

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

Webster's Thesaurus Edition for PSAT[®], SAT[®], GRE[®], LSAT[®],
GMAT[®], and AP[®] English Test Preparation

Thomas Hardy

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PREFACE FROM THE EDITOR

Designed for school districts, educators, and students seeking to maximize performance on standardized tests, Webster's paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy was edited for students who are actively building their vocabularies in anticipation of taking PSAT[®], SAT[®], AP[®] (Advanced Placement[®]), GRE[®], LSAT[®], GMAT[®] or similar examinations.¹

Webster's edition of this classic is organized to expose the reader to a maximum number of synonyms and antonyms for difficult and often ambiguous English words that are encountered in other works of literature, conversation, or academic examinations. Extremely rare or idiosyncratic words and expressions are given lower priority in the notes compared to words which are "difficult, and often encountered" in examinations. Rather than supply a single synonym, many are provided for a variety of meanings, allowing readers to better grasp the ambiguity of the English language, and avoid using the notes as a pure crutch. Having the reader decipher a word's meaning within context serves to improve vocabulary retention and understanding. Each page covers words not already highlighted on previous pages. If a difficult word is not noted on a page, chances are that it has been highlighted on a previous page. A more complete thesaurus is supplied at the end of the book; Synonyms and antonyms are extracted from Webster's Online Dictionary.

Definitions of remaining terms as well as translations can be found at www.websters-online-dictionary.org. Please send suggestions to websters@icongroupbooks.com

The Editor
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P R E F A C E

In reprinting this story for a new edition I am reminded that it was in the **chapters** of "Far from the Madding Crowd" as they **appeared** month by month in a popular magazine, that I first ventured to adopt the word "Wessex" from the pages of early English history, and give it a **fictitious** significance as the existing name of the district once included in that extinct kingdom. The series of novels I projected being mainly of the kind called local, they seemed to require a territorial definition of some sort to lend unity to their scene. Finding that the area of a single country did not afford a canvas large enough for this purpose, and that there were objections to an invented name, I disinterred the old one. The press and the public were kind enough to welcome the **fanciful** plan, and willingly joined me in the **anachronism** of **imagining** a Wessex population living under Queen Victoria;—a modern Wessex of railways, the penny post, mowing and **reaping** machines, union workhouses, **lucifer** matches, labourers who could read and write, and National school children. But I believe I am correct in **stating** that, until the existence of this **contemporaneous** Wessex was announced in the present story, in 1874, it had never been heard of, and that the expression, "a Wessex peasant" or "a Wessex custom" would **theretofore** have been taken to refer to nothing later in date than the Norman Conquest.

I did not anticipate that this application of the word to a modern use would extend outside the chapters of my own **chronicles**. But the name was soon taken

Thesaurus

anachronism: (*n*) anomaly, artefact, artifact, parachronism, prochronism, timekeeping, mistiming, antichronism, misdating.

appeared: (*n*) appearing.

chapters: (*n*) contents.

chronicles: (*n*) archives, history, archive, records.

contemporaneous: (*adj*) concurrent, coetaneous, coeval, synchronous, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, coexistent,

cotemporaneous, present, parallel.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) separate.

fanciful: (*adj*) mythical, fantastic, capricious, unreal, arbitrary, romantic, ideal, chimerical, notional, visionary; (*adj, v*) fancy.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) prosaic, real, realistic, plausible, normal.

fictitious: (*adj*) bogus, assumed, fictional, counterfeit, artificial, fake, fabulous, sham, fabricated, fanciful, apocryphal. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) true,

honest, historical, factual.

imagining: (*n*) conception, daydream, fantasy, opinion; (*v*) imagine; (*adj*) imaginant.

lucifer: (*n*) Satan, Beelzebub, the Devil, match, fusee, fuzee, friction match, light, archfiend, Vesta, vesuvian.

reaping: (*n*) harvesting, crop, attainment, farming.

stating: (*n*) reference.

theretofore: (*adj*) aforehand, beforehand, ere; (*adv*) erewhile.

up elsewhere as a local designation. The first to do so was the now **defunct** *Examiner*, which, in the impression bearing date July 15, 1876, entitled one of its articles "The Wessex Labourer," the article turning out to be no dissertation on farming during the Heptarchy, but on the modern peasant of the south-west counties, and his presentation in these stories.

Since then the **appellation** which I had thought to reserve to the horizons and landscapes of a merely realistic dream-country, has become more and more popular as a practical definition; and the dream-country has, by degrees, **solidified** into a utilitarian region which people can go to, take a house in, and write to the papers from. But I ask all good and gentle readers to be so kind as to forget this, and to refuse **steadfastly** to believe that there are any inhabitants of a Victorian Wessex outside the pages of this and the companion volumes in which they were first discovered.

Moreover, the village called Weatherbury, **wherein** the scenes of the present story of the series are for the most part laid, would perhaps be hardly discernible by the explorer, without help, in any existing place nowadays; though at the time, comparatively recent, at which the tale was written, a sufficient reality to meet the **descriptions**, both of backgrounds and personages, might have been **traced** easily enough. The church remains, by great good fortune, unrestored and intact, and a few of the old houses; but the ancient malt-house, which was formerly so characteristic of the parish, has been pulled down these twenty years; also most of the thatched and dormered cottages that were once lifeholds. The game of prisoner's base, which not so long ago seemed to enjoy a perennial vitality in front of the **worn-out** stocks, may, so far as I can say, be entirely unknown to the rising generation of schoolboys there. The practice of **divination** by Bible and key, the regarding of valentines as things of serious import, the shearing-supper, and the harvest-home, have, too, nearly disappeared in the wake of the old houses; and with them have gone, it is said, much of that love of fuddling to which the village at one time was notoriously prone. The change at the root of this has been the recent **supplanting** of the class of stationary cottagers, who **carried** on the local traditions and humours, by a population of

Thesaurus

appellation: (*n*) designation, denomination, title, name, nickname, epithet, moniker, term, appellative, cognomen, degree.
carried: (*adj*) conveyed, imported.
defunct: (*adj*) deceased, inanimate, late, extinct, departed, lifeless; (*n*) reliquiae, dust, earth, mortal remains, relics. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) existing, thriving, surviving, operating, alive, current.
descriptions: (*n*) images.

divination: (*n*) augury, prediction, necromancy, palmistry, sorcery, witchcraft, fortune telling, oracle, prophecy, foretelling, soothsaying.
solidified: (*adj*) fixed, firm, stiff, concrete, curdled, thick, coagulate, grumous, grumose; (*v*) consolidated, joined.
steadfastly: (*adv*) steadily, solidly, unwaveringly, resolutely, unflinching, unswervingly, determinedly, faithfully, persistently,

permanently, staunchly.
 ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unreliably, irresolutely, unfaithfully.
supplanting: (*n*) shift, replacing, replacement, exchange, displacement reaction, deracination.
traced: (*adj*) graphic.
wherein: (*adv*) in what, in which, where.
worn-out: (*adj*) stale, trite, threadbare, worn, hackneyed, jaded, old, run-down, dilapidated, disabled, beat.

more or less **migratory** labourers, which has led to a break of continuity in local history, more fatal than any other thing to the **preservation** of legend, folk-lore, close inter-social relations, and **eccentric** individualities. For these the **indispensable** conditions of existence are **attachment** to the soil of one particular spot by generation after generation.

T.H.

February 1895

Thesaurus

attachment: (*n*) appendix, addition, accessory, adherence, regard, link, bond, fitting, devotion, liking, connection. ANTONYMS: (*n*) aversion, estrangement, repulsion, separation, dislike.

eccentric: (*adj, n*) odd; (*adj*) wacky, bizarre, abnormal, crazy, strange, outlandish, anomalous, cranky, erratic; (*n*) character. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) normal, ordinary, conventional, usual, concentric, common, sane,

dull, orthodox; (*n*) conformer, traditionalist.

indispensable: (*adj, v*) necessary, imperative, requisite; (*adj*) obligatory, fundamental, required, mandatory, vital, urgent, absolutely necessary; (*v*) needful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dispensable, nonessential, optional, marginal, unnecessary, worthless, minor.

migratory: (*adj, v*) itinerant; (*v*) ambulatory, vagrant, rambling,

roving, Peripatetic, discursive, gadding, monadic; (*adj*) nomadic, vagabond. ANTONYM: (*adj*) nonmigratory.

preservation: (*n*) maintenance, keeping, protection, retention, custody, storage, upkeep, care, embalment, saving, conservancy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) release, extinction, abandonment, change, end, neglect.

CHAPTER I

DESCRIPTION OF FARMER OAK— AN INCIDENT

When Farmer Oak smiled, the corners of his mouth spread till they were within an unimportant distance of his ears, his eyes were reduced to chinks, and **diverging wrinkles** appeared round them, extending upon his **countenance** like the rays in a **rudimentary sketch** of the rising sun.

His Christian name was Gabriel, and on working days he was a young man of sound judgment, easy motions, proper dress, and general good character. On Sundays he was a man of **misty** views, rather given to postponing, and **hampered** by his best clothes and umbrella: upon the whole, one who felt himself to occupy morally that vast middle space of Laodicean neutrality which lay between the Communion people of the parish and the drunken section, — that is, he went to church, but yawned privately by the time the congregation reached the Nicene creed, and thought of what there would be for dinner when he meant to be listening to the **sermon**. Or, to state his character as it stood in the scale of public opinion, when his friends and critics were in **tantrums**, he was considered rather a bad man; when they were pleased, he was rather a good man; when they

Thesaurus

countenance: (*n*) aspect, expression, brow, complexion; (*n, v*) face, sanction, support, favor; (*v*) allow, tolerate, uphold. ANTONYMS: (*v*) reject, oppose, discourage, disapprove, prohibit.
diverging: (*adj*) branching, divergingly, centrifugal, divaricate, oblique.
hampered: (*adj*) impeded, confined, fraught, held back, in an inferior position, disadvantaged, weighed

down, loaded, in a weak position, responsible, troubled.
misty: (*adj*) hazy, foggy, cloudy, brumous, dim, indistinct, nebulous, fuzzy, dark, dull, blurred.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clear, distinct.
rudimentary: (*adj*) primary, basic, inchoate, fundamental, elementary, elemental, rudimental, embryonic, original, imperfect, incomplete.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) advanced, complex, developed.

sermon: (*n*) discourse, oration, speech, address, homily, preachment, harangue, preaching, exhortation, predication; (*n, v*) lecture.
sketch: (*n, v*) plan, outline, draft, scheme, picture, project; (*n*) drawing, cartoon, plot; (*v*) paint, draw.
tantrums: (*n*) angry mood, acharnement, pet, fit, passion, grumpiness, tiff, towering passion, irritability, crabbiness, peevishness.
wrinkles: (*n*) crow's feet.

were neither, he was a man whose moral colour was a kind of pepper-and-salt mixture.

Since he lived six times as many working-days as Sundays, Oak's appearance in his old clothes was most peculiarly his own—the mental picture formed by his **neighbours** in imagining him being always dressed in that way. He wore a low-crowned felt hat, spread out at the base by tight **jamming** upon the head for security in high winds, and a coat like Dr. Johnson's; his lower extremities being **encased** in ordinary leather leggings and boots emphatically large, affording to each foot a **roomy** apartment so constructed that any **wearer** might stand in a river all day long and know nothing of damp—their maker being a conscientious man who endeavoured to compensate for any weakness in his cut by **unstinted** dimension and solidity.

Mr. Oak carried about him, by way of watch, what may be called a small silver clock; in other words, it was a watch as to shape and intention, and a small clock as to size. This instrument being several years older than Oak's grandfather, had the **peculiarity** of going either too fast or not at all. The smaller of its hands, too, occasionally slipped round on the pivot, and thus, though the minutes were told with precision, nobody could be quite certain of the hour they belonged to. The stopping peculiarity of his watch Oak remedied by thumps and shakes, and he escaped any evil consequences from the other two defects by constant comparisons with and observations of the sun and stars, and by pressing his face close to the glass of his neighbours' windows, till he could discern the hour marked by the green-faced timekeepers within. It may be mentioned that Oak's fob being difficult of access, by reason of its somewhat high situation in the **waistband** of his trousers (which also lay at a remote height under his waistcoat), the watch was as a necessity pulled out by throwing the body to one side, **compressing** the mouth and face to a mere mass of ruddy flesh on account of the **exertion** required, and drawing up the watch by its chain, like a bucket from a well.

But some thoughtful persons, who had seen him walking across one of his fields on a certain December morning—sunny and exceedingly mild—might

Thesaurus

compressing: (*n*) pressure, compression, squeezing, condensation, applying pressure; (*adj*) pinching. ANTONYM: (*n*) decompression.

encased: (*adj*) incased, sheathed.

exertion: (*n*) application, exercise, endeavor, attempt, struggle, trouble, diligence, strain, labor, pull, essay. ANTONYMS: (*n*) idleness, inactivity, inertia, relaxation, laziness, ease.

jamming: (*n*) interference, electronic

jamming, disturbance, obstruction, blocking, overcrowding, hole, fix, crush, canting; (*adj*) extemporaneous.

neighbours: (*n*) neighborhood.

peculiarity: (*n*) idiosyncrasy, distinction, particularity, oddness, eccentricity, distinctiveness, abnormality, characteristic, attribute, difference, individuality. ANTONYM: (*n*) similarity.

roomy: (*adj, n*) capacious; (*adj*) broad, extensive, large, commodious, ample,

voluminous, expansive, big, rangy, comprehensive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) small, narrow, airless, tiny, tight.

unstinted: (*adj*) lavish, generous, overgenerous, unsparing, munificent, profuse, not forbearing, spendthrift, ruthless, recklessly wasteful, untiring. ANTONYM: (*adj*) scarce.

waistband: (*n*) belt, cummerbund, band, cincture, sash, waistcloth, stays, panty girdle, corset.

wearer: (*n*) enjoyer.

have regarded Gabriel Oak in other aspects than these. In his face one might notice that many of the hues and curves of youth had tarried on to manhood: there even remained in his **remoter** crannies some relics of the boy. His height and breadth would have been sufficient to make his presence imposing, had they been exhibited with due consideration. But there is a way some men have, rural and urban alike, for which the mind is more responsible than flesh and **sinew**: it is a way of **curtailing** their dimensions by their manner of showing them. And from a quiet modesty that would have become a **vestal** which seemed continually to impress upon him that he had no great claim on the world's room, Oak walked **unassumingly** and with a faintly perceptible bend, yet distinct from a bowing of the shoulders. This may be said to be a defect in an individual if he depends for his valuation more upon his appearance than upon his capacity to wear well, which Oak did not.

He had just reached the time of life at which "young" is **ceasing** to be the **prefix** of "man" in speaking of one. He was at the brightest period of masculine growth, for his intellect and his emotions were clearly separated: he had passed the time during which the influence of youth indiscriminately mingles them in the character of impulse, and he had not yet arrived at the stage wherein they become united again, in the character of prejudice, by the influence of a wife and family. In short, he was twenty-eight, and a bachelor.

The field he was in this morning **sloped** to a ridge called Norcombe Hill. Through a spur of this hill ran the highway between Emminster and Chalk-Newton. Casually glancing over the hedge, Oak saw coming down the incline before him an ornamental spring **waggon**, painted yellow and gaily marked, drawn by two horses, a **waggoner** walking alongside bearing a whip **perpendicularly**. The waggon was laden with household goods and window plants, and on the apex of the whole sat a woman, young and attractive. Gabriel had not **beheld** the sight for more than half a minute, when the vehicle was brought to a standstill just beneath his eyes.

"The **tailboard** of the waggon is gone, Miss," said the waggoner.

Thesaurus

beheld: (*adj*) visual.

ceasing: (*n*) stopping, subsidence.

curtailing: (*n*) contraction.

perpendicularly: (*adv*) uprightly, erectly, straightly, upright, orthogonally, sheerly, precipitously, normally, plumb; (*adv, v*) sheer; (*adj, adv*) directly.

prefix: (*n, v*) preface; (*n*) preamble, foreword, introduction, area code, prelude, proem, proemium, prolepsis; (*v*) attach, prepose.

remoter: (*adj*) ulterior, further, more distant.

sinew: (*n*) brawn, potency, power, force, might, vigour, energy, strength, beef; (*adj, n*) muscle, nerve.

sloped: (*adj*) slanting, oblique, sloping, inclined, aslope, diagonal, aslant, leaned, leant, colored, biased.

tailboard: (*n*) tailgate, boot lid, gate.

unassumingly: (*adv*) unobtrusively, unpretentiously, retiringly, meekly, diffidently, quietly, inconspicuously,

discreetly, unpretendingly, unostentatiously, simply.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) conspicuously, pretentiously, brashly.

vestal: (*adj*) chaste, virginal, virtuous, pure, saturated, not mixed, good, sinless, undiluted; (*n*) woman, nun.

waggon: (*n*) wagon, cart, lorry, wain, dray, station wagon, beach wagon, beach waggon, station waggon, bandwagon, milkwagon.

waggoner: (*n*) driver.

“Then I heard it fall,” said the girl, in a soft, though not particularly low voice. “I heard a noise I could not account for when we were coming up the hill.”

“I’ll run back.”

“Do,” she answered.

The sensible horses stood—perfectly still, and the waggoner’s steps sank fainter and fainter in the distance.

The girl on the summit of the load sat motionless, surrounded by tables and chairs with their legs upwards, backed by an oak settle, and **ornamented** in front by pots of geraniums, myrtles, and cactuses, together with a **caged** canary—all probably from the windows of the house just **vacated**. There was also a cat in a willow basket, from the partly-opened lid of which she gazed with half-closed eyes, and affectionately-surveyed the small birds around.

The handsome girl waited for some time idly in her place, and the only sound heard in the stillness was the hopping of the canary up and down the perches of its prison. Then she looked attentively downwards. It was not at the bird, nor at the cat; it was at an **oblong** package tied in paper, and lying between them. She turned her head to learn if the waggoner were coming. He was not yet in sight; and her eyes crept back to the package, her thoughts seeming to run upon what was inside it. At length she drew the article into her lap, and **untied** the paper covering; a small swing looking-glass was disclosed, in which she proceeded to survey herself attentively. She parted her lips and smiled.

It was a fine morning, and the sun lighted up to a scarlet glow the crimson jacket she wore, and painted a soft lustre upon her bright face and dark hair. The myrtles, geraniums, and cactuses packed around her were fresh and green, and at such a **leafless** season they invested the whole concern of horses, waggon, furniture, and girl with a peculiar **vernal** charm. What possessed her to indulge in such a performance in the sight of the **sparrows**, blackbirds, and **unperceived** farmer who were alone its spectators,—whether the smile began as a **factitious** one, to test her capacity in that art,—nobody knows; it ended certainly in a real smile. She blushed at herself, and seeing her reflection blush, blushed the more.

Thesaurus

caged: (*adj*) jailed, imprisoned, incarcerated, confined, enslaved, in prison, behind bars, restrained, trapped, locked up.

factitious: (*adj*) artificial, unnatural, fictitious, man-made, ostensible, bogus, unreal, synthetic, surreptitious, forced, false.

leafless: (*adj*) bald, bare, aphyllous, leaveless, hairless. ANTONYM: (*adj*) leafy.

oblong: (*adj*) oval, elliptical,

rectangular, rounded; (*v*) longitudinal; (*n*) block, quadrangle.

ornamented: (*adj*) embellished, beautified, fancy, flowery, ornate, adorned, bedecked, decked, festooned, feathered, florid.

sparrows: (*n*) sparrow, finches, order Passeriformes, Passeriformes, robins, rooks, etc.

unperceived: (*v*) unheeded, unthought of, unregarded; (*adj*) unremarked, unnoted, unobserved, unmarked,

unknown, stealthy, sly, secret.

untied: (*adj*) unfastened, unchained, unshackled, unlaced, unbound, unfettered, free, unsewed, open, unconnected, rambling.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) tied, laced.

vacated: (*adj*) empty, abandoned.

vernal: (*adj*) young, hornotine, springlike, vernant, renovated, tender, juvenile, sempervirid, sempervirent, immature.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wintry, summery.

The change from the customary spot and necessary occasion of such an act – from the dressing hour in a bedroom to a time of travelling out of doors – lent to the idle deed a novelty it did not intrinsically possess. The picture was a delicate one. Woman’s **prescriptive infirmity** had stalked into the sunlight, which had **clothed** it in the freshness of an originality. A cynical inference was irresistible by Gabriel Oak as he regarded the scene, generous though he **fain** would have been. There was no necessity whatever for her looking in the glass. She did not adjust her hat, or pat her hair, or press a **dimple** into shape, or do one thing to signify that any such intention had been her motive in taking up the glass. She simply observed herself as a fair product of Nature in the feminine kind, her thoughts seeming to glide into far-off though likely dramas in which men would play a part – vistas of probable triumphs – the smiles being of a phase suggesting that hearts were imagined as lost and won. Still, this was but conjecture, and the whole series of actions was so idly put forth as to make it rash to assert that intention had any part in them at all.

The waggoner’s steps were heard returning. She put the glass in the paper, and the whole again into its place.

When the waggon had passed on, Gabriel withdrew from his point of **espial**, and descending into the road, followed the vehicle to the turnpike-gate some way beyond the bottom of the hill, where the object of his contemplation now halted for the payment of toll. About twenty steps still remained between him and the gate, when he heard a dispute. It was a difference concerning **twopence** between the persons with the waggon and the man at the toll-bar.

“Mis’ess’s niece is upon the top of the things, and she says that’s enough that I’ve offered ye, you great **miser**, and she won’t pay any more.” These were the waggoner’s words.

“Very well; then mis’ess’s niece can’t pass,” said the turnpike-keeper, closing the gate.

Oak looked from one to the other of the disputants, and fell into a **reverie**. There was something in the tone of twopence remarkably insignificant. Threepence had a definite value as money – it was an appreciable infringement

Thesaurus

clothed: (*adj*) dressed, wrapped, cloaked, robed, covered, attired, vested, absorbed, decent; (*v*) accustomed, arrayed. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unclothed.
dimple: (*n*) depression, dint, indentation, hollow, cavity, dip, pit, spot hole, follicle, lacuna, hole. ANTONYMS: (*n*) hump, lump.
espial: (*n*) detection, discovery, catching, find, ken, glance, uncovering, spy, look, spotting,

becoming infected.
fain: (*adj*) willing, prepared, ready, favorable, heart and soul, prone; (*adv*) gladly, lief, readily, willingly; (*v*) optative.
infirmity: (*adj, n*) frailty, foible, imbecility; (*n*) feebleness, impotence, disability, decrepitude, illness, sickness, disease, weakness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) health, wellness, strength.
miser: (*n*) stinginess, curmudgeon,

hunks, muckworm, niggard, skinflint, cheapskate, parsimony, moneygrubber, Jew, miserliness.
prescriptive: (*adj*) customary, immemorial, accustomed, traditional; (*v*) presumptive.
reverie: (*n*) dream, fantasy, air castle, brown study, reverie, trance, abstraction, castle in Spain, castle in the air; (*adj*) preoccupation, distraction. ANTONYM: (*n*) reality.
twopence: (*n*) tuppence, coin.

on a day's wages, and, as such, a higgling matter; but twopence—"Here," he said, **stepping** forward and handing twopence to the **gatekeeper**; "let the young woman pass." He looked up at her then; she heard his words, and looked down.

Gabriel's features adhered throughout their form so exactly to the middle line between the beauty of St. John and the **ugliness** of Judas Iscariot, as represented in a window of the church he attended, that not a single **lineament** could be selected and called worthy either of distinction or **notoriety**. The red-jacketed and dark-haired maiden seemed to think so too, for she carelessly glanced over him, and told her man to drive on. She might have looked her thanks to Gabriel on a minute scale, but she did not speak them; more probably she felt none, for in gaining her a passage he had lost her her point, and we know how women take a favour of that kind.

The gatekeeper surveyed the **retreating** vehicle. "That's a handsome maid," he said to Oak.

"But she has her faults," said Gabriel.

"True, farmer."

"And the greatest of them is—well, what it is always."

"Beating people down? ay, 'tis so."

"O no."

"What, then?"

Gabriel, perhaps a little **piqued** by the **comely** traveller's indifference, glanced back to where he had witnessed her performance over the hedge, and said, "Vanity."

Thesaurus

comely: (*adj*) beautiful, good-looking, decent, fair, attractive, decorous, shapely, proper; (*adj, adv, v*) seemly; (*adj, adv*) sightly, lovely.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) repulsive, homely, plain, revolting, unattractive, ugly.
gatekeeper: (*n*) doorman, commissionaire, ostiary, janitor, porter, door guard, door-keeper, gate-keeper, caretaker, concierge, usher.

lineament: (*n*) line, character, characteristic, contour, quality, forehead, brow, turn, profile, silhouette; (*adj*) diagnostic.
notoriety: (*n*) publicity, reputation, fame, infamy, disrepute, note, notability, prominence, flagrancy, distinction; (*adj, n*) renown.
ANTONYM: (*n*) obscurity.
piqued: (*adj*) irritated, irate, hurt, irked, intoxicated, indignant, up in arms, in a huff, offended, huffy,

excited. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) unconcerned.
retreating: (*n*) flight; (*adj*) moving back.
stepping: (*n*) steps.
ugliness: (*n*) eyesore, offensiveness, hideousness, garishness, gaudiness, grotesqueness, grotesquery, repulsiveness, homeliness, unsightliness; (*adj, n*) unpleasantness.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) beauty, attractiveness, pleasantness.

CHAPTER II

NIGHT—THE FLOCK—AN INTERIO—ANOTHER INTERIOR

It was nearly midnight on the eve of St. Thomas's, the shortest day in the year. A desolating wind wandered from the north over the hill whereon Oak had watched the yellow waggon and its occupant in the sunshine of a few days earlier.

Norcombe Hill—not far from lonely Toller-Down—was one of the spots which suggest to a **passer-by** that he is in the presence of a shape approaching the **indestructible** as nearly as any to be found on earth. It was a **featureless convexity** of chalk and soil—an ordinary specimen of those smoothly outlined protuberances of the globe which may remain undisturbed on some great day of confusion, when far grander heights and dizzy granite precipices **topple** down.

The hill was covered on its northern side by an ancient and **decaying** plantation of **beeches**, whose upper verge formed a line over the crest, fringing its arched curve against the sky, like a mane. To-night these trees sheltered the southern slope from the keenest blasts, which **smote** the wood and floundered through it with a sound as of grumbling, or gushed over its **crowning** boughs in a weakened moan. The dry leaves in the ditch simmered and boiled in the same breezes, a tongue of air occasionally ferreting out a few, and sending them

Thesaurus

beeches: (*n*) *Fagus*.

convexity: (*n*) bulge, camber, knob, projection, convexness, convex shape, solid, form, shape, protuberance, gibbosity.

crowning: (*adj*) top, ultimate, topmost, complementary, final; (*adj, v*) paramount, supreme; (*n*) tapering, coronation, finishing piece; (*v*) preeminent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bathetic, indecisive.

decaying: (*adj*) rotten, decayed,

rotting, stale, decadent, stinking, decomposed, smelly, shabby, seedy; (*n*) fading. ANTONYM: (*adj*) pristine.

featureless: (*adj*) lackluster, plain, monotonous, indistinctive, uninteresting, colorless, characterless, mediocre, unoriginal, uninspired, unimaginative. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) imaginative, inspired, interesting, distinctive.

indestructible: (*adj*) immortal, eternal, everlasting, undestroyable, undying,

durable, perdurable, permanent, indelible, incorruptible, lasting.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) fragile, destructible, vulnerable, ephemeral, soft, perishable, temporary.

passer-by: (*n*) eyewitness.

smote: (*v*) smite.

topple: (*v*) collapse, tumble, fall, stumble, overthrow, upset, overturn, pitch, capsize, tumble down, oust. ANTONYMS: (*v*) place, put, straighten, install, right.

spinning across the grass. A group or two of the latest in date amongst the dead multitude had remained till this very mid-winter time on the **twigs** which bore them and in falling rattled against the trunks with smart taps.

Between this half-wooded half naked hill, and the vague still horizon that its summit **indistinctly** commanded, was a mysterious sheet of **fathomless** shade—the sounds from which suggested that what it concealed bore some reduced resemblance to features here. The thin grasses, more or less coating the hill, were touched by the wind in breezes of differing powers, and almost of differing natures—one rubbing the blades heavily, another raking them **piercingly**, another brushing them like a soft broom. The instinctive act of **humankind** was to stand and listen, and learn how the trees on the right and the trees on the left wailed or chaunted to each other in the regular antiphonies of a cathedral choir; how hedges and other shapes to **leeward** then caught the note, lowering it to the tenderest sob; and how the hurrying gust then plunged into the south, to be heard no more.

The sky was clear—remarkably clear—and the twinkling of all the stars seemed to be but throbs of one body, timed by a common pulse. The North Star was directly in the wind's eye, and since evening the Bear had swung round it outwardly to the east, till he was now at a right angle with the **meridian**. A difference of colour in the stars—oftener read of than seen in England—was really perceptible here. The sovereign **brilliance** of Sirius pierced the eye with a steely glitter, the star called Capella was yellow, Aldebaran and Betelgueux shone with a fiery red.

To persons standing alone on a hill during a clear midnight such as this, the roll of the world **eastward** is almost a palpable movement. The sensation may be caused by the panoramic glide of the stars past earthly objects, which is perceptible in a few minutes of stillness, or by the better outlook upon space that a hill affords, or by the wind, or by the solitude; but whatever be its origin, the impression of riding along is vivid and abiding. The poetry of motion is a phrase much in use, and to enjoy the epic form of that gratification it is necessary to stand on a hill at a small hour of the night, and, having first expanded with a

Thesaurus

brilliance: (*n, v*) brightness; (*n*) brilliance, lustre, luster, splendor, glitter, glory, radiance, splendour; (*adj, n*) gorgeousness; (*v*) gloss.
eastward: (*adj*) eastbound, eastern; (*adv*) eastwards.
fathomless: (*adj*) immeasurable, soundless, unfathomable, incomprehensible, abysmal, profound, unintelligible, deep, infinite, boundless, incalculable.
 ANTONYM: (*adj*) fathomable.

humankind: (*n*) man, world, human race, mankind, humanity, humans, human beings, mortality, human being, universe, humanness.
indistinctly: (*adv*) vaguely, dimly, hazily, mistily, inarticulately, shadowily, obscurely, unclearly, fuzzily, confusedly, ambiguously.
 ANTONYMS: (*adv*) precisely, audibly, coherently, distinctly.
leeward: (*n*) lee side, direction, Bruce Lee, Henry Lee, Gypsy Rose Lee, Lee

Yuen Kam; (*adv*) upwind, against the wind, into the wind.
meridian: (*n*) culmination, line of longitude, zenith, peak, top, apex, acme, pinnacle, climax, clime; (*v*) glassy.
piercingly: (*adv*) shrilly, penetratingly, keenly, poignantly, biting, bitterly, loudly, cuttingly, stabbingly, shrewdly; (*adj, adv*) stridently.
 ANTONYM: (*adv*) softly.
twigs: (*n*) sprays.

sense of difference from the mass of civilised mankind, who are dreamwapt and **disregardful** of all such proceedings at this time, long and quietly watch your stately progress through the stars. After such a nocturnal **reconnoitre** it is hard to get back to earth, and to believe that the consciousness of such majestic speeding is derived from a tiny human frame.

Suddenly an unexpected series of sounds began to be heard in this place up against the sky. They had a **clearness** which was to be found nowhere in the wind, and a sequence which was to be found nowhere in nature. They were the notes of Farmer Oak's flute.

The tune was not floating **unhindered** into the open air: it seemed muffled in some way, and was altogether too curtailed in power to spread high or wide. It came from the direction of a small dark object under the plantation hedge—a shepherd's hut—now presenting an outline to which an **uninitiated** person might have been puzzled to attach either meaning or use.

The image as a whole was that of a small Noah's Ark on a small Ararat, allowing the **traditionary** outlines and general form of the Ark which are followed by toy-makers—and by these means are established in men's imaginations among their firmest, because earliest impressions—to pass as an approximate pattern. The hut stood on little wheels, which raised its floor about a foot from the ground. Such shepherds' huts are dragged into the fields when the lambing season comes on, to shelter the shepherd in his enforced **nightly** attendance.

It was only latterly that people had begun to call Gabriel "Farmer" Oak. During the **twelvemonth** preceding this time he had been enabled by sustained efforts of industry and chronic good spirits to lease the small sheep-farm of which Norcombe Hill was a portion, and stock it with two hundred sheep. Previously he had been a bailiff for a short time, and earlier still a shepherd only, having from his childhood assisted his father in tending the flocks of large proprietors, till old Gabriel sank to rest.

This venture, unaided and alone, into the paths of farming as master and not as man, with an advance of sheep not yet paid for, was a critical juncture with

Thesaurus

clearness: (*n*) clarity, brightness, distinctness, perspicuity, lucidity, explicitness, sharpness, simplicity, purity, limpidity, intelligibility.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) ambiguity, opacity, dirtiness, vagueness, unclearness, obscureness, indistinctness, clutter, haziness, mustiness.
disregardful: (*adj*) neglectful, negligent, careless, slack, delinquent, oblivious, lax, defiant, derelict; (*v*) remiss.

nightly: (*adv*) every night, by night; (*n*) night; (*adj*) nocturnal. ANTONYM: (*adj*) daily.
reconnoitre: (*v*) explore, scout, reconnaissance, investigate, examine, inspect, probe, survey, observe, make a reconnaissance.
traditionary: (*adj*) traditional.
twelvemonth: (*n*) calendar year, civil year, financial year, common year, amount of time, time period, period of time, bissextile year, class, yr,

period.
unhindered: (*adj*) unrestrained, unprevented, unconfined, free, unconstrained, unbuttoned, uncaught, unchecked, untrammelled, unrestricted, without hindrance. ANTONYM: (*adj*) restricted.
uninitiated: (*adj*) uninitiate, uninformed, uncultivated, unschooled, untutored, unfamiliar, amateur, ignorant, incompetent; (*v*) unaccustomed; (*adj, v*) untrained.

Gabriel Oak, and he recognised his position clearly. The first movement in his new progress was the lambing of his ewes, and sheep having been his speciality from his youth, he wisely refrained from deputing the task of tending them at this season to a **hireling** or a novice.

The wind continued to beat about the corners of the hut, but the flute-playing **ceased**. A rectangular space of light appeared in the side of the hut, and in the opening the outline of Farmer Oak's figure. He carried a lantern in his hand, and closing the door behind him, came forward and busied himself about this **nook** of the field for nearly twenty minutes, the lantern light appearing and disappearing here and there, and **brightening** him or darkening him as he stood before or behind it.

Oak's motions, though they had a quiet-energy, were slow, and their **deliberateness** accorded well with his occupation. Fitness being the basis of beauty, nobody could have denied that his steady swings and turns in and about the flock had elements of grace. Yet, although if occasion demanded he could do or think a thing with as mercurial a dash as can the men of towns who are more to the manner born, his special power, morally, physically, and mentally, was static, owing little or nothing to momentum as a rule.

A close examination of the ground hereabout, even by the wan **starlight** only, revealed how a portion of what would have been casually called a wild slope had been appropriated by Farmer Oak for his great purpose this winter. Detached **hurdles** thatched with straw were stuck into the ground at various scattered points, amid and under which the **whitish** forms of his meek ewes moved and rustled. The ring of the sheep-bell, which had been silent during his absence, recommenced, in tones that had more **mellowness** than clearness, owing to an increasing growth of surrounding wool. This continued till Oak withdrew again from the flock. He returned to the hut, bringing in his arms a newborn lamb, consisting of four legs large enough for a **full-grown** sheep, united by a seemingly **inconsiderable** membrane about half the substance of the legs collectively, which constituted the animal's entire body just at present.

Thesaurus

brightening: (*n*) blooming, polishing, limb, illumination, first blush, break of day.

ceased: (*adj*) finished.

deliberateness: (*n*) intentionality, pace, rate, thoughtfulness, circumspection, prudence, careful consideration, clumsiness, dilatoriness, calculation, backwardness.

full-grown: (*adj*) mature, grown-up, full-fledged.

hireling: (*n*) employee, pensionary, hackney, puppet, hack, pensioner, servant, labor, soldier of fortune, tool; (*adj*) venal.

hurdles: (*n*) hurdling.

inconsiderable: (*adj*) inconsequential, immaterial, small, petty, slight, negligible, trivial, fractional, minute, imperceptible, slender. ANTONYM: (*adj*) major.

mellowness: (*n*) maturity, fullness, timber, timbre, softness, quietness,

smoothness, abundant wealth, fertility, equanimity, cornucopia.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) harshness, panic.

nook: (*n*) angle, niche, recess, hole, coign, bay, compartment, oriel, cove, refuge, haven.

starlight: (*n*) rushlight, moonlight, firelight, candlelight.

whitish: (*adj*) pale, milklike, fair, milk, creamy, light, colorless, not clear, achromatic, opaque, blond. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rosy, dark.

The little **speck** of life he placed on a **wisp** of hay before the small stove, where a can of milk was simmering. Oak extinguished the lantern by blowing into it and then pinching the snuff, the cot being lighted by a candle suspended by a twisted wire. A rather hard couch, formed of a few corn sacks thrown carelessly down, covered half the floor of this little habitation, and here the young man stretched himself along, loosened his woollen **cravat**, and closed his eyes. In about the time a person unaccustomed to bodily labour would have decided upon which side to lie, Farmer Oak was asleep.

The inside of the hut, as it now presented itself, was cosy and **alluring**, and the scarlet handful of fire in addition to the candle, reflecting its own genial colour upon whatever it could reach, flung associations of enjoyment even over **utensils** and tools. In the corner stood the sheep-crook, and along a shelf at one side were ranged bottles and canisters of the simple preparations **pertaining** to **ovine** surgery and physic; spirits of wine, **turpentine**, tar, **magnesia**, ginger, and castor-oil being the chief. On a triangular shelf across the corner stood bread, bacon, cheese, and a cup for ale or cider, which was supplied from a **flagon** beneath. Beside the provisions lay the flute, whose notes had lately been called forth by the lonely watcher to **beguile** a tedious hour. The house was ventilated by two round holes, like the lights of a ship's cabin, with wood slides.

The lamb, revived by the warmth began to **bleat**, and the sound entered Gabriel's ears and brain with an instant meaning, as expected sounds will. Passing from the profoundest sleep to the most alert wakefulness with the same ease that had accompanied the reverse operation, he looked at his watch, found that the hour-hand had shifted again, put on his hat, took the lamb in his arms, and carried it into the darkness. After placing the little creature with its mother, he stood and carefully examined the sky, to ascertain the time of night from the altitudes of the stars.

The Dog-star and Aldebaran, pointing to the restless Pleiades, were half-way up the Southern sky, and between them hung Orion, which gorgeous constellation never burnt more vividly than now, as it soared forth above the rim of the landscape. Castor and Pollux with their quiet shine were almost on the

Thesaurus

alluring: (*adj*) tempting, charming, attractive, enticing, beguiling, glamorous, magnetic, enchanting, enthralling, appealing, appetizing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unappealing, unattractive, dull, repulsive.
beguile: (*v*) attract, charm, enchant, allure, captivate, bluff, entrap, enthrall, lure, fascinate; (*n, v*) cheat. ANTONYMS: (*v*) protect, irritate, irk, bore, advise, guard, annoy, repel.
bleat: (*v*) blat, kvetch, gripe, moan,

whimper, cry, blate, quetch, utter, emit; (*n*) baaing.
cravat: (*n*) neckerchief, neckcloth, stock, ascot, collar, handkerchief, scarf, neckwear, necktie, ruff.
flagon: (*n*) jar, flask, bottle, pitcher, ewer, cruse, vessel, decanter, carboy, mug, carafe.
magnesia: (*n*) mineral, periclase.
ovine: (*adj*) Ovis, ovile.
pertaining: (*adj*) relative, concerning, belonging, apposite, material, not

absolute.
speck: (*adj, n*) point, atom, particle; (*n*) blot, flaw, smudge, blotch, blemish, grain, mote, dot. ANTONYM: (*n*) lot.
turpentine: (*n*) turps, oil of turpentine, spirit of turpentine, oleoresin, essential oil; (*v*) wood alcohol.
utensils: (*n*) gear, equipment, tackle, apparatus, hardware.
wisp: (*n*) lock, fagot, strand, curl, tress, piece, whisp, piece of hair, puff, slip, small person.

meridian: the barren and gloomy Square of Pegasus was creeping round to the north-west; far away through the plantation Vega sparkled like a lamp suspended amid the leafless trees, and Cassiopeia's chair stood **daintily** poised on the uppermost boughs.

"One o'clock," said Gabriel.

Being a man not without a frequent consciousness that there was some charm in this life he led, he stood still after looking at the sky as a useful instrument, and regarded it in an appreciative spirit, as a work of art **superlatively** beautiful. For a moment he seemed impressed with the speaking loneliness of the scene, or rather with the complete abstraction from all its compass of the sights and sounds of man. Human shapes, interferences, troubles, and joys were all as if they were not, and there seemed to be on the shaded hemisphere of the globe no **sentient** being save himself; he could fancy them all gone round to the sunny side.

Occupied thus, with eyes stretched **afar**, Oak gradually perceived that what he had previously taken to be a star low down behind the outskirts of the plantation was in reality no such thing. It was an artificial light, almost close at hand.

To find themselves utterly alone at night where company is desirable and expected makes some people fearful; but a case more trying by far to the nerves is to discover some mysterious companionship when intuition, sensation, memory, analogy, testimony, probability, induction—every kind of evidence in the logician's list—have united to persuade consciousness that it is quite in isolation.

Farmer Oak went towards the plantation and pushed through its lower boughs to the windy side. A dim mass under the slope reminded him that a shed occupied a place here, the site being a cutting into the slope of the hill, so that at its back part the roof was almost level with the ground. In front it was formed of board **nailed** to posts and covered with tar as a **preservative**. Through crevices in the roof and side spread **streaks** and dots of light, a combination of which made the **radiance** that had attracted him. Oak stepped up behind,

Thesaurus

afar: (*adv*) off, away, far away, distantly, beyond, Afar off, in the distance, by far, apart; (*adj*) outlying, far. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) close, nearby, near; (*prep*) within.
daintily: (*adv*) nicely, finely, fragiley, elegantly, fastidiously, gracefully, refinedly, squeamishly, exquisitely, lightly, prettily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) inelegantly, thickly.
nailed: (*adj*) fixed, tight, stationary, stable, secure, decided, firm,

immobile.
preservative: (*adj*) protective, conservative, defensive, conservational; (*n*) preserver, preserving agent, antiseptic, chemical compound, brine; (*adj, n*) additive.
radiance: (*n*) gleam, glory, brilliance, luster, lustre, beam, brightness, effulgence, sparkle, light; (*adj, n*) brilliancy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) darkness, gloominess.
sentient: (*adj*) sensitive, animate,

aware, responsive, susceptible, perceptive, aesthetic, sensible, tender, impressionable, alive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) inanimate, insentient, unconscious, dead.
streaks: (*n*) stripes, cords.
superlatively: (*adv*) perfectly, preeminently, excellently, matchlessly, extremely, outstandingly, splendidly, magnificently, consummately, brilliantly, absolutely.

where, leaning down upon the roof and putting his eye close to a hole, he could see into the interior clearly.

The place contained two women and two cows. By the side of the latter a steaming bran-mash stood in a bucket. One of the women was past middle age. Her companion was apparently young and graceful; he could form no decided opinion upon her looks, her position being almost beneath his eye, so that he saw her in a bird's-eye view, as Milton's Satan first saw Paradise. She wore no bonnet or hat, but had **enveloped** herself in a large cloak, which was **carelessly** flung over her head as a covering.

"There, now we'll go home," said the elder of the two, resting her knuckles upon her hips, and looking at their **goings-on** as a whole. "I do hope Daisy will fetch round again now. I have never been more frightened in my life, but I don't mind breaking my rest if she recovers."

The young woman, whose eyelids were apparently inclined to fall together on the smallest provocation of silence, yawned without parting her lips to any inconvenient extent, **whereupon** Gabriel caught the infection and slightly yawned in sympathy.

"I wish we were rich enough to pay a man to do these things," she said.

"As we are not, we must do them ourselves," said the other; "for you must help me if you stay."

"Well, my hat is gone, however," continued the younger. "It went over the hedge, I think. The idea of such a slight wind catching it."

The cow standing erect was of the Devon breed, and was encased in a tight warm hide of rich Indian red, as absolutely uniform from eyes to tail as if the animal had been dipped in a dye of that colour, her long back being **mathematically** level. The other was spotted, grey and white. Beside her Oak now noticed a little calf about a day old, looking **idiotically** at the two women, which showed that it had not long been accustomed to the phenomenon of **eyesight**, and often turning to the **lantern**, which it apparently mistook for the moon, inherited instinct having as yet had little time for correction by experience.

