her criminal nature.
   syn: prim *ant: indiscreet*

5. **intrepid** (in trep´ īd) *adj.* without fear; brave
   The *intrepid* warrior did not even flinch when the tiger leapt from the tree.
   syn: bold; fearless *ant: cowardly*

6. **destitute** (des´ ti tōōt) *adj.* extremely poor; lacking necessities like food and shelter
   Because they had no insurance, they were left *destitute* when their house burned down.
   syn: impoverished; penniless *ant: affluent*

7. **erudite** (er´ yə dīt) *adj.* scholarly; learned
   Not much of a scholar, Justin was intimidated by his *erudite* girlfriend.
   syn: educated *ant: unlettered; illiterate*

8. **dilemma** (di lem´ ə) *n.* a choice between two unpleasant or difficult options
   Whether to repair my old car or purchase a new one was a real *dilemma.*

9. **culmination** (kul mə nā´ shən) *n.* the highest point of attainment; the end or climax
   Winning the state tournament was the *culmination* of a great basketball season.
   syn: apex *ant: nadir*

10. **concur** (kən kûr´) *v.* to be of the same opinion; to agree with
    I *concur* that we should keep this meeting short.
    syn: support; agree *ant: dispute; differ*