Vocabulary 21-30- A Lesson Before Dying

21. straddle, pg. 61
   a. Two would saw while another would straddle the wood pole to keep it steady.
   b. Politicians often won’t take a definitive stand on an issue. They will straddle the issue, not committing to either side.

22. patronizing, pg. 82
   a. He looked at me as if I was patronizing him.
   b. He acted patronizing. He only said what he thought I wanted to hear. He was not being sincere however.

23. emphatically, pg. 85
   a. The old man nodded his head emphatically, with great pride, and went back to the bar.
   c. He spoke emphatically about his innocence. He made it very clear that he was not involved.

24. inquisitor, pg. 99
   a. She looked at me the way an inquisitor must have glared at his poor victims.
   b. The principal is the head inquisitor. She interrogates you when it appears you are responsible for problems on campus.

25. rustic, pg. 104
   a. “It’s rustic all right. Probably the most rustic place you’ll ever visit.”
   b. He had lived in a rural area most of his life, so all of his furniture and household decorations were rustic.

26. pastoral, pg. 104
   b. There was a pastoral atmosphere to the paintings. They were simple, peaceful and natural.

27. contemplating, pg. 114
   a. She turned to Vivian, not saying anything, just contemplating her.
   b. She was contemplating what she should do next. She need time to think about all her options.

28. vexing, pg. 129
   a. He grunted. “Just keep on vexing me,” he said. “I bet you I say something ‘bout that old yellow woman you go with.”
   b. Kids seem to love to torment and aggravate each other. They often engage in vexing each other.

29. precedent, pg. 133
   a. The sheriff’s wife greeted them graciously and set a precedent by having them sit in the living room while her maid served them coffee.
   b. The airforce academy set a new precedent when it began to accept female students.

30. inclement, pg. 147
   a. But since the weather had been so inclement- to use one of Reverend Ambrose’s words- they had more time for practice.
   b. Due to the inclement weather, we cancelled our picnic. We can’t enjoy the park when we are having strong thunderstorms.