Thesaurus

carelessly: (*adv*) incautiously, hastily, recklessly, heedlessly, casually, sloppily, imprudently, inconsiderately, rashly, negligently, unwarily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) thoroughly, diligently, carefully, warily, laboriously, thoughtfully, attentively, daintily, methodically, discreetly, economically.

enveloped: (*adj*) convoluted, enclosed, cover, bounded, Byzantine, clothed, involved, misty, swallowed,

vestured, emotionally involved.

eyesight: (*n*) sight, seeing, discernment, vision power, ability to make discerning judgments, view, sightedness, optics, beholding.

goings-on: (*n*) occasion, affair, episode, eventuality, extramarital affair, matter, romance, occurrence, proceeding, transaction, incident.

idiotically: (*adv*) foolishly, stupidly, absurdly, ridiculously, silly, insanely, senselessly, mindlessly, crazily,

imbecilely, inanely. ANTONYM: (*adv*) wisely.

lantern: (*n*) beacon, light, dormer, tube, lighting fitting, bedside light, street light, street lamp, oil lamp, lime light, lantern.

mathematically: (*adv*) arithmetically, scientifically, punctually, algebraically, algebraically.

whereupon: (*adv*) thereupon, hereupon, upon which, at what, at which.

Between the sheep and the cows Lucina had been busy on Norcombe Hill lately.

"I think we had better send for some oatmeal," said the elder woman; "there's no more bran."

"Yes, aunt; and I'll ride over for it as soon as it is light."

"But there's no side-saddle."

"I can ride on the other: trust me."

Oak, upon hearing these remarks, became more curious to observe her features, but this prospect being denied him by the hooding effect of the cloak, and by his aerial position, he felt himself drawing upon his fancy for their details. In making even horizontal and clear inspections we colour and mould **according** to the wants within us whatever our eyes bring in. Had Gabriel been able from the first to get a distinct view of her countenance, his estimate of it as very handsome or slightly so would have been as his soul required a **divinity** at the moment or was ready supplied with one. Having for some time known the want of a satisfactory form to fill an increasing void within him, his position moreover affording the widest scope for his fancy, he painted her a beauty.

By one of those **whimsical** coincidences in which Nature, like a busy mother, seems to spare a moment from her **unremitting** labours to turn and make her children smile, the girl now dropped the cloak, and forth **tumbled ropes** of black hair over a red jacket. Oak knew her instantly as the heroine of the yellow waggon, myrtles, and looking-glass: **prosily**, as the woman who owed him twopence.

They placed the calf beside its mother again, took up the lantern, and went out, the light sinking down the hill till it was no more than a **nebula**. Gabriel Oak returned to his flock.

Thesaurus

according: (*adj*) pursuant, consonant, equal, agreeable, harmonious, conformable, consistent, corresponding, respondent; (*adv*) correspondingly, accordingly.
divinity: (*n*) God, theology, divineness, immortal, godship, godhead, spirit, demiurge, apologetics, demigod; (*adj, n*) the Deity. ANTONYM: (*n*) devil.
nebula: (*n*) Omega nebula, fog, nebulosity, spot, bubbling,

cloudiness, film, diffuse nebula, gaseous nebula, mistiness, nubecula.
prosily: (*adv*) prosaically, prosingly, humdrumly, dully, tediously, commonplacely, pedestrianly, uninterestingly.
ropes: (*n*) weight, pressure, leverage, form, authority, dealings, control, influence.
tumbled: (*adj*) disordered.
unremitting: (*adj*) ceaseless, perpetual, incessant, unceasing, continual,

unending, continuous, uninterrupted, persistent, eternal; (*adj, v*) unrelenting. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sporadic, temporary, inconsistent, finite, broken, acute, undemanding, gentle.
whimsical: (*adj, n*) fanciful, eccentric; (*adj*) capricious, freakish, humorous, changeable, fickle, erratic, wayward, odd, arbitrary. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) reasonable, behaving, normal, serious, predictable.

CHAPTER III

A GIRL ON HORSEBACK—CONVERSATION

The **sluggish** day began to break. Even its position **terrestrially** is one of the elements of a new interest, and for no particular reason save that the incident of the night had occurred there Oak went again into the plantation. Lingered and **musings** here, he heard the steps of a horse at the foot of the hill, and soon there appeared in view an **auburn** pony with a girl on its back, **ascending** by the path leading past the cattle-shed. She was the young woman of the night before. Gabriel instantly thought of the hat she had **mentioned** as having lost in the wind; possibly she had come to look for it. He hastily scanned the ditch and after walking about ten yards along it found the hat among the leaves. Gabriel took it in his hand and returned to his hut. Here he **ensconced** himself, and peeped through the **loophole** in the direction of the rider's approach.

She came up and looked around—then on the other side of the hedge. Gabriel was about to advance and restore the missing article when an unexpected performance induced him to suspend the action for the present. The path, after passing the **cowshed**, bisected the plantation. It was not a bridle-path—merely a pedestrian's track, and the boughs spread **horizontally** at a height not greater than seven feet above the ground, which made it impossible to

Thesaurus

ascending: (*adj*) uphill, rising, assurgent, climbing, ascendent; (*n*) ascension, ascent, rise, advance, movement; (*v*) go up.

auburn: (*adj*) bay, russet, reddish, foxy, coloured, dapple, coffee, chocolate, brunette; (*adj, n*) brown, tawny.

cowshed: (*n*) barn, cow barn, cowbarn, byre, cow house.

ensconced: (*v*) imbedded, situate, posited.

horizontally: (*adv*) evenly, flatly, planely, straightly, frigidly, dully, barwise, smoothly, recumbently, prostrately; (*adj*) crosswise.

loophole: (*n*) crevice, gazebo, alternative, keyhole, balistraria, aperture, eyelet, watchtower, pigeonhole, mousehole; (*v*) machicolation.

mentioned: (*adj*) spoken.

musings: (*adj*) contemplative, meditative, thoughtful, pensive; (*n*)

meditation, consideration, reflection, rumination, reverie, thought, cogitation.

sluggish: (*adj*) inert, indolent, inactive, idle, slow, torpid, slack, languid; (*adj, n*) lazy, drowsy, heavy.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) energetic, fast, brisk, lively, alert, speedy, industrious.

terrestrially: (*adv*) terrenely, worldly, earthly, planetarily, globally, secularly.

ride erect beneath them. The girl, who wore no riding-habit, looked around for a moment, as if to assure herself that all humanity was out of view, then **dexterously** dropped backwards flat upon the pony's back, her head over its tail, her feet against its shoulders, and her eyes to the sky. The **rapidity** of her glide into this position was that of a kingfisher—its **noiselessness** that of a hawk. Gabriel's eyes had scarcely been able to follow her. The tall **lank** pony seemed used to such **doings**, and ambled along unconcerned. Thus she passed under the level boughs.

The performer seemed quite at home anywhere between a horse's head and its tail, and the necessity for this abnormal attitude having ceased with the passage of the plantation, she began to adopt another, even more obviously convenient than the first. She had no side-saddle, and it was very apparent that a firm seat upon the smooth leather beneath her was **unattainable** sideways. Springing to her accustomed perpendicular like a bowed **sapling**, and satisfying herself that nobody was in sight, she **seated** herself in the manner **demanding** by the saddle, though hardly expected of the woman, and trotted off in the direction of Tewnell Mill.

Oak was **amused**, perhaps a little astonished, and hanging up the hat in his hut, went again among his ewes. An hour passed, the girl returned, properly seated now, with a bag of bran in front of her. On nearing the cattle-shed she was met by a boy bringing a milking-pail, who held the reins of the pony whilst she slid off. The boy led away the horse, leaving the pail with the young woman.

Soon soft spirts alternating with loud spirts came in regular succession from within the shed, the obvious sounds of a person milking a cow. Gabriel took the lost hat in his hand, and waited beside the path she would follow in leaving the hill.

She came, the pail in one hand, hanging against her knee. The left arm was extended as a balance, enough of it being shown bare to make Oak wish that the event had happened in the summer, when the whole would have been revealed. There was a bright air and manner about her now, by which she seemed to imply that the desirability of her existence could not be questioned; and this rather

Thesaurus

amused: (*adj*) amusing, smiling, tickled pink, pleased, diverted.
demanding: (*adj*) urgent, popular, requisitory.
dexterously: (*adv*) adroitly, skillfully, expertly, craftily, skilfully, dextrously, handily, cleverly, proficiently, aptly; (*adj, adv*) readily.
 ANTONYMS: (*adv*) ineptly, incompetently, awkwardly.
doings: (*n*) conduct, behavior, behaviour, deportment, demeanour,

proceeding, episode, traffic; (*v*) act, deed, job.
lank: (*adj*) gaunt, angular, emaciated, meager, thin, skinny, spindly, spare, scrawny; (*adj, v*) lean, barren.
noiselessness: (*n*) quiet, quietness, still.
rapidity: (*n*) expedition, quickness, promptness, dispatch, celerity, haste, velocity, pace, fleetness, promptitude, speed. ANTONYM: (*n*) tardiness.

sapling: (*n*) seedling, stripling, adolescent, sprout, plant, youth, tree, young tree, cub, young man, plantlet.
seated: (*adj*) sat, sedentary.
unattainable: (*adj*) impossible, inaccessible, impracticable, impractical, unapproachable, unobtainable, out of print, not possible, unassailable, unavailable, unbeatable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) vulnerable, accessible, possible, attainable, feasible.

saucy assumption failed in being offensive because a **beholder** felt it to be, upon the whole, true. Like exceptional emphasis in the tone of a genius, that which would have made **mediocrity** ridiculous was an addition to recognised power. It was with some surprise that she saw Gabriel's face rising like the moon behind the hedge.

The adjustment of the farmer's hazy conceptions of her **charms** to the portrait of herself she now presented him with was less a diminution than a difference. The starting-point selected by the judgment was her height. She seemed tall, but the **pail** was a small one, and the hedge **diminutive**; hence, making allowance for error by comparison with these, she could have been not above the height to be chosen by women as best. All features of consequence were severe and regular. It may have been observed by persons who go about the shires with eyes for beauty, that in Englishwoman a classically-formed face is seldom found to be united with a figure of the same pattern, the highly-finished features being generally too large for the remainder of the frame; that a graceful and **proportionate** figure of eight heads usually goes off into random facial curves. Without throwing a Nymphean tissue over a **milkmaid**, let it be said that here criticism checked itself as out of place, and looked at her proportions with a long consciousness of pleasure. From the contours of her figure in its upper part, she must have had a beautiful neck and shoulders; but since her infancy nobody had ever seen them. Had she been put into a low dress she would have run and thrust her head into a bush. Yet she was not a shy girl by any means; it was merely her instinct to draw the line dividing the seen from the unseen higher than they do it in towns.

That the girl's thoughts hovered about her face and form as soon as she caught Oak's eyes conning the same page was natural, and almost certain. The **self-consciousness** shown would have been vanity if a little more pronounced, dignity if a little less. Rays of male vision seem to have a **tickling** effect upon virgin faces in rural districts; she brushed hers with her hand, as if Gabriel had been irritating its pink surface by actual touch, and the free air of her previous

Thesaurus

beholder: (*n*) witness, looker, observer, onlooker, viewer, eyewitness, bystander, auditor, audile, passer by, watcher.
charms: (*n*) trinkets, jewelry, jewels.
diminutive: (*adj*) minute, Lilliputian, small, petite, tiny, bantam, baby, exiguous, short, miniature, midget.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) big, huge, gigantic, large, giant, tall.
mediocrity: (*n*) indifference, medium, balance, averageness, mean, person,

somebody, someone, soul, ordinariness; (*adj, n*) moderation.
 ANTONYM: (*n*) excellence.
milkmaid: (*n*) farmhand, fieldhand, farm worker.
pail: (*n*) bucketful, jug, tub, pailful, cannikin, pails, skeel, tankard, pot, pipkin, vessel.
proportionate: (*adj, v*) proportional; (*adj*) proportionable, equal, harmonious, comparable, balanced, sufficient, relative, appropriate,

adequate, equitable. ANTONYM: (*adj*) disproportionate.
saucy: (*adj, n*) pert; (*adj*) bold, impudent, audacious, insolent, fresh, forward, impertinent, flippant, rude, brazen. ANTONYM: (*adj*) respectful.
self-consciousness: (*n*) embarrassment, inhibition.
tickling: (*adj*) sexually arousing, titillative, titillating, tingling, stinging, prickling, exciting, erotic; (*n*) titillation.

movements was reduced at the same time to a **chastened** phase of itself. Yet it was the man who blushed, the maid not at all.

"I found a hat," said Oak.

"It is mine," said she, and, from a sense of proportion, kept down to a small smile an inclination to laugh distinctly: "it flew away last night."

"One o'clock this morning?"

"Well—it was." She was surprised. "How did you know?" she said. "I was here."

"You are Farmer Oak, are you not?"

"That or **thereabouts**. I'm lately come to this place."

"A large farm?" she inquired, casting her eyes round, and swinging back her hair, which was black in the **shaded** hollows of its mass; but it being now an hour past **sunrise** the rays touched its prominent curves with a colour of their own.

"No; not large. About a hundred." (In speaking of farms the word "acres" is omitted by the **natives**, by analogy to such old expressions as "a **stag** of ten.")

"I wanted my hat this morning." she **went** on. "I had to ride to Tewnell Mill."

"Yes you had."

"How do you know?"

"I saw you."

"Where?" she inquired, a **misgiving** bringing every muscle of her **lineaments** and frame to a **standstill**.

"Here—going through the plantation, and all down the hill," said Farmer Oak, with an aspect excessively knowing with regard to some matter in his mind, as he gazed at a remote point in the direction named, and then turned back to meet his colloquist's eyes.

Thesaurus

chastened: (*v*) lamblike, resigned, content; (*adj*) refined, reprimanded, rebuked, reproved, subdued, contrite, remorseful.

lineaments: (*v*) exposition, tract, length, expanse, area, extent; (*n*) face.

misgiving: (*adj, n*) apprehension, care; (*n*) fear, dread, distrust, doubt, hesitation, mistrust, suspicion, uncertainty, scruple. ANTONYMS: (*n*) confidence, certainty, trust.

natives: (*n*) nation, populace,

community, citizens, public.

shaded: (*adj*) dark, shads, sheltered, shadowed, umbrageous, twilight, sunless, subdued, soft, colored, darksome. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unshaded.

stag: (*v*) spy, peach, denounce; (*n*) buck, dog, boar, cock, deer, roe, doe, reynard.

standstill: (*n*) impasse, deadlock, cessation, pause, halt, stagnation, inaction, stay, stop, interruption; (*adj,*

n) stand. ANTONYM: (*n*) progress.

sunrise: (*n*) dawn, sunup, daybreak, daylight, aurora, first light, dayspring, twilight, dawning, break of day, crack of dawn. ANTONYMS: (*n*) sunset, sundown, nightfall.

thereabouts: (*adj, adv*) about; (*adv*) nearly, generally, around, approximately, in the region of, more or less, something like, almost, so; (*adv, n*) hereabouts.

went: (*v*) walked, proceeded.

A perception caused him to withdraw his own eyes from hers as suddenly as if he had been caught in a theft. Recollection of the strange antics she had indulged in when passing through the trees was succeeded in the girl by a **nettled palpitation**, and that by a hot face. It was a time to see a woman **redden** who was not given to reddening as a rule; not a point in the milkmaid but was of the deepest rose-colour. From the Maiden's Blush, through all varieties of the Provence down to the Crimson Tuscany, the countenance of Oak's acquaintance quickly graduated; whereupon he, in **considerateness**, turned away his head.

The sympathetic man still looked the other way, and wondered when she would recover coolness sufficient to justify him in facing her again. He heard what seemed to be the flitting of a dead leaf upon the breeze, and looked. She had gone away.

With an air between that of Tragedy and Comedy Gabriel returned to his work.

Five mornings and evenings passed. The young woman came regularly to milk the healthy cow or to attend to the sick one, but never allowed her vision to stray in the direction of Oak's person. His want of tact had deeply offended her—not by seeing what he could not help, but by letting her know that he had seen it. For, as without law there is no sin, without eyes there is no **indecorum**; and she appeared to feel that Gabriel's espial had made her an **indecorous** woman without her own connivance. It was food for great regret with him; it was also a **contretemps** which touched into life a latent heat he had experienced in that direction.

The acquaintanceship might, however, have ended in a slow forgetting, but for an incident which occurred at the end of the same week. One afternoon it began to freeze, and the frost increased with evening, which drew on like a stealthy tightening of bonds. It was a time when in cottages the breath of the sleepers freezes to the sheets; when round the drawing-room fire of a thick-walled mansion the sitters' backs are cold, even whilst their faces are all aglow. Many a small bird went to bed supperless that night among the bare boughs.

Thesaurus

considerateness: (*n*) attentiveness, discretion, solicitude, tact, kindness, caution, circumspection, condition, good manners, politeness, circumstance. ANTONYM: (*n*) rudeness.

contretemps: (*n*) adversity, casualty, misfortune, check, hitch, encounter, screw loose, skirmish, mischance, rub, mishap.

indecorous: (*adj*) indecent, unbecoming, impolite, unseemly,

coarse, indelicate, inappropriate, untoward, immodest, unsuitable, tasteless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) polite, decorous, proper, dignified, correct, decent.

indecorum: (*n*) indecency, indecorousness, incivility, impropriety, familiarity, discourtesy, misdeed; (*adj*) misbehavior, immorality, scandal, laxity. ANTONYM: (*n*) decorum.

nettled: (*adj*) annoyed, harried, stung,

steamed, roiled, riled, pissed, peeved, miffed, loaded, huffy. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unconcerned.

palpitation: (*adj, n*) tremor, trembling, quivering, shaking, trepidation; (*n*) beat, pulse, quiver, shakiness; (*adj*) flutter; (*v*) pulsation.

redde: (*adj, v*) flush; (*v*) color, crimson, glow, go red, encrimson, rubify, rubricate, rose; (*adj*) mantle, color up. ANTONYMS: (*v*) blench, blanch.

As the milking-hour drew near, Oak kept his usual watch upon the cowshed. At last he felt cold, and shaking an extra quantity of bedding round the **yearling** ewes he entered the hut and **heaped** more fuel upon the stove. The wind came in at the bottom of the door, and to prevent it Oak laid a sack there and wheeled the cot round a little more to the south. Then the wind spouted in at a **ventilating** hole – of which there was one on each side of the hut.

Gabriel had always known that when the fire was lighted and the door closed one of these must be kept open – that chosen being always on the side away from the wind. Closing the slide to **windward**, he turned to open the other; on second thoughts the farmer considered that he would first sit down leaving both closed for a minute or two, till the temperature of the hut was a little raised. He sat down.

His head began to ache in an **unwonted** manner, and, **fancying** himself weary by reason of the broken rests of the preceding nights, Oak decided to get up, open the slide, and then allow himself to fall asleep. He fell asleep, however, without having performed the necessary preliminary.

How long he remained unconscious Gabriel never knew. During the first stages of his return to perception peculiar deeds seemed to be in course of enactment. His dog was howling, his head was aching fearfully – somebody was pulling him about, hands were loosening his **neckerchief**.

On opening his eyes he found that evening had sunk to dusk in a strange manner of **unexpectedness**. The young girl with the remarkably pleasant lips and white teeth was beside him. More than this – astonishingly more – his head was upon her lap, his face and neck were **disagreeably** wet, and her fingers were unbuttoning his collar.

“Whatever is the matter?” said Oak, **vacantly**.

She seemed to experience mirth, but of too insignificant a kind to start enjoyment.

“Nothing now,” she answered, “since you are not dead. It is a wonder you were not **suffocated** in this hut of yours.”

Thesaurus

disagreeably: (*adv*) nastily, unappealingly, offensively, cheerlessly, badly, distastefully, objectionably, unsympathetically.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) agreeably, sweetly, warmly, attractively.
fancying: (*n*) daydream, fantasy.
heaped: (*adj*) dense, cumulative, concentrated, collective, coacervate, thick.
neckerchief: (*n*) kerchief, neckcloth, scarf, shawl.

suffocated: (*adj*) suffocate; (*v*) asphyxied.
unexpectedness: (*n*) extraordinariness, inexpectedness, abruptness.
unwonted: (*adj*) unaccustomed, rare, unusual, unused, infrequent, uncustomary, singular, extraordinary, scarce, unaccountable, remarkable.
vacantly: (*adj, adv*) vacuously, expressionlessly, inanely; (*adv*) voidly, emptily, unoccupiedly,

hollowly, unemployedly, thoughtlessly, freely, barely.
ventilating: (*adj*) ventilative.
windward: (*adv*) downwind; (*n*) weatherboard, to windward, weather side, direction; (*adj*) tempestuous, flatulent, empty, airy, windy, boisterous.
yearling: (*n*) nurseling, tot, toddler, suckling, bambino, bangtail, calf, freshman, hornotine, racehorse, ram lamb.

“Ah, the hut!” murmured Gabriel. “I gave ten pounds for that hut. But I’ll sell it, and sit under thatched hurdles as they did in old times, and **curl** up to sleep in a lock of straw! It played me nearly the same trick the other day!” Gabriel, by way of emphasis, brought down his fist upon the floor.

“It was not exactly the fault of the hut,” she observed in a tone which showed her to be that novelty among women—one who finished a thought before beginning the sentence which was to convey it. “You should, I think, have considered, and not have been so foolish as to leave the slides closed.”

“Yes I suppose I should,” said Oak, **absently**. He was endeavouring to catch and appreciate the sensation of being thus with her, his head upon her dress, before the event passed on into the heap of **bygone** things. He wished she knew his impressions; but he would as soon have thought of carrying an odour in a net as of attempting to convey the intangibilities of his feeling in the coarse **meshes** of language. So he remained silent.

She made him sit up, and then Oak began wiping his face and shaking himself like a Samson. “How can I thank ‘ee?” he said at last, **gratefully**, some of the natural **rusty** red having returned to his face.

“Oh, never mind that,” said the girl, smiling, and allowing her smile to hold good for Gabriel’s next remark, whatever that might prove to be.

“How did you find me?”

“I **heard** your dog **howling** and **scratching** at the door of the hut when I came to the milking (it was so lucky, Daisy’s milking is almost over for the season, and I shall not come here after this week or the next). The dog saw me, and jumped over to me, and laid hold of my skirt. I came across and looked round the hut the very first thing to see if the slides were closed. My uncle has a hut like this one, and I have heard him tell his shepherd not to go to sleep without leaving a slide open. I opened the door, and there you were like dead. I threw the milk over you, as there was no water, forgetting it was warm, and no use.”

“I wonder if I should have died?” Gabriel said, in a low voice, which was rather meant to travel back to himself than to her.

Thesaurus

absently: (*adv*) absentmindedly, missingly, lackingly, inattentively, wantingly, offly, deficiently, lostly, removedly, preoccupiedly, outly.
bygone: (*adj*) ancient, former, gone, obsolete, outmoded, previous, archaic, old, late; (*n*) preterite, antique. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) future, current, coming, modern.
curl: (*n, v*) crimp, loop, kink, roll, wave; (*adj, v*) bow; (*adj, n*) lock, tress; (*v*) crinkle, fold; (*adj*) crisp.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) align, straighten, uncurl, unwind.
gratefully: (*adv*) appreciatively, indebtedly, obligedly, gratifyingly, delightfully, beholdenly, pleasingly, pleasantly, welcome, goodly, deliciously.
heard: (*n*) hearing.
howling: (*n*) howl, cry; (*adj*) fierce, fantastic, gross, glaring, marvelous, wonderful, wondrous; (*adj, n*) weeping, sniveling.

meshes: (*n*) cobweb, mouse trap, toils, maze; (*adj*) awkwardness, knot, Gordian knot, delicacy, ticklish card to play.
rusty: (*adj*) ancient, out of practice, intractable, old, corroded, deaf to reason, exceptionous, cantankerous; (*v*) moldy, raw, mildewed.
scratching: (*n*) scrape, scraping, abrasion, mark, scar, poor handwriting, incision, excoriation, chicken feed; (*adj*) hoarse, abrasive.

“Oh no!” the girl replied. She seemed to prefer a less tragic probability; to have **saved** a man from death involved talk that should **harmonise** with the dignity of such a deed—and she **shunned** it.

“I believe you saved my life, Miss— I don’t know your name. I know your aunt’s, but not **yours**.”

“I would just as soon not tell it—rather not. There is no reason either why I should, as you probably will never have much to do with me.”

“Still, I should like to know.”

“You can inquire at my aunt’s—she will tell you.”

“My name is Gabriel Oak.”

“And mine isn’t. You seem fond of yours in speaking it so decisively, Gabriel Oak.”

“You see, it is the only one I shall ever have, and I must make the most of it.”

“I always think mine sounds odd and disagreeable.”

“I should think you might soon get a new one.”

“Mercy!—how many opinions you keep about you concerning other people, Gabriel Oak.”

“Well, Miss—excuse the words—I thought you would like them. But I can’t match you, I know, in **napping** out my mind upon my tongue. I never was very clever in my inside. But I thank you. Come, give me your hand.”

She hesitated, somewhat disconcerted at Oak’s old-fashioned earnest conclusion to a dialogue lightly carried on. “Very well,” she said, and gave him her hand, compressing her lips to a **demure impassivity**. He held it but an instant, and in his fear of being too **demonstrative**, swerved to the opposite extreme, touching her fingers with the lightness of a small-hearted person.

“I am sorry,” he said the instant after.

“What for?”

“Letting your hand go so quick.”

Thesaurus

demonstrative: (*adj, v*) characteristic, typical; (*adj*) outgoing, explanatory, expansive, demonstrable, effusive, illustrative, indicative, expressive; (*n*) demonstrative pronoun.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cold, undemonstrative, shy, unemotional, restrained, inexpressive, inconclusive, impassive, distant, cool, mysterious.
demure: (*adj*) humble, modest, coy, reserved, prim, bashful, shy, retiring,

timid; (*adj, v*) sober, grave.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bold, outgoing, extroverted, loudmouthed, boisterous, decadent, exciting, indecorous, brazen.
harmonise: (*v*) agree, harmonize, accord, reconcile, accommodate, correspond, concur, chord, consort, conciliate, go.
impassivity: (*n*) impassiveness, apathy, stolidity, lethargy, phlegm, emotionlessness, stoicism, frigidity,

insensibility, unconcern, sluggishness.
napping: (*adj*) asleep, unthinking, unready, snoozing, slumbering, sleeping, off guard, off your guard, off his guard, off her guard, careless.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) awake.
saved: (*adj*) protected, economized, rescued, blessed.
shunned: (*adj*) undesirable, friendless, abandoned.
yours: (*adj*) own.

“You may have it again if you like; there it is.” She gave him her hand again.

Oak held it longer this time—indeed, **curiously** long. “How soft it is—being winter time, too—not **chapped** or rough or anything!” he said.

“There—that’s long enough,” said she, though without **pulling** it away. “But I suppose you are thinking you would like to **kiss** it? You may if you want to.”

“I wasn’t thinking of any such thing,” said Gabriel, simply; “but I will — —”

“That you won’t!” She **snatched** back her hand.

Gabriel felt himself **guilty** of another want of **tact**.

“Now find out my name,” she said, **teasingly**; and withdrew.

Thesaurus

chapped: (*adj*) cracked, balmy, unsmooth, barmy, bats, batty, bonkers, buggy, roughened, coarse, alligatored.

curiously: (*adv*) inquisitively, peculiarly, unusually, strangely, nosily, pryingly, queerly, funnily, weirdly; (*adj, adv*) singularly, particularly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) ordinarily, typically.

guilty: (*adj*) culpable, faulty, wicked, handdog, criminal, chargeable, sinful,

blameworthy; (*n*) guilt, culprit; (*adj, v*) condemned. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) blameless, aggressive, proud.

kiss: (*n, v*) caress, brush, embrace, touch; (*n*) osculation, salute, lip, Kiss of peace, kiss hands; (*v*) osculate, love.

pulling: (*n*) pull, drawing, traction, haulage, actuation, clout, deracination, draughts, extirpation; (*adj*) attracting, tractive.

snatched: (*adj*) hasty, speedy, brief,

hurried, quick, rapid, short, sudden, swift. ANTONYM: (*adj*) slow.

tact: (*n*) diplomacy, delicacy, finesse, address, discretion, skill, consideration, refinement, grace, thoughtfulness, tactfulness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) frankness, carelessness, thoughtlessness, insensitivity, clumsiness.

teasingly: (*adv*) humorously, lightheartedly, mischievously, annoyingly, mockingly, pesteringly.

CHAPTER IV

GABRIEL'S RESOLVE—THE VISIT—THE MISTAKE

The only superiority in women that is **tolerable** to the rival sex is, as a rule, that of the unconscious kind; but a superiority which recognizes itself may sometimes please by suggesting possibilities of capture to the subordinated man.

This well-favoured and comely girl soon made appreciable **inroads** upon the emotional constitution of young Farmer Oak.

Love, being an extremely **exacting usurer** (a sense of **exorbitant** profit, **spiritually**, by an exchange of hearts, being at the bottom of pure passions, as that of exorbitant profit, bodily or **materially**, is at the bottom of those of lower atmosphere), every morning Oak's feelings were as sensitive as the money-market in calculations upon his chances. His dog waited for his meals in a way so like that in which Oak waited for the girl's presence, that the farmer was quite struck with the resemblance, felt it lowering, and would not look at the dog. However, he continued to watch through the hedge for her regular coming, and thus his sentiments towards her were deepened without any corresponding effect being produced upon herself. Oak had nothing finished and ready to say

Thesaurus

exacting: (*adj*) fastidious, austere, strict, trying, stern, difficult, hard, finicky, nice; (*adj, v*) exigent; (*adj, n*) exact. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lenient, relaxed, tolerant, unexacting, unfastidious, basic, careless, relaxing.

exorbitant: (*adj*) unreasonable, immoderate, steep, unconscionable, inordinate, extravagant, outrageous, enormous, extortionate, extreme, high. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) reasonable, inexpensive, moderate, modest,

sensible, fair.

inroads: (*n*) wear.

materially: (*adv*) physically, substantially, corporeally, significantly, really, essentially, corporally, vitally, solidly, momentarily, fundamentally.

spiritually: (*adv*) piously, religiously, intellectually, ghostly, inwardly, psychically, holy, internally, sacredly, incorporeally, immaterially. ANTONYM: (*adv*) physically.

tolerable: (*adj*) passable, mediocre, bearable, fair, middling, reasonable, adequate, respectable, endurable, sufferable; (*adj, v*) satisfactory. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) intolerable, exceptional, unbearable, unsatisfactory, bad, inadequate, appalling, inadmissible.

usurer: (*n*) moneylender, cambist, loan shark, Shylock, banker; (*adj*) extortioner, codger, lickpenny, crib, churl, curmudgeon.

as yet, and not being able to frame love phrases which end where they begin; passionate tales –

- Full of sound and fury
- Signifying nothing –

he said no word at all.

By making inquiries he found that the girl's name was Bathsheba Everdene, and that the cow would go dry in about seven days. He **dreaded** the eighth day.

At last the eighth day came. The cow had ceased to give milk for that year, and Bathsheba Everdene came up the hill no more. Gabriel had reached a pitch of existence he never could have anticipated a short time before. He **liked** saying "Bathsheba" as a private enjoyment instead of **whistling**; turned over his taste to black hair, though he had sworn by brown ever since he was a boy, isolated himself till the space he filled in the public eye was **contemptibly** small. Love is a possible strength in an actual weakness. Marriage transforms a distraction into a support, the power of which should be, and happily often is, in direct proportion to the degree of **imbecility** it supplants. Oak began now to see light in this direction, and said to himself, "I'll make her my wife, or upon my soul I shall be good for nothing!"

All this while he was **perplexing** himself about an **errand** on which he might consistently visit the cottage of Bathsheba's aunt.

He found his opportunity in the death of a ewe, mother of a living lamb. On a day which had a summer face and a winter constitution—a fine January morning, when there was just enough blue sky visible to make cheerfully-disposed people wish for more, and an occasional **gleam** of **silvery** sunshine, Oak put the lamb into a respectable Sunday basket, and stalked across the fields to the house of Mrs. **Hurst**, the aunt—George, the dog walking behind, with a countenance of great concern at the serious turn pastoral affairs seemed to be taking.

Thesaurus

contemptibly: (*adv*) despicably, meanly, shamefully, cruelly, callously, shockingly, nastily, spitefully, offensively, unkindly, disgracefully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) respectfully, commendably.
dreaded: (*adj*) awful, terrible, cowardly, causing horror, dire, direful, desperate, dreadful, fearful, fearsome; (*v*) drad.
errand: (*n*) chore, mission, job, task, assignment, embassy, duty, charge,

messenger, communication, work.
gleam: (*n, v*) glance, beam, blaze, shine, glimmer, glow, flash, flicker, sparkle, glitter; (*v*) twinkle.
hurst: (*n*) Holt, tope, grove.
imbecility: (*n*) folly, foolishness, idiocy, fatuity, weakness, stupidity, feeble-mindedness, lunacy; (*adj, n*) debility, feebleness; (*adj*) infirmity.
liked: (*adj*) popular, loved, favorite, preferred. ANTONYM: (*adj*) disliked.
perplexing: (*adj*) enigmatic, puzzling,

embarrassing, intricate, complex, baffling, complicated, bewildering, knotty, troublesome; (*adj, n*) difficult. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) simple, enlightening, soothing, understandable, explicable.
silvery: (*adj*) silvern, argent, bright, white, gray, rich, silverish, melodious, fair, Argentine, clear.
whistling: (*n*) whistle, sound, tin whistle, music, pennywhistle, sign, signal, signaling.

Gabriel had watched the blue wood-smoke curling from the chimney with strange meditation. At evening he had **fancifully** traced it down the chimney to the spot of its origin—seen the hearth and Bathsheba beside it—beside it in her out-door dress; for the clothes she had worn on the hill were by association equally with her person included in the compass of his affection; they seemed at this early time of his love a necessary ingredient of the sweet mixture called Bathsheba Everdene.

He had made a toilet of a nicely-adjusted kind—of a nature between the carefully neat and the carelessly ornate—of a degree between fine-market-day and wet-Sunday selection. He thoroughly cleaned his silver watch-chain with **whiting**, put new **lacing** straps to his boots, looked to the brass eyelet-holes, went to the **inmost** heart of the plantation for a new walking-stick, and trimmed it vigorously on his way back; took a new handkerchief from the bottom of his clothes-box, put on the light waistcoat patterned all over with sprigs of an elegant flower **uniting** the beauties of both rose and lily without the defects of either, and used all the hair-oil he possessed upon his usually dry, sandy, and inextricably curly hair, till he had deepened it to a splendidly novel colour, between that of **guano** and Roman cement, making it stick to his head like mace round a **nutmeg**, or wet seaweed round a boulder after the ebb.

Nothing disturbed the stillness of the cottage save the chatter of a knot of sparrows on the eaves; one might fancy scandal and rumour to be no less the staple topic of these little coteries on roofs than of those under them. It seemed that the omen was an **unpropitious** one, for, as the rather untoward commencement of Oak's **overtures**, just as he arrived by the garden gate, he saw a cat inside, going into various arched shapes and **fiendish convulsions** at the sight of his dog George. The dog took no notice, for he had arrived at an age at which all superfluous barking was cynically avoided as a waste of breath—in fact, he never barked even at the sheep except to order, when it was done with an absolutely neutral countenance, as a sort of Commination-service, which, though offensive, had to be gone through once now and then to frighten the flock for their own good.

Thesaurus

convulsions: (*n*) convulsion, spasm, epilepsy, eclampsia, mirth.

fancifully: (*adv*) fantastically, fantastically, chimerically, unreally, imaginarily, freakishly, bizarrely, visionarily, ideally, notionally, fancily.

fiendish: (*adj, v*) infernal, diabolic, satanic, hellish; (*adj*) demonic, diabolical, cruel, atrocious, inhuman, wicked, brutal.

guano: (*n*) excretory product,

excretion, excrement, excreta.

inmost: (*adj*) innermost, inward, deep, intimate, private, inner, interior, internal, personal, secret, intrinsic.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) outermost.

lacing: (*n*) seaming, shoelace, cord, whipping, bootlace, beating, licking, twist, lashing, flogging, string.

nutmeg: (*n*) Myristica, muscat, mace, nutmeg tree; (*adj*) meaningless.

overtures: (*n*) overture.

uniting: (*adj*) concurrent, united,

coincident; (*n*) unification, reunion, fusion, merger, coalescence, amalgamation, conglutination, join.

unpropitious: (*adj*) inauspicious, adverse, unlucky, unfavorable, inopportune, evil, sinister, disastrous, infelicitous; (*adj, v*) cross, hostile.

whiting: (*n*) Merlangus Merlangus, Gadus Merlangus, kingfish, whitening, kingfishes, corbina, gadoid fish, hake, king whiting, percoid fish, sciaenid.

A voice came from behind some laurel-bushes into which the cat had run:

“Poor dear! Did a nasty **brute** of a dog want to kill it;—did he, poor dear!”

“I beg your pardon,” said Oak to the voice, “but George was walking on behind me with a temper as mild as milk.”

Almost before he had ceased speaking, Oak was seized with a misgiving as to whose ear was the recipient of his answer. Nobody appeared, and he heard the person retreat among the bushes.

Gabriel meditated, and so deeply that he brought small furrows into his forehead by sheer force of reverie. Where the issue of an interview is as likely to be a vast change for the worse as for the better, any initial difference from expectation causes **nipping sensations** of failure. Oak went up to the door a little **abashed**: his mental rehearsal and the reality had had no common grounds of opening.

Bathsheba’s aunt was indoors. “Will you tell Miss Everdene that somebody would be glad to speak to her?” said Mr. Oak. (Calling one’s self merely Somebody, without giving a name, is not to be taken as an example of the ill-breeding of the rural world: it springs from a refined **modesty**, of which **townspeople**, with their cards and announcements, have no notion whatever.)

Bathsheba was out. The voice had evidently been hers.

“Will you come in, Mr. Oak?”

“Oh, thank ‘ee,” said Gabriel, following her to the fireplace. “I’ve brought a lamb for Miss Everdene. I thought she might like one to rear; girls do.”

“She might,” said Mrs. Hurst, **musingly**; “though she’s only a visitor here. If you will wait a minute, Bathsheba will be in.”

“Yes, I will wait,” said Gabriel, sitting down. “The lamb isn’t really the business I came about, Mrs. Hurst. In short, I was going to ask her if she’d like to be married.”

“And were you indeed?”

Thesaurus

abashed: (*adj*, *v*) discomfited; (*adj*) mortified, sheepish, embarrassed, ashamed, confused, humiliated, afraid, shamefaced, confounded; (*v*) dashed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) proud, undaunted, reassured, pleased, heartened, emboldened, cool, confident, composed, relaxed, unabashed.

brute: (*adj*) brutal, harsh, gruff, brutish; (*adj*, *n*) animal, savage; (*n*) barbarian, fiend, creature, monster;

(*adv*) beastly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) weak, refined, mild, gentle; (*n*) gentleman.

modesty: (*n*) reserve, bashfulness, humility, diffidence, humbleness, demureness, coyness, gentleness, continence; (*adj*, *n*) decency, honesty. ANTONYMS: (*n*) arrogance, immodesty, spectacle, flamboyance, abandon, bigheadedness, pretension, decadence, boldness.

musingly: (*adv*) thoughtfully,

ponderingly, meditatively, contemplatively, reflectively, ruminatively, broodingly, deep in thought. ANTONYM: (*adv*) unthinkingly.

nipping: (*adj*) bitter, keen, barbed, frosty, crisp, cutting, inclement, fresh, pinching, snappy, raw.

sensations: (*n*) feelings, vibrations, ambiance.

townspeople: (*n*) town, borough, township, municipality.

“Yes. Because if she would, I should be very glad to marry her. D’ye know if she’s got any other young man hanging about her at all?”

“Let me think,” said Mrs. Hurst, **poking** the fire superfluously.... “Yes—bless you, ever so many young men. You see, Farmer Oak, she’s so good-looking, and an excellent scholar besides—she was going to be a **governess** once, you know, only she was too wild. Not that her young men ever come here—but, Lord, in the nature of women, she must have a dozen!”

“That’s unfortunate,” said Farmer Oak, contemplating a crack in the stone floor with sorrow. “I’m only an every-day sort of man, and my only chance was in being the first comer... Well, there’s no use in my waiting, for that was all I came about: so I’ll take myself off home-along, Mrs. Hurst.”

When Gabriel had gone about two hundred yards along the down, he heard a “hoi-hoi!” uttered behind him, in a **piping** note of more **treble** quality than that in which the **exclamation** usually embodies itself when shouted across a field. He looked round, and saw a girl racing after him, waving a white handkerchief.

Oak stood still—and the runner drew nearer. It was Bathsheba Everdene. Gabriel’s colour **deepened**: hers was already deep, not, as it appeared, from emotion, but from running.

“Farmer Oak—I— —” she said, pausing for want of breath pulling up in front of him with a **slanted** face and putting her hand to her side.

“I have just called to see you,” said Gabriel, pending her further speech.

“Yes—I know that,” she said **panting** like a robin, her face red and moist from her exertions, like a **peony petal** before the sun dries off the dew. “I didn’t know you had come to ask to have me, or I should have come in from the garden instantly. I ran after you to say—that my aunt made a mistake in sending you away from **courting** me— —”

Gabriel expanded. “I’m sorry to have made you run so fast, my dear,” he said, with a grateful sense of favours to come. “Wait a bit till you’ve found your breath.”

Thesaurus

courting: (n) wooing, courtship, bundling, appeal, attraction, case, causa, cause, flirtation, suit.
deepened: (adj) concentrated, gathered.
exclamation: (n) clamor, ejaculation, exclaiming, utterance, whoop, interjection, shout, expletive, deuce, Dickens, ecphronesis.
governess: (n) chaperon, preceptress, nanny, trainer, tutor, professor, lecturer, rectoress, educator, reatrix,

instructress.
panting: (adj) gasping, breathless, blown, winded, puffed; (v) palpitation; (n) heaving, gasp, asthma, heave, puff.
peony: (n) paeony, flower, piony.
petal: (n) corolla, flower, valve, petal of marguerite, flower petal, floral leaf.
piping: (n) pipe, pipage, conduit, line, chimneypot, drainpipe, main, edging; (adj) high, shrill, reedy.

poking: (n) thrusting, jabbing, jab, driving force, dalliance, Phytolacca Americana, dig, biff, drive, carrier bag, garget.
slanted: (adj) slanting, diagonal, lopsided, tilted, sloped, sloping, oblique, skewed, aslant, askew, aslope. ANTONYMS: (adj) straight, balanced, impartial, level, upright.
treble: (adj) threefold, ternary, triplex, thribble, double, dual, high, voce di testa, shrill; (adj, v) triple; (v) sing.

“—It was quite a mistake-aunt’s telling you I had a young man already,” Bathsheba went on. “I haven’t a **sweetheart** at all—and I never had one, and I thought that, as times go with women, it was *such* a pity to send you away thinking that I had several.”

“Really and truly I am glad to hear that!” said Farmer Oak, smiling one of his long special smiles, and **blushing** with **gladness**. He held out his hand to take hers, which, when she had eased her side by pressing it there, was **prettily** extended upon her **bosom** to still her loud-beating heart. Directly he seized it she put it behind her, so that it slipped through his fingers like an eel.”

“I have a nice **snug** little farm,” said Gabriel, with half a degree less assurance than when he had seized her hand.

“Yes; you have.”

“A man has advanced me money to begin with, but still, it will soon be paid off and though I am only an every-day sort of man, I have got on a little since I was a boy.” Gabriel uttered “a little” in a tone to show her that it was the complacent form of “a great deal.” He continued: “When we be married, I am quite sure I can work twice as hard as I do now.”

He went forward and stretched out his arm again. Bathsheba had overtaken him at a point beside which stood a low **stunted** holly bush, now laden with red berries. Seeing his advance take the form of an attitude threatening a possible enclosure, if not compression, of her person, she **edged** off round the bush.

“Why, Farmer Oak,” she said, over the top, looking at him with rounded eyes, “I never said I was going to marry you.”

“Well—that *is* a tale!” said Oak, with dismay.” To run after anybody like this, and then say you don’t want him!”

“What I meant to tell you was only this,” she said eagerly, and yet half conscious of the absurdity of the position she had made for herself—“that nobody has got me yet as a sweetheart, instead of my having a dozen, as my aunt said; I *hate* to be thought men’s property in that way, though possibly I shall be had some day. Why, if I’d wanted you I shouldn’t have run after you like this;

Thesaurus

blushing: (*adj*) rosy, coy, blushful, flushed, red, shy, bashful, overmodest, ruddy; (*adv*) blushingly, ablush. ANTONYM: (*adj*) pale.
bosom: (*n*) heart, interior, boob, thorax, chest, bust, tit; (*n, v*) embrace; (*v*) cherish, hug; (*adj*) intimate. ANTONYMS: (*n*) outside, exteriority.
edged: (*adj*) cutting, sharp, bordered, pointed, bounded, keen, penetrating, sharper, stinging, unkind, bleak.
gladness: (*n*) joy, gaiety, pleasure,

delight, bliss, glee, happiness, exhilaration, joyfulness, mirth, cheerfulness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) unhappiness, dismay, displeasure.
prettily: (*adv*) beautifully, charmingly, pleasantly, handsomely, finely, neatly, gracefully, picturesquely, elegantly, delightfully, pleasingly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unattractively, unpleasantly.
snug: (*adj, v*) cosy, trim; (*adj*) cozy, easy, comfy, tight, close, warm,

secure, homely; (*v*) neat. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) baggy, uncomfortable, unwelcoming, bleak, formal, loose.
stunted: (*adj*) scrubby, little, scrawny, diminutive, puny, short, spare, weak, underdeveloped, dwarfish; (*v*) strangulated. ANTONYM: (*adj*) tall.
sweetheart: (*n*) dear, girl, darling, mistress, flame, beloved, boyfriend, love, steady; (*adj, n*) beau, admirer. ANTONYMS: (*n*) foe, enemy.

