

The Wild Party- Glossary

Term	Pg #	Definition
Vaudeville	1	A play or stage performance including light hearted music and dance performance
Chorine	1	A chorus girl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated in 1922, 6 yrs before TWP poem was published
Blackguards	2	Criminals or vagrants as a group or class Also, any person know to be low-class
Curs	2	A cowardly person, a term of contempt, low
Coon-shouting	4	Coon: Slang for an African-American person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coon shouting refers to a style of song of African American people, or a style sang in the style of “coon song”
a la Jolson	4	referring to Al Jolson, American singer and comedian. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jolson was well known for performing in blackface and singing minstrel songs
Sunday Tabloid	5	the Sunday paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller than the average newspaper, contained the most important and trending stories
The Black Bottom	7	A traditional dance of the 1920s. A jazz dance combining shoulder and hip movements, derived from elements of traditional African dance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with the Charleston, it unpopularized traditional couple dancing that included holding each other or dancing in unison
Olio	8	A painted curtain let down to shield the stage from the audience
Continental Colored	8	
Debonair	10	Suave, polite, and polished
Bathtub gin	11	(nothing officially proven!) An alcoholic concoction of unknown variety, made primarily of gin, and served out of a bathtub. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gin was the most popular alcohol of the 1920s • Said that a bottle was party filled with gin, and filled the rest of the way with water. Because the bottle couldn’t fit in the sink to fill it with water, they would fill up the bottle in the bathtub.
Post-Modernist	12	A late 20th century movement characterized by broad skepticism. A suspicion of reason. A questioning of ideology and political power. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going against realism
Alelia’s	12	A’Lelia Walker

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘the joy goddess of Harlem’s 1920s’ • known for her hair styles and lavish parties, she was an American woman of color, businesswoman, and patron of the arts. her house was a hub for LGBT gatherings in the 1920s
Waldorf	17	<p>The Waldorf-Astoria hotel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • located on 5th Avenue Manhattan. It was destroyed in 1929 (the year after The Wild Party was published) to make way for the construction of the Empire State building, and re-built on Park avenue in 1931.
Sore Bum	18	A reference to the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. One of the most renowned places of higher education in the world, dating back to the 13th century.
Fitzgeralds	18	<p>F. Scott Fitzgerald</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An American Fiction writer that most commonly known for writing about the jazz age
Dos Passos	18	<p>John Dos Passos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An American novelist, known for writing novels in experimental form, and in many ways postmodernist.
sup	18	supper
Gertie	18	<p>Gertie the Dinosaur,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created by Winsor McCay, was the first animated short film to feature a dinosaur. The film was so popular that the cartoonist included Gertie in his vaudeville act in 1914.
nightcap	18	a drink taken shortly before bedtime. Most commonly alcoholic.
Uptown and Downtown	19	<p>Uptown- The residential section of a city, usually north</p> <p>Downtown-the city center, usually south</p>
Martha Graham	19	<p>Martha Graham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American modern dancer and choreographer, creator of the graham technique
E.B. White	19	<p>E.B White</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American writer. Wrote for the New Yorker, and then wrote multiple children's books including Charlotte's Web and Stuart Little
Ethel Waters	19	<p>Ethel Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American singer and actress, performing jazz and swing on Broadway
Langston Hughes		<p>Langston Hughes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American poet and social activist from Missouri.
Mrs. Astor		<p>Caroline Webster Schermerhorn Astor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A respected woman in High Society New York City who was united in fortune from old money and her marriage to John Jacob Astor
Bessie Smith	20	<p>Bessie Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An African American blues singer, a famous jazz vocalist
Dorothy Parker	20	<p>Dorothy Parker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An American poet and satirist author who ended up on the Hollywood blacklist for her politics in her writing.

Carl Van Vetchen	20	<p>Carl Van Vetchen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Writer and photographer of the Harlem renaissance. Although married to women, known to engage in numerous homosexual affairs. Also known for to attend public gatherings of African American people and invite them to his home, as well as write about Harlem society
Bowery	21	<p>AS street and neighborhood in the southern portion of New York City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 1920s, it was known to be relatively unsafe, but was going through renovations to become a more commercialized section on New York
Fox Trot	21	A smooth partner dance premiered in 1914, with long continuous movements across the floor
Piergo's trained birds	24	
Lindberg	24	<p>Charles Lindenberg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An american pilot, military officer, author, and political activist. He won a military Medal of Honor for completing a transatlantic flight in 1927.
Golden Boy O'Malley	24	
Cab Calloway	26	<p>Cab Calloway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An American singer and bandleader well known for his scat singing
Hammerstein	28	<p>Oscar Hammerstein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American librettist and producer.
Albee	28	<p>Edward Franklin Albee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A vaudeville performer, originally touring with P.T Barnum
Ziegfeld	28	<p>Florenz Ziegfeld</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadway manager known for creating the Ziegfeld follies, known for their slim figures and elaborate costumes.
Billy Rose	28	<p>Billy Rose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American theatrical manager and composer, originally named William Samuel Rosenberg.
Canasta	29	A card game resembling Rummy
Shuberts	29	The Shubert Family were producers responsible for the establishment of the Broadway district of NYC
Salome	29	A biblical play by Oscar Wilde about Salome, daughter of
"the walk"	30	May be a reference to the cakewalk, a dance originally created at slave plantations, and then performed at minstrel shows
Lot's Wife	31	<p>A figure mentioned in the book of Genesis of the Hebrew bible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She became a pillar of salt after she looked back at Sodom.
Sodom and Gomorrah	31	<p>Sinful cities in the book of Genesis in the Hebrew bible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They were destroyed by "sulfur and fire" because of their sinfulness

Shucked	39	To shrink, draw back, hesitate. to be gotten rid of
The Cotton Club	40	A popular New York City nightclub. People of color could not attend the club in the beginning, although although the venue featured the most popular black performers of this era.
Shank	40	
Mister oil-and-rub	40	
Mooch	45	to beg a person for something, in this instance, to seduce
third- rate Valentino	47	Valentino references Rudolf Valentino, and Italian based American actor who starred in many silent films. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was an early pop icon, and known to be a male sex symbol in the 1920s.
lowdown	49	the fundamental facts about something
Sloe	50	something having little or no value
Epitaph	58	An inscription upon a tomb
Three-pocket poocher	61	relating to stealing
Private stock	64	a supply of something that is higher quality, and reserved for friends and family
Honkey-tonk	75	Known to be the predecessor of the present day cabaret or nightclub, a honkey-tonk is a bar with music, originally started in the south, ususally used ragtime style music.