



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA EDUCATION

THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST VOCABULARY

Words and expressions found in the *Girl of the Golden West* DVD for Schools

Ass	a donkey
Auroras	a cigar brand
Bandit	an armed thief who is usually a member of a group
Bartender	a person who sells drinks, especially alcohol, at a bar
Brawl/Brawling	a noisy fight in a crowd
Brew	a drink made from steeping, boiling, and/or fermenting
Brotherly love	strong non-romantic love, the type people feel for their siblings
Canyon	a ravine (deep hole) made by a river between two cliffs
Comeuppance	a deserved rebuke, penalty, or punishment
Compliments of Wells Fargo	given as a gift by Wells Fargo
Damned	condemned to (forced into) eternal punishment or hell
Dangling	hanging from something
David	King of Israel and a warrior in the Bible
Delirium	confusion often followed by hallucinations during illness
Den	a hiding place; a room that is comfortable and secluded
Dreamed in vain	wished uselessly for something that will not happen
Drink it straight	drink an undiluted alcoholic drink

Eurekas	a cigar brand
Esther	Jewish queen of the Persian king Ahasuerus in the Bible; also the name of a book in the Bible
Ezekiel	a Hebrew prophet in the Bible; also the name of a book in the Bible
Farewell	goodbye
Fate	destiny; fortune; something that will happen inevitably
Fervent	ardent; enthusiastic; passionate; sincere
Fevered	affected by a fever or high temperature, as when ill; feverish
Forgive	to stop blaming or being angry at someone
Frank	blunt; honest; straightforward
Gamble/Gambler/Gambling	to take a risk in the hope of a favorable outcome (good ending)
Gold Rush	a time period in California when many people came to find gold
Gold Rush town	a town that formed or grew in size because of the Gold Rush
Guarding the joint	protecting the place
Hand of cards	the cards held by one player in a game of cards
Hang	kill by hanging from a noose
Hang on a game of cards	be decided by whoever wins a game of cards, by chance
Heather	a low evergreen plant that grows on moors (see “moors”)
Highway robber	a person who robs or steals from travelers
Horizon	the line at which the sky and ground appear to meet
Hyssop	a plant used by the ancient Hebrews, mentioned in the Bible
I’m on fire	I am passionate, agitated, and excited
Innocent	free from guilt or sin, especially from lack of knowledge of evil

Jasmine	a small, white, fragrant flower that grows on a vine
Justice	fairness
Longing	wanting very much
Make the rounds	visit with each person
Mere	small; only
Mockery	taunting; bullying; making fun of
Moors	open land covered by heather, especially in Great Britain
Murmured	mutter; grumble; whisper; speak quietly
Native moors	for a Scottish person, such as Joe in the opera, their homeland
New horizon	a new place, assumed to be better than the old
Noose	a loop tied in a rope, used to hang people
Offend	to hurt someone's feelings
Orient	usually refers to Asian countries; in the opera, the Middle East
Passion	a strong feeling or emotion
Polka	a lively Central European dance
Postman	mailman
Purge	to purify; clean; get rid of guilt or sin
Psalm	one of 150 poems and prayers in the Hebrew Bible
Redeem/Redeemed/Redemption	to release from blame; to free from the consequences of a sin
Regalias	a cigar brand
Renew	to make like new again
Role	a character in a play or opera
Round of cards	a period of playing within a card game

Ruth	a character in the Hebrew Bible; also the name of a book in the Bible
Saloon	a room where alcoholic drinks are served
Sierras	slang for the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in California
Sinner	a person who disobeys the rules of their religion or moral code
Sly	mischievous; secretive
Snow-capped	covered with snow at the top
Snow flurry	a brief snowfall brought by wind
Stake his life	put his life at risk by gambling
Supreme	highest
Sweet on you	likes you romantically
Toast	drink in honor of a person or event
Trader	a person who buys and sells objects
Tuft	a bunch of hair, feathers, or grass
Vigil	staying awake to guard or care for someone or something
Vouch	to give a good opinion of someone or something
Waltz	a three-step dance
Wells Fargo	a bank and delivery service in California during the Gold Rush
Wells Fargo agent	a worker from Wells Fargo; in the opera, he looks for criminals
Whiskey with water	a diluted and weakened alcoholic drink
Word of honor	a promise
Worthy	having good qualities
Your own worth	your value; your importance
Youth	a young person