'twould have been the *forwardest* thing! But there was no harm in **hurrying** to correct a piece of false news that had been told you."

"Oh, no—no harm at all." But there is such a thing as being too generous in expressing a judgment **impulsively**, and Oak added with a more **appreciative** sense of all the circumstances—"Well, I am not quite certain it was no harm."

"Indeed, I hadn't time to think before starting whether I wanted to marry or not, for you'd have been gone over the hill."

"Come," said Gabriel, **freshening** again; "think a minute or two. I'll wait a while, Miss Everdene. Will you marry me? Do, Bathsheba. I love you far more than common!"

"I'll try to think," she observed, rather more **timorously**; "if I can think out of doors; my mind spreads away so."

"But you can give a guess."

"Then give me time." Bathsheba looked thoughtfully into the distance, away from the direction in which Gabriel stood.

"I can make you happy," said he to the back of her head, across the bush. "You shall have a piano in a year or two—farmers' wives are getting to have pianos now—and I'll practise up the **flute** right well to play with you in the evenings."

"Yes; I should like that."

"And have one of those little ten-pound gigs for market—and nice flowers, and birds—cocks and hens I mean, because they be useful," continued Gabriel, feeling balanced between poetry and **practicality**.

"I should like it very much."

"And a frame for cucumbers—like a gentleman and lady."

"Yes."

"And when the wedding was over, we'd have it put in the newspaper list of marriages."

"Dearly I should like that!"

Thesaurus

appreciative: (*adj*) grateful, supportive, indebted, appreciatory, complimentary, sympathetic, understanding, sensitive, discriminating, pleased, obliged.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unkind, derogatory, uncomplimentary, disapproving, unsympathetic, negative.
flute: (*n*) wineglass, furrow, groove, fluting, tooth gap, champagne flute, corrugation, plow, wood, woodwind;

(*v*) channel.
freshening: (*n*) airing, avivement, ventilation, exposure to air, aeration, drying, chipping, calving, revival.
hurrying: (*n*) hastening, speed, quickening, rushing, early, speeding, speeding up, stepping up, amphetamine, forward, eager.
impulsively: (*adv*) hastily, rashly, spontaneously, capriciously, suddenly, instinctively, intuitively, carelessly, precipitately, hotheadedly,

anxiously. **ANTONYMS:** (*adv*) late, predictably, deliberately, patiently, sensibly.
practicality: (*n*) expediency, feasibility, practicability, utility, convenience, practicalities, pragmatism, practicalness, sensibleness, realism, handiness.
timorously: (*adv*) fearfully, afraidly, anxiously, shily, bashfully, timidly, diffidently, shyly, trepidly, apprehensively, hesitantly.

“And the babies in the births—every man jack of ‘em! And at home by the fire, whenever you look up, there I shall be—and whenever I look up there will be you.”

“Wait, wait, and don’t be improper!”

Her countenance fell, and she was silent **awhile**. He regarded the red berries between them over and over again, to such an extent, that holly seemed in his after life to be a **cypher signifying** a proposal of marriage. Bathsheba **decisively** turned to him.

“No; ‘tis no use,” she said. “I don’t want to marry you.”

“Try.”

“I have tried hard all the time I’ve been thinking; for a marriage would be very nice in one sense. People would talk about me, and think I had won my battle, and I should feel triumphant, and all that, But a husband — —”

“Well!”

“Why, he’d always be there, as you say; whenever I looked up, there he’d be.”

“Of course he would—I, that is.”

“Well, what I mean is that I shouldn’t mind being a bride at a wedding, if I could be one without having a husband. But since a woman can’t show off in that way by herself, I shan’t marry—at least yet.”

“That’s a terrible wooden story.”

At this criticism of her statement Bathsheba made an addition to her dignity by a slight sweep away from him.

“Upon my heart and soul, I don’t know what a maid can say stupider than that,” said Oak. “But dearest,” he continued in a **palliative** voice, “don’t be like it!” Oak sighed a deep honest sigh—none the less so in that, being like the sigh of a **pine plantation**, it was rather noticeable as a disturbance of the atmosphere. “Why won’t you have me?” he appealed, **creeping** round the holly to reach her side.

Thesaurus

awhile: (*adj*) in transitu, en passant; (*adv*) briefly.

creeping: (*n*) creep, crawl, locomotion, spreading; (*v*) lenter; (*adj*) reptile, slow, reptant, reptatory, serpiginous, moving.

cypher: (*n, v*) cipher; (*v*) compute, code, calculate, figure; (*n*) cryptograph, nil, nought, null, nonentity, nothing.

decisively: (*adv*) resolutely, conclusively, firmly, finally, fatefully,

crucially, definitively, positively, absolutely, definitely, flatly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) irresolutely, unconvincingly, indecisively, aimlessly, insignificantly, halfheartedly, hesitantly.

palliative: (*adj*) mitigatory, alleviatory, alleviative, corrective, mitigative, extenuating, enantiopathic; (*n*) palliation, relief, justification, mitigating circumstances.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) painful.

pine: (*v*) languish, long, ache, droop, flag, crave, fade; (*n*) fir; (*n, v*) yearn, sink; (*adj*) peak.

plantation: (*n*) orchard, farm, garden, shrubbery, hacienda, planting, settlement, colony, parterre, grove, planter.

signifying: (*adj*) indicative, implying, representative, suggestive of, demonstrating, symptomatic of, showing, indicatory, representing; (*n*) abuse.

"I cannot," she said, retreating.

"But why?" he persisted, standing still at last in despair of ever reaching her, and facing over the bush.

"Because I don't love you."

"Yes, but — —"

She contracted a **yawn** to an **inoffensive smallness**, so that it was hardly **ill-mannered** at all. "I don't love you," she said.

"But I love you — and, as for myself, I am content to be liked."

"Oh Mr. Oak — that's very fine! You'd get to despise me."

"Never," said Mr Oak, so earnestly that he seemed to be coming, by the force of his words, straight through the bush and into her arms. "I shall do one thing in this life — one thing certain — that is, love you, and long for you, and *keep wanting you* till I die." His voice had a genuine pathos now, and his large brown hands **perceptibly** trembled.

"It seems dreadfully wrong not to have you when you feel so much!" she said with a little distress, and looking hopelessly around for some means of escape from her moral dilemma. "How I wish I hadn't run after you!" However she seemed to have a short cut for getting back to cheerfulness, and set her face to signify **archness**. "It wouldn't do, Mr Oak. I want somebody to tame me; I am too independent; and you would never be able to, I know."

Oak cast his eyes down the field in a way implying that it was useless to attempt argument.

"Mr. Oak," she said, with luminous **distinctness** and common sense, "you are better off than I. I have hardly a penny in the world — I am staying with my aunt for my bare sustenance. I am better educated than you — and I don't love you a bit: that's my side of the case. Now yours: you are a farmer just beginning; and you ought in common prudence, if you marry at all (which you should certainly not think of doing at present), to marry a woman with money, who would stock a larger farm for you than you have now."

Thesaurus

archness: (*n*) playfulness, craftiness, cunning, wiliness, slyness, perkiness, flippancy, hatred, astuteness, malice, pertness. ANTONYM: (*n*) humility.

distinctness: (*n*) clearness, sharpness, definition, otherness, perspicuity, discreteness, articulate sound, separation, uncloudedness, dissimilarity; (*adj*) conspicuousness. ANTONYM: (*n*) indistinctness.

ill-mannered: (*adj*) graceless, uncivil, barbaric, boorish, impertinent,

uncouth, rough, impolite, surly, ill, discourteous.

inoffensive: (*adj, n*) harmless, innocent; (*adj*) innocuous, innoxious, safe, unoffending, euphemistic, hurtless, pleasant, gentle, tame. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rude, unsavory, unpleasant, harmful, dysphemistic, malicious, exciting.

perceptibly: (*adv*) discernibly, apparently, appreciably, manifestly, clearly, sensibly, markedly,

conspicuously, recognizably, really, patently. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) inaudibly, invisibly.

smallness: (*n*) diminutiveness, minuteness, slightness, puniness, insignificance, scantiness, delicacy, scantness, narrowness; (*adj*) meagerness, slenderness. ANTONYM: (*n*) tallness.

yawn: (*v*) open, ope, yaw, look stupidly, breathe; (*n*) yawning, nod, get sleep, tedium, bore, boredom.

Gabriel looked at her with a little surprise and much admiration.

"That's the very thing I had been thinking myself!" he **naively** said.

Farmer Oak had one-and-a-half Christian characteristics too many to succeed with Bathsheba: his humility, and a superfluous **moiety** of honesty. Bathsheba was decidedly disconcerted.

"Well, then, why did you come and disturb me?" she said, almost angrily, if not quite, an **enlarging** red spot rising in each cheek.

"I can't do what I think would be – would be –"

"Right?"

"No: wise."

"You have made an admission *now*, Mr. Oak," she exclaimed, with even more **hauteur**, and **rocking** her head **disdainfully**. "After that, do you think I could marry you? Not if I know it."

He broke in passionately. "But don't mistake me like that! Because I am open enough to own what every man in my shoes would have thought of, you make your colours come up your face, and get **crabbed** with me. That about your not being good enough for me is nonsense. You speak like a lady – all the parish notice it, and your uncle at Weatherbury is, I have heard, a large farmer – much larger than ever I shall be. May I call in the evening, or will you walk along with me o' Sundays? I don't want you to make-up your mind at once, if you'd rather not."

"No – no – I cannot. Don't press me any more – don't. I don't love you – so 'twould be ridiculous," she said, with a laugh.

No man likes to see his emotions the sport of a **merry-go-round** of **skittishness**. "Very well," said Oak, firmly, with the bearing of one who was going to give his days and nights to Ecclesiastes for ever. "Then I'll ask you no more."

Thesaurus

crabbed: (*adj*) abstruse, sour, grumpy, morose, crusty, surly, churlish, moody, irritable, huffy; (*adj, n*) austere.

disdainfully: (*adv*) contemptuously, superciliously, haughtily, proudly, cavalierly, derogatorily, contumeliously, sneeringly, arrogantly, insultingly, condescendingly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) humbly, hopefully.

enlarging: (*adj*) growing, augmenting,

inrescent, expanding; (*n*) amplification, addition.

hauteur: (*n*) arrogance, pride, disdain, conceit, assumption, conceitedness, insolence, loftiness, lordliness, airs, elegance. ANTONYM: (*n*) modesty.

merry-go-round: (*n*) carousel, recreation, comedy, diversion.

moiety: (*n*) mediety, portion, part, parcel, section, piece, bit, division, cut, class.

naively: (*adv*) ingenuously,

credulously, unsophisticatedly, artlessly, inexperiencedly, simply, candidly, frankly, trustingly, childishly, unaffectedly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) deliberately, astutely, sensibly, dishonestly, artfully.

rocking: (*adj*) vivacious, merry, spirited, spry, festive; (*n*) metalling, convulsion.

skittishness: (*n*) nervousness, jitteriness, jumpiness.

CHAPTER V

DEPARTURE OF BATHSHEBA—A PASTORAL TRAGEDY

The news which one day reached Gabriel, that Bathsheba Everdene had left the neighbourhood, had an influence upon him which might have surprised any who never suspected that the more emphatic the **renunciation** the less absolute its character.

It may have been observed that there is no regular path for getting out of love as there is for getting in. Some people look upon marriage as a short cut that way, but it has been known to fail. Separation, which was the means that chance offered to Gabriel Oak by Bathsheba's disappearance though **effectual** with people of certain humours is apt to **idealize** the removed object with others—notably those whose affection, **placid** and regular as it may be, flows deep and long. Oak belonged to the **even**-tempered order of humanity, and felt the secret fusion of himself in Bathsheba to be burning with a **finer** flame now that she was gone—that was all.

His **incipient** friendship with her aunt had been nipped by the failure of his suit, and all that Oak learnt of Bathsheba's movements was done indirectly. It appeared that she had gone to a place called Weatherbury, more than twenty

Thesaurus

effectual: (*adj*, *n*) efficient, efficacious, able; (*adj*) forceful, telling, authoritative, operative, potent, adequate, impressive, powerful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ineffectual, incapable, weak, impotent, ineffective, unproductive, unsuccessful, useless.

even-tempered: (*adj*) tranquil, placid, equable, philosophical, collected, dispassionate, composed, even, impassive, imperturbable, unruffled.

finer: (*adj*) superior, advanced, bigger, higher, more, greater.

idealize: (*v*) deify, idealizing, realize, see, view, regard, reckon, poetize, perfect, unrealize, concoct.

incipient: (*adj*) initial, budding, nascent, imperfectly formed, commencing, first, undeveloped; (*adj*, *v*) introductory; (*v*) inceptive; (*n*) beginning.

placid: (*adj*) calm, composed, easygoing, equable, gentle, quiet,

pacific, tranquil, cool, peaceable; (*adj*, *v*) peaceful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rough, energetic, stormy, frenetic, excitable, agitated, unstable, bothered, harsh, boisterous.

renunciation: (*n*) denial, resignation, abnegation, disclaimer, rejection, renouncement, abandonment, waiver, desertion, defection, relinquishment. ANTONYMS: (*n*) confirmation, assertion, reassertion, acceptance.

miles off, but in what capacity – whether as a visitor, or permanently, he could not discover.

Gabriel had two dogs. George, the elder, **exhibited** an ebony-tipped nose, surrounded by a narrow margin of pink flesh, and a coat marked in random splotches **approximating** in colour to white and **slaty** grey; but the grey, after years of sun and rain, had been **scorched** and washed out of the more prominent **locks**, leaving them of a reddish-brown, as if the blue component of the grey had faded, like the **indigo** from the same kind of colour in Turner's pictures. In substance it had originally been hair, but long contact with sheep seemed to be turning it by degrees into wool of a poor quality and staple.

This dog had originally belonged to a shepherd of inferior morals and dreadful temper, and the result was that George knew the exact degrees of condemnation signified by cursing and swearing of all descriptions better than the wickedest old man in the neighbourhood. Long experience had so precisely taught the animal the difference between such exclamations as "Come in!" and "D – – ye, come in!" that he knew to a hair's breadth the rate of trotting back from the ewes' tails that each call involved, if a **staggerer** with the sheep crook was to be escaped. Though old, he was clever and **trustworthy** still.

The young dog, George's son, might possibly have been the image of his mother, for there was not much resemblance between him and George. He was learning the sheep-keeping business, so as to follow on at the flock when the other should die, but had got no further than the **rudiments** as yet – still finding an **insuperable** difficulty in distinguishing between doing a thing well enough and doing it too well. So earnest and yet so wrong-headed was this young dog (he had no name in particular, and answered with perfect readiness to any pleasant interjection), that if sent behind the flock to help them on, he did it so thoroughly that he would have chased them across the whole county with the greatest pleasure if not called off or reminded when to stop by the example of old George.

Thus much for the dogs. On the further side of Norcombe Hill was a chalk-pit, from which chalk had been drawn for generations, and spread over adjacent

Thesaurus

approximating: (*prep*) akin to, similar to; (*n*) smoothing; (*adj*) like, nearing.

exhibited: (*adj*) ostensible, avowed, apparent, declared.

indigo: (*adj, n*) blue; (*n*) anil, Indigofera tinctoria, shrub, dyestuff, indigo plant, indigotin; (*adj*) bice, azure, cerulean, mauve.

insuperable: (*adj*) unconquerable, indomitable, impassable, invincible, unsurmountable, unbeatable, impregnable, overwhelming,

formidable, inexpressible, unassailable, elements, alphabet, abecedary, primer, vade mecum, bedrock, element, fundamental principle, rudiment.

locks: (*n*) hair, tresses, head of hair.

rudiments: (*n*) grammar, fundamentals, elements, alphabet, abecedary, primer, vade mecum, bedrock, element, fundamental principle, rudiment.

scorched: (*adj*) baked, adust, burnt, dry, seared, burned, charred, torrid, dried out, destroyed, drier.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wet, humid.

slaty: (*adj*) harder, hard, achromatic.

staggerer: (*n*) footer, pedestrian, reeler.

trustworthy: (*adj*) honest, trusty, dependable, safe, faithful, sound, certain, good, responsible; (*adj, n, v*) credible; (*adj, n*) true. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) suspect, dubious, untrustworthy, undependable, sneaky, doubtful, deceitful, disloyal, disreputable, irresponsible, degenerate.

farms. Two hedges converged upon it in the form of a V, but without quite meeting. The narrow opening left, which was immediately over the brow of the pit, was protected by a rough railing.

One night, when Farmer Oak had returned to his house, believing there would be no further necessity for his attendance on the down, he called as usual to the dogs, previously to **shutting** them up in the **outhouse** till next **morning**. Only one responded—old George; the other could not be found, either in the house, lane, or garden. Gabriel then remembered that he had left the two dogs on the hill eating a dead lamb (a kind of meat he usually kept from them, except when other food ran short), and concluding that the young one had not finished his meal, he went indoors to the luxury of a bed, which **latterly** he had only enjoyed on Sundays.

It was a still, moist night. Just before dawn he was assisted in waking by the abnormal **reverberation** of familiar music. To the shepherd, the note of the sheep-bell, like the ticking of the clock to other people, is a chronic sound that only makes itself noticed by ceasing or altering in some unusual manner from the well-known idle **twinkle** which signifies to the accustomed ear, however distant, that all is well in the fold. In the solemn calm of the **awakening** morn that note was heard by Gabriel, beating with unusual violence and rapidity. This exceptional ringing may be caused in two ways—by the rapid feeding of the sheep bearing the bell, as when the flock breaks into new pasture, which gives it an intermittent rapidity, or by the sheep starting off in a run, when the sound has a regular palpitation. The experienced ear of Oak knew the sound he now heard to be caused by the running of the flock with great velocity.

He jumped out of bed, dressed, tore down the lane through a **foggy** dawn, and ascended the hill. The forward ewes were kept apart from those among which the fall of lambs would be later, there being two hundred of the latter class in Gabriel's flock. These two hundred seemed to have absolutely vanished from the hill. There were the fifty with their lambs, enclosed at the other end as he had left them, but the rest, forming the bulk of the flock, were nowhere. Gabriel called at the top of his voice the shepherd's call.

Thesaurus

awakening: (*n*) arousal, waking up, revival, disenchantment, awakenment, introduction, provocation; (*adj*) arousing, moving, animating; (*v*) awake. ANTONYM: (*n*) suppression.
foggy: (*adj*) hazy, misty, brumous, murky, blurred, bleary, fuzzy, opaque, thick, indefinite, nebulous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) precise, sunny.
latterly: (*adv*) lately, lastly, late, subsequently, finally, of late, newly,

ultimately, secondly, freshly, afterward. ANTONYM: (*adv*) initially.
morn: (*n*) dawn, daybreak, forenoon, period, prime, aurora, a, amount of time, break of dawn, break of day, break of the day.
outhouse: (*n*) outbuilding, privy, jakes, barn, penthouse, bathroom, can, John, lav, lavatory.
reverberation: (*n*) echo, rebound, noise, peal, replication, reaction,

recoil, boom, reflectivity; (*n, v*) reflection; (*v*) reflexion. ANTONYM: (*n*) silence.
shutting: (*n*) closing, conclusion, end, closure, ending, finish, mop up, culmination, closedown; (*adj*) confining, claudent. ANTONYM: (*n*) opening.
twinkle: (*n, v*) flash, gleam, shimmer, glimmer, glisten, glitter, scintillate, wink; (*adj, n, v*) flicker; (*v*) shine, blink.

“Ovey, ovey, ovey!”

Not a single bleat. He went to the hedge; a gap had been broken through it, and in the gap were the footprints of the sheep. Rather surprised to find them break fence at this season, yet putting it down instantly to their great fondness for ivy in winter-time, of which a great deal grew in the plantation, he followed through the hedge. They were not in the plantation. He called again: the valleys and farthest hills resounded as when the sailors invoked the lost Hylas on the Mysian shore; but no sheep. He passed through the trees and along the ridge of the hill. On the extreme summit, where the ends of the two converging hedges of which we have spoken were stopped short by meeting the brow of the chalk-pit, he saw the younger dog standing against the sky—dark and motionless as Napoleon at St. Helena.

A horrible conviction darted through Oak. With a sensation of bodily **faintness** he advanced: at one point the rails were broken through, and there he saw the footprints of his ewes. The dog came up, licked his hand, and made signs implying that he expected some great reward for signal services rendered. Oak looked over the **precipice**. The ewes lay dead and dying at its foot—a heap of two hundred **mangled** carcasses, representing in their condition just now at least two hundred more.

Oak was an intensely humane man: indeed, his humanity often tore in pieces any **politic** intentions of his which bordered on strategy, and carried him on as by **gravitation**. A shadow in his life had always been that his flock ended in mutton—that a day came and found every shepherd an **arrant** traitor to his **defenseless** sheep. His first feeling now was one of pity for the untimely fate of these gentle ewes and their unborn lambs.

It was a second to remember another phase of the matter. The sheep were not insured. All the savings of a frugal life had been dispersed at a blow; his hopes of being an independent farmer were laid low—possibly for ever. Gabriel’s energies, patience, and industry had been so severely taxed during the years of his life between eighteen and eight-and-twenty, to reach his present stage of

Thesaurus

arrant: (*adj*) rank, unmitigated, thorough, stark, utter, ill, gross, infamous, bad, blatant, base.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) minor.

defenseless: (*adj*) unprotected, helpless, defenceless, naked, unguarded, undefended, exposed, bare, weak; (*adj, v*) indefensible; (*v*) unarmed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) strong, fortified, defended, secure, guarded, protected, impervious, defensible, armed, invulnerable.

faintness: (*n*) weakness, debility, indistinctness, languor, fuzziness, blurriness, fogginess, dullness, ambiguity, lassitude, infirmity.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) acuteness, strength, harshness, clearness, loudness, clarity.

gravitation: (*n*) gravity, attraction, pull, graveness, habit, gravitational attraction, gravitational force, attractive force.

mangled: (*adj, prep*) lacerated, rent;

(*adj*) deformed, mutilated, lacerate, disabled, broken, maimed, distorted, damaged, blasted.

politic: (*adj, v*) tactful; (*adj*) discreet, judicious, circumspect, shrewd, prudent, suave, calculating, tricky, cute, chary. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) injudicious, unwise, impolitic, foolish.

precipice: (*n*) abyss, chasm, escarpment, gulf, steep, crag, verge, brink, abysm, ravine, drop.

progress that no more seemed to be left in him. He leant down upon a rail, and covered his face with his hands.

Stupors, however, do not last for ever, and Farmer Oak recovered from his. It was as remarkable as it was characteristic that the one sentence he uttered was in thankfulness:—

“Thank God I am not married: what would she have done in the poverty now coming upon me!”

Oak raised his head, and wondering what he could do, **listlessly** surveyed the scene. By the outer margin of the Pit was an **oval** pond, and over it hung the **attenuated** skeleton of a chrome-yellow moon which had only a few days to last—the morning star **dogging** her on the left hand. The pool glittered like a dead man’s eye, and as the world awoke a breeze blew, shaking and elongating the reflection of the moon without breaking it, and turning the image of the star to a **phosphoric** streak upon the water. All this Oak saw and remembered.

As far as could be learnt it appeared that the poor young dog, still under the impression that since he was kept for running after sheep, the more he ran after them the better, had at the end of his meal off the dead lamb, which may have given him additional energy and spirits, collected all the ewes into a corner, driven the timid creatures through the hedge, across the upper field, and by main force of worrying had given them momentum enough to break down a portion of the rotten **railing**, and so hurled them over the edge.

George’s son had done his work so thoroughly that he was considered too good a **workman** to live, and was, in fact, taken and tragically shot at twelve o’clock that same day—another instance of the **untoward** fate which so often attends dogs and other philosophers who follow out a train of reasoning to its logical conclusion, and attempt perfectly consistent conduct in a world made up so largely of compromise.

Gabriel’s farm had been **stocked** by a dealer—on the strength of Oak’s promising look and character—who was receiving a percentage from the farmer till such time as the advance should be cleared off. Oak found that the value of stock, plant, and **implements** which were really his own would be about

Thesaurus

attenuated: (*adj*) weakened, shriveled, rawboned, marcid, barebone, tabid, extenuated, diminished, reduced, rare, decreased.

dogging: (*adj*) dogs, persisting, continuous, uninterrupted.

implements: (*n*) equipment, apparatus, gear, tackle, rigging, outfit, hardware, trappings.

listlessly: (*adv*) sluggishly, spiritlessly, indifferently, languidly, slowly, weakly, indolently, supinely, lazily,

inanimately, slackly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) brightly, nimbly.

oval: (*adj*) elliptical, elliptic, ovate, oviform, ovoid, oblong, egg-shaped, rounded, prolate, round; (*n*) ovule.

phosphoric: (*adj*) phosphorous, phosphoral.

railing: (*n*) balustrade, rail, barrier, guardrail, banister, fence, pale, paling, breastwork, handrail; (*adj, n*) invective.

stocked: (*adj*) stocked with, furnished,

full.

untoward: (*adj*) unlucky, unfortunate, inauspicious, unbecoming, inopportune, indecent, unfavorable, unseemly, improper, clumsy, stubborn. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) auspicious, suitable, lucky, acceptable, happy, fortunate.

workman: (*n*) laborer, working man, worker, employee, hand, operative, artisan, working person, lather, mechanic, artificer.

sufficient to pay his **debts**, **leaving himself** a **free** man with the **clothes** he stood up in, and **nothing** more.

Thesaurus

clothes: (*n*) apparel, clothing, dress, garb, wardrobe, vestment, garment, cloth, thing, gown, wear.

debts: (*n*) amount overdue, amount outstanding. ANTONYM: (*n*) credit.

free: (*adj, v*) exempt, liberate, discharge; (*adj, adv, v*) loose; (*v*) excuse, extricate, relieve, disentangle, ease; (*adj, n*) frank; (*adj*) liberal.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) restricted, imprisoned, repressive, secure, strict, stuck, confined, tangled, compelled,

dependent; (*v*) confine.

himself: (*pron*) herself, themselves, yourself, itself; (*adj*) myself; (*n*) yourselves.

leaving: (*n*) leave, exit, desertion, going, going away, farewell, departing, abandonment, withdrawal, boarding; (*v*) depart.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) arrival, greeting, Reunion; (*adj*) incoming.

nothing: (*adv, n*) naught; (*adj, n*) nil, null; (*n*) nobody, cipher, nihil,

nonentity, trifle, nix, aught, cypher. ANTONYMS: (*pron*) anything, everything, some; (*n*) all.

sufficient: (*adj*) adequate, proper, commensurate, competent, good, acceptable, apt, ample, full; (*adj, n*) enough; (*adv*) quite. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) inadequate, insufficient, unacceptable, unsatisfactory, impossible, appalling.

CHAPTER VI

THE FAIR—THE JOURNEY—THE FIRE

Two months passed away. We are brought on to a day in February, on which was held the yearly statute or **hiring** fair in the county-town of Casterbridge.

At one end of the street stood from two to three hundred **blithe** and **heartly** labourers waiting upon Chance—all men of the stamp to whom labour suggests nothing worse than a **wrestle** with gravitation, and pleasure nothing better than a renunciation of the same. Among these, carters and waggoners were distinguished by having a piece of whip-cord twisted round their hats; thatchers wore a fragment of woven straw; shepherds held their sheep-crooks in their hands; and thus the situation required was known to the hirers at a glance.

In the crowd was an athletic young fellow of some-what superior appearance to the rest—in fact, his superiority was marked enough to lead several **ruddy** peasants standing by to speak to him **inquiringly**, as to a farmer, and to use ‘Sir’ as a finishing word. His answer always was,—

“I am looking for a place myself—a bailiff’s. Do ye know of anybody who wants one?”

Gabriel was paler now. His eyes were more **meditative**, and his expression was more sad. He had passed through an ordeal of **wretchedness** which had

Thesaurus

blithe: (*adj*) cheerful, lighthearted, breezy, pleasant, merry, carefree, buoyant, facetious, gay, happy, animated. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unhappy, sorrowful, miserable, downhearted, depressed, anxious, sad, heavy, gloomy, serious, troubled.

heartly: (*adj*) heartfelt, healthy, genial, sturdy, cheering, fervent, wholehearted, lusty, enthusiastic, convivial; (*adj, n*) well. ANTONYMS:

(*adj*) unhealthy, frail, old, weak, sluggish, unwholesome, meager.

hiring: (*n*) employment, engagement, staffing, booking.

inquiringly: (*adv*) enquiringly, inquisitively, nosily, curiously, pryingly, interestedly, searchingly, inquiring, quizzically, intrusively.

meditative: (*adj, v*) thoughtful, pensive; (*adj*) wistful, reflective, broody, museful, ruminative, musing, brooding; (*v*) philosophical,

sedate.

ruddy: (*adj*) cherry, rubicund, rosy, flushed, florid, sanguine, reddish, glowing, blooming, crimson; (*adj, adv*) blushing.

wrestle: (*v*) struggle, scuffle, fight, strive, battle, wrench, tussle, contest, scramble, clash; (*n, v*) grapple.

wretchedness: (*n*) unhappiness, grief, distress, desolation, woe, sorrow, anguish, infelicity, tribulation, affliction, misfortune.

given him more than it had taken away. He had sunk from his modest elevation as pastoral king into the very slime-pits of Siddim; but there was left to him a dignified calm he had never before known, and that indifference to fate which, though it often makes a villain of a man, is the basis of his **sublimity** when it does not. And thus the **abasement** had been **exaltation**, and the loss gain.

In the morning a regiment of cavalry had left the town, and a sergeant and his party had been beating up for recruits through the four streets. As the end of the day drew on, and he found himself not hired, Gabriel almost wished that he had joined them, and gone off to serve his country. Weary of standing in the market-place, and not much **mind**ing the kind of work he turned his hand to, he decided to offer himself in some other capacity than that of **bailiff**.

All the farmers seemed to be wanting shepherds. Sheep-tending was Gabriel's speciality. Turning down an obscure street and entering an obscurer lane, he went up to a smith's shop.

"How long would it take you to make a shepherd's **crook**?"

"Twenty minutes."

"How much?"

"Two shillings."

He sat on a bench and the crook was made, a stem being given him into the bargain.

He then went to a ready-made clothes' shop, the owner of which had a large rural connection. As the crook had absorbed most of Gabriel's money, he **attempted**, and carried out, an exchange of his **overcoat** for a shepherd's regulation smock-frock.

This transaction having been completed, he again hurried off to the centre of the town, and stood on the **kerb** of the pavement, as a shepherd, crook in hand.

Now that Oak had turned himself into a shepherd, it seemed that bailiffs were most in demand. However, two or three farmers noticed him and drew near. Dialogues followed, more or less in the **subjoined** form:—

Thesaurus

abasement: (*n*) humiliation, abjection, depression, degeneration, fall, deterioration, disgrace, degeneracy, abjectness, dejection, sinking.

attempted: (*adj*) unsuccessful.

bailiff: (*n*) officer, underwriter, castellan, solicitor, seneschal, secretary, proctor, official, middleman, functionary, broker.

crook: (*adj, n, v*) bend, curve; (*n*) criminal, cheat, scoundrel, gangster, robber; (*n, v*) turn, hook; (*v*) bow,

wind.

exaltation: (*n*) elation, ecstasy, apotheosis, worship, praise, rapture, deification, grandeur, adoration; (*n, v*) sublimation; (*v*) laud.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) abasement, belittlement, debasement, degradation, humiliation, sorrow, derogation, disparagement.

kerb: (*n*) curb, curbstone, ribband, kerbstone, bridle, curbing, Amex, check, curb bit, American Stock

Exchange.

minding: (*adj*) intent.

overcoat: (*n*) greatcoat, coat, cloak, robe, topcoat, surcoat, coating, overcoating, capote, chesterfield, gown.

subjoined: (*v*) enclitical.

sublimity: (*adj, n*) nobility, elevation, majesty, loftiness, splendor; (*n*) magnificence, dignity, greatness, sublimeness; (*adj*) solemnity, heroism.

"Where do you come from?"

"Norcombe."

"That's a long way."

"Fifteen miles."

"Who's farm were you upon last?"

"My own."

This reply invariably operated like a **rumour** of **cholera**. The **inquiring** farmer would edge away and shake his head **dubiously**. Gabriel, like his dog, was too good to be trustworthy, and he never made advance beyond this point.

It is safer to accept any chance that offers itself, and **extemporize** a procedure to fit it, than to get a good shepherd, but had laid himself out for anything in the whole cycle of labour that was required in the fair. It grew dusk. Some merry men were whistling and singing by the corn-exchange. Gabriel's hand, which had **lain** for some time idle in his smock-frock pocket, touched his flute which he carried there. Here was an opportunity for putting his dearly bought wisdom into practice.

He drew out his flute and began to play "Jockey to the Fair" in the style of a man who had never known moment's sorrow. Oak could pipe with Arcadian **sweetness** and the sound of the well-known notes cheered his own heart as well as those of the loungers. He played on with spirit, and in half an hour had earned in pence what was a small fortune to a **destitute** man.

By making inquiries he learnt that there was another fair at Shottsford the next day.

"How far is Shottsford?"

"Ten miles t'other side of Weatherbury."

Weatherbury! It was where Bathsheba had gone two months before. This information was like coming from night into noon.

"How far is it to Weatherbury?"

"Five or six miles."

Thesaurus

cholera: (*n*) Asiatic cholera, asphyxia, epidemic cholera.

destitute: (*adj*) impoverished, needy, bankrupt, broke, poor, helpless, impecunious, penniless, necessitous; (*adj, v*) forlorn, devoid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wealthy, privileged, prosperous, solvent.

dubiously: (*adv*) suspiciously, uncertainly, problematically, fishily, vaguely, incredulously, skeptically, equivocally, distrustfully,

questionably, undecidedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) clearly, certainly.

extemporize: (*adj, v*) ad-lib; (*v*) extemporise, perform, execute, improvise; (*adv*) ad lib. ANTONYMS: (*v*) plan, prepare.

inquiring: (*adj*) inquisitive, quizzical, interested, analytical, probing, intrusive; (*adj, n*) questioning; (*v*) inquire; (*n*) enquiry, question, examination. ANTONYM: (*adj*) uninquiring.

lain: (*adj*) artless, unsophisticated, unaffected, naive, untutored, simple, pure, natural, native, inartificial.

rumour: (*n, v*) rumor; (*n*) hearsay, fame, news, story, reputation, scuttlebutt, tale; (*v*) bruit.

sweetness: (*n*) sugariness, sweet, redolence, pleasantness, fragrance, aroma, charm, perfume, amenity, niceness, kindness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) sourness, sharpness, unpleasantness, harshness, tastelessness, unkindness.

Bathsheba had probably left Weatherbury long before this time, but the place had enough interest **attaching** to it to lead Oak to choose Shottsford fair as his next field of inquiry, because it lay in the Weatherbury quarter. Moreover, the Weatherbury folk were by no means **uninteresting** intrinsically. If report spoke truly they were as hardy, merry, thriving, wicked a set as any in the whole county. Oak resolved to sleep at Weatherbury that night on his way to Shottsford, and struck out at once into the high road which had been recommended as the direct route to the village in question.

The road stretched through water-meadows traversed by little brooks, whose quivering surfaces were **braided** along their centres, and folded into creases at the sides; or, where the flow was more rapid, the stream was pied with spots of white **froth**, which rode on in undisturbed serenity. On the higher levels the dead and dry carcasses of leaves tapped the ground as they bowled along **helter-skelter** upon the shoulders of the wind, and little birds in the hedges were **rustling** their feathers and tucking themselves in comfortably for the night, retaining their places if Oak kept moving, but flying away if he stopped to look at them. He passed by Yalbury Wood where the game-birds were rising to their roosts, and heard the crack-voiced cock-pheasants "cu-uck, cuck," and the **wheezy** whistle of the hens.

By the time he had walked three or four miles every shape in the landscape had assumed a uniform hue of blackness. He descended Yalbury Hill and could just discern ahead of him a waggon, drawn up under a great over-hanging tree by the **roadside**.

On coming close, he found there were no horses attached to it, the spot being apparently quite deserted. The waggon, from its position, seemed to have been left there for the night, for beyond about half a **truss** of hay which was heaped in the bottom, it was quite empty. Gabriel sat down on the shafts of the vehicle and considered his position. He calculated that he had walked a very fair proportion of the journey; and having been on foot since **daybreak**, he felt tempted to lie down upon the hay in the waggon instead of pushing on to the village of Weatherbury, and having to pay for a lodging.

Thesaurus

attaching: (*n*) fastening; (*adj*) adhesive.
braided: (*adj*) curled, decorated, artful, tressed, breaded.

daybreak: (*adj, n*) break of day; (*n*) sunrise, prime, morning, light, dawning, cockcrow, dayspring, aurora, sunup, daylight.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) sunset, sundown, darkness, eventide, nightfall.

froth: (*n, v*) bubble, spume, fizz, suds, sparkle; (*v*) boil, effervesce, ferment; (*n*) effervescence, bubbles, spindrift.

helter-skelter: (*adj, adv*) recklessly; (*adj*) chaotic, haphazard, capricious, reckless, upside-down; (*adv*) anyhow, irregularly.

roadside: (*n*) verge, shoulder, border, edge, margin.

rustling: (*n*) rustle, whispering, whisper, larceny; (*adj*) murmurous, susurrous, active, sighing.

truss: (*v*) bandage, bind, fasten, bundle, tie up; (*n, v*) pack, prop; (*n*) frame, stay, fagot; (*adj*) pinion.

uninteresting: (*adj*) insipid, dreary, tedious, bland, commonplace, flat, stupid, tame, tasteless, humdrum; (*adj, n*) dull. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) exciting, fascinating, scandalous, eventful, impressive, charming, brilliant, animated, colorful, lively, special.

wheezy: (*adj*) asthmatic, wheezing, reedy, panting, noisy, gasping, puffing, reedlike, short of breath, winded, breathless.

Eating his last slices of bread and ham, and drinking from the bottle of cider he had taken the precaution to bring with him, he got into the lonely waggon. Here he spread half of the hay as a bed, and, as well as he could in the darkness, pulled the other half over him by way of bed-clothes, covering himself entirely, and feeling, physically, as comfortable as ever he had been in his life. Inward melancholy it was impossible for a man like Oak, **introspective** far beyond his neighbours, to banish quite, whilst conning the present untoward page of his history. So, thinking of his **misfortunes**, **amorous** and pastoral he fell asleep, shepherds **enjoying**, in common with sailors, the privilege of being able to summon the god instead of having to wait for him.

On somewhat suddenly **awaking**, after a sleep of whose length he had no idea, Oak found that the waggon was in motion. He was being carried along the road at a rate rather considerable for a vehicle without springs, and under circumstances of physical **uneasiness**, his head being dandled up and down on the bed of the waggon like a kettledrum-stick. He then distinguished **voices** in conversation, coming from the forpart of the waggon. His concern at this dilemma (which would have been alarm, had he been a thriving man; but misfortune is a fine **opiate** to personal terror) led him to peer cautiously from the hay, and the first sight he beheld was the stars above him. Charles's Wain was getting towards a right angle with the Pole star, and Gabriel concluded that it must be about nine o'clock—in other words, that he had slept two hours. This small astronomical calculation was made without any positive effort, and whilst he was **stealthily** turning to discover, if possible, into whose hands he had fallen.

Two figures were dimly visible in front, sitting with their legs outside the waggon, one of whom was driving. Gabriel soon found that this was the wagoner, and it appeared they had come from Casterbridge fair, like himself.

A conversation was in progress, which continued thus:—

“Be as ‘twill, she’s a fine handsome body as far’s looks be concerned. But that’s only the skin of the woman, and these **dandy** cattle be as proud as a lucifer in their insides.”

Thesaurus

amorous: (*adj*) amatory, romantic, amative, affectionate, passionate, fond, warm, ardent, erotic, tender, impassioned. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cold, hateful, repulsed, unfriendly, cool.
awaking: (*n*) waking, awakening.
dandy: (*n*) beau, fop, coxcomb, dude, buck, clipper, cockscomb; (*adj*) nifty, capital, fine, peachy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) terrible, ghastly, awful, inferior.
enjoying: (*n*) relish, enjoyment; (*adj*)

comfortable, fruitive.
introspective: (*adj, v*) thoughtful, reflective, pensive, meditative; (*v*) deliberative, philosophical; (*adj*) reflex, brooding, deep in thought, directed back, dreamy.
misfortunes: (*n*) misfortune.
opiate: (*adj, n*) narcotic, hypnotic; (*adj*) anodyne, soporific, somniferous; (*n*) drug, sedative, anesthetic, anaesthetic; (*v*) poppy, balm.
stealthily: (*adv*) furtively, sneakily,

surreptitiously, covertly, clandestinely, underhandedly, underhandedly, in secret, privately, sneakingly; (*adj, adv*) noiselessly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) brazenly.
uneasiness: (*n*) disquiet, discomfort, inquietude, anxiety, unease, malaise, disquietude, apprehension, unrest, impatience; (*n, v*) agitation. ANTONYMS: (*n*) peace, calm, confidence.
voices: (*n*) chorus.

“Ay—so ‘a do seem, Billy Smallbury—so ‘a do seem.” This utterance was very shaky by nature, and more so by circumstance, the **jolting** of the waggon not being without its effect upon the speaker’s **larynx**. It came from the man who held the reins.

“She’s a very vain feymell—so ‘tis said here and there.”

“Ah, now. If so be ‘tis like that, I can’t look her in the face. Lord, no: not I—heh-heh-heh! Such a shy man as I be!”

“Yes—she’s very vain. ‘Tis said that every night at going to bed she looks in the glass to put on her night-cap properly.”

“And not a married woman. Oh, the world!”

“And ‘a can play the peanner, so ‘tis said. Can play so clever that ‘a can make a **psalm** tune sound as well as the merriest loose song a man can wish for.”

“D’ye tell o’t! A happy time for us, and I feel quite a new man! And how do she play?”

“That I don’t know, Master Poorgrass.”

On hearing these and other similar remarks, a wild thought flashed into Gabriel’s mind that they might be speaking of Bathsheba. There were, however, no ground for **retaining** such a **supposition**, for the waggon, though going in the direction of Weatherbury, might be going beyond it, and the woman alluded to seemed to be the mistress of some estate. They were now apparently close upon Weatherbury and not to alarm the **speakers** unnecessarily, Gabriel slipped out of the waggon **unseen**.

He turned to an opening in the hedge, which he found to be a gate, and mounting **thereon**, he sat **meditating** whether to seek a cheap **lodging** in the village, or to ensure a cheaper one by lying under some hay or corn-stack. The crunching **jangle** of the waggon died upon his ear. He was about to walk on, when he noticed on his left hand an unusual light—appearing about half a mile distant. Oak watched it, and the glow increased. Something was on fire.

Gabriel again mounted the gate, and, leaping down on the other side upon what he found to be **ploughed** soil, made across the field in the exact direction of

Thesaurus

jangle: (*n, v*) jingle, clank, ring, clang, rattle, bang, tinkle; (*n*) clatter; (*v*) jar, clink; (*adj, n*) wrangle.

jolting: (*adj*) jolty, bumpy, bouncing, jouncing, unsmooth, moving, bouncy; (*n*) concussion.

larynx: (*n*) voice box, tonsils, windpipe, spiracle, gullet, gorge, vocal cords, cartilaginous structure.

lodging: (*n*) abode, apartment, accommodation, housing, hostel, residence, quarter, home, lodgement,

address, hospice.

meditating: (*n*) conception.

ploughed: (*v*) plucked. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unplowed.

psalm: (*n*) hymn, chant, psalmody, anthem, song, Salm; (*v*) sing.

retaining: (*adj*) retentive; (*n*) employment, reservation.

speakers: (*n*) acoustics.

supposition: (*n, v*) conjecture; (*n*) assumption, hypothesis, presumption, premise, speculation,

surmise, guess, supposal, thought, imagination. ANTONYMS: (*n*) fact, knowledge, proof, reality, practice.

thereon: (*adv*) on that, thereupon, afterward, at once, early, immediately, therefore.

unseen: (*adj, v*) unknown; (*adj*) invisible, concealed, hidden, unobserved, secret, veiled, latent; (*v*) unheeded, unperceived; (*n*) spiritual world. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) seen, visible, open, famous, noticeable.

the fire. The blaze, enlarging in a double ratio by his approach and its own increase, showed him as he drew nearer the outlines of ricks beside it, lighted up to great distinctness. A rick-yard was the source of the fire. His weary face now began to be painted over with a rich orange glow, and the whole front of his smock-frock and gaiters was covered with a dancing shadow pattern of thorn-twigs—the light reaching him through a leafless intervening hedge—and the metallic curve of his sheep-crook shone silver-bright in the same **abounding** rays. He came up to the boundary fence, and stood to regain breath. It seemed as if the spot was unoccupied by a living soul.

