**Vocabulary List: B**

1. **contumacious** (adj) (contumaciously -adv, contumacity-n) stubbornly perverse or rebellious; willfully and obstinately disobedient

*“Thompson, Samel, and Swanson, however, are contumacious Alaskans with a special fondness for driving motor vehicles where motor vehicles aren’t really designed to be driven” (11).*

2. **plebian** (adj) common, as opposed to sophisticated or upper class; having to do with common people

*“He liked the community’s stasis, its plebian virtues and unassuming mien” (18)*

3. **ideologue** (n) a person who zealously advocates an ideology, which is any body of doctrine, myth, belief, etc., that guides an individual, social movement, institution, class, or large group

*“On the face of it, Bullhead City doesn’t seem like the kind of place that would appeal to an adherent of Thoreau and Tolstoy, an ideologue who expressed nothing but contempt for the bourgeois trappings of mainstream America” (39).*

4. **indigent** (adj) (also a noun, indigently –adv) lacking food, clothing, or other necessities of life because of poverty; needy; poor; impoverished

*“To salve his loneliness in the years after the accident, he started unofficially ‘adopting’ indigent Okinawan boys and girls” (50)*

5. **histrionic** (adj) (histrionically – adv)deliberately affected or self-consciously emotional; overly dramatic, in behavior or speech

*“McCandless’s postcards, notes, and journals . . . read like the work of an above average, somewhat histrionic high school kid” (72)*

6.  **recondite** (adj) (reconditely -adv, reconditeness -n) dealing with very profound, difficult, or abstruse subject matter; beyond ordinary knowledge or understanding, esoteric; little known or obscure

*“In mid-winter a field biologist discovered all his belongings—two rifles, camping gear, a diary filled with incoherent ranting about truth and beauty and recondite ecological theory—in an empty cabin near Tofty, its interior filled with drifted snow” (72).*

7. **bourgeois** (adj) (also a noun, bourgeoisie) belonging to, characteristic of, or consisting of the middle class; conventional; dominated or characterized by materialistic pursuits or concerns

*“On the face of it, Bullhead City doesn’t seem like the kind of place that would appeal to an adherent of Thoreau and Tolstoy, an ideologue who expressed nothing but contempt for the bourgeois trappings of mainstream America” (39).*

8. **eremitic** (adj) (eremite –n,eremitism –n) having to do with or like a hermit or recluse, especially one under a religious vow

*“Writing about his death, Edward Hoagland observed that Alaska is ‘not the best site in the world for eremitic experiments or peace-love theatrics’” (73).*

9. **equanimity** (n) (equanimous -adj, equanimously-adv) mental or emotional stability or composure, especially under tension or strain; calmness; equilibrium

*“Rosellini appeared to accept the failure of his hypothesis with equanimity” (75).*

10. **paucity** (n) smallness of quantity; insufficiency; fewness; scarcity; scantiness

*“Like Waterman and McCunn, he displayed a staggering paucity of common sense” (85).*