The fire was issuing from a long straw-stack, which was so far gone as to preclude a possibility of saving it. A rick burns differently from a house. As the wind blows the fire inwards, the portion in flames completely disappears like melting sugar, and the outline is lost to the eye. However, a hay or a wheat-rick, well put together, will resist combustion for a length of time, if it begins on the outside.

This before Gabriel's eyes was a rick of straw, loosely put together, and the flames darted into it with lightning **swiftness**. It glowed on the windward side, rising and falling in intensity, like the coal of a cigar. Then a **superincumbent** bundle rolled down, with a **whisking** noise; flames elongated, and bent themselves about with a quiet roar, but no **crackle**. Banks of smoke went off horizontally at the back like passing clouds, and behind these burned hidden pyres, illuminating the semi-transparent sheet of smoke to a **lustrous** yellow uniformity. Individual straws in the foreground were consumed in a creeping movement of ruddy heat, as if they were knots of red worms, and above shone imaginary fiery faces, tongues hanging from lips, glaring eyes, and other **impish** forms, from which at intervals **sparks** flew in clusters like birds from a nest.

Oak suddenly ceased from being a mere spectator by discovering the case to be more serious than he had at first imagined. A scroll of smoke blew aside and revealed to him a wheat-rick in startling **juxtaposition** with the decaying one, and behind this a series of others, **composing** the main corn produce of the farm; so that instead of the straw-stack standing, as he had imagined comparatively

Thesaurus

abounding: (*adj*) rich, abundant, full, rife, replete, affluent, wealthy, plentiful, ample, fraught, prolific.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) poor.

composing: (*v*) compose, comprise, constitute; (*adj, v*) component; (*n*) composition, arranging, arrangement, placement, makeup, constitution, manufacturing.

crackle: (*v*) crunch, crepitate, rustle, sputter, snap, vary, resound, sizzle, crinkle; (*n*) crepitation, crackling.

impish: (*adj*) playful, wicked, naughty, elfish, puckish, prankish, bad, badly behaved, sly, frolicsome, kittenish.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) good.

juxtaposition: (*n*) apposition, proximity, contact, contiguity, abuttal, location, locating, placement, position, positioning, comparison.

lustrous: (*adj, v*) bright, splendid; (*adj*) glossy, brilliant, lucid, shiny, shining, light, luminous, sleek, radiant. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unhealthy.

sparks: (*n*) fire.

superincumbent: (*v*) overlying, supernatant; (*adj*) superimposed, weighty, superjacent, superior, resting, oppressive, recumbent, obligatory, lying.

swiftness: (*n*) speed, haste, rapidity, celerity, acceleration, quickness, promptness, pace, velocity, agility, dispatch. ANTONYM: (*n*) clumsiness.

whisking: (*adj*) switchy.

isolated, there was a regular connection between it and the remaining **stacks** of the group.

Gabriel **leapt** over the **hedge**, and saw that he was not alone. The first man he came to was running about in a great hurry, as if his thoughts were several yards in advance of his body, which they could never drag on fast enough.

“O, man—fire, fire! A good master and a bad servant is fire, fire!—I **mane** a bad servant and a good master. Oh, Mark Clark—come! And you, Billy Smallbury—and you, Maryann Money—and you, Jan Coggan, and Matthew there!” Other figures now appeared behind this shouting man and among the smoke, and Gabriel found that, far from being alone he was in a great company—whose shadows danced **merrily** up and down, timed by the jiggling of the flames, and not at all by their owners’ movements. The assemblage—belonging to that class of society which casts its thoughts into the form of feeling, and its feelings into the form of commotion—set to work with a remarkable confusion of purpose.

“Stop the **draught** under the wheat-rick!” cried Gabriel to those nearest to him. The corn stood on stone staddles, and between these, tongues of yellow hue from the burning straw **licked** and darted **playfully**. If the fire once got *under* this stack, all would be lost.

“Get a tarpaulin—quick!” said Gabriel.

A rick-cloth was brought, and they hung it like a curtain across the channel. The flames immediately ceased to go under the bottom of the corn-stack, and stood up vertical.

“Stand here with a bucket of water and keep the cloth wet.” said Gabriel again.

The flames, now driven upwards, **began** to attack the angles of the huge roof covering the wheat-stack.

“A ladder,” cried Gabriel.

“The ladder was against the straw-rick and is **burnt** to a cinder,” said a spectre-like form in the smoke.

Thesaurus

began: (*v*) Gan.

burnt: (*adj*) adust, heated, baked, torrid, sunburnt, seared, scorched, well done, tempered, overdone, combust. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) underdone, unburned, wet.

draught: (*n, v*) draft, sketch, design, potation, plan; (*n*) dose, air current, wind, gulp, outline; (*v*) blueprint.

hedge: (*v*) fudge, dodge, elude, evade, skirt, duck, avoid, circumvent, equivocate; (*n*) barrier, hedging.

ANTONYM: (*v*) confront.

leapt: (*adj*) sprung.

licked: (*adj*) dumbfounded.

mane: (*n*) encolure, head of hair, crest, wool, tresses; (*adj*) brush, beard, ringlet, whisker, tress, moustache.

merrily: (*adv*) gaily, cheerfully, blithely, cheerily, gladly, gleefully, mirthfully, brightly, jovially, joyfully, gayly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) sadly, anxiously, miserably, unhappily, carefully, despondently.

playfully: (*adv*) sportively, jocularly, puckishly, impishly, merrily, naughtily, roguishly, frolicsomenely, lightheartedly, archly, skittishly.

stack: (*n, v*) pile, heap, mound, load, lot, store; (*n*) accumulation, rick, mass, bunch; (*v*) pack. ANTONYMS: (*v*) unstack, empty, unload.

stacks: (*n*) piles, set of bookshelves, rafts, plenty, oodles, mountain, scores; (*adj, n*) loads, myriad, lots; (*adj*) ample.

Oak seized the cut ends of the sheaves, as if he were going to engage in the operation of “reed-drawing,” and digging in his feet, and occasionally sticking in the stem of his sheep-crook, he clambered up the **beetling** face. He at once sat astride the very apex, and began with his crook to beat off the fiery fragments which had lodged thereon, shouting to the others to get him a **bough** and a ladder, and some water.

Billy Smallbury—one of the men who had been on the waggon—by this time had found a ladder, which Mark Clark ascended, holding on beside Oak upon the **thatch**. The smoke at this corner was stifling, and Clark, a **nimble** fellow, having been handed a bucket of water, **bathed** Oak’s face and **sprinkled** him generally, whilst Gabriel, now with a long beech-bough in one hand, in addition to his crook in the other, kept sweeping the stack and dislodging all fiery **particles**.

On the ground the groups of villagers were still occupied in doing all they could to keep down the **conflagration**, which was not much. They were all **tinged** orange, and backed up by shadows of varying pattern. Round the corner of the largest stack, out of the direct rays of the fire, stood a pony, bearing a young woman on its back. By her side was another woman, on foot. These two seemed to keep at a distance from the fire, that the horse might not become **restive**.

“He’s a shepherd,” said the woman on foot. “Yes—he is. See how his crook shines as he beats the rick with it. And his smock-frock is burnt in two holes, I declare! A fine young shepherd he is too, ma’am.”

“Whose shepherd is he?” said the **equestrian** in a clear voice.

“Don’t know, ma’am.”

“Don’t any of the others know?”

“Nobody at all—I’ve asked ‘em. Quite a stranger, they say.”

The young woman on the pony rode out from the shade and looked anxiously around.

“Do you think the barn is safe?” she said.

Thesaurus

bathed: (*adj*) sweaty.

beetling: (*adj*) soaring, prominent, protrusive, projecting, towering; (*v*) overhanging, jutting over.

bough: (*n*) arm, limb, bow, member, tigella, ramage, offshoot, ramification, spray, sprig, stem.

conflagration: (*n*) blaze, inferno, flame, wildfire, combustion, holocaust, burning, bonfire, empyrosis, flagration; (*n, v*) deflagration.

equestrian: (*n*) rider, trooper, trainer, buster, roughrider, horsewoman, horseback rider, breaker, postilion; (*adj*) mounted.

nimble: (*adj*) lively, adroit, agile, brisk, spry, alert, expeditious, energetic, clever, lithe; (*adj, v*) light.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clumsy, heavy, stiff, slow, awkward, sluggish, unfit.

particles: (*n*) odds and ends.

restive: (*adj*) obstinate, edgy, fidgety, jittery, impatient, jumpy, intractable,

restless, uptight, perverse; (*adj, v*) skittish. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) calm, patient.

sprinkled: (*adj*) scattered, speckled, wet, dotted.

thatch: (*n*) thatching, roof, Edward thatch, teach, ceiling, Blackbeard, tile, sea rover, roofing material, sea robber, hair.

tinged: (*adj*) plausible, bright, painted, fey, touched, specious, colorful, stained, tinted, dyed, tinct.

“D’ye think the barn is safe, Jan Coggan?” said the second woman, passing on the question to the nearest man in that direction.

“Safe-now – leastwise I think so. If this rick had gone the barn would have followed. ‘Tis that bold shepherd up there that have done the most good – he sitting on the top o’ rick, whizzing his great long-arms about like a windmill.”

“He does work hard,” said the young woman on **horseback**, looking up at Gabriel through her thick **woollen** veil. “I wish he was shepherd here. Don’t any of you know his name.”

“Never heard the man’s name in my life, or seed his form afore.”

The fire began to get **worsted**, and Gabriel’s elevated position being no longer required of him, he made as if to descend.

“Maryann,” said the girl on horseback, “go to him as he comes down, and say that the farmer wishes to thank him for the great service he has done.”

Maryann stalked off towards the rick and met Oak at the foot of the ladder. She delivered her message.

“Where is your master the farmer?” asked Gabriel, **kindling** with the idea of getting employment that seemed to strike him now.

“‘Tisn’t a master; ‘tis a mistress, shepherd.”

“A woman farmer?”

“Ay, ‘a b’lieve, and a rich one too!” said a **bystander**. “Lately ‘a came here from a distance. Took on her uncle’s farm, who died suddenly. Used to measure his money in **half-pint** cups. They say now that she’ve business in every bank in Casterbridge, and thinks no more of playing pitch-and-toss sovereign than you and I, do pitch-halfpenny – not a bit in the world, shepherd.”

“That’s she, back there upon the pony,” said Maryann. “wi’ her face a-covered up in that black cloth with holes in it.”

Oak, his features **smudged**, **grimy**, and **undiscoverable** from the smoke and heat, his smock-frock burnt into holes and dripping with water, the ash stem of his sheep-crook **charred** six inches **shorter**, advanced with the **humility** stern

Thesaurus

bystander: (*n*) spectator, witness, eyewitness, observer, beholder, looker-on, viewer, watcher, passer by, outsider, looker.

charred: (*adj*) scorched, well done, overcooked, baked, overdone.

grimy: (*adj*) dirty, filthy, grubby, dingy, unclean, impure, nasty, begrimed, squalid, messy, muddy.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pure, pleasant.

half-pint: (*adj*) puny, stunted; (*n*) lad, boy.

horseback: (*n*) hogback, body part.

humility: (*n*) diffidence, modesty, submission, shyness, meekness, lowliness, timidity, trait, humiliation, resignation; (*adj*) veneration.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) haughtiness, affectation, conceit, arrogance.

kindling: (*n*) combustion, firing, ignition, lighting, tinder, fire, firewood, dismissal; (*v*) ignite, agitate, kindle.

shorter: (*adj*) smaller, inferior.

smudged: (*adj*) dirty, unclean, smirched, grubby, smudgy.

undiscoverable: (*adj*) undecipherable, unascertainable, unaccountable, unfathomable, indiscoverable, resisting discovery, unintelligible, undeterminable, indeterminable, not discoverable.

woollen: (*n*) wool, cloth, fabric, fleece, tweed; (*adj*) woolly.

worsted: (*adj*) disappointed; (*n*) fabric, knitting worsted, cloth.

adversity had thrust upon him up to the slight female form in the **saddle**. He lifted his hat with respect, and not without **gallantry**: stepping close to her hanging feet he said in a **hesitating** voice, —

“Do you happen to want a shepherd, ma’am?”

She lifted the wool **veil** tied round her face, and looked all astonishment. Gabriel and his **cold**-hearted darling, Bathsheba Everdene, were face to face.

Bathsheba did not speak, and he **mechanically** repeated in an abashed and sad voice, —

“Do you want a shepherd, ma’am?”

Thesaurus

adversity: (*n*) hardship, calamity, disaster, distress, misadventure, affliction, fatality, catastrophe, trial, trouble, tragedy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) favor, prosperity, fortune, aid, help, opportunity, privilege.

cold-hearted: (*adj*) heartless, frigid, pitiless, cold, unmerciful, unemotional, stony, cruel, coldhearted, hard, unkind.

gallantry: (*adj, n*) prowess, daring, spirit, fearlessness; (*n*) heroism,

bravery, valor, courage, chivalry, courtesy, courageousness.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) cowardice, cowardliness, rudeness.

hesitating: (*adj*) indecisive, irresolute, undecided, doubtful, hesitate, reluctant, faltering, unwilling, hesitancy, backward, hesitatingly.

mechanically: (*adv*) mechanistically, instinctively, routinely, involuntarily, industrially, unconsciously, automatically, intuitively, impulsively,

technically, technologically.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) manually, consciously.

saddle: (*v*) charge, load, burden, encumber, adjure, bear down, blame; (*n*) pillion, seat, saddleback, bicycle seat. ANTONYM: (*v*) relieve.

veil: (*n, v*) cover, hide, disguise, mask, cloud, shroud, camouflage; (*v*) cloak, conceal; (*n*) curtain, blind.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) disclose, unveil, expose.

CHAPTER VII

RECOGNITION—A TIMID GIRL

Bathsheba withdrew into the shade. She scarcely **knew whether** most to be amused at the **singularity** of the meeting, or to be concerned at its **awkwardness**. There was room for a little pity, also for a very little **exultation**: the former at his position, the latter at her own. Embarrassed she was not, and she remembered Gabriel's declaration of love to her at Norcombe only to think she had nearly forgotten it.

"Yes," she murmured, putting on an air of dignity, and turning again to him with a little warmth of cheek; "I do want a shepherd. But— —"

"He's the very man, ma'am," said one of the villagers, quietly.

Conviction breeds conviction. "Ay, that 'a is," said a second, decisively.

"The man, truly!" said a third, with **heartiness**.

"He's all there!" said number four, **fervidly**.

"Then will you tell him to speak to the bailiff," said Bathsheba.

All was practical again now. A summer eve and loneliness would have been necessary to give the meeting its proper **fulness of romance**.

Thesaurus

awkwardness: (*n*) embarrassment, stiffness, unwieldiness, inconvenience, gawkiness, inelegance, troublesomeness, ineptitude, ineptness, gaucherie; (*adj*, *n*) delicacy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) gracefulness, grace, comfort, coordination, pride, urbanity, ease, assurance, liveliness, confidence, cooperation.
exultation: (*n*) jubilation, joy, delight, ecstasy, elation, rejoicing, revelling,

transport, joyousness, bliss, glee.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) depression, desolation, misery, sorrow.
fervidly: (*adv*) fiercely, ardently, fiercely, vehemently, eagerly, passionately, hotly, keenly, zealously, heatedly, violently.
fulness: (*n*) fullness, entirety, completeness, totality.
heartiness: (*n*) eagerness, fervor, geniality, zeal, sincerity, wholeheartedness, inwardness,

ardor, avidity, craving; (*adj*, *n*) hospitality.
knew: (*adj*) known; (*v*) recognize, wist.
romance: (*n*) love affair, fiction, story, figment, intrigue, affair, tale, vagary; (*v*) flirt, court, exaggerate.
singularity: (*n*) oddity, peculiarity, individuality, eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, oddness, abnormality, uniqueness, irregularity, identity, particularity.
whether: (*pron*) where.

The bailiff was pointed out to Gabriel, who, checking the palpitation within his breast at **discovering** that this Ashtoreth of strange report was only a modification of Venus the well-known and admired, retired with him to talk over the necessary **preliminaries** of hiring.

The fire before them wasted away. "Men," said Bathsheba, "you shall take a little refreshment after this extra work. Will you come to the house?"

"We could knock in a bit and a drop a good deal **freer**, Miss, if so be ye'd send it to Warren's Malthouse," replied the spokesman.

Bathsheba then rode off into the darkness, and the men straggled on to the village in twos and threes—Oak and the bailiff being left by the rick alone.

"And now," said the bailiff, finally, "all is settled, I think, about your coming, and I am going home-along. Good-night to ye, shepherd."

"Can you get me a lodging?" inquired Gabriel.

"That I can't, indeed," he said, moving past Oak as a Christian edges past an offertory-plate when he does not mean to contribute. "If you follow on the road till you come to Warren's Malthouse, where they are all gone to have their snap of **victuals**, I **daresay** some of 'em will tell you of a place. Good-night to ye, shepherd."

The bailiff who showed this nervous dread of loving his neighbour as himself, went up the hill, and Oak walked on to the village, still astonished at the **rencounter** with Bathsheba, glad of his **nearness** to her, and **perplexed** at the rapidity with which the **unpractised** girl of Norcombe had developed into the supervising and cool woman here. But some women only require an emergency to make them fit for one.

Obliged, to some extent, to **forgo** dreaming in order to find the way, he reached the churchyard, and passed round it under the wall where several ancient trees grew. There was a wide margin of grass along here, and Gabriel's footsteps were **deadened** by its softness, even at this indurating period of the year. When abreast of a trunk which appeared to be the **oldest** of the old, he became aware that a figure was standing behind it. Gabriel did not pause in his

Thesaurus

daresay: (*v*) assume, deem.

deadened: (*adj*) dead, numb, numbed, without sensation, duller, unfeeling, under, frozen, insensible, insensitive, knocked out.

discovering: (*adj*) observant, oracular.

forgo: (*v*) waive, abandon, relinquish, give up, dispense with, abdicate, resign, renounce, forswear, forsake, foreswear.

freer: (*adj*) unconfined.

nearness: (*n*) closeness, contiguity,

vicinity, familiarity, adjacency, proximity, propinquity, presence, immediacy, neighborhood, nearby. ANTONYMS: (*n*) distance, farness, remoteness.

oldest: (*n*) elder, doyen; (*adj*) older.

perplexed: (*adj*) confused, puzzled, baffled, confounded, doubtful, distracted, disconcerted; (*adj, v*) intricate, complicated, lost, involved.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unperplexed, assured, clear, knowing.

preliminaries: (*n*) introduction, preparation, opening, initiation, training, preface, preamble.

rencounter: (*n, v*) encounter; (*n*) meeting, conflict, appulse, syzygy, engagement, combat, fight, contest, collision, assault.

unpractised: (*adj*) inexperienced, raw, green, fresh, unskilled.

victuals: (*n*) food, fare, viands, victual, edible, provender, grub, sustenance, support, diet, nutriment.

walk, and in another moment he accidentally kicked a loose stone. The noise was enough to disturb the motionless stranger, who started and assumed a careless position.

It was a slim girl, rather thinly **clad**.

“Good-night to you,” said Gabriel, heartily.

“Good-night,” said the girl to Gabriel.

The voice was unexpectedly attractive; it was the low and **dulcet** note **suggestive** of romance; common in descriptions, rare in experience.

“I’ll thank you to tell me if I’m in the way for Warren’s Malthouse?” Gabriel resumed, primarily to gain the information, indirectly to get more of the music.

“Quite right. It’s at the bottom of the hill. And do you know — —” The girl hesitated and then went on again. “Do you know how late they keep open the Buck’s Head Inn?” She seemed to be won by Gabriel’s heartiness, as Gabriel had been won by her modulations.

“I don’t know where the Buck’s Head is, or anything about it. Do you think of going there to-night?”

“Yes — —” The woman again paused. There was no necessity for any continuance of speech, and the fact that she did add more seemed to proceed from an unconscious desire to show **unconcern** by making a remark, which is noticeable in the **ingenuous** when they are acting by stealth. “You are not a Weatherbury man?” she said, timorously.

“I am not. I am the new shepherd — just arrived.”

“Only a shepherd — and you seem almost a farmer by your ways.”

“Only a shepherd,” Gabriel repeated, in a dull **cadence** of **finality**. His thoughts were directed to the past, his eyes to the feet of the girl; and for the first time he saw lying there a bundle of some sort. She may have perceived the direction of his face, for she said coaxingly, —

“You won’t say anything in the parish about having seen me here, will you — at least, not for a day or two?”

Thesaurus

cadence: (*n*) beat, tempo, measure, rhythm, cadency, descent, time; (*n, v*) pace; (*v*) gait, step, rate.

clad: (*adj*) dressed, attired, clothed, coated, garbed; (*n*) cladding; (*prep*) gowned; (*v*) costume, shod, dress, attire. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) undressed, unclothed.

dulcet: (*adj, n*) sweet; (*adj*) musical, melodious, harmonious, melodic, honied, candied, mellifluous, canorous, mellow, honeyed.

finality: (*n*) determination, decision, definiteness, decisiveness, conclusiveness, limit, final, ultimate, eventually, settlement, assuredness.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) indecision, uncertainty, doubt, indecisiveness.

ingenuous: (*adj, n*) frank; (*adj*) naive, guileless, honest, forthright, innocent, straight, artless, downright, green, hearty. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) disingenuous, dishonest, cunning, sophisticated, scheming, worldly,

jaded, hesitant, experienced.

suggestive: (*adj, v*) expressive; (*adj*) obscene, spicy, allusive, graphic, smutty, significative, narrative, meaningful, epic, implicative.

unconcern: (*n*) apathy, nonchalance, insouciance, coldness, detachment, impassiveness, insensibility, disregard, phlegm, carelessness, lethargy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) responsiveness, worry, anxiety, interest.

"I won't if you wish me not to," said Oak.

"Thank you, indeed," the other replied. "I am rather poor, and I don't want people to know anything about me." Then she was silent and shivered.

"You ought to have a cloak on such a cold night," Gabriel observed. "I would advise 'ee to get indoors."

"O no! Would you mind going on and leaving me? I thank you much for what you have told me."

"I will go on," he said; adding hesitatingly,—"Since you are not very well off, perhaps you would accept this **trifle** from me. It is only a **shilling**, but it is all I have to spare."

"Yes, I will take it," said the stranger gratefully.

She extended her hand; Gabriel his. In feeling for each other's palm in the gloom before the money could be passed, a minute incident occurred which told much. Gabriel's fingers alighted on the young woman's wrist. It was beating with a **throb** of tragic intensity. He had frequently felt the same quick, hard beat in the femoral **artery** of—his lambs when overdriven. It suggested a consumption too great of a vitality which, to judge from her figure and **stature**, was already too little.

"What is the matter?"

"Nothing."

"But there is?"

"No, no, no! Let your having seen me be a secret!"

"Very well; I will. Good-night, again."

"Good-night."

The young girl remained **motionless** by the tree, and Gabriel **descended** into the village of Weatherbury, or Lower Longpuddle as it was sometimes called. He **fancied** that he had felt himself in the **penumbra** of a very deep sadness when touching that slight and fragile creature. But wisdom lies in **moderating** mere impressions, and Gabriel endeavoured to think little of this.

Thesaurus

artery: (*n*) aorta, corridor, road, tendon, thoroughfare, celiac axis, Pipe-stem arteries, arteria, aisle, arteriola, arteriole.

descended: (*v*) extraught.

fancied: (*adj*) unreal, chimerical, fictional, fanciful, fictitious, fabricated, preferred, assumed, illusory, imagined, ideal.

moderating: (*adj*) abstemious, extenuating. ANTONYM: (*adj*) intensifying.

motionless: (*adj*) inactive, inert, immobile, stationary, fixed, unmoving, quiescent, dead, torpid; (*adj, adv*) calm, at rest. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) mobile, active, alive, flowing.

penumbra: (*adj, n*) shade; (*adj*) umbra; (*n*) eclipse.

shilling: (*n*) York shilling, Tanzanian shilling, British shilling, Kenyan shilling, Ugandan shilling, Somali shilling, dock, cork, farthing, coin, cheat.

stature: (*n*) height, altitude, standing, tallness, prestige, figure, growth, status, quality, rank, greatness.

throb: (*n, v*) quiver, ache, pulse, pound, thrill, tingle; (*v*) pulsate, palpitate, flutter, shudder; (*n*) pulsation.

trifle: (*n, v*) play; (*adj, n, v*) trinket; (*v*) dally, fiddle, flirt, fool, frivol; (*n*) nothing, triviality, detail; (*adj, n*) bagatelle.

CHAPTER VIII

THE MALTHOUSE—THE CHAT—NEWS

Warren's Malthouse was enclosed by an old wall inwrapped with ivy, and though not much of the exterior was visible at this hour, the character and purposes of the building were clearly enough shown by its outline upon the sky. From the walls an **overhanging** thatched roof sloped up to a point in the centre, upon which rose a small wooden lantern, fitted with louvre-boards on all the four sides, and from these openings a mist was **dimly** perceived to be **escaping** into the night air. There was no window in front; but a square hole in the door was glazed with a single **pane**, through which red, comfortable rays now stretched out upon the **ivied** wall in front. Voices were to be heard inside.

Oak's hand **skimmed** the surface of the door with fingers extended to an Elymas-the-Sorcerer pattern, till he found a leathern **strap**, which he pulled. This lifted a wooden **latch**, and the door swung open.

The room inside was **lighted** only by the ruddy glow from the **kiln** mouth, which shone over the floor with the **streaming**, horizontality of the setting sun, and threw upwards the shadows of all facial irregularities in those assembled around. The stone-flag floor was worn into a path from the doorway to the kiln, and into undulations everywhere. A curved settle of unplanned oak stretched

Thesaurus

dimly: (*adv*) obscurely, darkly, faintly, dully, duskily, vaguely, shadowily, hazily, gloomily, somberly; (*adj, adv*) palely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) clearly, strongly, distinctly.

escaping: (*n*) evasion, getaway, break, breakout, running away, running off, run-around; (*adj*) fugitive.

ivied: (*adj*) leafy.

kiln: (*n*) heater, drier, stove, oven, oast, hearth, limekiln, dry kiln, brickkiln, dryer; (*v*) dry.

latch: (*v*) bar, fasten, grab; (*n, v*) bolt; (*adj, n, v*) lock; (*n*) hasp, clasp, door latch, hook; (*adj*) link, yoke.

lighted: (*adj*) illuminated, lit, light, ablaze, bright, ignited, burn, burning, ignite, kindled, lighten.

overhanging: (*adj, v*) projecting; (*v*) beetling; (*adj*) covering, imminent, impending, pendent, obumbrant, hanging over, overspreading, depending, hanging.

pane: (*n*) window pane, paneling,

pane of glass, panelling, windowpane, window-pane, board, square, sheet of glass, leaf, box.

skimmed: (*v*) flet, flotten.

strap: (*n, v*) lash, whip; (*n*) strop, leash, rein, shoulder strap, band, bar; (*v*) bind, flog; (*adj, n*) tie. ANTONYM: (*v*) untie.

streaming: (*adj*) flowing, flapping, detached, incoherent, baggy, slack, relaxed, loose, lax; (*n*) cyclosis; (*v*) disheveled.

along one side, and in a remote corner was a small bed and **bedstead**, the owner and frequent occupier of which was the **maltster**.

This aged man was now sitting opposite the fire, his frosty white hair and beard overgrowing his **gnarled** figure like the grey **moss** and **lichen** upon a leafless apple-tree. He wore breeches and the laced-up shoes called ankle-jacks; he kept his eyes fixed upon the fire.

Gabriel's nose was greeted by an atmosphere laden with the sweet smell of new malt. The conversation (which seemed to have been concerning the origin of the fire) immediately ceased, and every one **ocularly** criticised him to the degree expressed by contracting the flesh of their foreheads and looking at him with narrowed eyelids, as if he had been a light too strong for their sight. Several exclaimed **meditatively**, after this operation had been completed:—

“Oh, 'tis the new shepherd, 'a b'lieve.”

“We thought we heard a hand **pawing** about the door for the **bobbin**, but weren't sure 'twere not a dead leaf **blowed** across,” said another. “Come in, shepherd; sure ye be welcome, though we don't know yer name.”

“Gabriel Oak, that's my name, neighbours.”

The ancient maltster sitting in the midst turned up this—his turning being as the turning of a rusty crane.

“That's never Gable Oak's grandson over at Norcombe—never!” he said, as a formula expressive of surprise, which nobody was supposed for a moment to take literally.

“My father and my grandfather were old men of the name of Gabriel,” said the shepherd, **placidly**.

“Thought I knowed the man's face as I seed him on the rick!—thought I did! And where be ye trading o't to now, shepherd?”

“I'm thinking of **biding** here,” said Mr. Oak.

Thesaurus

bedstead: (*n*) bed, berth, cot, bedframe, furniture, shakedown, pallet, stretcher, tester, stead, hatch.
biding: (*n*) residence, habitation.
blowed: (*n*) blownen, blowzy.
bobbin: (*n*) coil, reel, arbor, spindle, pin, axle, roll, roller, drum, winder, quill.
gnarled: (*adj*) knotty, knotted, gnarly, asperous, crisp, deformed, crabbed, roughhewn, wrinkled, unsmooth, unpolished. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

smooth, unknotted, straight.
lichen: (*n*) crotal, crotle, crottal, basidiolichen, mold, moss, arctic moss, conferva, beard lichen, beard moss, crottles.
maltster: (*n*) shaper, maker.
meditatively: (*adv*) thoughtfully, reflectively, wistfully, musingly, contemplatively, ponderingly, ruminatively, broodingly, thinkingly, broodily, musefully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unthinkingly, rashly.

moss: (*n*) lichen, marsh, bog, morass, marish, fen, bryophyte, quagmire, swamp, Bryace; (*adj*) byssus.
ocularly: (*adv*) optically, visually, ophthalmically.
pawing: (*n*) intimacy.
placidly: (*adv*) coolly, calmly, tranquilly, peacefully, stilly, quietly, composedly, silently, meekly, impassively, collectedly.
 ANTONYMS: (*adv*) agitatedly, boisterously.

“Knowed yer grandfather for years and years!” continued the maltster, the words coming forth of their own accord as if the momentum previously imparted had been sufficient.

“Ah—and did you!”

“Knowed yer grandmother.”

“And her too!”

“Likewise knowed yer father when he was a child. Why, my boy Jacob there and your father were **sworn** brothers—that they were sure—weren’t ye, Jacob?”

“Ay, sure,” said his son, a young man about sixty-five, with a semi-bald head and one **tooth** in the left centre of his upper jaw, which made much of itself by standing prominent, like a **milestone** in a bank. “But ‘twas Joe had most to do with him. However, my son William must have knowed the very man **afore** us—didn’t ye, Billy, afore ye left Norcombe?”

“No, ‘twas Andrew,” said Jacob’s son Billy, a child of forty, or thereabouts, who manifested the peculiarity of **possessing** a cheerful soul in a gloomy body, and whose **whiskers** were assuming a **chinchilla** shade here and there.

“I can mind Andrew,” said Oak, “as being a man in the place when I was quite a child.”

“Ay—the other day I and my youngest daughter, Liddy, were over at my grandson’s christening,” continued Billy. “We were talking about this very family, and ‘twas only last Purification Day in this very world, when the use-money is gied away to the second-best poor folk, you know, shepherd, and I can mind the day because they all had to traypse up to the vestry—yes, this very man’s family.”

“Come, shepherd, and drink. ‘Tis **gape** and swaller with us—a drap of sommit, but not of much account,” said the maltster, **removing** from the fire his eyes, which were vermilion-red and bleared by **gazing** into it for so many years. “Take up the God-forgive-me, Jacob. See if ‘tis warm, Jacob.”

Jacob **stooped** to the God-forgive-me, which was a two-handled tall mug standing in the **ashes**, cracked and charred with heat: it was rather **furred** with

Thesaurus

afore: (*adv*) ahead, along, before, forwards, formerly, beforehand, previously; (*adj*) erewhile, beforehand, theretofore, preceding.

ashes: (*n*) dust, cinders, remains, cinder, clay, earth, embers, clinker; (*adj*) scoriae, mother, precipitate.

chinchilla: (*n*) pelt, rodent, gnawer, fur, coating.

furred: (*adj*) hairy, hirsute, fur lined, woolly, fuzzy.

gape: (*v*) gawk, yawn, open, glare,

goggle, split, dehisce, ogle, see; (*adj*, *n*) stare; (*n*, *v*) look.

gazing: (*adj*) fixed.

milestone: (*n*) landmark, event, marker, breakthrough, happening, age, juncture, occasion, incident; (*adj*) milliary.

possessing: (*adj*) fruitive.

removing: (*adj*) departing.

stooped: (*adj*) hunched, stoop, stooping, crooked, bended, not straight, inclined, not erect, arched,

asymmetrical, droopy.

sworn: (*adj*) extreme, mortal, implacable, engaged, dedicated, committed, betrothed, bespoken, affianced, inveterate.

tooth: (*n*) palate, denticle, trident, sprocket, saw, premolar, nap, incisor, grain, eyetooth; (*adj*) nib.

whiskers: (*n*) fuzz, goatee, hair, imperial, face fungus, beaver, mustache, moustache, sideburns, facial hair, sideboards.

extraneous matter about the outside, especially in the crevices of the handles, the innermost curves of which may not have seen daylight for several years by reason of this **encrustation** thereon—formed of ashes accidentally wetted with cider and baked hard; but to the mind of any sensible drinker the cup was no worse for that, being **incontestably** clean on the inside and about the rim. It may be observed that such a class of mug is called a God-forgive-me in Weatherbury and its vicinity for uncertain reasons; probably because its size makes any given **toper** feel ashamed of himself when he sees its bottom in drinking it empty.

Jacob, on receiving the order to see if the liquor was warm enough, placidly dipped his forefinger into it by way of thermometer, and having pronounced it nearly of the proper degree, raised the cup and very **civilly** attempted to dust some of the ashes from the bottom with the skirt of his smock-frock, because Shepherd Oak was a stranger.

“A clane cup for the shepherd,” said the maltster **commandingly**.

“No—not at all,” said Gabriel, in a **reproving** tone of considerateness. “I never fuss about dirt in its pure state, and when I know what sort it is.” Taking the mug he **drank** an inch or more from the depth of its contents, and duly passed it to the next man. “I wouldn’t think of giving such trouble to neighbours in washing up when there’s so much work to be done in the world already.” continued Oak in a moister tone, after recovering from the stoppage of breath which is occasioned by pulls at large mugs.

“A right sensible man,” said Jacob.

“True, true; it can’t be gainsaid!” observed a brisk young man—Mark Clark by name, a genial and pleasant gentleman, whom to meet anywhere in your **travels** was to know, to know was to drink with, and to drink with was, unfortunately, to pay for.

“And here’s a mouthful of bread and bacon that mis’ess have sent, shepherd. The cider will go down better with a bit of victuals. Don’t ye **chaw** quite close, shepherd, for I let the bacon fall in the road outside as I was bringing it along, and may be ‘tis rather gritty. There, ‘tis clane dirt; and we all know what that is, as you say, and you bain’t a particular man we see, shepherd.”

Thesaurus

chaw: (*n, v*) bite; (*n*) quid, bit, mastication, cud; (*v*) manducate, munch, masticate, deliberate, gnaw, crunch.

civilly: (*adv*) politely, respectfully, graciously, complaisantly, urbanely, polishedly, considerately, domestically, genteelly, obligingly, refinedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) abruptly, uncivilly.

commandingly: (*adv*) peremptorily, commanding, impressively,

imperiously, superiorly, imposingly, grandly, domineeringly, imperatively, bossily, overbearingly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) weakly.

drank: (*v*) absorb.

encrustation: (*n*) incrustation, calculus, cover, covering, calculi, coating, tartar, scaling, cheekiness.

incontestably: (*adv*) irrefutably, incontrovertibly, without doubt, evidently, for sure, certainly, clearly, of course, unquestionably, definitely,

indubitably. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) questionably, arguably.

reproving: (*adj*) admonitory, admonishing, exemplary, disparaging, disapproving, deterrent, critical, unfavorable, cautionary; (*adj, n*) accusing; (*n*) condemning.

toper: (*n, v*) drunkard, sot; (*n*) drinker, tippler, carouser, guzzler, bibber, bacchant, imbiber, winebibber, tosspot.

travels: (*n*) actions, expedition.

"True, true—not at all," said the friendly Oak.

"Don't let your teeth quite meet, and you won't feel the **sandiness** at all. Ah! 'tis wonderful what can be done by contrivance!"

"My own mind exactly, neighbour."

"Ah, he's his grandfer's own grandsonn!—his grandfer were just such a nice unparticular man!" said the maltster.

"Drink, Henry Fray—drink," **magnanimously** said Jan Coggan, a person who held Saint-Simonian notions of share and share alike where liquor was concerned, as the vessel showed signs of approaching him in its gradual revolution among them.

Having at this moment reached the end of a **wistful** gaze into mid-air, Henry did not refuse. He was a man of more than middle age, with eyebrows high up in his forehead, who laid it down that the law of the world was bad, with a **long-suffering** look through his listeners at the world alluded to, as it presented itself to his imagination. He always signed his name "Henery"—strenuously insisting upon that spelling, and if any passing schoolmaster ventured to remark that the second "e" was superfluous and old-fashioned, he received the reply that "H-e-n-e-r-y" was the name he was christened and the name he would stick to—in the tone of one to whom orthographical differences were matters which had a great deal to do with personal character.

Mr. Jan Coggan, who had passed the cup to Henery, was a **crimson** man with a spacious countenance, and private **glimmer** in his eye, whose name had appeared on the marriage register of Weatherbury and neighbouring parishes as best man and chief witness in countless unions of the previous twenty years; he also very frequently filled the post of head **godfather** in baptisms of the subtly-jovial kind.

"Come, Mark Clark—come. Ther's plenty more in the barrel," said Jan.

"Ay—that I will, 'tis my only doctor," replied Mr. Clark, who, twenty years younger than Jan Coggan, **revolved** in the same orbit. He **secreted mirth** on all occasions for special discharge at popular parties.

Thesaurus

crimson: (*adj, n*) carmine, ruby, scarlet, maroon; (*v*) blush, flush, redden; (*adj*) bloody, ruddy, cherry; (*n*) deep red.
glimmer: (*adj, n, v*) flicker, twinkle; (*n, v*) gleam, shimmer, flash, sparkle, beam, glow, shine; (*v*) blink; (*n*) gleaming.
godfather: (*n*) godchild, supporter, patron, godparent, godmother, gangster, executive; (*v*) christen.
long-suffering: (*n*) long-sufferance, patience, endurance; (*adj*) forbearing,

tolerant, enduring, persevering, passive, meek, resigned, stoic.
magnanimously: (*adv*) exaltedly, kindly, handsomely, greatly, chivalrously, selflessly, unselfishly, gallantly, grandly, bigly, considerately.
mirth: (*adj, n*) merriment, jollity; (*n*) amusement, happiness, delight, joy, hilarity, cheerfulness, festivity, gladness, exhilaration. ANTONYMS: (*n*) gloom, sadness, misery.

revolved: (*adj*) disgusted.
sandiness: (*n*) graininess, granularity, sabulosity, coarseness.
secreted: (*adj*) hidden, unseen, out of sight.
wistful: (*adj, v*) reflective, meditative, thoughtful; (*adj*) contemplative, sad, melancholy, longing, plaintive, wishful, yearning; (*v*) anxious. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) alert, satisfied, shallow.

“Why, Joseph Poorgrass, ye han’t had a drop!” said Mr. Coggan to a self-conscious man in the background, **thrusting** the cup towards him.

“Such a modest man as he is!” said Jacob Smallbury. “Why, ye’ve hardly had strength of eye enough to look in our young mis’ess’s face, so I hear, Joseph?”

All looked at Joseph Poorgrass with **pitying** reproach.

“No—I’ve hardly looked at her at all,” simpered Joseph, reducing his body smaller whilst talking, apparently from a **meek** sense of undue prominence. “And when I seed her, ‘twas nothing but blushes with me!”

“Poor feller,” said Mr. Clark.

“ ‘Tis a curious nature for a man,” said Jan Coggan.

“Yes,” continued Joseph Poorgrass—his **shyness**, which was so painful as a defect, filling him with a mild complacency now that it was regarded as an interesting study. “ ‘Twere blush, blush, blush with me every minute of the time, when she was speaking to me.”

“I believe ye, Joseph Poorgrass, for we all know ye to be a very **bashful** man.”

“ ‘Tis a’ awkward gift for a man, poor soul,” said the maltster. “And how long have ye have **suffered** from it, Joseph?”

“Ay, ever since...”

“Oh, ever since I was a boy. Yes—mother was concerned to her heart about it—yes. But ‘twas all nought.”

“Did ye ever go into the world to try and stop it, Joseph Poorgrass?”

“Oh ay, tried all sorts o’ company. They took me to Greenhill Fair, and into a great gay jerry-go-nimble show, where there were women-folk riding round—standing upon horses, with hardly anything on but their smocks; but it didn’t cure me a **morsel**. And then I was put errand-man at the Women’s Skittle Alley at the back of the Tailor’s Arms in Casterbridge. ‘Twas a horrible **sinful** situation, and a very curious place for a good man. I had to stand and look ba’ dy people in the face from morning till night; but ‘twas no use—I was just as bad as

Thesaurus

bashful: (*adj*) timid, diffident, ashamed, coy, backward, modest, shy, retiring, shrinking, mousy, blate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) confident, loud, unabashed, swaggering, forward, brazen, brave, outgoing.
meek: (*adj*) lowly, docile, gentle, tame, low, submissive, compliant, mild, modest, quiet, kind. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) assertive, bossy, haughty, arrogant, overbearing, rebellious, disobedient, wild, harsh, brash.

morsel: (*n, v*) bite, mouthful; (*n*) crumb, chew, particle, fragment, taste, piece, nibble; (*adj, v*) gobbet, mite.
pitying: (*adj*) sympathetic, merciful, pity, pityingly, gloomy, meritless, pitiful, sorry, sorry for, humane, dreary.
shyness: (*n*) diffidence, modesty, bashfulness, humility, shame, timidity, coyness, pudency, timorousness, backwardness,

timidness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) sociability, brashness, confidence, urbanity, arrogance.
sinful: (*adj*) wicked, impious, bad, iniquitous, ungodly, depraved, immoral, profane, criminal, wrong, unholy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pious, virtuous, moral, right, pure.
suffered: (*adj*) permitted, permissive.
thrusting: (*n*) thrust, push, jab, poke, jabbing, stab, driving force, scoke, sack, punch, *Phytolacca Americana*.

ever after all. Blushes hev been in the family for **generations**. There, 'tis a happy providence that I be no worse."

"True," said Jacob Smallbury, deepening his thoughts to a profounder view of the subject. "'Tis a thought to look at, that ye might have been worse; but even as you be, 'tis a very bad **affliction** for 'ee, Joseph. For ye see, shepherd, though 'tis very well for a woman, dang it all, 'tis awkward for a man like him, poor feller?"

"'Tis—'tis," said Gabriel, recovering from a meditation. "Yes, very awkward for the man."

"Ay, and he's very timid, too," observed Jan Coggan. "Once he had been working late at Yalbury Bottom, and had had a drap of drink, and lost his way as he was coming home-along through Yalbury Wood, didn't ye, Master Poorgrass?"

"No, no, no; not that story!" expostulated the modest man, forcing a laugh to bury his concern.

"— — And so 'a lost himself quite," continued Mr. Coggan, with an **impassive** face, implying that a true narrative, like time and tide, must run its course and would respect no man. "And as he was coming along in the middle of the night, much afeared, and not able to find his way out of the trees **nohow**, 'a cried out, 'Man-a-lost! man-a-lost!' A owl in a tree happened to be crying "Whoo-who-who!" as owls do, you know, shepherd" (Gabriel nodded), "and Joseph, all in a tremble, said, 'Joseph Poorgrass, of Weatherbury, sir!' "

"No, no, now—that's too much!" said the timid man, becoming a man of **brazen** courage all of a sudden. "I didn't say sir. I'll **tike** my oath I didn't say 'Joseph Poorgrass o' Weatherbury, sir.' No, no; what's right is right, and I never said sir to the bird, knowing very well that no man of a gentleman's rank would be **hollering** there at that time o' night. 'Joseph Poorgrass of Weatherbury,'—that's every word I said, and I shouldn't ha' said that if 't hadn't been for Keeper Day's metheglin.... There, 'twas a **merciful** thing it ended where it did."

Thesaurus

affliction: (*n, v*) adversity; (*n*) distress, regret, martyrdom, torment, curse, trial, bane, misadventure, sorrow, agony. ANTONYMS: (*n*) gift, godsend, solace, blessing.
brazen: (*adj*) audacious, impudent, brassy, insolent, bold, brash, impertinent, blatant, flagrant, forward, saucy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) shy, abashed, prudish, reserved, quiet, discreet, respectful, ashamed, veiled, modest.

generations: (*n*) generation, family.
hollering: (*n*) holla, holler, bellow, roaring, call, boom, hollo, roar, cry, yowl, holloa.
impassive: (*adj*) expressionless, calm, cool, stolid, stoic, callous, impervious, quiet, peaceful, emotionless, dull. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) expressive, mobile, involved, demonstrative, affected, passionate, sympathetic, spirited, knowing, enthusiastic.

merciful: (*adj*) humane, gracious, lenient, compassionate, kind, clement, benign, kindly, gentle, beneficent, forgiving. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pitiless, merciless, unforgiving, spiteful, harsh, impatient, severe, hardhearted.
nohow: (*adv*) in no way, not at all, noway.
tike: (*n*) churl, child, pickaninny, kid, kiddy, kern, silly, barbarian, bambino, changeling, orphan.

The question of which was right being **tacitly** waived by the company, Jan went on meditatively:—

“And he’s the fearfullest man, bain’t ye, Joseph? Ay, another time ye were lost by Lambing-Down Gate, weren’t ye, Joseph?”

“I was,” replied Poorgrass, as if there were some conditions too serious even for modesty to remember itself under, this being one.

“Yes; that were the middle of the night, too. The gate would not open, try how he would, and knowing there was the Devil’s hand in it, he kneeled down.”

“Ay,” said Joseph, acquiring confidence from the warmth of the fire, the **cider**, and a perception of the narrative capabilities of the experience alluded to. “My heart died within me, that time; but I kneeled down and said the Lord’s Prayer, and then the Belief right through, and then the Ten Commandments, in **earnest** prayer. But no, the gate wouldn’t open; and then I went on with Dearly Beloved Brethren, and, thinks I, this makes four, and ‘tis all I know out of book, and if this don’t do it nothing will, and I’m a lost man. Well, when I got to Saying After Me, I rose from my **knees** and found the gate would open—yes, neighbours, the gate opened the same as ever.”

A meditation on the obvious inference was **indulged** in by all, and during its **continuance** each directed his vision into the ashpit, which glowed like a desert in the **tropics** under a vertical sun, **shaping** their eyes long and liny, partly because of the light, partly from the depth of the subject discussed.

Gabriel broke the silence. “What sort of a place is this to live at, and what sort of a mis’ess is she to work under?” Gabriel’s bosom **thrilled** gently as he thus slipped under the notice of the assembly the inner-most subject of his heart.

“We d’ know little of her—nothing. She only showed herself a few days ago. Her uncle was took bad, and the doctor was called with his world-wide skill; but he couldn’t save the man. As I take it, she’s going to keep on the farm.

“That’s about the shape o’t, ‘a b’lieve,” said Jan Coggan. “Ay, ‘tis a very good family. I’d as soon be under ‘em as under one here and there. Her uncle was a very fair sort of man. Did ye know en, shepherd—a bachelor-man?”

Thesaurus

cider: (*v*) Brazil tea, ice water, claret; (*n*) inebriant, alcoholic beverage, hard cider, pomade, sicer, sider, alcohol, beverage.

continuance: (*n*) duration, abidance, existence, endurance, protraction, adjournment, resumption, prolongation, time, standing, perseverance. ANTONYMS: (*n*) discontinuation, destruction.

earnest: (*adj, v*) devout; (*adj*) eager, solemn, heartfelt, diligent, studious,

sincere, intense, ardent, staid; (*n*) guarantee. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) flippant, halfhearted, uncertain, insincere, unimportant, nonchalant, lethargic, apathetic, unenthusiastic, indifferent, frivolous.

indulged: (*adj*) pet, privileged, cherished, admired.

knees: (*n*) knee.

shaping: (*adj, n*) forming; (*adj*) formative, molding; (*n*) forging, grooving, rifling, defining, form,

organization, making, conformation. **tacitly:** (*adv*) unspokenly, implicitly, impliedly, wordlessly, stilly, voicelessly, assumedly, unexpressedly.

thrilled: (*adj*) jubilant, excited, happy, overjoyed, elated, ecstatic, pleased, thrilled, contented, grateful, flattered. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bored, unhappy, depressed, desolate, sad, down, miserable.

tropics: (*n*) climatic zone, Torrid Zone.

“Not at all.”

“I used to go to his house a-courting my first wife, Charlotte, who was his **dairymaid**. Well, a very **good**-hearted man were Farmer Everdene, and I being a respectable young fellow was allowed to call and see her and drink as much ale as I liked, but not to carry away any – outside my skin I mane of course.”

“Ay, ay, Jan Coggan; we know yer maning.”

“And so you see ‘twas beautiful ale, and I wished to value his kindness as much as I could, and not to be so ill-mannered as to drink only a **thimbleful**, which would have been **insulting** the man’s generosity –”

“True, Master Coggan, ‘twould so,” **corroborated** Mark Clark.

“ – – And so I used to eat a lot of salt fish afore going, and then by the time I got there I were as dry as a lime-basket – so thorough dry that that ale would slip down – ah, ‘twould slip down sweet! Happy times! **heavenly** times! Such lovely drunks as I used to have at that house! You can mind, Jacob? You used to go wi’ me sometimes.”

“I can – I can,” said Jacob. “That one, too, that we had at Buck’s Head on a White Monday was a pretty tipple.”

“ ‘Twas. But for a wet of the better class, that brought you no nearer to the **horned** man than you were afore you **begun**, there was none like those in Farmer Everdene’s kitchen. Not a single damn allowed; no, not a bare poor one, even at the most cheerful moment when all were blindest, though the good old word of sin thrown in here and there at such times is a great relief to a merry soul.”

“True,” said the maltster. “Nater requires her **swearing** at the regular times, or she’s not herself; and **unholy** exclamations is a necessity of life.”

“But Charlotte,” continued Coggan – “not a word of the sort would Charlotte allow, nor the smallest item of taking in vain... Ay, poor Charlotte, I wonder if she had the good fortune to get into Heaven when ‘a died! But ‘a was never much in luck’s way, and perhaps ‘a went downwards after all, poor soul.”

Thesaurus

begun: (*adj*) present.

corroborated: (*adj*) corroborate, substantiated, verified.

dairymaid: (*n*) farmhand, fieldhand, dey.

good-hearted: (*adj*) benign, good-natured, kindly, kindhearted.

heavenly: (*adj*) celestial, blissful, ethereal, delightful, angelic, blessed, elysian, holy, unearthly, godlike, sacred. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) worldly, miserable, infernal, hellish,

unappealing, dreadful, turbulent.

horned: (*adj*) cornuted, somm, horny, sharp, cuckolded, cornigerous, bearing horns, having horns.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) hornless.

insulting: (*adj*) contemptuous, insolent, injurious, offensive, scurrilous, defamatory, opprobrious, rude, disgraceful, disdainful, impolite. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) courteous, conciliatory, polite, generous, cordial.

swearing: (*n*) curse, expletive, profanity, oath, abuse, blasphemy, swearword, execration, adjuration, asseveration; (*v*) swear.

thimbleful: (*n*) mouthful, handful, containerful, capful, spoonful.

unholy: (*adj*) wicked, sinful, unhallowed, profane, fiendish, impious, diabolic, infernal, unsanctified, evil; (*adv*) wickedly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) reasonable, pious, godly, sensible, religious.

“And did any of you know Miss Everdene’s father and mother?” inquired the **shepherd**, who found some difficulty in keeping the conversation in the desired channel.

“I knew them a little,” said Jacob Smallbury; “but they were **townsfolk**, and didn’t live here. They’ve been dead for years. Father, what sort of people were mis’ess’ father and mother?”

“Well,” said the maltster, “he wasn’t much to look at; but she was a lovely woman. He was fond enough of her as his sweetheart.”

“Used to kiss her scores and long-hundreds o’ times, so ‘twas said,” observed Coggan.

“He was very proud of her, too, when they were married, as I’ve been told,” said the maltster.

“Ay,” said Coggan. “He **admired** her so much that he used to light the **candle** three time a night to look at her.”

“Boundless love; I shouldn’t have supposed it in the universe!” murmured Joseph Poorgrass, who **habitually** spoke on a large scale in his moral reflections.

“Well, to be sure,” said Gabriel.

“Oh, ‘tis true enough. I knowed the man and woman both well. Levi Everdene—that was the man’s name, sure. “Man,” saith I in my hurry, but he were of a higher circle of life than that—’a was a gentleman-tailor really, worth scores of pounds. And he became a very celebrated **bankrupt** two or three times.”

“Oh, I thought he was quite a common man!” said Joseph.

“Oh no, no! That man failed for **heaps** of money; hundreds in gold and silver.”

The maltster being rather short of breath, Mr. Coggan, after absently scrutinising a coal which had fallen among the ashes, **took** up the narrative, with a private **twirl** of his eye:—

Thesaurus

admired: (*adj*) respected, admirable, estimable, favorite, pet, beloved, honored, August, loved, accepted, popular. ANTONYM: (*adj*) disreputable.

bankrupt: (*v*) ruin, break, impoverish, deprive; (*adj*) broke, destitute, poor, impoverished; (*n*) bankruptcy, failure, insolvency. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rich, profiting, flourishing, wealthy; (*v*) enrich.

candle: (*n*) candela, light, taper,

bougie, CD, candlepower, lamp, wax light, Standard candle; (*v*) examine, illuminate.

habitually: (*adv*) usually, ordinarily, normally, generally, regularly, frequently, commonly, routinely, wontedly, conventionally, commonplacely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unusually, seldom, erratically, exceptionally, occasionally.

heaps: (*adj, n*) lots, much; (*n*) masses, oodles, piles, stacks, many, tons,

plenty, lot, accumulation.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) inadequate.

shepherd: (*n*) clergyman, sheepman, minister, herdsman, sheepherder, priest, presbyter; (*v*) lead, conduct, guide, guard.

took: (*adj*) taken; (*v*) receive.

townsfolk: (*n*) borough, town, municipality.

twirl: (*n, v*) twist, turn, roll, coil, whirl, curl, wheel, swirl; (*v*) twiddle, pivot; (*n*) rotation.

“Well, now, you’d hardly believe it, but that man—our Miss Everdene’s father—was one of the ficklest husbands alive, after a while. Understand? ‘a didn’t want to be fickle, but he couldn’t help it. The pore **feller** were faithful and true enough to her in his wish, but his heart would **rove**, do what he would. He spoke to me in real **tribulation** about it once. “Coggan,” he said, “I could never wish for a handsomer woman than I’ve got, but feeling she’s ticketed as my lawful wife, I can’t help my wicked heart wandering, do what I will.” But at last I believe he **cured** it by making her take off her wedding-ring and calling her by her maiden name as they sat together after the shop was shut, and so ‘a would get to fancy she was only his sweetheart, and not married to him at all. And as soon as he could thoroughly fancy he was doing wrong and committing the seventh, ‘a got to like her as well as ever, and they lived on a perfect picture of mutel love.”

“Well, ‘twas a most **ungodly** remedy,” murmured Joseph Poorgrass; “but we ought to feel deep cheerfulness that a happy Providence kept it from being any worse. You see, he might have gone the bad road and given his eyes to **unlawfulness** entirely—yes, gross unlawfulness, so to say it.”

“You see,” said Billy Smallbury, “The man’s will was to do right, sure enough, but his heart didn’t **chime** in.”

“He got so much better, that he was quite godly in his later years, wasn’t he, Jan?” said Joseph Poorgrass. “He got himself confirmed over again in a more serious way, and took to saying ‘Amen’ almost as loud as the clerk, and he liked to copy comforting verses from the tombstones. He used, too, to hold the money-plate at Let Your Light so Shine, and stand godfather to poor little come-by-chance children; and he kept a missionary box upon his table to nab folks unawares when they called; yes, and he would box the charity-boys’ ears, if they laughed in church, till they could hardly stand upright, and do other deeds of piety natural to the **saintly** inclined.”

“Ay, at that time he thought of nothing but high things,” added Billy Smallbury. “One day Parson Thirdly met him and said, ‘Good-Morning, Mister

Thesaurus

chime: (*n*) carillon, melody; (*adj*) harmonize; (*v*) go, jingle, clang, peal, tinkle, buzz, ring, chimb.
cured: (*adj*) recovered, corned, aged, mellow, whole, better, pickle cured, salted, vulcanised, well, vulcanized.
feller: (*n*) chap, faller, fella, fellow, lumberjack, logger, dude, Dick, woodcutter, guy, comrade.
godly: (*adj, adv*) holy, saintly; (*adj*) religious, pious, divine, devotional, reverent, pure; (*adv*) piously,

righteously, devoutly. ANTONYM: (*adj*) earthly.
rove: (*v*) gad, ramble, wander, range, gallivant, stray, stroll, tramp, drift, err, meander. ANTONYM: (*v*) settle.
saintly: (*adj, adv*) godly; (*adj*) saintlike, sacred, pious, angelic, sainted, religious, devout, beatific, righteous, divine. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sinful, unholy, wicked, secular.
tribulation: (*n*) trial, misery, distress, ordeal, calamity, trouble, affliction,

suffering, hardship, pain, grief. ANTONYMS: (*n*) peace, ease, opportunity.
ungodly: (*adj*) sinful, irreligious, iniquitous, wicked, profane, godless, blasphemous; (*adj, adv*) unholy; (*adv*) wickedly, impiously, sinfully. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pious, reasonable, sensible, moral, devout, reverent.
unlawfulness: (*n*) illegitimacy, bar sinister, illicitness, injustice; (*adj*) informality.

Everdene; 'tis a fine day!' 'Amen' said Everdene, quite absent-like, thinking only of religion when he seed a **parson**. Yes, he was a very Christian man."

"Their daughter was not at all a pretty chiel at that time," said Henery Fray. "Never should have thought she'd have growed up such a handsome body as she is."

" 'Tis to be hoped her temper is as good as her face."

"Well, yes; but the baily will have most to do with the business and ourselves. Ah!" Henery gazed into the ashpit, and smiled volumes of **ironical** knowledge.

"A **queer** Christian, like the Devil's head in a **cowl**, as the saying is," volunteered Mark Clark.

"He is," said Henery, implying that irony must cease at a certain point. "Between we two, man and man, I believe that man would as soon tell a lie Sundays as working-days—that I do so."

"Good faith, you do talk!" said Gabriel.

"True enough," said the man of bitter moods, looking round upon the company with the **antithetic** laughter that comes from a **keener** appreciation of the miseries of life than ordinary men are capable of. "Ah, there's people of one sort, and people of another, but that man—bless your souls!"

Gabriel thought fit to change the subject. "You must be a very aged man, malter, to have sons growed mild and ancient" he remarked.

"Father's so old that 'a can't mind his age, can ye, father?" **interposed** Jacob. "And he's growed terrible **crooked** too, lately," Jacob continued, **surveying** his father's figure, which was rather more bowed than his own. "Really one may say that father there is three-double."

"Crooked folk will last a long while," said the maltster, grimly, and not in the best humour.

"Shepherd would like to hear the pedigree of yer life, father—wouldn't ye, shepherd?"

Thesaurus

antithetic: (*adj*) antithetical, different, opposing, polar, contradictory.

cowl: (*n*) bonnet, cowl, kerchief, protection, helmet, cow, condition, chock, soe, tonsure.

crooked: (*adj*) bent, corrupt, dishonest, curved, unfair, deformed; (*adj, n, v*) awry; (*adj, v*) irregular, askew, wry, indirect. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) straight, honest, principled, even, aboveboard, lawful, level, moral, flat, aligned, honorable.

interposed: (*adj*) interjacent, intercedent, intervenient, parenthetical, intermediate colors, mediate.

ironical: (*adj*) sarcastic, satirical, dry, burlesque, wry, sardonic, satiric, derisive, caustic, quizzical; (*n*) humorous.

keener: (*v*) Indian giver, floater, repeater.

parson: (*n*) cleric, clergyman, rector, pastor, curate, preacher, ecclesiastic,

divine, priest, vicar, father.

queer: (*adj*) fantastic, odd, eccentric, funny, curious, gay, peculiar, strange, quaint, fishy, outlandish.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) conventional, normal, well.

surveying: (*n*) mensuration, measurement, investigation, triangulation; (*v*) inspect, examine; (*adj*) observant.

“Ay that I should,” said Gabriel with the heartiness of a man who had longed to hear it for several months. “What may your age be, malter?”

The maltster cleared his throat in an exaggerated form for emphasis, and elongating his gaze to the **remotest** point of the ashpit, said, in the slow speech justifiable when the importance of a subject is so generally felt that any **mannerism** must be tolerated in getting at it, “Well, I don’t mind the year I were born in, but perhaps I can reckon up the places I’ve lived at, and so get it that way. I **bode** at Upper Longpuddle across there” (nodding to the north) “till I were eleven. I bode seven at Kingsbere” (nodding to the east) “where I took to malting. I went **therefrom** to Norcombe, and **malted** there two-and-twenty years, and-two-and-twenty years I was there turnip-hoeing and **harvesting**. Ah, I knowed that old place, Norcombe, years afore you were thought of, Master Oak” (Oak smiled sincere belief in the fact). “Then I malted at Durnover four year, and four year turnip-hoeing; and I was **fourteen** times eleven months at Millpond St. Jude’s” (nodding north-west-by-north). “Old Twills wouldn’t hire me for more than eleven months at a time, to keep me from being chargeable to the parish if so be I was disabled. Then I was three year at Mellstock, and I’ve been here one-and-thirty year come Candlemas. How much is that?”

“Hundred and seventeen,” chuckled another old gentleman, given to mental arithmetic and little conversation, who had hitherto sat **unobserved** in a corner.

“Well, then, that’s my age,” said the maltster, emphatically.

“O no, father!” said Jacob. “Your turnip-hoeing were in the summer and your malting in the winter of the same years, and ye don’t ought to count-both **halves** father.”

“Chok’ it all! I lived through the summers, didn’t I? That’s my question. I suppose ye’ll say next I be no age at all to speak of?”

“Sure we shan’t,” said Gabriel, **soothingly**.

“Ye be a very old aged person, malter,” **attested** Jan Coggan, also soothingly. “We all know that, and ye must have a wonderful talented constitution to be able to live so long, mustn’t he, neighbours?”

Thesaurus

attested: (*adj*) authenticated, documented, sworn, authoritative, avowed, genuine, historical, valid, attested to, guaranteed.
bode: (*v*) augur, portend, presage, foretell, foreshadow, betoken, bespeak, predict, signal, prognosticate, prophesy.
fourteen: (*adj, n*) XIV.
halves: (*n*) semi, share.
harvesting: (*n*) gathering, gather, harvest home, crop, reap, plucking,

harvests, ingathering, reaping, farming, harvest time.
malted: (*n*) malt, shake, milkshake, malted milk, malt liquor.
mannerism: (*n*) airs, habit, foible, characteristic, affectation, trick, attitude, pose, affected manner, manner; (*adj*) individuality.
remotest: (*adj*) furthest, uttermost, endmost, extreme, last, utmost.
soothingly: (*adv*) softly, quietly, calmingly, lullingly, lightly, tenderly,

kindly, blandly, calmly, comfortingly, sedatively.
therefrom: (*adv*) therefore, thereof, hence; (*adj*) redundancy, strictly, exact, expected, likeness, deportment, coincidence, accurate.
unobserved: (*adj, v*) unseen; (*v*) unheeded, unregarded, unthought of, unperceived; (*adj*) ignored, not noticed, hidden, unmarked, unnoted; (*adv*) secretly. ANTONYM: (*adj*) evident.

“True, true; ye must, malter, wonderful,” said the meeting unanimously.

The maltster, being now **pacified**, was even generous enough to voluntarily **disparage** in a slight degree the virtue of having lived a great many years, by mentioning that the cup they were drinking out of was three years older than he.

While the cup was being examined, the end of Gabriel Oak’s flute became visible over his smock-frock pocket, and Henery Fray exclaimed, “Surely, shepherd, I seed you blowing into a great flute by now at Casterbridge?”

“You did,” said Gabriel, blushing faintly. “I’ve been in great trouble, neighbours, and was driven to it. I used not to be so poor as I be now.”

“Never mind, heart!” said Mark Clark. You should take it careless-like, shepherd, and your time will come. But we could thank ye for a tune, if ye bain’t too tired?”

“Neither drum nor **trumpet** have I heard since Christmas,” said Jan Coggan. “Come, raise a tune, Master Oak!”

“Ay, that I will,” said Gabriel, pulling out his flute and putting it together. “A poor tool, neighbours; but such as I can do ye shall have and welcome.”

Oak then struck up “Jockey to the Fair,” and played that **sparkling** melody three times through **accenting** the notes in the third round in a most artistic and lively manner by bending his body in small jerks and **tapping** with his foot to beat time.

“He can blow the flute very well—that ‘a can,” said a young married man, who having no individuality worth mentioning was known as “Susan Tall’s husband.” He continued, “I’d as **lief** as not be able to blow into a flute as well as that.”

“He’s a clever man, and ‘tis a true comfort for us to have such a shepherd,” murmured Joseph Poorgrass, in a soft cadence. “We ought to feel full o’ **thanksgiving** that he’s not a player of ba’dy songs ‘instead of these merry tunes; for ‘twould have been just as easy for God to have made the shepherd a loose low man—a man of **iniquity**, so to speak it—as what he is. Yes, for our **wives’** and daughters’ sakes we should feel real thanks giving.”

Thesaurus

accenting: (*n*) action, accentuation.
disparage: (*v*) depreciate, deprecate, belittle, derogate, decry, censure, condemn, criticize; (*n, v*) disgrace, discredit, defame. ANTONYMS: (*v*) praise, compliment, flatter, approve, commend, respect, laud.
iniquity: (*adj, n*) depravity; (*n*) inequity, wickedness, immorality, injustice, crime, sin, vice, darkness, villainy, sinfulness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) goodness, good.

lief: (*adj, v*) leif; (*adv*) fain, willingly; (*adj*) glad, acceptable.
pacified: (*adj*) appeased.
sparkling: (*adj, v*) effervescent; (*adj*) bright, brilliant, radiant, glittery, bubbly, glittering, scintillating, shining, scintillant; (*n*) sparkle. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, dirty, lifeless, lethargic.
tapping: (*n*) draining of the furnace, paracentesis, to tap, tick, tapotement, sound, patter, drainage, clapping,

casting, restriking.
thanksgiving: (*n*) benediction, grace, acknowledgment, thanks, recognition, gratitude, prayer, saving grace, approval, gracility, grace of God.
trumpet: (*n*) horn, cornet, bugle, clarion, trump, brass, trombone; (*v*) proclaim, promulgate, show off, blare.
wives: (*n*) woman.

“True, true,—real thanksgiving!” dashed in Mark Clark **conclusively**, not feeling it to be of any consequence to his opinion that he had only heard about a word and three-quarters of what Joseph had said.

“Yes,” added Joseph, beginning to feel like a man in the Bible; “for evil do thrive so in these times that ye may be as much **deceived** in the cleanest **shaved** and whitest shirted man as in the raggedest tramp upon the **turnpike**, if I may term it so.”

“Ay, I can mind yer face now, shepherd,” said Henery Fray, criticising Gabriel with misty eyes as he entered upon his second tune. “Yes—now I see ‘ee blowing into the flute I know ‘ee to be the same man I see play at Casterbridge, for yer mouth were scrimped up and yer eyes a-staring out like a **strangled** man’s—just as they be now.”

“‘Tis a pity that playing the flute should make a man look such a scarecrow,” observed Mr. Mark Clark, with additional criticism of Gabriel’s countenance, the latter person **jerking** out, with the ghastly **grimace** required by the instrument, the chorus of “Dame Durden:” —

‘Twas Moll’ and Bet’, and Doll’ and Kate’,
And Dor’-othy Drag’-gle Tail’.

“I hope you don’t mind that young man’s bad manners in **naming** your features?” whispered Joseph to Gabriel.

“Not at all,” said Mr. Oak.

“For by nature ye be a very handsome man, shepherd,” continued Joseph Poorgrass, with winning sauvity.

“Ay, that ye be, shepard,” said the company.

“Thank you very much,” said Oak, in the modest tone good manners demanded, thinking, however, that he would never let Bathsheba see him playing the flute; in this resolve showing a discretion equal to that related to its **sagacious** inventress, the divine Minerva herself.

Thesaurus

conclusively: (*adv*) decisively, convincingly, ultimately, definitively, absolutely, lastly, concludingly, determinately, categorically, cogently, decidedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unconvincingly, questionably, arguably.

deceived: (*adj*) mistaken, misguided.

grimace: (*n, v*) scowl, glower, sneer, smile, roar; (*n*) face, mop, mouth, expression; (*v*) pull a face, wince.

jerking: (*adj*) arrhythmic,

arrhythmical, jerky, unsteady; (*n*) movement, jolt, dork, jar.

naming: (*n*) appointment, identification, denomination, appellation, nomination, indication, delegacy, assignment, mention; (*adj, n*) appellative; (*adj*) designating.

sagacious: (*adj, v*) judicious, prudent, discreet; (*adj*) rational, astute, acute, discerning, keen, perspicacious, intelligent, shrewd. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) foolish, stupid, dense.

shaved: (*adj*) shave, lacking hair, hairless, beardless, shiny on top, bald, smooth on top, whiskerless. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unshaven.

strangled: (*adj*) smothered, completely covered, muffled, suppressed; (*v*) bowstringed.

turnpike: (*n*) superhighway, motorway, freeway, expressway, road, pike, highway, hayfork, pick, royal road, state highway.

“Ah, when I and my wife were married at Norcombe Church,” said the old maltster, not pleased at finding himself left out of the subject, “we were called the handsomest couple in the neighbourhood—everybody said so.”

“Danged if ye bain’t altered now, malter,” said a voice with the vigour natural to the **enunciation** of a remarkably evident **truism**. It came from the old man in the background, whose **offensiveness** and spiteful ways were barely atoned for by the occasional chuckle he contributed to general laughs.

“O no, no,” said Gabriel.

“Don’t ye play no more shepherd” said Susan Tall’s husband, the young married man who had spoken once before. “I must be moving and when there’s tunes going on I seem as if hung in wires. If I thought after I’d left that music was still playing, and I not there, I should be quite melancholy-like.”

“What’s yer hurry then, Laban?” inquired Coggan. “You used to **bide** as late as the latest.”

“Well, ye see, neighbours, I was lately married to a woman, and she’s my vocation now, and so ye see— —” The young man halted **lamely**.

“New Lords new laws, as the saying is, I suppose,” remarked Coggan.

“Ay, ‘a b’lieve—ha, ha!” said Susan Tall’s husband, in a tone intended to imply his habitual reception of jokes without minding them at all. The young man then wished them good-night and withdrew.

Henery Fray was the first to follow. Then Gabriel **arose** and went off with Jan Coggan, who had offered him a lodging. A few minutes later, when the remaining ones were on their legs and about to depart, Fray came back again in a hurry. Flourishing his finger ominously he threw a gaze **teeming** with **tidings** just where his eye alighted by accident, which happened to be in Joseph Poorgrass’s face.

“O—what’s the matter, what’s the matter, Henery?” said Joseph, starting back.

“What’s a-brewing, Henrey?” asked Jacob and Mark Clark.

Thesaurus

arose: (*v*) happen, occur.

bide: (*v*) abide, await, endure, bear, remain, last, dwell; (*adj, v*) tarry, wait; (*adj*) tolerate, stand. ANTONYMS: (*v*) go, move, hurry.

enunciation: (*n*) delivery, elocution, articulation, pronunciation, speech, declaration, announcement, accent, assertion, inflection, expression.

lamely: (*adv*) crippledly, limpingly, disabledly, weakly, haltingly, poorly, hobblingly, paralytically, infirmly,

faintly, unsatisfactorily.

offensiveness: (*n*) distastefulness, coarseness, blatancy, insolence, meanness, obnoxiousness, ugliness, bad taste, disgustingness, cruelty, extreme unpalatability.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) decency, tastefulness, propriety, kindness, pleasantness.

teeming: (*adj*) abundant, profuse, swarming, crowded, overflowing, exuberant, copious, plentiful,

productive, prolific, multitudinous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) deserted, lacking, needing, wanting, clear, scarce, scanty.

tidings: (*n*) intelligence, information, message, report, word, advice, communication, dispute, wind, statement, tidings.

truism: (*n*) platitude, commonplace, banality, aphorism, theorem, proverb, adage, maxim, cliché, scholium, saying.

"Baily Pennyways – Baily Pennyways – I said so; yes, I said so!"

"What, found out **stealing** anything?"

"Stealing it is. The news is, that after Miss Everdene got home she went out again to see all was safe, as she usually do, and coming in found Baily Pennyways creeping down the **granary** steps with half a **bushel** of **barley**. She fled at him like a cat – never such a **tomboy** as she is – of course I speak with closed doors?"

"You do – you do, Henery."

"She fled at him, and, to cut a long story short, he owned to having carried off five sack altogether, upon her promising not to **persecute** him. Well, he's turned out neck and crop, and my question is, who's going to be baily now?"

The question was such a profound one that Henery was obliged to drink there and then from the large cup till the bottom was distinctly visible inside. Before he had replaced it on the table, in came the young man, Susan Tall's husband, in a still greater hurry.

"Have ye heard the news that's all over parish?"

"About Baily Pennyways?"

"But besides that?"

"No – not a morsel of it!" they replied, looking into the very **midst** of Laban Tall as if to meet his words half-way down his throat.

"What a night of horrors!" murmured Joseph Poorgrass, waving his hands **spasmodically**. "I've had the news-bell ringing in my left ear quite bad enough for a murder, and I've seen a **magpie** all alone!"

"Fanny Robin – Miss Everdene's youngest servant – can't be found. They've been wanting to lock up the door these two hours, but she isn't come in. And they don't know what to do about going to bed for fear of **locking** her out. They wouldn't be so concerned if she hadn't been **noticed** in such low spirits these last few days, and Maryann d' think the beginning of a crowner's inquest has happened to the poor girl."

Thesaurus

barley: (*n*) barleycorn, bear, bere, oats, cereal, grain, barley fodder.

bushel: (*v*) repair, mend, fix, doctor; (*n*) basket, handbasket, mountain, filling; (*adj*) cargo, darned, filled.

granary: (*n*) garner, warehouse, storage, grange, store, storehouse, cornloft, depot, farm, lathe, entrepot.

locking: (*n*) lockup, bolting, interlocking, engagement, cordoning off, closing off, binding, guarding.

magpie: (*n*) pie, chatterbox, gossip,

mag, babbler, chatterer, prater, cotinga, accumulator; (*v*) parrot, poll.

midst: (*adj, n*) middle; (*adv*) mid, between; (*prep*) among, amid; (*n*) core, center, thick, interior, heart, waist.

noticed: (*adj*) noted.

persecute: (*v*) molest, chase, badger, harry, follow, plague, bait, afflict, beset; (*adj, v*) oppress; (*adj*) aggrieve. ANTONYMS: (*v*) comfort, support.

spasmodically: (*adv*) convulsively,

fitfully, intermittently, irregularly, desultorily, brokenly, frequently, spastically, startlingly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) recurrently.

stealing: (*n*) pilferage, larceny, theft, steal, burglary, misappropriation, embezzlement, stolen, thievery, pilfering, thieving.

tomboy: (*adj*) rough diamond, unlicked cub; (*n*) romp, girl, fille, play, missy, laugher, hoiden, frolic, tomrig.

"Oh—'tis burned—'tis burned!" came from Joseph Poorgrass's dry lips.

"No—'tis drowned!" said Tall.

"Or 'tis her father's razor!" suggested Billy Smallbury, with a vivid sense of detail.

"Well—Miss Everdene wants to speak to one or two of us before we go to bed. What with this trouble about the baily, and now about the girl, mis'ess is almost wild."

They all **hastened** up the lane to the **farmhouse**, **excepting** the old maltster, whom neither news, fire, rain, nor thunder could draw from his hole. There, as the others' **footsteps** died away he sat down again and continued gazing as usual into the **furnace** with his red, bleared eyes.

From the bedroom window above their heads Bathsheba's head and shoulders, **robed in mystic** white, were dimly seen extended into the air.

"Are any of my men among you?" she said **anxiously**.

"Yes, ma'am, several," said Susan Tall's husband.

"To-morrow morning I wish two or three of you to make inquiries in the villages round if they have seen such a person as Fanny Robin. Do it quietly; there is no reason for alarm as yet. She must have left whilst we were all at the fire."

"I beg yer pardon, but had she any young man courting her in the parish, ma'am?" asked Jacob Smallbury.

"I don't know," said Bathsheba.

"I've never heard of any such thing, ma'am," said two or three.

"It is hardly likely, either," continued Bathsheba. "For any lover of hers might have come to the house if he had been a respectable lad. The most mysterious matter connected with her absence—indeed, the only thing which gives me serious alarm—is that she was seen to go out of the house by Maryann with only her indoor working **gown** on—not even a bonnet."

Thesaurus

anxiously: (*adv*) uneasily, restlessly, carefully, worriedly, fearfully, nervously, concernedly, solicitously, timidly, keenly, enthusiastically.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) calmly, confidently, merrily, indifferently, fearlessly, nonchalantly, patiently, unconcernedly.
excepting: (*conj, prep*) but, bar; (*n, prep*) except for, exclusive of; (*prep*) aside from, besides, apart from, barring, excluding, with the exception of; (*v*)

saving. **ANTONYM:** (*prep*) including.
farmhouse: (*n*) toft, farmstead, hacienda, house, cottage, manor, grange, homestead, building, accommodation, bungalow.
footsteps: (*n*) road, footprints, way, trail, path, track, footpath.
furnace: (*n*) forge, heater, blast furnace, fireplace, hearth, stove, oven, kiln, electric furnace, cupola, crematorium.
gown: (*n*) robe, clothing, cassock,

vestment, wrapper, overclothes, outerwear, uniform, tunic, clothes; (*v*) clothe.
hastened: (*adj*) careless.
mystic: (*adj, v*) secret, recondite; (*adj*) mysterious, occult, cryptical, cryptic, esoteric, inscrutable, weird, magical; (*adj, n*) psychic.
robed: (*adj, v*) garmented, habilimented, dressed, appareled, clothed, garbed, fixed, dolled up, clad, polished, vested.

“And you mean, ma’am, **excusing** my words, that a young woman would hardly go to see her young man without dressing up,” said Jacob, turning his mental vision upon past experiences. “That’s true—she would not, ma’am.”

“She had, I think, a bundle, though I couldn’t see very well,” said a female voice from another window, which seemed that of Maryann. “But she had no young man about here. **Hers** lives in Casterbridge, and I believe he’s a soldier.”

“Do you know his name?” Bathsheba said.

“No, mistress; she was very close about it.”

“Perhaps I might be able to find out if I went to Casterbridge barracks,” said William Smallbury.

“Very well; if she doesn’t return tomorrow, mind you go there and try to discover which man it is, and see him. I feel more responsible than I should if she had had any friends or relations alive. I do hope she has come to no harm through a man of that kind.... And then there’s this **disgraceful** affair of the bailiff—but I can’t speak of him now.”

Bathsheba had so many reasons for uneasiness that it seemed she did not think it worth while to **dwell** upon any particular one. “Do as I told you, then,” she said in conclusion, closing the **casement**.

“Ay, ay, mistress; we will,” they replied, and moved away.

That night at Coggan’s, Gabriel Oak, beneath the screen of closed eyelids, was busy with **fancies**, and full of movement, like a river flowing rapidly under its ice. Night had always been the time at which he saw Bathsheba most vividly, and through the slow hours of shadow he **tenderly** regarded her image now. It is rarely that the **pleasures** of the imagination will compensate for the pain of **sleeplessness**, but they possibly did with Oak to-night, for the delight of merely seeing her **effaced** for the time his perception of the great difference between seeing and possessing.

He also thought of plans for **fetching** his few utensils and books from Norcombe. *The Young Man’s Best Companion, The Farrier’s Sure Guide, The Veterinary Surgeon, Paradise Lost, The Pilgrim’s Progress, Robinson Crusoe, Ash’s*

Thesaurus

casement: (*n*) embrasure, casement cloth.

disgraceful: (*adj*) dishonorable, scandalous, shocking, degrading, disreputable, infamous, base, ignominious, outrageous, black, ignoble. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) admirable, honorable, reputable, exalted, commendable, respectable, noble, glorious.

dwell: (*adj, v*) inhabit; (*v*) reside, bide, live, stay, lodge, delay, occupy,

continue, be, settle. ANTONYM: (*v*) wander.

effaced: (*adj*) obliterated.

excusing: (*n*) defense; (*adj*) exculpatory, lenient, extenuating, easy, tolerant.

fancies: (*n*) stock.

fetching: (*adj*) attractive, engaging, tempting, winning, fetch, charming, catching, catchy, taking, fetchingly, fascinating. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unattractive, repulsive, ugly.

hers: (*pron*) she, his; (*adj*) own.

pleasures: (*n*) pleasure.

sleeplessness: (*n*) wakefulness, restlessness, nerves, insomnia, disquietude, unrest; (*v*) vigil. ANTONYM: (*n*) sleepiness.

tenderly: (*adv*) softly, kindly, delicately, affectionately, fondly, warmly, painfully, sensitively, caringly, sympathetically, gently. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) roughly, severely, disapprovingly, harshly.

Dictionary, the *Walkingame's Arithmetic*, **constituted** his **library**; and though a **limited** series, it was one from which he had **acquired** more sound information by **diligent perusal** than many a man of opportunities has done from a **furlong** of **laden** shelves.

Thesaurus

acquired: (*adj*) acquisitive, acquisite, extrinsic, noninheritable, derivative.

constituted: (*adj*) habitual, planted, legitimate, grooved, accomplished, official.

diligent: (*adj*) busy, active, assiduous, painstaking, careful, earnest, studious, attentive, laborious, industrious, zealous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) careless, negligent, dilatory, idle, inactive, languid, slack, sluggish, lethargic, weary, indolent.

furlong: (*v*) yard, rood, pole, palm, nail, line, inch, hand, fathom, cubit, foot.

laden: (*adj*) burdened, full, loaded, ladened, filled, hampered, heavy, charged, encumbered; (*v*) lade, load. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) empty, lacking.

library: (*n*) program library, collection, depository library, atheneum, athenaeum, room, repository, series, public library, study, subroutine library.

limited: (*adj*) circumscribed, qualified, special, moderate, insular, slender, bounded, scanty, narrow, specific, particular. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) open, infinite, limitless, complete, wide, unlimited, extensive, vague, adequate, ample, diverse.

perusal: (*n*) examination, scrutiny, study, survey, inspection, poring over, studying, literary scholarship, perusing, lection, look.

CHAPTER IX

THE HOMESTEAD—A VISITOR—HALF- CONFIDENCES

By daylight, the Bower of Oak's new-found mistress, Bathsheba Everdene, presented itself as a **hoary** building, of the early stage of Classic Renaissance as regards its architecture, and of a proportion which told at a glance that, as is so frequently the case, it had once been the memorial hall upon a small estate around it, now altogether effaced as a distinct property, and **merged** in the vast **tract** of a non-resident landlord, which comprised several such modest demesnes.

Fluted pilasters, worked from the solid stone, decorated its front, and above the **roof** the **chimneys** were panelled or **columnar**, some coped gables with finials and like features still retaining traces of their Gothic extraction. Soft brown mosses, like faded **velveteen**, formed cushions upon the stone **tiling**, and tufts of the houseleek or sengreen sprouted from the **eaves** of the low surrounding buildings. A gravel walk leading from the door to the road in front was **encrusted** at the sides with more moss—here it was a silver-green variety, the nut-brown of the gravel being visible to the width of only a foot or two in the centre. This circumstance, and the generally **sleepy** air of the whole prospect

Thesaurus

chimneys: (*n*) chimney.

columnar: (*adj*) columned, stelene, columnlike, columniform, basaltiform.

eaves: (*n*) arch, balcony, cupola, dome, penthouse, eave, overhang, attic, loft, projection, roof space.

encrusted: (*adj*) crusted, crustlike, covered, smudged, dirty, filthy, peeling, grubby, soiled, flaking, curmudgeonly. ANTONYM: (*adj*) smooth.

hoary: (*adj*) ancient, hoar, old, white, grey, elderly, musty, dull, canescent, antique, archaic.

merged: (*adj*) integrated, amalgamated, unified, incorporate, united, fused, combined, interconnected, mixed, intermingled, complex.

roof: (*n, v*) top, cover, shelter; (*n*) crown, housing, ceiling, dome, house, household, back, covering.

sleepy: (*adj*) drowsy, dozy, slow, lazy,

hypnotic, inactive, comatose, dull, heavy, dreamy; (*adv*) asleep.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) awake, energetic, vigorous, clear, lively, refreshed.

tiling: (*n*) planchment, patching, plafond, barrack, tile, shed, leads, tile covering, slating, slates, covering.

tract: (*n*) region, area, expanse, essay, pamphlet, section, extent, district, dissertation, plot, lot.

velveteen: (*adj*) velumen, textile, material, fabric, cloth.

here, together with the animated and contrasting state of the reverse facade, suggested to the imagination that on the adaptation of the building for farming purposes the vital principle of the house had turned round inside its body to face the other way. Reversals of this kind, strange deformities, tremendous paralyses, are often seen to be inflicted by trade upon edifices—either individual or in the aggregate as streets and towns—which were originally planned for pleasure alone.

Lively voices were heard this morning in the upper rooms, the main staircase to which was of hard oak, the **balusters**, heavy as bed-posts, being turned and moulded in the quaint fashion of their century, the **handrail** as stout as a parapet-top, and the stairs themselves continually twisting round like a person trying to look over his shoulder. Going up, the **floors** above were found to have a very irregular surface, rising to ridges, sinking into valleys; and being just then uncarpeted, the face of the boards was seen to be **eaten** into innumerable vermiculations. Every window replied by a **clang** to the opening and shutting of every door, a tremble followed every bustling movement, and a **creak** accompanied a walker about the house, like a spirit, wherever he went.

In the room from which the conversation **proceeded** Bathsheba and her servant-companion, Liddy Smallbury were to be discovered sitting upon the floor, and sorting a complication of papers, books, bottles, and rubbish spread out thereon—remnants from the household stores of the late occupier. Liddy, the maltster's great-granddaughter, was about Bathsheba's equal in age, and her face was a prominent advertisement of the light-hearted English country girl. The beauty her features might have lacked in form was amply made up for by perfection of hue, which at this winter-time was the softened **ruddiness** on a surface of high **rotundity** that we meet with in a Terburg or a Gerard Douw; and, like the presentations of those great colourists, it was a face which kept well back from the boundary between **comeliness** and the ideal. Though elastic in nature she was less daring than Bathsheba, and occasionally showed some **earnestness**, which consisted half of genuine feeling, and half of **mannerliness** superadded by way of duty.

Thesaurus

balusters: (*n*) bannister, banister, handrail, balustrade.

clang: (*n, v*) chime, clangor, ring, clash, clank, clatter, sound; (*adj, n, v*) peal; (*v*) boom, clink; (*n*) crash.

comeliness: (*n*) charm, grace, loveliness, fairness, beauteousness, attractiveness, pulchritude, goodliness, blondness, mense, form.

creak: (*v*) pipe, screech, twang, skreigh, resound, jangle, gnash, confess; (*n*) creaking; (*adv*)

creakingly; (*adj*) ancient.

earnestness: (*n*) seriousness, sincerity, gravity, fervor, devotion, graveness, staidness, honesty; (*adj, n*) ardor, zeal, intentness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) slackness, lightness, carelessness, frivolousness, cheerfulness, insincerity, flippancy.

eaten: (*v*) eat.

floors: (*adj*) floored.

handrail: (*n*) balustrade, banister, bannister, railing, balusters, parapet,

bar, rail, hand rail, barrier, grab rail.

mannerliness: (*n*) civility, gentility.

proceeded: (*v*) proceed, yode.

rotundity: (*n*) corpulence, rondure, globularness, globosity, roundness, circularity, obesity, embonpoint, plumpness, fullness, corpulency.

ruddiness: (*n*) flush, rosiness, glow, complexion, skin color, rubicundity, redness, color, complexion, high color, pinkness. ANTONYM: (*n*) pallor.

Through a partly-opened door the noise of a **scrubbing**-brush led up to the **charwoman**, Maryann Money, a person who for a face had a circular disc, **furrowed** less by age than by long gazes of **perplexity** at distant objects. To think of her was to get good-humoured; to speak of her was to raise the image of a dried Normandy pippin.

“Stop your scrubbing a moment,” said Bathsheba through the door to her. “I hear something.”

Maryann suspended the brush.

The tramp of a horse was apparent, approaching the front of the building. The paces **slackened**, turned in at the wicket, and, what was most unusual, came up the **mossy** path close to the door. The door was tapped with the end of a crop or stick.

“What impertinence!” said Liddy, in a low voice. “To ride up the footpath like that! Why didn’t he stop at the gate? Lord! ‘Tis a gentleman! I see the top of his hat.”

“Be quiet!” said Bathsheba.

The further expression of Liddy’s concern was continued by aspect instead of narrative.

“Why doesn’t Mrs. Coggan go to the door?” Bath-sheba continued.

Rat-tat-tat-tat resounded more decisively from Bath-sheba’s oak.

“Maryann, you go!” said she, **fluttering** under the onset of a crowd of romantic possibilities.

“Oh ma’am—see, here’s a mess!”

The argument was **unanswerable** after a glance at Maryann.

“Liddy—you must,” said Bathsheba.

Liddy held up her hands and arms, coated with dust from the rubbish they were sorting, and looked **imploringly** at her mistress.

“There—Mrs. Coggan is going!” said Bathsheba, **exhaling** her relief in the form of a long breath which had lain in her bosom a minute or more.

Thesaurus

charwoman: (*n*) cleaning woman, char, cleaning lady, woman, charlady, hack, cleaner, maidservant, maid, housemaid, domestic.

exhaling: (*adj*) expiring, ending, dying, breathing.

fluttering: (*adj*) flying, palpitating, fluttering, flaring, aflare, waving; (*n*) flutter, flapping, flicker, flitting; (*adv*) flutteringly.

furrowed: (*adj*) wrinkled, lined, wrinkly, crumpled, corrugated,

corrugate, furrowy, porcate, rugged, uneven. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unfurrowed.

imploringly: (*adv*) beseechingly, pleadingly, importunately, beggingly, suppliantly, appealingly.

mossy: (*adj*) floral, mosslike, moldy, hoary, musty, covered, musciform, stodgy, hoar, chromatic, canescent.

perplexity: (*n*) confusion, dilemma, bewilderment, maze, labyrinth, embarrassment, quandary,

complication, enigma; (*adj, n*) difficulty, distress. ANTONYM: (*n*) understanding.

scrubbing: (*n*) scrub, stripping, cleaning, bush, cleansing, cleanup, mopping, sanitizing, bath, chaparral.

slackened: (*adj*) leisurely.

unanswerable: (*adj*) irrefutable, final, incontestable, irresponsible, incontrovertible, indisputable, decisive, ultimate, undeniable, not refragable; (*v*) probative.

The door opened, and a deep voice said—

“Is Miss Everdene at home?”

“I’ll see, sir,” said Mrs. Coggan, and in a minute appeared in the room.

“Dear, what a thirtover place this world is!” continued Mrs. Coggan (a wholesome-looking lady who had a voice for each class of remark according to the emotion involved; who could toss a **pancake** or twirl a mop with the accuracy of pure mathematics, and who at this moment showed hands **shaggy** with fragments of **dough** and arms encrusted with flour). “I am never up to my elbows, Miss, in making a **pudding** but one of two things do happen—either my nose must needs begin tickling, and I can’t live without scratching it, or somebody knocks at the door. Here’s Mr. Boldwood wanting to see you, Miss Everdene.”

A woman’s dress being a part of her countenance, and any disorder in the one being of the same nature with a **malformation** or wound in the other, Bathsheba said at once—

“I can’t see him in this state. Whatever shall I do?”

Not-at-homes were hardly **naturalized** in Weatherbury farmhouses, so Liddy suggested—“Say you’re a fright with dust, and can’t come down.”

“Yes—that sounds very well,” said Mrs. Coggan, critically.

“Say I can’t see him—that will do.”

Mrs. Coggan went downstairs, and returned the answer as requested, adding, however, on her own responsibility, “Miss is **dusting** bottles, sir, and is quite a object—that’s why ‘tis.”

“Oh, very well,” said the deep voice **indifferently**. “All I wanted to ask was, if anything had been heard of Fanny Robin?”

“Nothing, sir—but we may know to-night. William Smallbury is gone to Casterbridge, where her young man lives, as is supposed, and the other men be inquiring about everywhere.”

The horse’s tramp then recommenced and **retreated**, and the door closed.

Thesaurus

dough: (*n*) cash, money, batter, kale, lucre, pastry, pelf, shekels, gelt; (*adj*) clay, butter.

dusting: (*n*) sprinkling, dry spraying, film, coating.

indifferently: (*adv*) carelessly, coldly, nonchalantly, listlessly, unconcernedly, uninterestedly, neutrally, middlingly, casually, unbiasedly, disinterestedly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) passionately, obsessively, carefully, eagerly,

energetically, warmly, anxiously, enthusiastically, sympathetically.

malformation: (*n*) freak, distortion, disfigurement, defect, abnormality, monstrosity, clubfoot, deformation, anamorphosis, contortion, fault.

naturalized: (*adj*) established, vernacular, accomplished, constituted, conventional, domesticated, exotic, foreign, planted, firm, effected.

pancake: (*n*) hot cake, flapjack, bliny,

hotcake, battercake, blini, blintz, blintze, flapcake; (*v*) ashcake; (*n, v*) crash.

pudding: (*n*) dessert, sweet, duff, flummery, custard; (*adj*) pap, jam, curd, clay, butter, dough.

retreated: (*adj*) withdrawn, people.

shaggy: (*adj*) bushy, hirsute, hairy, bearded, shagged, pilous, brushy, unkempt, hispid; (*adj, n*) ragged; (*n*) rugged. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sleek, tidy.

"Who is Mr. Boldwood?" said Bathsheba.

"A gentleman-farmer at Little Weatherbury."

"Married?"

"No, miss."

"How old is he?"

"Forty, I should say – very handsome – rather stern-looking – and rich."

"What a bother this dusting is! I am always in some unfortunate plight or other," Bathsheba said, **complainingly**. "Why should he **inquire** about Fanny?"

"Oh, because, as she had no friends in her childhood, he took her and put her to school, and got her her place here under your uncle. He's a very kind man that way, but Lord – there!"

"What?"

"Never was such a hopeless man for a woman! He's been courted by sixes and sevens – all the girls, gentle and simple, for miles round, have tried him. Jane Perkins worked at him for two months like a slave, and the two Miss Taylors spent a year upon him, and he cost Farmer Ives's daughter nights of tears and twenty pounds' worth of new clothes; but Lord – the money might as well have been thrown out of the window."

A little boy came up at this moment and looked in upon them. This child was one of the Coggans, who, with the Smallburys, were as common among the families of this district as the Avons and Derwents among our rivers. He always had a **loosened** tooth or a cut finger to show to particular friends, which he did with an air of being thereby **elevated** above the common **herd** of afflictionless humanity – to which exhibition people were expected to say "Poor child!" with a **dash** of **congratulation** as well as pity.

"I've got a pen-nee!" said Master Coggan in a **scanning** measure.

"Well – who gave it you, Teddy?" said Liddy.

"Mis-terr Bold-wood! He gave it to me for opening the gate."

"What did he say?"

Thesaurus

complainingly: (*adv*) querulously, petulantly, grumpily, grouchily, peevishly, crabbilily, crossly, tetchily, cantankerously, crankily, complaining. ANTONYM: (*adv*) calmly.

congratulation: (*n*) compliment, greeting, congratulate, congratulations, acknowledgement, gratulation, acknowledgment.

dash: (*adj, n, v*) rush; (*n, v*) touch, sprint, strike, splash, jog; (*v*) dart,

break; (*n*) tinge, beat; (*adj, n*) animation. ANTONYMS: (*v*) dawdle, inspirit, languish, saunter, encourage, linger; (*n*) stagnation, languor, listlessness, mass, dullness.

elevated: (*adj*) exalted, towering, noble, lofty, grand, great, majestic, tall, elated, magnanimous; (*adj, v*) steep. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) base, lowly, decreased, humble, inferior, lessened, low, sunken, undignified, lowered.

herd: (*n, v*) crowd; (*adj*) bevy, many;

(*adj, n, v*) swarm; (*n*) drove, gang, crew, collection, covey, multitude, mob.

inquire: (*v*) demand, ask, explore, enquire, inspect, research, consult, pry, request, wonder; (*n, v*) question. ANTONYM: (*v*) answer.

loosened: (*adj*) disentangled, loose, freed, disengaged, extricated, unsnarled.

scanning: (*n*) search, scan, photography.

"He said, 'Where are you going, my little man?' and I said, 'To Miss Everdene's please,' and he said, 'She is a **staid** woman, isn't she, my little man?' and I said, 'Yes.' "

"You naughty child! What did you say that for?"

" 'Cause he gave me the penny!"

"What a **pucker** everything is in!" said Bathsheba, **discontentedly** when the child had gone. "Get away, Maryann, or go on with your scrubbing, or do something! You ought to be married by this time, and not here **troubling** me!"

"Ay, mistress—so I did. But what between the poor men I won't have, and the rich men who won't have me, I stand as a pelicon in the wilderness!"

"Did anybody ever want to marry you miss?" Liddy ventured to ask when they were again alone. "Lots of 'em, I daresay?"

Bathsheba paused, as if about to refuse a reply, but the temptation to say yes, since it was really in her power was irresistible by **aspiring virginity**, in spite of her **spleen** at having been published as old.

"A man wanted to once," she said, in a highly experienced tone and the image of Gabriel Oak, as the farmer, rose before her.

"How nice it must seem!" said Liddy, with the fixed features of mental realization. "And you wouldn't have him?"

"He wasn't quite good enough for me."

"How sweet to be able to disdain, when most of us are glad to say, 'Thank you!' I seem I hear it. 'No, sir—I'm your better.' or 'Kiss my foot, sir; my face is for mouths of consequence.' And did you love him, miss?"

"Oh, no. But I rather liked him."

"Do you now?"

"Of course not—what footsteps are those I hear?"

Liddy looked from a back window into the courtyard behind, which was now getting **low**-toned and dim with the earliest **films** of night. A crooked file of men was approaching the back door. The whole string of trailing individuals

Thesaurus

aspiring: (*adj*) aspirant, wishful, enterprising, envious, desirous, coming; (*v*) aspire, vaulting.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) desperate.

discontentedly: (*adv*) unhappily, malcontently, displeasably, querulously, disaffectedly, gloomily, sadly, despondently, dejectedly, forlornly, sorrowfully. ANTONYM: (*adv*) contentedly.

films: (*n*) cinema, the stage, theater, silver screen, the boards, pictures.

low-toned: (*adj*) gentle.

pucker: (*n, v*) wrinkle, fold, gather, ruckle; (*v*) crumple, crinkle, furrow, plait, purse, knit, rumple.

ANTONYM: (*v*) smooth.

spleen: (*n*) spite, anger, resentment, rage, lien, malice, bitterness, rancour, huff, grudge, rancor. ANTONYM: (*n*) affection.

staid: (*adj, v*) serious, sedate, grave, solemn, sober, demure; (*adj*) calm, quiet, composed, somber, decorous.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) frivolous, exciting, funny, daring, playful, bright, relaxed.

troubling: (*adj*) worrying, disquieting, distressing, distressful, disconcerting, alarming, perturbing, bad, annoying, sad, worrisome. ANTONYM: (*adj*) reassuring.

virginity: (*n*) maidenhood, pucelage, chastity, purity, maidenhead, pudicity, virtue, freshness, virginhood, innocence, spirit.

advanced in the completest balance of intention, like the remarkable creatures known as Chain Salpae, which, **distinctly organized** in other **respects**, have one will common to a whole family. Some were, as usual, in snow-white smock-frocks of Russia **duck**, and some in whitey-brown ones of drabbet—marked on the wrists, **breasts**, backs, and sleeves with honeycomb-work. Two or three women in pattens brought up the rear.

“The Philistines be upon us,” said Liddy, making her nose white against the glass.

“Oh, very well. Maryann, go down and keep them in the kitchen till I am **dressed**, and then show them in to me in the hall.”

Thesaurus

advanced: (*adj*) progressive, senior, higher, precocious, modern, new, late, superior, ripe, cultured, developed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) inferior, fundamental, slow, traditional, simple, obsolete, neurotic, behind, after, backwards, incomplete.
breasts: (*n*) chest, booby.
distinctly: (*adv*) clearly, particularly, evidently, expressly, obviously, markedly, definitely, precisely, manifestly, separately, decidedly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) inaudibly, faintly, vaguely, silently, imperceptibly, poorly.
dressed: (*adj*) attired, clad, garbed, appareled, spruced up, spiffed up, covered, polished, garmented; (*v*) clothed, habited.
duck: (*adj, n, v*) plunge; (*v*) douse, dodge, dive, evade, circumvent, bob, shirk; (*adj, n*) darling; (*adj, v*) souse; (*n*) canvas. ANTONYMS: (*v*) confront, rise, jump, meet, accept; (*n*)

drake.
organized: (*adj*) organic, systematic, regular, shipshape, orderly, arranged, methodical, ready, efficient, neat, tidy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) muddled, disorganized, haphazard, unorganized, unprepared, spontaneous, unprofessional, disorderly.
respects: (*adj*) aboard, welcome; (*n*) compliments, greeting, compliment, baisemains, devoir, duty.

CHAPTER X

MISTRESS AND MEN

Half-an-hour later Bathsheba, in finished dress, and followed by Liddy, entered the upper end of the old hall to find that her men had all deposited themselves on a long form and a settle at the lower **extremity**. She sat down at a table and opened the time-book, pen in her hand, with a canvas money-bag beside her. From this she **poured** a small **heap** of coin. Liddy chose a position at her **elbow** and began to sew, sometimes pausing and looking round, or with the air of a privileged person, taking up one of the half-sovereigns lying before her and surveying it merely as a work of art, while strictly preventing her countenance from expressing any wish to possess it as money.

“Now before I begin, men,” said Bathsheba, “I have two matters to speak of. The first is that the bailiff is dismissed for **thieving**, and that I have formed a resolution to have no bailiff at all, but to manage everything with my own head and hands.”

The men **breathed** an **audible** breath of **amazement**.

“The next matter is, have you heard anything of Fanny?”

“Nothing, ma’am.”

Thesaurus

amazement: (*n*) admiration, wonder, surprise, consternation, stupefaction, stupor, wonderment, feeling, alarm, jolt; (*v*) amaze. ANTONYMS: (*n*) preparation, indifference, expectation, coolness, cool, composure, calmness, contempt, belief.

audible: (*adj*) plain, hearable, distinct, detectable, sounding, sharp, sonic, definite, discernible, perceptible, sensory. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

inaudible, unintelligible, undetectable, silent, faint.

breathed: (*adj*) unvoiced, inaudible, breathing, aphonic.

elbow: (*n, v*) poke, nudge, jolt; (*n*) cubitus, elbow joint, angle, articulation; (*v*) jostle, push, shove, crowd.

extremity: (*n*) end, member, boundary, bound, close, appendage, limit, limb, ending, fringe, conclusion. ANTONYMS: (*n*) trunk,

average, minimum, head, leniency.

heap: (*n, v*) pile, aggregate, amass; (*n*) collection, accumulation, mound, mass, group, lot; (*v*) bank, collect.

ANTONYM: (*v*) tidy.

poured: (*adj*) concrete.

thieving: (*n*) larceny, stealing, robbery, embezzlement, misapplication, misappropriation, peculation, defalcation, burglary, thievery; (*adj*) thievish. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) philanthropic, benevolent.

“Have you done anything?”

“I met Farmer Boldwood,” said Jacob Smallbury, “and I went with him and two of his men, and **dragged** Newmill Pond, but we found nothing.”

“And the new shepherd have been to Buck’s Head, by Yalbury, thinking she had gone there, but nobody had **seed** her,” said Laban Tall.

“Hasn’t William Smallbury been to Casterbridge?”

“Yes, ma’am, but he’s not yet come home. He **promised** to be back by six.”

“It **wants** a quarter to six at present,” said Bathsheba, looking at her watch. “I daresay he’ll be in directly. Well, now then” — she looked into the book — “Joseph Poorgrass, are you there?”

“Yes, sir — ma’am I mane,” said the person addressed. “I be the personal name of Poorgrass.”

“And what are you?”

“Nothing in my own eye. In the eye of other people — well, I don’t say it; though public thought will out.”

“What do you do on the farm?”

“I do do **carting** things all the year, and in seed time I shoots the **rooks** and sparrows, and helps at pig-killing, sir.”

“How much to you?”

“Please nine and ninepence and a good **halfpenny** where ‘twas a bad one, sir — ma’am I mane.”

“Quite correct. Now here are ten shillings in **addition** as a small present, as I am a new comer.”

Bathsheba blushed slightly at the sense of being **generous** in public, and Henery Fray, who had drawn up towards her chair, **lifted** his eyebrows and fingers to express amazement on a small scale.

“How much do I owe you — that man in the corner — what’s your name?” continued Bathsheba.

Thesaurus

addition: (*n*) accession, accessory, increase, extension, addendum, accretion, attachment, appendage, annex, extra; (*n, prep*) accumulation. ANTONYMS: (*n*) removal, estimation, deduction, exclusion, decline, erosion, loss, setback.

carting: (*n*) cartage, portorage, portage, transport.

dragged: (*adj*) depressed, dejected, upset, unhappy, spent, dispirited, somber, melancholy, gloomy, joyless,

low.

generous: (*adj*) ample, abundant, copious, benevolent, bountiful, kind, charitable, flush, fair, liberal; (*adj, n*) free. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) meager, tightfisted, miserly, measly, mean, small, ungenerous, avaricious, greedy, petty, pitiful.

halfpenny: (*adj*) feather, bulrush, old son, jot, pinch of snuff, peppercorn, rap; (*n*) bawbee, doit, farthing.

lifted: (*adj*) raised, elevated, lift, lofty,

upraised, steep.

promised: (*adj*) pledged, affianced, betrothed, busy, devoted, employed, greatly interested, intended, involved; (*v*) benempt, named.

rooks: (*n*) etc, robins, order Passeriformes, Passeriformes.

seed: (*n*) issue, posterity, root, progeny, offspring, origin, nucleus, brood, embryo; (*v*) inseminate, plant.

wants: (*n*) need, necessities.

"Matthew Moon, ma'am," said a **singular** framework of clothes with nothing of any consequence inside them, which advanced with the toes in no definite direction forwards, but turned in or out as they chanced to swing.

"Matthew Mark, did you say?—speak out—I shall not hurt you," inquired the young farmer, kindly.

"Matthew Moon, mem," said Henery Fray, correctingly, from behind her chair, to which point he had edged himself.

"Matthew Moon," murmured Bathsheba, turning her bright eyes to the book. "Ten and twopence halfpenny is the sum put down to you, I see?"

"Yes, mis'ess," said Matthew, as the **rustle** of wind among dead leaves.

"Here it is, and ten shillings. Now the next—Andrew Randle, you are a new man, I hear. How come you to leave your last farm?"

"P-p-p-p-pl-pl-pl-l-l-l-l-l-ease, ma'am, p-p-p-pl-pl-pl-pl-please, ma'am-please'm-please'm—"

" 'A's a **stammering** man, mem," said Henery Fray in an **undertone**, "and they turned him away because the only time he ever did speak plain he said his soul was his own, and other iniquities, to the squire. 'A can **cuss**, mem, as well as you or I, but 'a can't speak a common speech to save his life."

"Andrew Randle, here's yours—finish **thanking** me in a day or two. Temperance Miller—oh, here's another, Soberness—both **women** I suppose?"

"Yes'm. Here we be, 'a b'lieve," was echoed in **shrill unison**.

"What have you been doing?"

"Tending thrashing-machine and wimbling haybonds, and saying 'Hoosh!' to the cocks and hens when they go upon your seeds and planting Early Flourballs and Thompson's Wonderfuls with a dibble."

"Yes—I see. Are they satisfactory women?" she inquired softly of Henery Fray.

"Oh mem—don't ask me! Yielding women—as scarlet a pair as ever was!" groaned Henery under his breath.

Thesaurus

cuss: (*v*) blaspheme, swear, imprecate; (*n*) malediction, blighter, chap, expletive, oath, bloke, lad, fellow.

rustle: (*n, v*) whisper; (*v*) lift, buzz, steal, pilfer, whiz, pinch, abstract, thieve, purloin; (*n*) rustling.

shrill: (*adj*) piercing, penetrating, strident, keen, shrewd; (*v*) shriek, screech, scream, yell; (*adj, v*) high, sharp. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) low, quiet, resonant.

singular: (*adj, n*) extraordinary; (*adj*)

odd, individual, particular, peculiar, phenomenal, rare, queer, single, quaint, exceptional. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ordinary, normal, together, usual, customary.

stammering: (*n*) hesitation, hesitancy, psellism, indistinct pronunciation, doubt; (*adj*) halting, hesitating, inarticulate, incoherent, broken, ashamed.

thanking: (*n*) curtain call, appreciation, acknowledgement,

blissing.

undertone: (*n*) undercurrent, murmur, tinge, nuance, whisper, suggestion, implication, connotation, overtone, association, hint.

unison: (*n*) agreement, union, accord, coincidence, accordance, concord, unity, unisonance, concurrence, consonance, concordance. ANTONYMS: (*n*) discord, disharmony, disarray.

women: (*n*) sex, gentle sex.

"Sit down."

"Who, mem?"

"Sit down."

Joseph Poorgrass, in the background twitched, and his lips became dry with fear of some terrible consequences, as he saw Bathsheba **summarily** speaking, and Henery **slinking** off to a corner.

"Now the next. Laban Tall, you'll stay on working for me?"

"For you or anybody that pays me well, ma'am," replied the young married man.

"True—the man must live!" said a woman in the back quarter, who had just entered with **clicking** pattens.

"What woman is that?" Bathsheba asked.

"I be his lawful wife!" continued the voice with greater prominence of manner and tone. This lady called herself five-and-twenty, looked thirty, passed as thirty-five, and was forty. She was a woman who never, like some newly married, showed **conjugal tenderness** in public, perhaps because she had none to show.

"Oh, you are," said Bathsheba. "Well, Laban, will you stay on?"

"Yes, he'll stay, ma'am!" said again the shrill tongue of Laban's lawful wife.

"Well, he can speak for himself, I suppose."

"Oh Lord, not he, ma'am! A simple tool. Well enough, but a poor gawkhammer mortal," the wife replied

"Heh-heh-heh!" laughed the married man with a hideous effort of appreciation, for he was as irrepressibly good-humoured under **ghastly** snubs as a parliamentary candidate on the **hustings**.

The names remaining were called in the same manner.

"Now I think I have done with you," said Bathsheba, closing the book and shaking back a stray **twine** of hair. "Has William Smallbury returned?"

Thesaurus

clicking: (*n*) tick.

conjugal: (*adj, v*) marital; (*adj*) connubial, nuptial, bridal, married, wedded, spousal, marriage, wedding, house, familial. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unmarried, single, public, divorced.

ghastly: (*adj*) awful, fearful, cadaverous, dreadful, grisly, gruesome, macabre, hideous, appalling, atrocious; (*adv*) gruesomely. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wonderful, lovely, attractive,

delightful.

hustings: (*n*) rostrum, pulpit, platform, ambo, amphitheater, electioneering, tribune, theater, state, reading desk, lecture room.

slinking: (*adj*) stealthy, surreptitious, furtive.

summarily: (*adj, adv*) briefly; (*adv*) shortly, succinctly, tersely, immediately, compendiously, compactly, concisely, speedily, condensedly, abridgedly.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) eventually.

tenderness: (*n*) fondness, soreness, love, affection, sympathy; (*adj, n*) clemency, mildness, compassion, gentleness, softness, delicacy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) pleasure, dryness, hatred, strength, detachment.

twine: (*n, v*) coil; (*n*) string, rope, cord; (*v*) lace, entwine, enlase, meander, weave, intertwine, twist. ANTONYMS: (*v*) untwine, straighten, unwind.

"No, ma'am."

"The new shepherd will want a man under him," suggested Henery Fray, trying to make himself official again by a **sideway** approach towards her chair.

"Oh—he will. Who can he have?"

"Young Cain Ball is a very good lad," Henery said, "and Shepherd Oak don't mind his youth?" he added, turning with an **apologetic** smile to the shepherd, who had just appeared on the scene, and was now leaning against the **doorpost** with his arms folded.

"No, I don't mind that," said Gabriel.

"How did Cain come by such a name?" asked Bathsheba.

"Oh you see, mem, his pore mother, not being a Scripture-read woman, made a mistake at his **christening**, thinking 'twas Abel killed Cain, and called en Cain, but 'twas too late, for the name could never be got rid of in the parish. 'Tis very unfortunate for the boy."

"It is rather unfortunate."

"Yes. However, we soften it down as much as we can, and call him Cainy. Ah, pore widow-woman! she cried her heart out about it almost. She was brought up by a very **heathen** father and mother, who never sent her to church or school, and it shows how the sins of the parents are visited upon the children, mem."

Mr. Fray here **drew** up his features to the mild degree of **melancholy** required when the persons involved in the given misfortune do not belong to your own family.

"Very well then, Caineey Ball to be under-shepherd. And you quite understand your duties?—you I mean, Gabriel Oak?"

"Quite well, I thank you, Miss Everdene," said Shepherd Oak from the doorpost. "If I don't, I'll inquire." Gabriel was rather staggered by the remarkable **coolness** of her manner. Certainly nobody without previous information would have dreamt that Oak and the handsome woman before

Thesaurus

apologetic: (*adj*) regretful, sorry, contrite, penitent, rueful, alleged, ashamed, compunctious, deprecatory, apologize, regret.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) defensive, defiant, glad, recalcitrant, stubborn, unapologetic, unremorseful.
christening: (*n*) naming, denomination, chrism, designation, identification.
coolness: (*n*) chill, cool, composure, assurance, cold, calmness, alienation,

frigidity, equanimity, chilliness, poise. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) friendliness, panic, approachability, mustiness, turbulence, agitation.
doorpost: (*n*) jamb, post.
drew: (*n*) move, John Drew.
fray: (*n*) conflict, action, fight, combat, disturbance, fracas, scrap; (*n, v*) affray, broil; (*v*) rub, fret.
heathen: (*adj, n*) gentile, ethnic; (*n*) infidel, idolater, paynim, heretic; (*adj*) heathenish, irreligious, giaour,

godless, barbaric.
melancholy: (*adj, v*) dreary; (*adj, n*) gloom, melancholic; (*adj*) depressed, dejected, dismal, gloomy, doleful; (*n, v*) low spirits; (*n*) gloominess, depression. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) happiness, cheerfulness, hopefulness, optimism; (*adj*) happy, bright, cheery, satisfied.
sideway: (*adv*) sidewise, sideways, lateral, side, laterally, sideways, obliquely, crabwise.

whom he stood had ever been other than **strangers**. But perhaps her air was the inevitable result of the social rise which had advanced her from a cottage to a large house and fields. The case is not **unexampled** in high places. When, in the writings of the later poets, Jove and his family are found to have moved from their **cramped** quarters on the peak of Olympus into the wide sky above it, their words show a proportionate increase of **arrogance** and reserve.

Footsteps were heard in the passage, combining in their character the qualities both of weight and measure, rather at the expense of velocity.

(All.) "Here's Billy Smallbury come from Casterbridge."

"And what's the news?" said Bathsheba, as William, after **marching** to the middle of the hall, took a handkerchief from his hat and wiped his forehead from its centre to its remoter boundaries.

"I should have been sooner, miss," he said, "if it hadn't been for the weather." He then **stamped** with each foot severely, and on looking down his boots were perceived to be **clogged** with snow.

"Come at last, is it?" said Henery.

"Well, what about Fanny?" said Bathsheba.

"Well, ma'am, in round numbers, she's run away with the soldiers," said William.

"No; not a steady girl like Fanny!"

"I'll tell ye all **particulars**. When I got to Casterbridge Barracks, they said, 'The Eleventh Dragoon-Guards be gone away, and new troops have come.' The Eleventh left last week for Melchester and onwards. The Route came from Government like a thief in the night, as is his nature to, and afore the Eleventh knew it almost, they were on the march. They passed near here."

Gabriel had listened with interest. "I saw them go," he said.

"Yes," continued William, "they pranced down the street playing 'The Girl I Left Behind Me,' so 'tis said, in glorious notes of triumph. Every looker-on's inside shook with the blows of the great drum to his **deepest** **vitals**, and there

Thesaurus

arrogance: (*n*) haughtiness, disdain, conceit, presumption, audacity, vanity, arrogancy, conceitedness, arrogant, condescension, imperiousness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) modesty, timidity, humbleness, diffidence, respect.

clogged: (*adj*) choked, jammed, blocked, teeming, thick, swarming, stuffed, stopped up, overfull, overcrowded, filled to capacity.

cramped: (*adj*) cramp, limited, close,

constrained, contracted, crowded, narrow, poky, restricted, small, tight.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) roomy, open, uncrowded, vast, liberated.

deepest: (*adj*) inmost, center, cordial, earnest, genuine, hearty, warm, sincere, innermost. ANTONYM: (*adj*) outermost.

marching: (*n*) walking, mar, drill; (*adj*) ongoing, moving.

particulars: (*n*) specification, data, nicety, minutiae, terms,

consideration, workings, fine points, ins and outs.

stamped: (*adj*) beaten, marked, pressed, printed; (*v*) fixed, engraved.

strangers: (*n*) stranger.

unexampled: (*adj*) new, unique, unparalleled, rare, novel, undescribed, peerless, inimitable, singular, fantastic, fresh.

vitals: (*n*) bowels, womb, viscera, belly, entrails, organ, necessity, lap, intestines, guts, chitterings.

was not a dry eye throughout the town among the public-house people and the **nameless** women!"

"But they're not gone to any war?"

"No, ma'am; but they be gone to take the places of them who may, which is very close connected. And so I said to myself, Fanny's young man was one of the regiment, and she's gone after him. There, ma'am, that's it in black and white."

"Did you find out his name?"

"No; nobody knew it. I believe he was higher in rank than a private."

Gabriel remained musing and said nothing, for he was in doubt.

"Well, we are not likely to know more to-night, at any rate," said Bathsheba. "But one of you had better run across to Farmer Boldwood's and tell him that much."

She then rose; but before **retiring**, addressed a few words to them with a pretty dignity, to which her **mourning** dress added a **soberness** that was hardly to be found in the words themselves.

"Now mind, you have a **mistress** instead of a master. I don't yet know my powers or my **talents** in farming; but I shall do my best, and if you serve me well, so shall I serve you. Don't any unfair ones among you (if there are any such, but I hope not) suppose that because I'm a woman I don't understand the difference between bad goings-on and good."

(All.) "No'm!"

(Liddy.) "Excellent well said."

"I shall be up before you are awake; I shall be **afield** before you are up; and I shall have breakfasted before you are afield. In short, I shall **astonish** you all."

(All.) "Yes'm!"

"And so good-night."

(All.) "Good-night, ma'am."

Thesaurus

afield: (*adj*) astray, awry; (*adv*) aboard, on board, at home, everywhere, here, there, wrong, amiss, where.

astonish: (*adj, v*) astound; (*adj, n, v*) surprise; (*adj*) astonishing, surprised; (*v*) flabbergast, daze, confound, dazzle, stun, alarm, nonplus.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) expect, bore.

mistress: (*n*) dame, concubine, madame, innamorata, lady, lover, fancy woman, doxy, girl, kept woman, missis.

mourning: (*n*) lament, lamentation, bereavement, gloom, woe, memorial, sorrowfulness, sadness, sorrow; (*adj*) grieving; (*v*) lamenting.

nameless: (*adj*) unknown, unnamed, unidentified, unsung, undistinguished, unspecified, inexpressible, strange, indescribable, obscure, unspeakable. ANTONYM: (*adj*) famous.

retiring: (*adj*) humble, diffident, bashful, reserved, unassuming,

unobtrusive, timid, coy, shy, sheepish, meek. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) assertive, bold, outgoing, forward, incoming, arrogant, brash, sociable. **soberness:** (*n*) sobriety, abstinence, moderation, seriousness, graveness, gravity, temperance, abstemiousness, solemnity, severity, earnestness. **talents:** (*adj*) talent, ability, capacity, parts, ingenuity, cleverness, turn; (*n*) faculty, endowment, genius, accomplishment.

Then this small thesmothete **stepped** from the table, and surged out of the hall, her black **silk dress** **licking** up a few straws and **dragging** them along with a scratching noise upon the floor. Liddy, **elevating** her feelings to the occasion from a sense of **grandeur**, floated off behind Bathsheba with a milder **dignity** not entirely free from **travesty**, and the door was closed.

Thesaurus

dignity: (*n*) degree, prestige, glory, decorum, face, distinction, honor, majesty, eminence, solemnity; (*adj, n*) decency. ANTONYMS: (*n*) lowliness, indecency, impropriety, simplicity, cheerfulness, austerity.

dragging: (*n*) pulled wire, stemming, haulage; (*adj*) slow, sickly, slack, unfit, sluggish, tardy, tedious; (*v*) involve. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) energetic, energizing, exciting, prompt, short.

dress: (*n, v*) attire, costume, clothe,

apparel, clothing, array, trim, garb, rig, cover; (*n*) dressing. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) undress; (*v*) uncover, disrobe, rumple, strip, wrinkle.

elevating: (*adj*) inspiring, exhilarating.

grandeur: (*n*) dignity, splendor, magnitude, brilliance, glory, pomp, elegance, majesty, magnificence, grandness; (*adj, n*) solemnity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) modesty, simplicity.

licking: (*n*) thrashing, rout, debacle,

beating, drubbing, discomfiture, whipping, lacing, lick, hiding, reverse. ANTONYM: (*n*) victory.

silk: (*adj*) silky, down, silken, velure, velvet; (*n*) silks, satin, cloth, animal fiber, fabric, dental floss.

stepped: (*v*) advanced, gone, stopen.

travesty: (*n, v*) parody, burlesque, caricature, lampoon, ridicule; (*n*) mockery, farce, spoof, takeoff, sham, charade.

CHAPTER XI

OUTSIDE THE BARRACKS—SNOW— A MEETING

For **dreariness** nothing could **surpass** a prospect in the outskirts of a certain town and military station, many miles north of Weatherbury, at a later hour on this same snowy evening—if that may be called a prospect of which the chief constituent was darkness.

It was a night when sorrow may come to the brightest without causing any great sense of **incongruity**: when, with **impressible** persons, love **becomes solicitousness**, hope sinks to misgiving, and faith to hope: when the exercise of memory does not stir feelings of regret at opportunities for ambition that have been passed by, and anticipation does not prompt to enterprise.

The scene was a public path, **bordered** on the left hand by a river, behind which rose a high wall. On the right was a tract of land, partly meadow and partly moor, reaching, at its remote verge, to a wide **undulating** upland.

The changes of the seasons are less **obtrusive** on spots of this kind than amid woodland scenery. Still, to a close observer, they are just as perceptible; the difference is that their media of manifestation are less trite and familiar than such well-known ones as the bursting of the buds or the fall of the leaf. Many are not

Thesaurus

becomes: (*v*) become.

bordered: (*adj*) fringed, edged, delimited, surrounded.

dreariness: (*n*) desolation, tedium, dullness, gloominess, boringness, dulness, depression, boredom, sadness, bleakness, gloom.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) brightness, cheerfulness, splendor.

impressible: (*adj*) impressionable, sensitive, soft, delicate, sensible, adhesive, easily affected, fine, gentle,

courteous, easy.

incongruity: (*n*) disharmony, contradiction, disagreement, incongruence, disparity, discrepancy, discord, unconformity, disproportion, absurdity, paradox.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) congruity, normality, agreement.

obtrusive: (*adj*) blatant, conspicuous, officious, impudent, intrusive, pushy, saucy, prominent, forward, protrusive, rude. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

unobtrusive, helpful.

solicitousness: (*n*) solicitude, concern.

surpass: (*v*) beat, outdo, exceed, surmount, better, excel, outstrip, overcome, overrun, best, go beyond.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) fail, lose, follow, trail.

undulating: (*adj*) sinuous, waved, undulant, undulatory, curly, apprenticed, zigzag, crimped, curvy, indented, intended. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) steep, straight.

so **stealthy** and gradual as we may be apt to imagine in considering the general **torpidity** of a moor or waste. Winter, in coming to the country hereabout, advanced in well-marked stages, wherein might have been successively observed the retreat of the snakes, the transformation of the ferns, the filling of the pools, a rising of fogs, the embrowning by frost, the collapse of the fungi, and an **obliteration** by snow.

This climax of the series had been reached to-night on the **aforsaid** moor, and for the first time in the season its irregularities were forms without features; suggestive of anything, proclaiming nothing, and without more character than that of being the limit of something else—the lowest layer of a **firmament** of snow. From this chaotic skyful of **crowding** flakes the mead and moor momentarily received additional clothing, only to appear momentarily more naked thereby. The vast arch of cloud above was strangely low, and formed as it were the roof of a large dark cavern, gradually sinking in upon its floor; for the instinctive thought was that the snow lining the heavens and that encrusting the earth would soon unite into one mass without any intervening stratum of air at all.

We turn our attention to the left-hand characteristics; which were **flatness** in respect of the river, **verticality** in respect of the wall behind it, and darkness as to both. These features made up the mass. If anything could be darker than the sky, it was the wall, and if any thing could be gloomier than the wall it was the river beneath. The indistinct summit of the facade was notched and **pronged** by chimneys here and there, and upon its face were faintly signified the oblong shapes of windows, though only in the upper part. Below, down to the water's edge, the flat was unbroken by hole or projection.

An indescribable succession of dull blows, perplexing in their regularity, sent their sound with difficulty through the fluffy atmosphere. It was a neighbouring clock striking ten. The bell was in the open air, and being overlaid with several inches of muffling snow, had lost its voice for the time.

Thesaurus

aforsaid: (*adj*) aforesaid, said, foregoing, above-mentioned, same, preceding, former, foresaid.
crowding: (*n*) plough crowding, bunch, jostlement, overcrowding.
firmament: (*n*) sphere, welkin, heaven, heavens, celestial sphere, expanse, arena, field, vault of heaven, domain, area.
flatness: (*n*) dullness, monotony, plain, flat, tedium, sameness, insipidness, tediousness, platitude,

smoothing, smooth. ANTONYM: (*n*) unevenness.
obliteration: (*n*) annihilation, eradication, abolition, deletion, devastation, destruction, demolition, extinction, atomization; (*adj*) extirpation, extinguishment. ANTONYMS: (*n*) construction, creation, protection.
pronged: (*adj*) branched, divided, bifurcate, biramous, sharp, tined, split, prongy, pointed, having

branches, double.
stealthy: (*adj*) clandestine, secret, surreptitious, sneaky, covert, private, backstairs, concealed, feline; (*adj, v*) sly, insidious. ANTONYM: (*adj*) blatant.
torpidity: (*n*) lethargy, lassitude, torpidness, listlessness, hibernation, inertia, languor, sluggishness, passiveness, coma, idleness.
verticality: (*n*) erectness, uprightness, rectitude, position, spatial relation.

About this hour the snow **abated**: ten **flakes** fell where twenty had fallen, then one had the room of ten. Not long after a form moved by the brink of the river.

By its outline upon the colourless background, a close observer might have seen that it was small. This was all that was positively **discoverable**, though it seemed human.

The shape went slowly along, but without much exertion, for the snow, though sudden, was not as yet more than two inches deep. At this time some words were spoken aloud:—

“One. Two. Three. Four. Five.”

Between each utterance the little shape advanced about half a dozen yards. It was evident now that the windows high in the wall were being counted. The word “Five” represented the fifth window from the end of the wall.

Here the spot stopped, and dwindled smaller. The figure was **stooping**. Then a morsel of snow flew across the river towards the fifth window. It smacked against the wall at a point several yards from its mark. The throw was the idea of a man **conjoined** with the execution of a woman. No man who had ever seen bird, rabbit, or squirrel in his childhood, could possibly have thrown with such utter imbecility as was shown here.

Another attempt, and another; till by degrees the wall must have become **pimpled** with the **adhering** lumps of snow. At last one fragment struck the fifth window.

The river would have been seen by day to be of that deep smooth sort which races middle and sides with the same gliding precision, any irregularities of speed being immediately corrected by a small **whirlpool**. Nothing was heard in reply to the signal but the **gurgle** and **cluck** of one of these invisible wheels— together with a few small sounds which a sad man would have called **moans**, and a happy man laughter— caused by the flapping of the waters against **trifling** objects in other parts of the stream.

The window was struck again in the same manner.

Thesaurus

abated: (*adj*) slack.

adhering: (*adj, v*) adhesive; (*n*)

adherence; (*adj*) partisan; (*prep*) on; (*v*) cohesive.

cluck: (*v*) cackle, clack, click, chuckle, utter, emit, chuck, fuss, blab, clatter; (*n, v*) cry.

conjoined: (*adj*) concomitant, conjunct, associated, concurrent, united, inseparable, coincident, attending, associate, accompanying, adjunct.

discoverable: (*adj*) determinable,

visible, observable, discernible, calculable, findable.

flakes: (*n*) dust.

gurgle: (*v*) guggle, babble, murmur, burble, boil, foam, purl, ripple; (*n, v*) snigger, laugh, chuckle.

moans: (*adj*) moaning.

pimpled: (*adj*) acned, pustulate.

stooping: (*adj*) hunched, crooked, asymmetrical, not erect, not straight, corrupt; (*n*) patronage.

trifling: (*adj*) paltry, slight, petty,

negligible, immaterial, worthless, trivial, minor, small; (*adj, v*)

inconsequential; (*adj, n*) frivolity.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) significant, worthwhile, major, considerable, crucial, enormous, great, mature, profound, substantial; (*n*) importance.

whirlpool: (*n, v*) vortex, whirl, swirl, gurge; (*n*) maelstrom, verticity, whirl; (*v*) undercurrent, indraught, reflux, purl.

Then a noise was heard, apparently produced by the opening of the window. This was followed by a voice from the same quarter.

“Who’s there?”

The tones were masculine, and not those of surprise. The high wall being that of a **barrack**, and marriage being looked upon with **disfavour** in the army, assignations and communications had probably been made across the river before tonight.

“Is it Sergeant Troy?” said the **blurred** spot in the snow, **tremulously**.

This person was so much like a mere shade upon the earth, and the other speaker so much a part of the building, that one would have said the wall was holding a conversation with the snow.

“Yes,” came **suspiciously** from the shadow. “What girl are you?”

“Oh, Frank—don’t you know me?” said the spot. “Your wife, Fanny Robin.”

“Fanny!” said the wall, in utter astonishment.

“Yes,” said the girl, with a half-suppressed **gasp** of emotion.

There was something in the woman’s tone which is not that of the wife, and there was a manner in the man which is rarely a husband’s. The dialogue went on:

“How did you come here?”

“I asked which was your window. Forgive me!”

“I did not expect you to-night. Indeed, I did not think you would come at all. It was a wonder you found me here. I am **orderly** to-morrow.”

“You said I was to come.”

“Well—I said that you might.”

“Yes, I mean that I might. You are glad to see me, Frank?”

“Oh yes—of course.”

“Can you—come to me!”

Thesaurus

barrack: (*v*) jeer, gibe, cheer, encourage, tantalize; (*n*) casern, tiling, casemate, planchment, plafond; (*n, v*) scoff.

blurred: (*adj*) fuzzy, indistinct, foggy, blurry, bleary, vague, out of focus, blear, cloudy, clouded, dim. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sharp, definite, distinct, precise, certain.

disfavour: (*n*) disapproval, dislike, displeasure, reprobation; (*v*) disadvantage, hinder; (*adj*)

handicapped.

gasp: (*n, v*) pant; (*v*) puff, blow, breathe, sigh, heave, wheeze, breathe heavily, gag; (*n*) inhalation, breath.

orderly: (*adj*) neat, tidy, exact, regular, ordered, systematic, logical, coherent, businesslike; (*adv*) systematically; (*n*) attendant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unmanageable, rowdy, wild, disorganized, untidy, disorderly, confused, lawless, messy, defiant, haphazard.

suspiciously: (*adj, adv*) doubtfully, skeptically, hesitantly, unbelievably; (*adv*) mistrustfully, warily, uncertainly, shadily, dubiously, watchfully, questioningly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) carelessly, gullibly, thoughtlessly, certainly, confidently.

tremulously: (*adv*) fearfully, shiveringly, tremblingly, shakingly, quiveringly, quaveringly, fidgetily, vibrantly.

My dear Fan, no! The **bugle** has **sounded**, the barrack **gates** are closed, and I have no leave. We are all of us as good as in the county **gaol till** to-morrow morning."

"Then I shan't see you till then!" The words were in a **faltering tone** of disappointment.

"How did you get here from Weatherbury?"

"I walked—some part of the way—the rest by the carriers."

"I am surprised."

"Yes—so am I. And Frank, when will it be?"

"What?"

"That you promised."

"I don't quite recollect."

"O you do! Don't speak like that. It weighs me to the earth. It makes me say what **ought** to be said first by you."

"Never mind—say it."

"O, must I?—it is, when shall we be married, Frank?"

"Oh, I see. Well—you have to get proper clothes."

"I have money. Will it be by **banns** or license?"

"Banns, I should think."

"And we live in two parishes."

"Do we? What then?"

"My **lodgings** are in St. Mary's, and this is not. So they will have to be published in both."

"Is that the law?"

"Yes. O Frank—you think me forward, I am afraid! Don't, dear Frank—will you—for I love you so. And you said lots of times you would **marry** me, and and—I—I—I—"

Thesaurus

banns: (*n*) announcement.

bugle: (*v*) trumpet, clarion, pibroch, slogan; (*n*) horn, ophicleide, trombone, herb, cornopean, cornet, bugleweed.

faltering: (*n*) falter, pause, vacillation; (*adj*) tentative, vacillating, doubtful, irresolute, hesitant, uncertain, unsure; (*adv*) falteringly.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) decided, firm, eloquent, decisive, sure.

gaol: (*n, v*) jail; (*n*) clink, lockup,

jailhouse, hoosegow; (*v*) lag, jug, incarcerate, imprison, immure, confine.

gates: (*n*) bill Gates.

lodgings: (*n*) digs, accommodation, domiciliation, lodging, billet, housing, quarters, residence, pad, living quarters, launchpad.

marry: (*n, v*) wed, espouse; (*v*) get married, link, conjoin, wive, splice, tie, unite, couple; (*n*) marriage.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) divorce, separate,

split.

ought: (*n, v*) need; (*v*) had better, should, have, possessed, owned, owed, behoove; (*n*) ought, zero, duty.

sounded: (*adj*) measured, oral.

till: (*conj, prep*) until, unto; (*v*) plow, hoe, farm, dig; (*adj*) up to; (*n*) tiller, drawer; (*adv*) so far; (*prep*) to.

tone: (*n*) note, accent, timbre, spirit, tinge, shade, air, sound, tint, manner; (*n, v*) color. ANTONYMS: (*n*) atonicity, flaccidity; (*v*) jar.

"Don't cry, now! It is foolish. If I said so, of course I will."

"And shall I put up the banns in my parish, and will you in yours?"

"Yes"

"To-morrow?"

"Not tomorrow. We'll settle in a few days."

"You have the permission of the officers?"

"No, not yet."

"O—how is it? You said you almost had before you left Casterbridge."

"The fact is, I forgot to ask. Your coming like this is so sudden and unexpected."

"Yes—yes—it is. It was wrong of me to worry you. I'll go away now. Will you come and see me to-morrow, at Mrs. Twills's, in North Street? I don't like to come to the Barracks. There are bad women about, and they think me one."

"Quite, so. I'll come to you, my dear. Good-night."

"Good-night, Frank—good-night!"

And the noise was again heard of a window closing. The little **spot** moved away. When she passed the corner a **subdued** exclamation was heard inside the wall.

"Ho—ho—Sergeant—ho—ho!" An **expostulation** followed, but it was **indistinct**; and it became lost **amid** a low **peal** of laughter, which was hardly **distinguishable** from the gurgle of the tiny whirlpools outside.

Thesaurus

amid: (*adv, prep*) among, amongst; (*prep*) between, amidst, mid, during, in the midst of, with, surrounded by, stuck between; (*n*) midst.
ANTONYMS: (*prep*) outside, separate.

distinguishable: (*adj, adv*) appreciable, perceptible, definite, visible; (*adj*) distinct, apparent, marked, differentiable, recognizable; (*adv*) observable, noticeable. ANTONYM: (*adj*) inseparable.

expostulation: (*n*) dissuasion, deprecation, objection, admonition, reprehension, dehortation, increpation, reprobation, rebuke, reproach, reproof.

indistinct: (*adj*) indefinite, inarticulate, faint, dull, fuzzy, indeterminate, hazy, neutral; (*adj, n*) confused, cloudy, dark. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clear, slight, separate, certain, precise, audible, strong, definite.

peal: (*n*) ding, noise, clang, dingdong,

blast; (*v*) chime, knell, toll, echo; (*adj, n*) swell; (*n, v*) bang.

spot: (*n, v*) place, speck, blemish, speckle, fleck, dirty, dapple; (*adj, n, v*) stain, soil; (*n*) dot, space.

subdued: (*adj*) quiet, muffled, dull, restrained, muted, tame, faint, repressed, low, meek; (*adj, v*) resigned. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) enthusiastic, lively, uninhibited, unsubdued, rebellious, noisy, bright, elaborate, frivolous, upbeat.

CHAPTER XII

FARMERS—A RULE—IN EXCEPTION

The first public evidence of Bathsheba's decision to be a farmer in her own person and by **proxy** no more was her appearance the following market-day in the cornmarket at Casterbridge.

The low though extensive hall, supported by beams and pillars, and latterly **dignified** by the name of Corn Exchange, was **thronged** with hot men who talked among each other in twos and threes, the speaker of the minute looking sideways into his auditor's face and concentrating his argument by a **contraction** of one **eyelid** during delivery. The greater number carried in their hands ground-ash saplings, using them partly as walking-sticks and partly for poking up pigs, sheep, neighbours with their backs turned, and **restful** things in general, which seemed to require such treatment in the course of their peregrinations. During conversations each subjected his sapling to great varieties of usage—bending it round his back, forming an arch of it between his two hands, overweighting it on the ground till it reached nearly a **semicircle**; or perhaps it was hastily tucked under the arm whilst the sample-bag was pulled forth and a handful of corn poured into the palm, which, after criticism, was flung upon the floor, an issue of **events** perfectly well known to half-a-dozen acute town-bred **fowls** which had as

Thesaurus

contraction: (*n*) constriction, abridgement, condensation, shrink, abridgment, convulsion, compression, decrease, shrinkage, contract, tightening. ANTONYMS: (*n*) growth, extension, enlargement, swelling.
dignified: (*adj*) exalted, majestic, noble, grand, lofty, respectable, solemn, distinguished, lordly, high; (*adj, v*) great. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) undignified, foolish, dishonorable,

boisterous, unceremonious, unseemly, vulgar, poor, lowly, modest, base.
events: (*n*) athletics, plot, activities, actions.
eyelid: (*n*) lid, palpebra, chapeau.
fowls: (*n*) poultry.
proxy: (*n*) attorney, deputy, agent, agency, delegate, alternate, surrogate, procurator, authority, vicar; (*adj, n*) replacement.
restful: (*adj*) quiet, peaceful, still,

comfortable, placid, soft, tranquil, reposeful, relaxing, easy, peaceable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uncomfortable, unwelcoming, irritating, harsh, noisy, rushed, stimulating.
semicircle: (*n*) arch, semi-circles, half circle, half-circle, plane figure, arc, curve.
thronged: (*adj*) throng, busy, populous, brisk, teeming, swarming, sprightly, sensitive, replete, overflowing; (*n*) persistent.

usual crept into the building unobserved, and waited the fulfilment of their anticipations with a high-stretched neck and oblique eye.

Among these heavy yeomen a feminine figure glided, the single one of her sex that the room contained. She was prettily and even daintily dressed. She moved between them as a **chaise** between carts, was heard after them as a romance after sermons, was felt among them like a breeze among furnaces. It had required a little determination—far more than she had at first imagined—to take up a position here, for at her first entry the **lumbering dialogues** had ceased, nearly every face had been turned towards her, and those that were already turned rigidly fixed there.

Two or three only of the farmers were personally known to Bathsheba, and to these she had made her way. But if she was to be the practical woman she had intended to show herself, business must be carried on, introductions or none, and she ultimately acquired confidence enough to speak and reply boldly to men merely known to her by hearsay. Bathsheba too had her sample-bags, and by degrees adopted the professional pour into the hand—holding up the grains in her narrow palm for inspection, in perfect Casterbridge manner.

Something in the exact arch of her upper unbroken row of teeth, and in the keenly pointed **corners** of her red mouth when, with parted lips, she somewhat defiantly turned up her face to argue a point with a tall man, suggested that there was potentiality enough in that lithe slip of humanity for alarming exploits of sex, and daring enough to carry them out. But her eyes had a softness—invariably a softness—which, had they not been dark, would have seemed **mistiness**; as they were, it lowered an expression that might have been piercing to simple clearness.

Strange to say of a woman in full bloom and **vigor**, she always allowed her interlocutors to finish their statements before rejoining with hers. In arguing on prices, she held to her own firmly, as was natural in a dealer, and reduced theirs persistently, as was inevitable in a woman. But there was an elasticity in her firmness which removed it from obstinacy, as there was a **naivete** in her **cheapening** which saved it from **meanness**.

Thesaurus

chaise: (*n*) shay, carriage, equipage, rig, coach, daybed, chaise longue, bed, cabriolet chair, chair.
cheapening: (*n*) blasphemous behavior, blasphemy, profanation.
corners: (*adj*) cornered.
dialogues: (*n*) dialog.
lumbering: (*adj*) heavy, clumsy, ungainly, ponderous, maladroit, gruelling, hulking, accented, all thumbs, unwieldy; (*n*) logging.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) nimble, adroit,

agile, graceful, elegant, dainty.
meanness: (*n*) parsimony, closeness, pettiness, avarice, selfishness, baseness, stinginess, niggardliness, miserliness, nastiness; (*adj, n*) degeneracy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) generosity, extravagance, decency.
mistiness: (*n*) cloudiness, murkiness, fogginess, muddiness, nebulosity, haze, nebulousness, dimness, darkness, vagueness, blurriness.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) brightness, clarity.

naivete: (*n*) artlessness, innocence, naiveness, credulousness, gullibility, ingenuousness, sincerity, simplicity, naturalness, candor; (*adj*) bonhomie.
 ANTONYM: (*n*) sophistication.
vigor: (*n, v*) energy; (*adj, n*) intensity; (*n*) spirit, vitality, force, life, strength, power, might, vim, stamina.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) weakness, apathy, frailty, laziness, enervation, inactivity, indifference, illness, lifelessness, sluggishness, tardiness.

Those of the farmers with whom she had no dealings (by far the greater part) were continually asking each other, "Who is she?" The reply would be—

"Farmer Everdene's niece; took on Weatherbury Upper Farm; turned away the baily, and **swears** she'll do everything herself."

The other man would then shake his head.

"Yes, 'tis a pity she's so headstrong," the first would say. "But we ought to be proud of her here—she lightens up the old place. 'Tis such a **shapely** maid, however, that she'll soon get picked up."

It would be **ungallant** to suggest that the novelty of her engagement in such an occupation had almost as much to do with the **magnetism** as had the beauty of her face and movements. However, the interest was general, and this Saturday's *debut* in the forum, whatever it may have been to Bathsheba as the buying and selling farmer, was unquestionably a triumph to her as the maiden. Indeed, the sensation was so pronounced that her instinct on two or three occasions was merely to walk as a queen among these gods of the **fallow**, like a little sister of a little Jove, and to neglect closing prices altogether.

The numerous evidences of her power to attract were only thrown into greater relief by a marked exception. Women seem to have eyes in their **ribbons** for such matters as these. Bathsheba, without looking within a right angle of him, was conscious of a black sheep among the flock.

It perplexed her first. If there had been a respectable minority on either side, the case would have been most natural. If nobody had regarded her, she would have taken the matter indifferently—such cases had occurred. If everybody, this man included, she would have taken it as a matter of course—people had done so before. But the smallness of the exception made the mystery.

She soon knew thus much of the recusant's appearance. He was a **gentlemanly** man, with full and distinctly outlined Roman features, the prominences of which glowed in the sun with a bronze-like richness of tone. He was erect in attitude, and quiet in **demeanour**. One characteristic **pre-eminently** marked him—dignity.

Thesaurus

demeanour: (*n*) behavior, behaviour, conduct, demeanor, comportment, deportment, manner, citizenship, correctitude, carriage, attitude.

fallow: (*adj*) dormant, yellow, unbroken, uncultivated, citrine, aureate, idle, unplanted, unseeded; (*n*) tillage, tilth. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) planted, fertile, cultivated, active, prolific, creative.

gentlemanly: (*adj*) courteous, polite, chivalrous, refined, gallant, suave,

mannerly, genteel, gentle, well-bred; (*n*) gentleman. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rude, unbecoming.

magnetism: (*n*) attraction, charisma, charm, allure, magnetics, appeal, glamour, magic, magnet, pull; (*adj*) gravity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) repulsiveness, ugliness.

pre-eminently: (*adv*) principally, eminently.

ribbons: (*n*) cavesson, hackamore, jaquima, lines, streamer, streamers,

ticker tape, paper chain, decoration, decorations, bunting.

shapely: (*adj*) symmetrical, comely, graceful, neat, fit, curvaceous, slim, pleasing, busty, seemly, beautiful.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) straight, misshapen, unshapely.

swears: (*n*) swearing.

ungallant: (*adj*) unchivalrous, uncomplaisant, caddish, unneighborly, discourteous, impolite, offensively discourteous.

Apparently he had some time ago reached that entrance to middle age at which a man's aspect naturally ceases to alter for the term of a **dozen** years or so; and, artificially, a woman's does likewise. Thirty-five and fifty were his limits of variation — he might have been either, or anywhere between the two.

It may be said that married men of forty are usually ready and generous enough to **fling** passing glances at any specimen of moderate beauty they may **discern** by the way. Probably, as with persons playing **whist** for love, the consciousness of a certain immunity under any circumstances from that worst possible ultimate, the having to pay, makes them unduly speculative. Bathsheba was convinced that this **unmoved** person was not a married man.

When marketing was over, she rushed off to Liddy, who was waiting for her — beside the **yellowing** in which they had driven to town. The horse was put in, and on they trotted Bathsheba's sugar, tea, and **drapery parcels** being packed behind, and expressing in some **indescribable** manner, by their colour, shape, and general lineaments, that they were that young lady-farmer's property, and the grocer's and draper's no more.

"I've been through it, Liddy, and it is over. I shan't mind it again, for they will all have grown accustomed to seeing me there; but this morning it was as bad as being married — eyes everywhere!"

"I knowed it would be," Liddy said. "Men be such a terrible class of society to look at a body."

"But there was one man who had more sense than to waste his time upon me." The information was put in this form that Liddy might not for a moment suppose her mistress was at all piqued. "A very good-looking man," she continued, "upright; about forty, I should think. Do you know at all who he could be?"

Liddy couldn't think.

"Can't you guess at all?" said Bathsheba with some disappointment.

Thesaurus

discern: (*v*) differentiate, see, comprehend, detect, distinguish, make out, perceive, find, note; (*n, v*) descry; (*adj, v*) recognize.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) Miss, neglect, disregard, observe, overlook.
dozen: (*adj, n*) XII; (*n*) dozens, boxcars.
drapery: (*n*) drape, clothing, dress, blind, raiment, costume, toilette, furnishings, trim, guise, toilet.
fling: (*n, v*) toss, throw, pitch, slam, hurl; (*v*) chuck, shoot, dash, rush,

discard; (*n*) crack. **ANTONYM:** (*v*) collect.
indescribable: (*adj*) indefinable, ineffable, unutterable, vague, beyond expression, nameless, inexpressible, nondescript, terrible, intangible, termless. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) explainable, conceivable, concrete.
parcels: (*n*) post, correspondence, baggage, appurtenances, letters.
unmoved: (*adj*) apathetic, unaffected, indifferent, unconcerned,

unimpressed, uninspired, dispassionate, imperturbable, calm, undisturbed, fixed. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) affected, compliant, uptight, concerned, enthusiastic, tolerant, sensitive.
whist: (*adj*) quiet, noiseless; (*n*) long whist, short whist, whisk, tut, tush, dummy whist, cards, card game; (*v*) shut up.
yellowing: (*n*) discoloration, tint, staining, mark, stain, streak.

"I haven't a notion; besides, 'tis no difference, since he took less notice of you than any of the rest. Now, if he'd taken more, it would have mattered a great deal."

Bathsheba was suffering from the reverse feeling just then, and they bowled along in silence. A low **carriage**, **bowling** along still more rapidly behind a horse of **unimpeachable** breed, **overtook** and passed them.

"Why, there he is!" she said.

Liddy looked. "That! That's Farmer Boldwood—of course 'tis—the man you couldn't see the other day when he called."

"Oh, Farmer Boldwood," murmured Bathsheba, and looked at him as he outstripped them. The farmer had never turned his head once, but with eyes fixed on the most advanced point along the road, passed as unconsciously and **abstractedly** as if Bathsheba and her charms were thin air.

"He's an interesting man—don't you think so?" she remarked.

"O yes, very. Everybody owns it," replied Liddy.

"I wonder why he is so wrapt up and indifferent, and seemingly so far away from all he sees around him."

"It is said—but not known for certain—that he met with some bitter disappointment when he was a young man and merry. A woman **jilted** him, they say."

"People always say that—and we know very well women scarcely ever jilt men; 'tis the men who jilt us. I expect it is simply his nature to be so reserved."

"Simply his nature—I expect so, miss—nothing else in the world."

"Still, 'tis more romantic to think he has been served **cruelly**, poor thing! Perhaps, after all, he has!"

"Depend upon it he has. Oh yes, miss, he has! I feel he must have."

"However, we are very apt to think **extremes** of people. I—shouldn't wonder after all if it wasn't a little of both—just between the two—rather cruelly used and rather reserved."

Thesaurus

abstractedly: (*adv*) absently, distractedly, distantly, pensively, separately, preoccupiedly, abstractly, removedly, dreamily, absent-mindedly, scatterbrainedly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) carefully, clearly, calmly.
bowling: (*n*) tenpins, bowl, playing, game, skittles, throw, bosie ball, bosie, googly, Chinaman.
carriage: (*n*) attitude, conveyance, cab, air, walk, position, mien, shipping;

(*n, v*) transport, behavior, port.
cruelly: (*adv*) harshly, ferociously, fiercely, viciously, inhumanly, mercilessly, pitilessly, heartlessly, roughly, unkindly; (*adj, adv*) bitterly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) kindly, mercifully, sympathetically, tamely, peacefully, humanely, compassionately, sensitively, respectfully, innocently, genially.
extremes: (*n*) excess; (*adv*) overboard.
jilt: (*v*) betray, balk, desert, forsake,

drop, reject, walk out on, throw over, cozen, cully; (*n*) woman.
jilted: (*v*) crossed in love, lovelorn; (*adj, v*) rejected; (*adj*) abandoned, spurned, unloved.
overtook: (*v*) overtake.
unimpeachable: (*adj*) unexceptionable, irreproachable, blameless, unquestionable, flawless, impeccable, perfect, spotless, inculpable; (*n*) creditable, estimable. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) corrupt.

“Oh **dear** no, **miss**—I can’t think it between the two!”

“That’s most **likely**.”

“Well, yes, so it is. I am **convinced** it is most likely. You may—take my **word**, **miss**, that that’s what’s the **matter** with him.”

Thesaurus

convinced: (*adj, v*) sure, positive, confident, firm; (*v*) cocksure, persuaded, satisfied, assured, bold; (*adj*) clear, definite. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) doubtful, unconvinced, uncertain, cynical.

dear: (*adj, adv*) close, near; (*adj, n*) darling; (*adj*) costly, expensive, lovely, precious, affectionate, adorable, cherished; (*n*) love. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) worthless, inexpensive, valueless, despised,

modest, loathed, hateful, distant; (*n*) rival, foe, enemy.

likely: (*adj*) believable, probable, plausible, expected, potential, conceivable, apt, prospective, verisimilar; (*adv*) possibly, maybe. ANTONYMS: (*adj, adv*) unlikely; (*adj*) improbable, implausible, slight, unwilling, unusual, unbelievable.

matter: (*n*) business, substance, issue, material, affair, concern, incident, article, subject; (*n, v*) case; (*adj, n*)

import.

miss: (*v*) lose, fail, jump, omit, overlook, long, forget; (*n*) maid, girl; (*adj, v*) fault; (*n, v*) want. ANTONYMS: (*v*) perceive, attend, achieve, have, succeed, hit, make, see, find, take; (*n*) success.

word: (*n*) news, tidings, password, expression, report, vocable, statement, term; (*v*) formulate, phrase; (*n, v*) advice.

CHAPTER XIII

SORTES SANCTORUM— THE VALENTINE

It was Sunday afternoon in the farmhouse, on the thirteenth of February. Dinner being over, Bathsheba, for want of a better companion, had asked Liddy to come and sit with her. The **mouldy** pile was dreary in winter-time before the candles were lighted and the shutters closed; the atmosphere of the place seemed as old as the walls; every nook behind the furniture had a temperature of its own, for the fire was not **kindled** in this part of the house early in the day; and Bathsheba's new piano, which was an old one in other **annals**, looked particularly **sloping** and out of level on the **warped** floor before night threw a shade over its less prominent angles and hid the **unpleasantness**. Liddy, like a little brook, though shallow, was always **rippling**; her presence had not so much weight as to task thought, and yet enough to exercise it.

On the table lay an old **quarto** Bible, bound in leather. Liddy looking at it said,—

“Did you ever find out, miss, who you are going to marry by means of the Bible and key?”

“Don't be so foolish, Liddy. As if such things could be.”

Thesaurus

annals: (*n*) history, record, account, records, register, story, roll, almanac, diary, legend, yearbook.

kindled: (*adj*) enkindled, lighted, lit, burning.

mouldy: (*adj*) moldy, mildewy, fusty, musty, stale, trite, hackneyed, well-worn, putrid, mould, frowsty.

quarto: (*n*) folio, size, quart, book, octavo.

rippling: (*n*) ripple, wave, ruffle, corrugation, moving ridge, wavelet,

ripple formation; (*adj*) flowing, billowy.

sloping: (*adj, v*) oblique, slope; (*adj*) slanting, inclined, slanted, diagonal, leaning, sloped; (*adj, adv*) aslope, aslant; (*v*) slant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) horizontal, upright.

unpleasantness: (*n*) nastiness, disagreeableness, horridness, unkindness, awfulness, odiousness, discomfort, disagreeable, spite, offensiveness; (*adj, n*) ugliness.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) straightforwardness, kindness, deliciousness, delightfulness, politeness, attractiveness.

warped: (*adj, n*) twisted; (*adj*) deformed, crooked, perverted, misshapen, kinky, curved, distorted, wry, partisan, superficial. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wholesome, impartial.

"Well, there's a good deal in it, all the same."

"Nonsense, child."

"And it makes your heart beat fearful. Some believe in it; some don't; I do."

"Very well, let's try it," said Bathsheba, **bounding** from her seat with that total **disregard** of consistency which can be indulged in towards a dependent, and entering into the spirit of divination at once. "Go and get the front door key."

Liddy fetched it. "I wish it wasn't Sunday," she said, on returning. "Perhaps 'tis wrong."

"What's right week days is right Sundays," replied her mistress in a tone which was a proof in itself.

The book was opened—the leaves, **drab** with age, being quite worn away at much-read **verses** by the forefingers of unpractised readers in former days, where they were moved along under the line as an aid to the vision. The special verse in the Book of Ruth was sought out by Bathsheba, and the **sublime** words met her eye. They slightly thrilled and abashed her. It was Wisdom in the abstract facing Folly in the concrete. Folly in the concrete blushed, persisted in her intention, and placed the key on the book. A rusty patch immediately upon the verse, caused by previous pressure of an iron substance thereon, told that this was not the first time the old volume had been used for the purpose.

"Now keep steady, and be silent," said Bathsheba.

The verse was repeated; the book turned round; Bathsheba blushed **guiltily**.

"Who did you try?" said Liddy curiously.

"I shall not tell you."

"Did you notice Mr. Boldwood's doings in church this morning, miss?" Liddy continued, adumbrating by the remark the track her thoughts had taken.

"No, indeed," said Bathsheba, with **serene** indifference.

"His pew is exactly opposite yours, miss."

"I know it."

Thesaurus

bounding: (*n*) jumping, confinement; (*v*) confine, salient; (*adj*) terminal, moving, subsultory.

disregard: (*n, v*) disdain, slight, scorn; (*n*) carelessness, contempt; (*v*) discount, defy, despise, cut, flout; (*adj, v*) overlook. ANTONYMS: (*v*) notice, heed, value, obey, accept, consider; (*n*) respect, thoughtfulness, consideration, attention; (*n, v*) regard.

drab: (*adj*) dreary, gloomy, dingy, cheerless, somber, boring, dowdy,

dark, colorless, dull, depressing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) colorful, vivid, brilliant, chic, flashy, interesting, cheerful, distinctive, smart, strong.

guiltily: (*adv*) blameworthily, criminally, hangdoggly, wickedly, faultily, sheepishly, delinquently, sinfully, awkwardly, sorrily, ashamedly.

serene: (*adj*) peaceful, calm, quiet, placid, composed, impassive, clear, pacific, gentle, cool; (*adj, v*) tranquil.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) agitated, anxious, noisy, nervous, impatient, excitable, scatterbrained, harsh, boisterous, excited, disturbed.

sublime: (*adj, v*) majestic; (*adj*) dignified, grand, lofty, magnificent, elevated, noble, exalted, glorious; (*v*) sacred, sublimate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) poor, ridiculous.

verse: (*n*) rhyme, poem, stanza, poesy, strain, measure, song, paragraph, clause, couplet, vertex.

“And you did not see his goings on!”

“Certainly I did not, I tell you.”

Liddy assumed a smaller **physiognomy**, and shut her lips decisively.

This move was unexpected, and **proportionately disconcerting**. “What did he do?” Bathsheba said **perforce**.

“Didn’t turn his head to look at you once all the service.”

“Why should he?” again demanded her mistress, wearing a nettled look. “I didn’t ask him to.”

“Oh no. But everybody else was noticing you; and it was odd he didn’t. There, ‘tis like him. Rich and gentlemanly, what does he care?”

Bathsheba dropped into a silence intended to express that she had opinions on the matter too **abstruse** for Liddy’s comprehension, rather than that she had nothing to say.

“Dear me—I had nearly forgotten the valentine I **bought** yesterday,” she exclaimed at length.

“Valentine! who for, miss?” said Liddy. “Farmer Boldwood?”

It was the single name among all possible wrong ones that just at this moment seemed to Bathsheba more pertinent than the right.

“Well, no. It is only for little Teddy Coggan. I have promised him something, and this will be a pretty surprise for him. Liddy, you may as well bring me my desk and I’ll direct it at once.”

Bathsheba took from her desk a **gorgeously** illuminated and **embossed** design in post-octavo, which had been bought on the previous market-day at the chief stationer’s in Casterbridge. In the centre was a small oval enclosure; this was left blank, that the sender might insert tender words more appropriate to the special occasion than any **generalities** by a printer could possibly be.

“Here’s a place for writing,” said Bathsheba. “What shall I put?”

“Something of this sort, I should think,” returned Liddy promptly:—

Thesaurus

abstruse: (*adj*) esoteric, obscure, abstract, difficult, deep, cryptic, mysterious, occult, complex, dark, intricate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) simple, direct, clear, lucid, plain, obvious, mainstream, concrete, comprehensible, easy, accessible.
bought: (*n*) crook, hook.
disconcerting: (*adj*) disquieting, upsetting, baffling, alarming, disconcertingly, disturbing, worrying, embarrassing,

discomfiting, shocking, confusing.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) soothing, comforting, pleasing.
embossed: (*adj*) raised, brocaded, stamped, decorated, prominent, bossy; (*n*) relief.
generalities: (*n*) general points, general terms, generalia.
gorgeously: (*adv*) splendidly, magnificently, grandly, stunningly, sumptuously, wonderfully, superbly, exquisitely, resplendently,

attractively, delightfully.
 ANTONYM: (*adv*) horribly.
perforce: (*n*) on compulsion; (*adv*) needs.
physiognomy: (*n*) face, kisser, phiz, visage, mug, look, brow, contour, aspect, physnomy, metoposcopy.
proportionately: (*adv*) relatively, pro rata, in proportion, correspondingly, symmetrically, commensurately, adequately, balancedly, equally, harmoniously, appropriately.

“The rose is red,
The violet blue,
Carnation’s sweet,
And so are you.”

“Yes, that shall be it. It just suits itself to a chubby-faced child like him,” said Bathsheba. She inserted the words in a small though **legible** handwriting; enclosed the sheet in an envelope, and dipped her pen for the direction.

“What fun it would be to send it to the stupid old Boldwood, and how he would wonder!” said the **irrepressible** Liddy, lifting her eyebrows, and indulging in an awful mirth on the verge of fear as she thought of the moral and social magnitude of the man contemplated.

Bathsheba paused to regard the idea at full length. Boldwood’s had begun to be a troublesome image—a species of Daniel in her kingdom who persisted in kneeling eastward when reason and common sense said that he might just as well follow suit with the rest, and afford her the official glance of admiration which cost nothing at all. She was far from being seriously concerned about his **nonconformity**. Still, it was faintly depressing that the most dignified and valuable man in the parish should **withhold** his eyes, and that a girl like Liddy should talk about it. So Liddy’s idea was at first rather **harassing** than **piquant**.

“No, I won’t do that. He wouldn’t see any humour in it.”

“He’d worry to death,” said the persistent Liddy.

“Really, I don’t care particularly to send it to Teddy,” remarked her mistress. “He’s rather a naughty child sometimes.”

“Yes — that he is.”

“Let’s toss as men do,” said Bathsheba, idly. “Now then, head, Boldwood; tail, Teddy. No, we won’t toss money on a Sunday that would be tempting the devil indeed.”

“Toss this hymn-book; there can’t be no **sinfulness** in that, miss.”

Thesaurus

harassing: (*adj*) troublesome, carking, galling, thorny, vexatious; (*v*) bothering, pestering, tormenting, worrying, annoy, harass.

irrepressible: (*adj*) uncontrollable, uncontainable, unmanageable, wanton, inextinguishable, rampant, effervescent; (*v*) ungovernable, volcanic, stanchless, simmering. ANTONYM: (*adj*) orderly.

legible: (*adj*) readable, distinct, fair, plain, clean, definite, explicit,

understandable, direct, cloudless, light. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unreadable.

nonconformity: (*n*) disagreement, discordance, unorthodoxy, inconformity, rebellion, originality, nonconformance, heresy, difference, eccentricity, incongruity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) conformity, compliance.

piquant: (*adj*) peppery, spicy, engaging, tasty, salty, strong, sharp, gamy; (*adj, n*) pungent, racy,

trenchant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bland, dull, insipid, faint.

sinfulness: (*n*) wickedness, iniquity, evil, harm, impiety, immorality, depravity, ungodliness, unrighteousness, irreverence, corruption.

withhold: (*v*) reserve, keep, suppress, deny, retain, hold, detain, restrain, abstain, check; (*adj, v*) stint. ANTONYMS: (*v*) transmit, release, show, lavish, add.

“Very well. Open, Boldwood – shut, Teddy. No; it’s more likely to fall open. Open, Teddy – shut, Boldwood.”

The book went fluttering in the air and came down shut.

Bathsheba, a small yawn upon her mouth, took the pen, and with off-hand **serenity** directed the **missive** to Boldwood.

“Now light a candle, Liddy. Which seal shall we use? Here’s a unicorn’s head – there’s nothing in that. What’s this? – two doves – no. It ought to be something extraordinary, ought it not, Liddy? Here’s one with a motto – I remember it is some funny one, but I can’t read it. We’ll try this, and if it doesn’t do we’ll have another.”

A large red seal was duly **affixed**. Bathsheba looked closely at the hot wax to discover the words.

“Capital!” she exclaimed, throwing down the letter **frolicsomenly**. “’Twould upset the **solemnity** of a parson and clerke too.”

Liddy looked at the words of the seal, and read –

“MARRY ME.”

The same evening the letter was sent, and was duly **sorted** in Casterbridge post-office that night, to be returned to Weatherbury again in the morning.

So very **idly** and unreflectingly was this deed done. Of love as a spectacle Bathsheba had a fair knowledge; but of love **subjectively** she knew nothing.

Thesaurus

affixed: (*adj*) additional.

frolicsomenly: (*adv*) sportively, lively, gleefully, frolicly, gaily, waggishly, rollickingly, joyfully, coltishly, playfully, sprightly.

idly: (*adj, adv*) foolishly; (*adv*) vainly, vaguely, listlessly, forgetfully, distractedly; (*adj*) thoughtlessly.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) energetically.

missive: (*n*) epistle, note, message, communication, billet, memorandum, encyclical,

correspondence, alphabetic character, correspondence, circular.

serenity: (*n*) quiet, peace, calm, quietness, equanimity, calmness, quietude, repose; (*adj, n*) composure, tranquility, placidity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) anxiety, uproar, chaos, anger, panic, bustle, disturbance, impatience, turbulence, turmoil.

solemnity: (*n*) seriousness, sobriety, earnestness, formality, ceremony, impressiveness, austerity, sedateness,

display, pomp, grandeur.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) humor, levity, cheerfulness, understatement.

sorted: (*adj*) classified, sort, sorting, ranked, fixed, straight.

subjectively: (*adv*) randomly, capriciously, illogically, mentally, internally, individually, objectively, biasedly, without rhyme or reason, at random, by chance. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) objectively, impartially, logically.

CHAPTER XIV

EFFECT OF THE LETTER—SUNRISE

At dusk, on the evening of St. Valentine's Day, Boldwood sat down to supper as usual, by a beaming fire of aged logs. Upon the mantel-shelf before him was a time-piece, **surmounted** by a spread eagle, and upon the eagle's **wings** was the letter Bathsheba had sent. Here the bachelor's gaze was continually **fastening** itself, till the large red seal became as a blot of blood on the **retina** of his eye; and as he ate and drank he still read in fancy the words thereon, although they were too remote for his sight—

"MARRY ME."

The **pert** injunction was like those crystal substances which, **colourless** themselves, assume the tone of objects about them. Here, in the quiet of Boldwood's parlour, where everything that was not grave was **extraneous**, and where the atmosphere was that of a Puritan Sunday lasting all the week, the letter and its **dictum** changed their tenor from the **thoughtlessness** of their origin to a deep solemnity, imbibed from their accessories now.

Thesaurus

colourless: (*adj*) colorless, drab, pale, neutral, wan, pallid, ashen, clear, white, washy, bloodless.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) colorful.
dictum: (*n*) aphorism, axiom, command, saying, pronouncement, bidding, statement, byword, saw, apothegm, affirmation.
extraneous: (*adj*) exterior, foreign, exotic, external, adventitious, outer, outside, irrelevant, unrelated, extrinsic, immaterial. **ANTONYMS:**

(*adj*) relevant, intrinsic, necessary, essential, integral, native, needed, basic, pertinent.
fastening: (*n*) clasp, clip, buckle, attachment, lock, catch, link, bonding; (*n, v*) bond; (*v*) tie, bind.
pert: (*adj*) impertinent, bold, impudent, insolent, forward, fresh, brazen, saucy, malapert, irreverent, cheeky. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) listless.
retina: (*n*) cornea, iris, pupil, membrane.

surmounted: (*adj*) beaten.
thoughtlessness: (*n*) inconsideration, rashness, carelessness, impulsiveness, imprudence, indiscretion, heedlessness, bluntness, foolhardiness, neglect, negligence. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) thoughtfulness, care, responsibility, carefulness, caution, wisdom, diplomacy, sensitivity.
wings: (*n*) insignia, agency.

Since the receipt of the missive in the morning, Boldwood had felt the symmetry of his existence to be slowly getting distorted in the direction of an ideal passion. The disturbance was as the first floating **weed** to Columbus—the contemptibly little suggesting possibilities of the infinitely great.

The letter must have had an origin and a motive. That the latter was of the smallest magnitude compatible with its existence at all, Boldwood, of course, did not know. And such an explanation did not strike him as a possibility even. It is foreign to a **mystified** condition of mind to realize of the **mystifier** that the processes of **approving** a course suggested by circumstance, and of striking out a course from inner impulse, would look the same in the result. The vast difference between starting a train of events, and directing into a particular groove a series already started, is rarely apparent to the person **confounded** by the issue.

When Boldwood went to bed he placed the **valentine** in the corner of the looking-glass. He was conscious of its presence, even when his back was turned upon it. It was the first time in Boldwood's life that such an event had occurred. The same fascination that caused him to think it an act which had a deliberate motive prevented him from regarding it as an **impertinence**. He looked again at the direction. The mysterious influences of night invested the writing with the presence of the unknown writer. Somebody's—some *woman's*—hand had **travelled** softly over the paper bearing his name; her **unrevealed** eyes had watched every curve as she formed it; her brain had seen him in imagination the while. Why should she have imagined him? Her mouth—were the lips red or pale, plump or creased?—had curved itself to a certain expression as the pen went on—the corners had moved with all their natural tremulousness: what had been the expression?

The vision of the woman writing, as a supplement to the words written, had no individuality. She was a misty shape, and well she might be, considering that her original was at that moment sound asleep and oblivious of all love and letter-writing under the sky. Whenever Boldwood dozed she took a form, and

Thesaurus

approving: (*n*) adoption, appreciation, admiration, acceptance; (*adj*) good, approbative, approbatory, sympathetic, favourable; (*adv*) approvingly; (*v*) approve.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) against, mocking, scornful, critical, negative, uncomplimentary; (*n*) disapproval.
confounded: (*adj*) bemused, accused, execrable, baffled, cursed, befuddled, confused, puzzled, aghast, perplexed; (*adj, v*) abashed.

impertinence: (*n*) audacity, gall, impudence, insolence, disrespect, effrontery, brass, boldness, impertinency, sauciness, freshness.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) politeness, seriousness, reticence.
mystified: (*adj*) metagrobolized, puzzled, perplexed, metagrobolized, bemused, unclear, at a loss, metagrobolised, baffled, flummoxed, having difficulties. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) enlightened, clear.

mystifier: (*n*) puzzler.
travelled: (*adj*) cosmopolitan.
unrevealed: (*adj*) secret, hidden, unknown, invisible, supernatural, unnoticeable, unnamed, occult, undetectable, nameless, inner.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) known, obvious.
valentine: (*n*) sweetheart, gallant, love, sweetie, truelove, steady, lover.
weed: (*n*) grass, marijuana, pot, plant, fireweed, smoke, ganja; (*v*) eliminate, hoe, plow; (*adj*) pick.

comparatively ceased to be a vision: when he awoke there was the letter **justifying** the dream.

The moon shone to-night, and its light was not of a customary kind. His window admitted only a reflection of its rays, and the pale **sheen** had that reversed direction which snow gives, coming upward and lighting up his ceiling in an unnatural way, casting shadows in strange places, and putting lights where shadows had used to be.

The substance of the **epistle** had occupied him but little in comparison with the fact of its arrival. He suddenly wondered if anything more might be found in the envelope than what he had withdrawn. He jumped out of bed in the weird light, took the letter, pulled out the flimsy sheet, shook the envelope—searched it. Nothing more was there. Boldwood looked, as he had a hundred times the preceding day, at the insistent red seal: “Marry me,” he said aloud.

The solemn and reserved **yeoman** again closed the letter, and stuck it in the frame of the glass. In doing so he caught sight of his reflected features, wan in expression, and **insubstantial** in form. He saw how closely compressed was his mouth, and that his eyes were wide-spread and vacant. Feeling uneasy and dissatisfied with himself for this nervous **excitability**, he returned to bed.

Then the dawn drew on. The full power of the clear heaven was not equal to that of a cloudy sky at noon, when Boldwood arose and dressed himself. He descended the stairs and went out towards the gate of a field to the east, leaning over which he paused and looked around.

It was one of the usual slow sunrises of this time of the year, and the sky, pure violet in the zenith, was **leadен** to the **northward**, and murky to the east, where, over the **snowy** down or ewe-lease on Weatherbury Upper Farm, and apparently resting upon the ridge, the only half of the sun yet visible burnt rayless, like a red and flameless fire shining over a white hearthstone. The whole effect resembled a sunset as childhood resembles age.

In other directions, the fields and sky were so much of one colour by the snow, that it was difficult in a hasty glance to tell whereabouts the horizon occurred; and in general there was here, too, that before-mentioned preternatural

Thesaurus

epistle: (*n*) letter, note, communication, message, correspondence, post card, favor, missive, writing, memo, dispatch.
excitability: (*n*) irritability, impetuosity, responsiveness, vehemence, petulance, cholera, indiscretion, feeling, crossness, excitableness, nervousness.
insubstantial: (*adj*) frail, fragile, thin, unreal, slight, weak, light, imaginary, incorporeal, illusory; (*adj, v*)

unsubstantial. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) heavy, sturdy, concrete, substantial, palpable, real, constant, sound, robust, serious, strong.
justifying: (*adj*) extenuating, mitigating; (*n*) justification, defense.
leadен: (*adj*) heavy, gray, sluggish, grey, inert, torpid, grave, languid, drab, burdensome, livid.
 ANTONYM: (*adj*) bright.
northward: (*adj, adv*) north; (*adj*) northbound; (*adv*) northerly,

northwards, in the north, to the north.
sheen: (*n, v*) shine, gleam; (*n*) polish, gloss, light, glow, lustre, glitter, brightness, brilliance; (*v*) burnish.
 ANTONYM: (*n*) dullness.
snowy: (*adj*) white, pure, clean, blank, hoary, achromatic, snow-white, unblemished, wintry, wet, favorite.
yeoman: (*n*) befeater, gaffer, chap, cultivator, fellow, freeholder, blade, good man, swain, wight, woodcutter.

inversion of light and shade which attends the prospect when the **garish** brightness commonly in the sky is found on the earth, and the shades of earth are in the sky. Over the west hung the wasting moon, now dull and greenish-yellow, like **tarnished** brass.

Boldwood was listlessly noting how the frost had hardened and glazed the surface of the snow, till it shone in the red eastern light with the polish of marble; how, in some portions of the slope, **withered** grass-bents, encased in icicles, **bristled** through the smooth wan **coverlet** in the twisted and curved shapes of old Venetian glass; and how the footprints of a few birds, which had hopped over the snow whilst it lay in the state of a soft **fleece**, were now frozen to a short **permanency**. A half-muffled noise of light wheels interrupted him. Boldwood turned back into the road. It was the mail-cart—a crazy, two-wheeled vehicle, hardly heavy enough to resist a puff of wind. The driver held out a letter. Boldwood seized it and opened it, expecting another anonymous one—so greatly are people’s ideas of probability a mere sense that precedent will repeat itself.

“I don’t think it is for you, sir,” said the man, when he saw Boldwood’s action. “Though there is no name I think it is for your shepherd.”

Boldwood looked then at the address—

*To the New Shepherd,
Weatherbury Farm,
Near Casterbridge.*

“Oh—what a mistake!—it is not mine. Nor is it for my shepherd. It is for Miss Everdene’s.” You had better take it on to him—Gabriel Oak—and say I opened it in mistake.”

At this moment, on the ridge, up against the blazing sky, a figure was visible, like the black **snuff** in the midst of a candle-flame. Then it moved and began to bustle about vigorously from place to place, carrying square skeleton masses, which were **riddled** by the same rays. A small figure on all fours followed

Thesaurus

bristled: (*adj*) briary, briery, barbed, bristling, burry, biting, burred, echinated, horrent, prickly, spiny.
coverlet: (*n*) blanket, bedspread, cover, bedcover, bed cover, tarpaulin, drugget, coverlid, spread, mantle, quilt.
fleece: (*v*) extort, bilk, pluck, deceive, rip off, swindle, strip, pigeon, shear; (*adj, v*) bleed; (*n*) wool.
garish: (*adj*) flashy, loud, gaudy, brassy, blatant, meretricious, showy,

flash, tawdry; (*adj, v*) gay, gairish.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) drab, inconspicuous, muted, restrained, dull.
permanency: (*n*) durability, perdurability, perpetuity, duration, imperishability, immortality, lastingness, length, enduringness, strength, imperishingness.
riddled: (*v*) infundibular, porous, cribriform, honeycombed; (*adj*) damaged; (*n*) fuller.

snuff: (*v*) smell, kill, douse, slay, scent, snuffle, bump off, smother, snort; (*adj*) tobacco, nicotine.
tarnished: (*adj*) stained, tainted, dim, besmirched, spotted, imperfect, damaged, flyblown, dull, messy, maggoty. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clean, unblemished, famous.
withered: (*adj*) wizened, sear, shriveled, thin, shrunken, dry, dried up, wilted, faded, wizened; (*v*) lame. ANTONYM: (*adj*) plump.

behind. The tall form was that of Gabriel Oak; the small one that of George; the articles in course of **transit** were hurdles.

“Wait,” said Boldwood. “That’s the man on the hill. I’ll take the letter to him myself.”

To Boldwood it was now no longer merely a letter to another man. It was an opportunity. Exhibiting a face **pregnant** with **intention**, he entered the snowy field.

Gabriel, at that minute, descended the hill towards the right. The **glow stretched** down in this direction now, and **touched** the distant roof of Warren’s Malthouse – whither the shepherd was apparently **bent**: Boldwood followed at a distance.

Thesaurus

bent: (*adj*) curved, arched, deformed, crooked; (*n*) propensity, inclination, fancy, leaning, flair, gift, curvature. ANTONYMS: (*n*) weakness, inability, aversion; (*adj*) undetermined, undecided, uncurved, uncaring, rigid, unbent.
glow: (*n, v*) flush, gleam, shine, glimmer, glare, color, sparkle, beam; (*v*) burn, flare, kindle. ANTONYMS: (*n*) wanness, darkness, paleness; (*v*) pale, struggle.

intention: (*n*) idea, intent, goal, purpose, cause, motive, mind; (*n, v*) aim, end, design, drift.
pregnant: (*adj, v*) significant; (*adj*) meaningful, fraught, gravid, expectant, enceinte, heavy, big, meaning; (*v*) impregnate, conceive. ANTONYM: (*adj*) nonpregnant.
stretched: (*adj*) extended, stiff, tight, tense, stretched out, strained, expanded, outstretched, elongated, outspread, prolonged. ANTONYMS:

(*adj*) loose, short.
touched: (*adj*) insane, cracked, tinged, not right, daft, crazy, nutty; (*v*) compassionate, sympathetic, pitiful, mucid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) untouched, sane, unemotional, unmoved, well.
transit: (*n*) passage, travel, conveyance, movement, transportation, transport, transfer, public transit, lockage; (*v*) pass across, pass over.

CHAPTER XV

A MORNING MEETING—THE LETTER AGAIN

The scarlet and orange light outside the malthouse did not penetrate to its interior, which was, as usual, lighted by a rival glow of similar hue, **radiating** from the hearth.

The maltster, after having lain down in his clothes for a few hours, was now sitting beside a three-legged table, breakfasting of bread and bacon. This was eaten on the plateless system, which is performed by placing a slice of bread upon the table, the meat flat upon the bread, a **mustard** plaster upon the meat, and a pinch of salt upon the whole, then cutting them **vertically** downwards with a large pocket-knife till wood is reached, when the **severed** lamp is impaled on the knife, elevated, and sent the proper way of food.

The maltster's lack of teeth appeared not to **sensibly diminish** his powers as a mill. He had been without them for so many years that toothlessness was felt less to be a defect than hard gums an acquisition. Indeed, he seemed to approach the grave as a **hyperbolic** curve approaches a straight line—less directly as he got nearer, till it was doubtful if he would ever reach it at all.

Thesaurus

diminish: (*v*) decline, abate, abridge, deduct, dwindle, detract, fall, depreciate; (*adj, v*) lessen; (*adj, n, v*) degrade; (*n, v*) reduce. ANTONYMS: (*v*) grow, compliment, supplement, rise, recognize, prolong, praise, flatter, expand, enlarge, congratulate.
hyperbolic: (*adj*) inflated, stilted, exaggerative, highfalutin, hyperbolic, increased, rhetorical, enlarged.
mustard: (*n*) Chinese mustard,

charlock, Indian mustard, GAI Choi, colza, eagerness, cruciferous vegetable, rape, mustard greens, field mustard, condiment.
radiating: (*adj*) radiate, shining, glowing, radious, burning; (*adv*) radiately.
sensibly: (*adv*) sanely, intelligently, rationally, pragmatically, realistically, cleverly, politically, perceptibly, soundly, noticeably, wisely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) foolishly,

ludicrously, ridiculously, unreasonably, illogically, madly, irrationally, hastily, stupidly, irresponsibly, immaturely.
severed: (*adj*) cut off, cut, broken, separate, Severn, disconnected, rent off, disrupt, disengaged, torn, disrupted.
vertically: (*adv*) uprightly, erectly, straightly, upright, standingly, normally, sheerly, steeply; (*adj*) crosswise.

In the ashpit was a heap of potatoes **roasting**, and a boiling **pipkin** of charred bread, called “coffee”, for the benefit of whomsoever should call, for Warren’s was a sort of **clubhouse**, used as an alternative to the inn.

“I say, says I, we get a fine day, and then down comes a **snapper** at night,” was a remark now suddenly heard spreading into the malthouse from the door, which had been opened the previous moment. The form of Henery Fray advanced to the fire, **stamping** the snow from his boots when about half-way there. The speech and entry had not seemed to be at all an abrupt beginning to the maltster, introductory matter being often **omitted** in this neighbourhood, both from word and deed, and the maltster having the same **latitude** allowed him, did not hurry to reply. He picked up a fragment of cheese, by pecking upon it with his knife, as a butcher picks up skewers.

Henery appeared in a drab **kerseymere** great-coat, buttoned over his smock-frock, the white skirts of the latter being visible to the distance of about a foot below the coat-tails, which, when you got used to the style of dress, looked natural enough, and even ornamental – it certainly was comfortable.

Matthew Moon, Joseph Poorgrass, and other carters and waggoners followed at his heels, with great lanterns dangling from their hands, which showed that they had just come from the cart-horse stables, where they had been busily engaged since four o’clock that morning.

“And how is she getting on without a baily?” the maltster inquired. Henery shook his head, and smiled one of the bitter smiles, dragging all the flesh of his forehead into a **corrugated** heap in the centre.

“She’ll rue it – surely, surely!” he said “Benjy Pennyways were not a true man or an honest baily – as big a **betray**er as Judas Iscariot himself. But to think she can carr’ on alone!” He allowed his head to swing **laterally** three or four times in silence. “Never in all my creeping up – never!”

This was recognized by all as the conclusion of some gloomy speech which had been expressed in thought alone during the shake of the head; Henery meanwhile retained several marks of despair upon his face, to imply that they would be required for use again directly he should go on speaking.

Thesaurus

betrayer: (n) informer, Judas, turncoat, squealer, renegade, rat, cheat, cheater, conspirator, deceiver, source.
clubhouse: (n) edifice, baseball club, building, ball club, casino, cabaret.
corrugated: (adj) waved, wrinkly, undulate, corrugate, wavy, crimped, grooved, ridged. ANTONYM: (adj) flat.
kerseymere: (n) cassimere.
laterally: (adv) sidelongly, obliquely, sidewise, sidely, collaterally,

sidewardly, sideway, lengthways, sideling; (adj) crabwise, parallel. ANTONYM: (adv) logically.
latitude: (n) freedom, scope, breadth, room, expanse, range, compass, climate, clime, space, reach. ANTONYM: (n) constraint.
omitted: (adj) absent, forgotten, misplaced, wanting, not there, away, gone astray, lost, mislaid, gone.
pipkin: (n) jug, mug, pail, bucket, pitcher, skeel, tankard, tub.

roasting: (n) barbecuing, cookery, cooking; (adj) broiling, baking, burning, boiling, airless, blazing, close; (adj, n) scorching. ANTONYMS: (adj) airy, fresh.
snapper: (n) cracker, muttonfish, cracker bonbon, common snapping turtle, Chelydra serpentina, firecracker, kernel, inwardness, heart and soul, heart, gray snapper.
stamping: (n) impression, blocking, coin, postage, stamping of rail.

"All will be ruined, and ourselves too, or there's no meat in gentlemen's houses!" said Mark Clark.

"A **headstrong** maid, that's what she is—and won't listen to no advice at all. Pride and **vanity** have ruined many a cobbler's dog. Dear, dear, when I think o' it, I sorrows like a man in travel!"

"True, Henery, you do, I've heard ye," said Joseph Poorgrass in a voice of thorough **attestation**, and with a wire-drawn smile of misery.

"'Twould do a martel man no harm to have what's under her bonnet," said Billy Smallbury, who had just entered, bearing his one tooth before him. "She can spaik real language, and must have some sense somewhere. Do ye foller me?"

"I do, I do; but no baily—I deserved that place," wailed Henery, signifying wasted genius by gazing **blankly** at visions of a high **destiny** apparently visible to him on Billy Smallbury's smock-frock. "There, 'twas to be, I suppose. Your lot is your lot, and Scripture is nothing; for if you do good you don't get rewarded according to your works, but be **cheated** in some mean way out of your recompense."

"No, no; I don't agree with'ee there," said Mark Clark. "God's a perfect gentleman in that respect."

"Good works good pay, so to speak it," attested Joseph Poorgrass.

A short pause ensued, and as a sort of *entr'acte* Henery turned and blew out the lanterns, which the increase of daylight rendered no longer necessary even in the malthouse, with its one pane of glass.

"I wonder what a farmer-woman can want with a **harpsichord**, **dulcimer**, pianner, or whatever 'tis they d'call it?" said the maltster. "Liddy saith she've a new one."

"Got a pianner?"

"Ay. Seems her old uncle's things were not good enough for her. She've bought all but everything new. There's heavy **chairs** for the stout, weak and

Thesaurus

attestation: (*n*) affirmation, evidence, confirmation, attest, assertion, certificate, proof, affidavit, verification, profession, approbation.

blankly: (*adj, adv*) inanely, vacuously, expressionlessly; (*adv*) emptily, hollowly, voidly, cleanly, impassively, stupidly, whitely, inexpressively. ANTONYM: (*adv*) brightly.

chairs: (*n*) seats.

cheated: (*adj*) embittered, resentful.

destiny: (*n*) fate, chance, fortune, kismet, luck, lot, destination, portion, weird, life; (*n, v*) doom.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) chance, design.

dulcimer: (*n*) zithern, zither, vielle, pianino, spinet, cither, virginals, eolian harp.

harpsichord: (*n*) spinet, manichord, cembalo, harpsichon, virginal, clarichord.

headstrong: (*adj*) intractable, dogged, obstinate, disobedient, unruly,

willful, wayward, froward, rash, headlong; (*adj, v*) ungovernable.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) tractable, compliant, amenable, docile, malleable, agreeable, cautious.

vanity: (*n*) egotism, pride, emptiness, arrogance, futility, inanity, vainglory, conceitedness, pretension, pomposity; (*adj, n*) amour propre. ANTONYMS: (*n*) selflessness, humility, importance, value, effectiveness.

wiry ones for the slender; great watches, getting on to the size of clocks, to stand upon the chimbley-piece.”

“Pictures, for the most part wonderful frames.”

“And long horse-hair settles for the drunk, with horse-hair pillows at each end,” said Mr. Clark. “Likewise looking-glasses for the pretty, and lying books for the wicked.”

A firm loud **tread** was now heard stamping outside; the door was opened about six inches, and somebody on the other side exclaimed –

“Neighbours, have ye got room for a few new-born lambs?”

“Ay, sure, shepherd,” said the conclave.

The door was flung back till it kicked the wall and trembled from top to bottom with the blow. Mr. Oak appeared in the entry with a **steaming** face, hay-bands wound about his ankles to keep out the snow, a leather strap round his waist outside the smock-frock, and looking altogether an **epitome** of the world’s health and vigour. Four lambs hung in various embarrassing attitudes over his shoulders, and the dog George, whom Gabriel had **contrived** to fetch from Norcombe, stalked **solemnly** behind.

“Well, Shepherd Oak, and how’s lambing this year, if I mid say it?” inquired Joseph Poorgrass.

“Terrible trying,” said Oak. “I’ve been wet through twice a-day, either in snow or rain, this last **fortnight**. Cainy and I haven’t **tined** our eyes to-night.”

“A good few twins, too, I hear?”

“Too many by half. Yes; ‘tis a very queer lambing this year. We shan’t have done by Lady Day.”

“And last year ‘twere all over by Sexajessamine Sunday,” Joseph remarked.

“Bring on the rest Cain,” said Gabriel, “and then run back to the ewes. I’ll follow you soon.”

Cainy Ball—a cheery-faced young lad, with a small circular **orifice** by way of mouth, advanced and deposited two others, and retired as he was bidden. Oak

Thesaurus

a-day: (*n*) target date.

contrived: (*adj*) affected, unnatural, false, forced, labored, spurious, feigned, unreal, strained, built, artificially formal. ANTONYM: (*adj*) sincere.

epitome: (*n*) abstract, type, resume, compendium, model, digest, ideal, conspectus, synopsis, recapitulation; (*adj, n*) brief.

fortnight: (*n*) two weeks, period, amount of time.

orifice: (*n*) mouth, gap, hole, aperture, vent, port, puncture, inlet, muzzle, chops, nozzle.

solemnly: (*adv*) earnestly, gravely, majestically, stately, sternly, staidly, thoughtfully, soberly, formally, ceremoniously, importantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) cheerfully, flippantly.

steaming: (*adj*) hot, sweltering, roasting, baking, hot under the collar, hazy, scorching; (*adv*) piping; (*n*)

fumigation.

tined: (*adj*) forked, tinct, sharp, bifurcate, biramous, branched, prongy, divided.

tread: (*n, v*) pace, walk, rate, march, tramp; (*n*) gait, stride, footstep, footfall, track; (*v*) trample.

wiry: (*adj*) lean, muscular, sinewy, fibrous, brawny, stalwart, ropy, thin, supple, vigorous, rough.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) straight, small, tiny, smooth, soft, stout, fat.

lowered the lambs from their **unnatural elevation**, wrapped them in hay, and placed them round the fire.

“We’ve no lambing-hut here, as I used to have at Norcombe,” said Gabriel, “and ‘tis such a **plague** to bring the **weakly** ones to a house. If ‘twasn’t for your place here, **malter**, I don’t know what I should do i’ this keen weather. And how is it with you to-day, malter?”

“Oh, neither sick nor sorry, shepherd; but no younger.”

“Ay—I understand.”

“Sit down, Shepherd Oak,” continued the ancient man of malt. “And how was the old place at Norcombe, when ye went for your dog? I should like to see the old familiar spot; but faith, I shouldn’t know a soul there now.”

“I suppose you wouldn’t. ‘Tis altered very much.”

“Is it true that Dicky Hill’s wooden cider-house is pulled down?”

“Oh yes—years ago, and Dicky’s cottage just above it.”

“Well, to be sure!”

“Yes; and Tompkins’s old apple-tree is rooted that used to bear two hogsheads of cider; and no help from other trees.”

“Rooted?—you don’t say it! Ah! stirring times we live in—stirring times.”

“And you can mind the old well that used to be in the middle of the place? That’s turned into a solid iron pump with a large stone **trough**, and all complete.”

“Dear, dear—how the face of nations alter, and what we live to see nowadays! Yes—and ‘tis the same here. They’ve been talking but now of the mis’ess’s strange doings.”

“What have you been saying about her?” inquired Oak, sharply turning to the rest, and getting very warm.

“These middle-aged men have been pulling her over the **coals** for pride and vanity,” said Mark Clark; “but I say, let her have rope enough. Bless her pretty

Thesaurus

coals: (*n*) ashes, fire, residue, embers.

elevation: (*n*) height, highness, exaltation, ascent, climb, hill, aggrandizement, raise, El, Alt, stature. ANTONYMS: (*n*) degradation, descent, levelness, depression, downgrading, demotion, drop, depth.

malt: (*n*) milkshake, grist, beer, malted milk, wort, alcohol, malt liquor, inebriant, alcoholic beverage, food grain.

plague: (*v*) molest, harass, afflict, hassle, annoy, badger, pester, disturb, beleaguer; (*n, v*) worry; (*adj, n, v*) bother. ANTONYM: (*v*) comfort.

trough: (*n*) chute, channel, manger, depression, gutter, conduit, ditch, canal, crib, valley, bowl. ANTONYM: (*n*) ridge.

unnatural: (*adj*) affected, artificial, grotesque, supernatural, forced, abnormal, eccentric, uncanny, stilted, mannered, anomalous. ANTONYMS:

(*adj*) natural, normal, real, unaffected, commonplace, genuine, sincere.

weakly: (*adj*) feeble, infirm, weak; (*adv*) frailly, badly, softly, lightly, infirmly, effeminately, slightly; (*adj, adv*) sickly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) strongly, confidently, powerfully, firmly, well, competently, convincingly, wholeheartedly, admirably, persuasively, interestingly.

face shouldn't I like to do so—upon her cherry lips!" The **gallant** Mark Clark here made a peculiar and well known sound with his own.

"Mark," said Gabriel, **sternly**, "now you mind this! none of that dalliance-talk—that smack-and-coddle style of yours—about Miss Everdene. I don't allow it. Do you hear?"

"With all my heart, as I've got no chance," replied Mr. Clark, **cordially**.

"I suppose you've been speaking against her?" said Oak, turning to Joseph Poorgrass with a very grim look.

"No, no—not a word I—'tis a real joyful thing that she's no worse, that's what I say," said Joseph, trembling and blushing with terror. "Matthew just said —"

"Matthew Moon, what have you been saying?" asked Oak.

"I? Why ye know I wouldn't harm a worm—no, not one underground worm?" said Matthew Moon, looking very uneasy.

"Well, somebody has—and look here, neighbours," Gabriel, though one of the quietest and most gentle men on earth, rose to the occasion, with martial **promptness** and vigour. "That's my fist." Here he placed his fist, rather smaller in size than a common loaf, in the mathematical centre of the maltster's little table, and with it gave a bump or two thereon, as if to ensure that their eyes all thoroughly took in the idea of fistiness before he went further. "Now—the first man in the parish that I hear prophesying bad of our mistress, why" (here the fist was raised and let fall as Thor might have done with his hammer in **assaying** it)—"he'll smell and taste that—or I'm a Dutchman."

All earnestly expressed by their features that their minds did not wander to Holland for a moment on account of this statement, but were **deploring** the difference which gave rise to the figure; and Mark Clark cried "Hear, hear; just what I should ha' said." The dog George looked up at the same time after the shepherd's menace, and though he understood English but **imperfectly**, began to **growl**.

Thesaurus

assaying: (*n*) assay, judgment.

cordially: (*adv*) warmly, genially, kindly, sincerely, heartfully, ardently, friendly, jovially, earnestly, affectionately, harmoniously.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) disagreeably, frostily.

deploring: (*n*) woe, grief; (*adj*) plaintive.

gallant: (*adj*) fearless, brave, daring, courageous, chivalrous, bold, manly, heroic, dashing, courteous, fine.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) boorish, rude, selfish.

growl: (*adj, n, v*) snarl; (*n, v*) roar, bark, howl, yap, moan, thunder; (*v*) gnarl, mutter, complain, croak.

imperfectly: (*adv*) faultily, defectively, badly, deficiently, incompletely, partially, poorly, inadequately, sketchily, incorrectly, halfway.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) perfectly, flawlessly, correctly, well.

promptness: (*n*) promptitude, agility,

celerity, readiness, eagerness, expedition, dispatch, rapidity, alacrity, punctuality, speed.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) slowness, sluggishness, tardiness, delay.

sternly: (*adv*) severely, strictly, austere, harshly, rigidly, grimly, rigorously, stringently, seriously, relentlessly, solemnly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) leniently, lightheartedly, kindly, warmly, cheerfully.

“Now, don’t ye take on so, shepherd, and sit down!” said Henery, with a **deprecating peacefulness** equal to anything of the kind in Christianity.

“We hear that ye be a extraordinary good and clever man, shepherd,” said Joseph Poorgrass with considerable anxiety from behind the maltster’s bedstead **whither** he had retired for safety. “ ‘Tis a great thing to be clever, I’m sure,” he added, making movements associated with states of mind rather than body; “we wish we were, don’t we, neighbours?”

“Ay, that we do, sure,” said Matthew Moon, with a small anxious laugh towards Oak, to show how very friendly **disposed** he was likewise.

“Who’s been telling you I’m clever?” said Oak.

“ ‘Tis blowed about from **pillar** to post quite common,” said Matthew. “We hear that ye can tell the time as well by the **stars** as we can by the sun and moon, shepherd.”

“Yes, I can do a little that way,” said Gabriel, as a man of medium **sentiments** on the subject.

And that ye can make sun-dials and prent **folks’** names upon their waggons almost like copper-plate, with beautiful **flourishes**, and great long **tails**. A excellent fine thing for ye to be such a clever man, shepherd. Joseph Poorgrass used to prent to Farmer James Everdene’s waggons before you **came**, and ‘a could never mind which way to turn the J’s and E’s—could ye, Joseph?” Joseph shook his head to express how absolute was the fact that he couldn’t. “And so you used to do ‘em the wrong way, like this, didn’t ye, Joseph?” Matthew marked on the dusty floor with his whip-handle

JAMES

“And how Farmer James would cuss, and call thee a fool, wouldn’t he, Joseph, when ‘a seed his name looking so inside-out-like?” continued Matthew Moon with feeling.

Thesaurus

came: (*v*) arrive, come.

deprecating: (*adj*) deprecatory, belittling, ironic, deprecative, slighting, deadpan, critical, captious, depreciatory, depreciative, insulting.

disposed: (*adj*) prone, apt, ready, subject, prepared, liable, game, inclined, fain, likely, minded.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ailing, indisposed, unlikely, disinclined, reluctant, impervious.

flourishes: (*n*) added extras,

trappings, superfluties, trimmings, accompaniments, additions, embellishments.

folks: (*n*) people, folk, tribe, relations, household, house, relatives, relative, kindred, lineage, kin.

peacefulness: (*n*) calm, calmness, peace of mind, serenity, tranquillity, stillness, repose, quietness, ease, hush, heartsease. ANTONYMS: (*n*) bustle, wildness, upheaval, turmoil, agitation, disturbance, harshness.

pillar: (*n*) brace, mainstay, post, obelisk, foundation, pier, monument, stanchion, backbone, buttress; (*adj, n*) tower.

sentiments: (*n*) breast.

stars: (*n*) heavenly bodies, fate.

tails: (*n*) dress suit, tail coat, full dress, tail, waste, evening dress, dress coat, coat, morning coat, cutaway, formalwear.

whither: (*adv*) hither, thither, whereunto, whereto, for.

“Ay—’a would,” said Joseph, **meekly**. “But, you see, I wasn’t so much to blame, for them J’s and E’s be such trying sons o’ witches for the memory to mind whether they face backward or forward; and I always had such a **forgetful** memory, too.”

“ ‘Tis a very bad afiction for ye, being such a man of calamities in other ways.”

“Well, ‘tis; but a happy Providence ordered that it should be no worse, and I feel my thanks. As to shepherd, there, I’m sure mis’ess ought to have made ye her baily—such a fitting man for’t as you be.”

“I don’t mind owning that I expected it,” said Oak, frankly. “Indeed, I hoped for the place. At the same time, Miss Everdene has a right to be her own baily if she choose—and to keep me down to be a common shepherd only.” Oak drew a slow breath, looked sadly into the bright ashpit, and seemed lost in thoughts not of the most hopeful hue.

The **genial** warmth of the fire now began to stimulate the nearly lifeless lambs to bleat and move their limbs briskly upon the hay, and to recognize for the first time the fact that they were born. Their noise increased to a chorus of baas, upon which Oak pulled the milk-can from before the fire, and taking a small tea-pot from the pocket of his smock-frock, filled it with milk, and taught those of the helpless creatures which were not to be restored to their dams how to drink from the spout—a trick they acquired with astonishing **aptitude**.

“And she don’t even let ye have the skins of the dead lambs, I hear?” resumed Joseph Poorgrass, his eyes **lingering** on the operations of Oak with the necessary melancholy.

“I don’t have them,” said Gabriel.

“Ye be very badly used, shepherd,” hazarded Joseph again, in the hope of getting Oak as an ally in **lamentation** after all. “I think she’s took against ye—that I do.”

“Oh no—not at all,” replied Gabriel, hastily, and a sigh escaped him, which the deprivation of lamb skins could hardly have caused.

Thesaurus

aptitude: (*n*) capability, skill, capacity, fitness, facility, dexterity, potential, talent, flair, gift, proficiency.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) inability, inaptitude, stupidity, disinclination, incapacity, skilllessness, incompetence.

forgetful: (*adj*) oblivious, inattentive, negligent, lax, absent-minded, casual, unmindful, neglectful, heedless, unaware; (*adj, v*) remiss.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) mindful,

watchful, alert, remembering, retentive.

genial: (*adj*) cheerful, bright, affable, cordial, amiable, nice, friendly, convivial, warm, agreeable, suave. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) disagreeable, hostile, mean, discourteous, frosty, gloomy, reserved, unapproachable, abominable.

lamentation: (*n*) dirge, grief, mourning, plaint, regret, complaint, cry, crying, wail, moan, condolence.

ANTONYM: (*n*) celebration.

lingering: (*adj*) long, chronic, extended, dilatory, protracted, prolonged, residual, lengthy, inactive, dull; (*n*) delay. ANTONYM: (*adj*) quick.

meekly: (*adv*) humbly, submissively, tamely, compliantly, obediently, docilely, peacefully, lowly, modestly, placidly, kindly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) haughtily, harshly, wildly, arrogantly, assertively, brashly.

Before any further remark had been added a shade **darkened** the door, and Boldwood entered the malthouse, bestowing upon each a nod of a quality between **friendliness** and condescension.

“Ah! Oak, I thought you were here,” he said. “I met the mail-cart ten minutes ago, and a letter was put into my hand, which I opened without reading the address. I believe it is yours. You must excuse the accident please.”

“Oh yes—not a bit of difference, Mr. Boldwood—not a bit,” said Gabriel, readily. He had not a correspondent on earth, nor was there a possible letter coming to him whose contents the whole parish would not have been welcome to **peruse**.

Oak stepped aside, and read the following in an unknown hand:—

DEAR FRIEND,—I do not know your name, but I think these few lines will reach you, which I wrote to thank you for your kindness to me the night I left Weatherbury in a reckless way. I also return the money I owe you, which you will excuse my not keeping as a gift. All has ended well, and I am happy to say I am going to be married to the young man who has courted me for some time—Sergeant Troy, of the 11th Dragoon Guards, now **quartered** in this town. He would, I know, object to my having received anything except as a loan, being a man of great **respectability** and high honour—indeed, a **nobleman** by blood.

“I should be much obliged to you if you would keep the contents of this letter a secret for the present, dear friend. We mean to surprise Weatherbury by coming there soon as husband and wife, though I **blush** to state it to one nearly a stranger. The sergeant **grew** up in Weatherbury. Thanking you again for your kindness,

I am, your sincere **well-wisher**,
FANNY ROBIN

“Have you read it, Mr. Boldwood?” said Gabriel; “if not, you had better do so. I know you are interested in Fanny Robin.”

Thesaurus

blush: (*n, v*) glow, color; (*v*) redden, crimson; (*n*) red, bloom, rosiness, ruddiness, redness; (*adj*) bashful; (*adv*) blushinglly. ANTONYMS: (*v*) blanch, pale, blench; (*n*) paleness.
darkened: (*adj*) darkens, obscured, old, obfuscate, murky, cloudy, opaque, overcast.
friendliness: (*n*) friendship, geniality, amiability, affability, amicability, affection, hospitality, cordiality, brotherhood, amicableness,

accessibility. ANTONYMS: (*n*) cruelty, aloofness, nastiness, hostility, aggression, resistance, resentment, frostiness, formality, contention, belligerence.
grew: (*v*) become, develop; (*adj*) grown.
nobleman: (*n*) patrician, aristocrat, lord, peer, marquis, nobility, grandee, baron, duke, armiger, burgrave.
peruse: (*v*) examine, look through,

inspect, study, leaf, flip, flick, learn, review, to read, browse. ANTONYM: (*v*) skim.
quartered: (*n*) quartering, quarters.
respectability: (*n*) reputation, propriety, reputability, decorum, honesty, honourableness, gentility, dignity, repute, politeness; (*adj*) respectableness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) decadence, indecency, immorality.
well-wisher: (*n*) friend, patron, support, benefactor.

Boldwood read the letter and looked grieved.

"Fanny—poor Fanny! the end she is so confident of has not yet come, she should remember—and may never come. I see she gives no address."

"What sort of a man is this Sergeant Troy?" said Gabriel.

"H'm—I'm afraid not one to build much hope upon in such a case as this," the farmer murmured, "though he's a clever fellow, and up to everything. A slight romance attaches to him, too. His mother was a French governess, and it seems that a secret attachment existed between her and the late Lord Severn. She was married to a poor medical man, and soon after an infant was born; and while money was forthcoming all went on well. Unfortunately for her boy, his best friends died; and he got then a situation as second clerk at a lawyer's in Casterbridge. He stayed there for some time, and might have **worked** himself into a dignified position of some sort had he not indulged in the wild **freak** of **enlisting**. I have much doubt if ever little Fanny will surprise us in the way she mentions—very much doubt. A silly girl!—silly girl!"

The door was **hurriedly** burst open again, and in came running Cainy Ball out of breath, his mouth red and open, like the bell of a penny trumpet, from which he coughed with noisy **vigour** and great **distension** of face.

"Now, Cain Ball," said Oak, sternly, "why will you run so fast and lose your breath so? I'm always telling you of it."

"Oh—I—a **puff** of mee breath—went—the—wrong way, please, Mister Oak, and made me cough—hok—hok!"

"Well—what have you come for?"

"I've run to tell ye," said the junior shepherd, supporting his exhausted **youthful** frame against the doorpost, "that you must come directly. Two more ewes have twinned—that's what's the matter, Shepherd Oak."

"Oh, that's it," said Oak, **jumping** up, and dismissing for the present his thoughts on poor Fanny. "You are a good boy to run and tell me, Cain, and you shall smell a large **plum** pudding some day as a treat. But, before we go, Cainy, bring the **tarpot**, and we'll mark this lot and have done with 'em."

Thesaurus

distension: (*n*) dilatation, dilation, intumescence, extension, expansion, distention, diastole, inflation, bulge, enlargement, tumefaction.
enlisting: (*n*) accomplishment, achievement, recruitment.
freak: (*n, v*) crotchet, caprice; (*adj, n*) eccentric; (*n*) oddity, crank, fanatic, nut, monster, fit, whim, fad.
hurriedly: (*adv*) rapidly, quickly, swiftly, abruptly, promptly, fast, in haste, suddenly, speedily, rashly,

precipitately. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) calmly, unhurriedly, patiently, carefully, gradually, thoroughly.
jumping: (*n*) saltation, leaping, header, start, propulsion; (*adj*) moving, festive; (*v*) bounding, salient, dancing; (*adv*) leapingly.
plum: (*n*) damson, greengage, plum tree, prune, drupe, marmalade, lac, licorice; (*adv*) plumb, clean; (*adj*) mauve.
puff: (*adj, n, v*) gasp; (*n, v*) blow, whiff,

gust, drag; (*v*) boast, inflate, huff, heave, brag, distend.
tarpot: (*n*) kettle.
vigour: (*n*) force, strength, vigor, energy, power, potency, vim, vitality, athleticism, verve, intensity.
worked: (*adj*) elaborated, beaten.
youthful: (*adj*) immature, fresh, green, juvenile, vernal, adolescent, childish, new, tender, sappy, beardless.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) adult, mature, experienced, sophisticated, late.

Oak took from his **illimitable** pockets a marking iron, dipped it into the pot, and imprinted on the **buttocks** of the infant sheep the initials of her he delighted to **muse** on—"B. E.," which signified to all the region round that henceforth the lambs belonged to Farmer Bathsheba Everdene, and to no one else.

"Now, Cainy, shoulder your two, and off. Good morning, Mr. Boldwood." The shepherd lifted the sixteen large legs and four small bodies he had himself brought, and vanished with them in the direction of the lambing field hard by—their frames being now in a sleek and hopeful state, pleasantly contrasting with their death's-door plight of half an hour before.

Boldwood followed him a little way up the field, hesitated, and turned back. He followed him again with a last resolve, **annihilating** return. On approaching the nook in which the fold was constructed, the farmer drew out his pocket-book, unfastened-it, and allowed it to lie open on his hand. A letter was revealed—Bathsheba's.

"I was going to ask you, Oak," he said, with unreal **carelessness**, "if you know whose writing this is?"

Oak glanced into the book, and replied instantly, with a flushed face, "Miss Everdene's."

Oak had coloured simply at the consciousness of sounding her name. He now felt a strangely distressing **qualm** from a new thought. The letter could of course be no other than anonymous, or the inquiry would not have been necessary.

Boldwood mistook his confusion: sensitive persons are always ready with their "Is it I?" in preference to objective reasoning.

"The question was perfectly fair," he returned—and there was something **incongruous** in the serious earnestness with which he applied himself to an argument on a valentine. "You know it is always expected that privy inquiries will be made: that's where the—fun lies." If the word "fun" had been "torture" it could not have been uttered with a more constrained and restless countenance than was Boldwood's then.

Thesaurus

annihilating: (*adj*) crushing, annihilative, destructive, withering, disrespectful.
buttocks: (*n*) bottom, ass, arse, bum, rump, butt, tail, hip, behind, nates, posterior.
carelessness: (*n*) negligence, inattention, indifference, nonchalance, thoughtlessness, abandon, incaution, disregard, omission, forgetfulness, dereliction.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) attention, caution,

alertness, vigilance, carefulness, thoughtfulness, assiduousness, economy, regard, prudence, forethought.

illimitable: (*adj*) endless, infinite, boundless, limitless, unlimited, immense, eternal, measureless, interminable, unmeasurable, unmeasured.

incongruous: (*adj*) inappropriate, improper, absurd, inapt, incompatible, conflicting,

inconsistent, incoherent, inexpedient, (*adj, n*) contradictory, dissonant.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) appropriate, befitting, consistent, reasonable.

muse: (*v*) meditate, ponder, deliberate, consider, cogitate, reflect, brood, ruminate, speculate, think, mull.
 ANTONYM: (*v*) wander.

qualm: (*n*) misgiving, doubt, nausea, distrust, compunction, uncertainty, regret, hesitation, apprehension, fear; (*adj, n*) suspicion.

Soon parting from Gabriel, the **lonely** and **reserved** man returned to his house to breakfast—feeling twinges of shame and **regret** at having so far exposed his mood by those **fevered** questions to a **stranger**. He again placed the letter on the **mantelpiece**, and sat down to think of the circumstances **attending** it by the light of Gabriel's information.

Thesaurus

attending: (*v*) attend; (*n*) presence, nursing, care, appearing, observation; (*adj*) concomitant, attendant, ministrant, in attendance, ancillary. ANTONYMS: (*n*) nonattendance, inattention.

fevered: (*adj*) febrile, hectic, hot, fiery.

lonely: (*adj*) deserted, lone, dreary, solitary, forsaken, desert; (*adj, n*) isolated, alone; (*adv*) lonesomely, solely, solitarily. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sheltered, populous, cheerful, nearby;

(*n*) foe.

mantelpiece: (*n*) chimneypiece, mantelpiece, shelf, chimneybreast, blanket, cape, sill, clavy, curtain, drape, drapery.

regret: (*n, v*) grieve, sorrow; (*v*) bewail, lament, mourn, bemoan, deplore; (*n*) remorse, penitence, compunction, contrition. ANTONYMS: (*v*) welcome, praise; (*n*) idealism, shamelessness, joy, satisfaction.

reserved: (*adj, n*) cold, distant, frigid;

(*adj*) coy, reticent, diffident, bashful, aloof, retiring, quiet, shy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) open, forthcoming, uninhibited, relaxed, warm, communicative, talkative, free, definite, cordial, forward.

stranger: (*n*) foreigner, outsider, newcomer, outlander, immigrant, intruder, unknown, tramontane, trespasser; (*adj*) foreign, strange. ANTONYMS: (*n*) pal, native, associate, resident, familiar.

CHAPTER XVI

ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS'

On a week-day morning a small congregation, consisting mainly of women and girls, rose from its knees in the mouldy **nave** of a church called All Saints', in the distant barrack-town before mentioned, at the end of a service without a sermon. They were about to **disperse**, when a smart **footstep**, entering the porch and coming up the central passage, arrested their attention. The step echoed with a ring unusual in a church; it was the **clink** of spurs. Everybody looked. A young cavalry soldier in a red uniform, with the three chevrons of a sergeant upon his sleeve, strode up the **aisle**, with an embarrassment which was only the more marked by the intense vigour of his step, and by the determination upon his face to show none. A slight flush had mounted his cheek by the time he had run the **gauntlet** between these women; but, passing on through the **chancel** arch, he never paused till he came close to the altar railing. Here for a moment he stood alone.

The **officiating curate**, who had not yet doffed his **surplice**, **perceived** the new-comer, and followed him to the communion-space. He whispered to the soldier, and then beckoned to the clerk, who in his turn whispered to an elderly woman, apparently his wife, and they also went up the chancel steps.

Thesaurus

aisle: (*n*) thoroughfare, path, nave, corridor, gangway, lane, route, runway, access, glade, vista.

chancel: (*n*) sanctuary, Golgotha, quire, transept, vestry, crypt, nave, presbytery, choir, calvary, asylum.

clink: (*n, v*) clank, jingle, chink, ring, rattle; (*v*) tinkle, sound; (*n*) clang, jail, clash, click.

curate: (*n*) rector, clergyman, minister, chaplain, pastor, Stipendiary curate, priest, vicar, incumbent, reverend,

canon.

disperse: (*v*) dispel, spread, circulate, break up, disband, scatter, dissipate, diffuse, dispense, disseminate, break.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) gather, collect, converge, centralize, capture, congregate, garner, concentrate, swarm, crowd, aggravate.

footstep: (*n*) pace, footfall, track, footmark, vestige, tread, trail, stride, degree; (*n, v*) step, action.

gauntlet: (*n*) mitt, sleeve, wristband,

gantlet, mitten, gloves; (*v*) corner stone, armored vest, buffer, mask, call to arms.

nave: (*n*) aisle, choir, chancel, halfway house, hub, vestry, transept, omphalos, boss, navel, calvary.

officiating: (*n*) umpirage, adjudication, refereeing; (*adj*) acting.

perceived: (*adj*) sensed, apparent, supposed, professed, ostensible.

surplice: (*n*) robe, Geneva gown frock, gown, pallium.

“ ‘Tis a wedding!” murmured some of the women, brightening. “Let’s wait!”

The majority again sat down.

There was a **creaking** of machinery behind, and some of the young ones turned their heads. From the interior face of the west wall of the tower projected a little canopy with a quarter-jack and small bell beneath it, the **automaton** being driven by the same clock machinery that struck the large bell in the tower. Between the tower and the church was a close screen, the door of which was kept shut during services, hiding this grotesque **clockwork** from sight. At present, however, the door was open, and the **egress** of the jack, the blows on the bell, and the mannikin’s retreat into the nook again, were visible to many, and audible through-out the church.

The jack had struck half-past eleven.

“Where’s the woman?” whispered some of the spectators.

The young sergeant stood still with the abnormal rigidity of the old pillars around. He faced the south-east, and was as silent as he was still.

The silence grew to be a noticeable thing as the minutes went on, and nobody else appeared, and not a soul moved. The rattle of the quarter-jack again from its niche, its blows for three-quarters, its fussy retreat, were almost painfully abrupt, and caused many of the congregation to start **palpably**.

“I wonder where the woman is!” a voice whispered again.

There began now that slight shifting of feet, that artificial coughing among several, which betrays a nervous suspense. At length there was a **titter**. But the soldier never moved. There he stood, his face to the south-east, upright as a column, his cap in his hand.

The clock ticked on. The women threw off their nervousness, and titters and giggling became more frequent. Then came a dead silence. Every one was waiting for the end. Some persons may have noticed how extraordinarily the striking of quarters seems to **quicken** the flight of time. It was hardly credible that the jack had not got wrong with the minutes when the rattle began again, the puppet emerged, and the four quarters were struck **fitfully** as before: One

Thesaurus

automaton: (*n*) robot, machine, android, mechanism, automata, zombi, zombie, anomaly.

clockwork: (*n*) wheelwork.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) inaccuracy, impreciseness, inconsistency.

creaking: (*adj, v*) creaky; (*adj*) squeaking, harsh, squeaky, noisy, arthritic; (*v*) rickety; (*n*) squeak.

egress: (*n*) exit, egression, outlet, door, emergence, departure, emersion, emission, way out, dissilience; (*v*)

emerge. ANTONYMS: (*n*) entry, ingress.

fitfully: (*adv*) intermittently, spasmodically, inconstantly, sporadically, unsteadily, unevenly, uncertainly, randomly, interruptedly, flickeringly, occasionally.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) recurrently, peacefully.

palpably: (*adv*) patently, noticeably, clearly, manifestly, obviously, plainly, transparently, unmistakably,

evidently, tangibly, markedly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) imperceptibly, insignificantly.

quicken: (*v*) accelerate, hasten, hurry, dispatch, animate, expedite, advance, enliven, precipitate; (*n, v*) forward, speed. ANTONYMS: (*v*) decelerate, delay.

titter: (*n, v*) laugh, chuckle, snigger, chortle, twitter, gurgle, snort, guffaw; (*v*) snicker; (*n*) laughter, quiet laughter.

could almost be positive that there was a malicious **leer** upon the hideous creature's face, and a mischievous delight in its twitchings. Then, followed the dull and remote resonance of the twelve heavy strokes in the tower above. The women were impressed, and there was no **giggle** this time.

The **clergyman** glided into the **vestry**, and the clerk vanished. The sergeant had not yet turned; every woman in the church was waiting to see his face, and he appeared to know it. At last he did turn, and stalked resolutely down the nave, **braving** them all, with a compressed lip. Two bowed and **toothless** old almsmen then looked at each other and chuckled, innocently enough; but the sound had a strange weird effect in that place.

Opposite to the church was a paved square, around which several overhanging wood buildings of old time cast a picturesque shade. The young man on leaving the door went to cross the square, when, in the middle, he met a little woman. The expression of her face, which had been one of intense anxiety, sank at the sight of his nearly to terror.

"Well?" he said, in a suppressed passion, **fixedly** looking at her.

"Oh, Frank—I made a mistake!—I thought that church with the **spire** was All Saints', and I was at the door at half-past eleven to a minute as you said. I waited till a quarter to twelve, and found then that I was in All Souls'. But I wasn't much frightened, for I thought it could be to-morrow as well."

"You fool, for so **fooling** me! But say no more."

"Shall it be to-morrow, Frank?" she asked blankly.

"To-morrow!" and he gave vent to a **hoarse** laugh. "I don't go through that experience again for some time, I warrant you!"

"But after all," she expostulated in a trembling voice, "the mistake was not such a terrible thing! Now, dear Frank, when shall it be?"

"Ah, when? God knows!" he said, with a light irony, and turning from her walked rapidly away.

Thesaurus

braving: (*n*) try, effort, endeavour, facing, attempt, confronting, coping with, grappling, face, tackling.

clergyman: (*n*) minister, chaplain, priest, pastor, churchman, preacher, parson, rector, dominie, vicar; (*adj*) divine. ANTONYMS: (*n*) layman, layperson.

fixedly: (*adv*) steadily, steadfastly, regularly, intently, stably, setly, permanently, rigidly, unwaveringly, surely, resolutely.

fooling: (*n*) farce, tomfoolery, horseplay, joking, prank; (*adj*) casual, accidental, everyday, effortless, cursory.

giggle: (*n, v*) laugh, chuckle, titter, twitter, guffaw, gurgle, snort, hoot; (*v*) cackle, snicker, snigger.

hoarse: (*adj*) gruff, husky, raucous, grating, strident, guttural, rough, throaty; (*v*) coarse; (*adj, v*) hollow, sepulchral. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) smooth, mellow, velvety, high.

leer: (*n, v*) glance; (*n*) grin, wink, smirk, look, gaze, nudge, shrug, tip the wink; (*v*) simper, ogle.

spire: (*n*) pinnacle, minaret, top; (*adj, n*) steeple; (*v*) coil, hover; (*adj*) tower, column, obelisk, pillar, monument.

toothless: (*adj*) powerless, immobilized, edentulous, dull. ANTONYM: (*adj*) effective.

vestry: (*n*) nave, quire, convocation, consistory, synod, choir, chapter, chancel, transept, aisle, conclave.

CHAPTER XVII

IN THE MARKET-PLACE

On Saturday Boldwood was in Casterbridge market house as usual, when the **disturber** of his dreams entered and became visible to him. Adam had **awakened** from his deep sleep, and **behold!** there was Eve. The farmer took courage, and for the first time really looked at her.

Material causes and emotional effects are not to be arranged in regular equation. The result from capital employed in the production of any movement of a mental nature is sometimes as tremendous as the cause itself is absurdly minute. When women are in a **freakish** mood, their usual intuition, either from carelessness or inherent defect, seemingly fails to teach them this, and hence it was that Bathsheba was **fated** to be astonished today.

Boldwood looked at her—not **slily**, critically, or **understandingly**, but blankly at gaze, in the way a **reaper** looks up at a passing train—as something foreign to his element, and but dimly understood. To Boldwood women had been remote phenomena rather than necessary complements—comets of such uncertain aspect, movement, and permanence, that whether their orbits were as geometrical, **unchangeable**, and as subject to laws as his own, or as absolutely erratic as they superficially appeared, he had not deemed it his duty to consider.

Thesaurus

awakened: (*adj*) excited, aroused, awakens, awoke, interested.

behold: (*v*) see, view, contemplate, regard, perceive, observe, look, consider, discern, descry, watch.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) Miss, disregard, ignore, overlook.

disturber: (*n*) troubler.

fated: (*adj*) inevitable, destined, certain, predestined, damned, unavoidable, predestinate, cursed, intended, forthcoming, sure.

freakish: (*adj, n*) fantastic, fanciful, whimsical, crotchety; (*adj*) eccentric, bizarre, outlandish, abnormal, peculiar; (*adj, v*) changeable, fickle.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) normal.

reaper: (*n*) mower, combine, Grim Reaper, cutter, death, fieldhand, binder, farm worker, header, farmhand, thresher.

slily: (*adj*) on the sly.

unchangeable: (*adj*) invariable, firm, immutable, permanent, irrevocable,

irreversible, unalterable, immovable, inflexible, determined, definite.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) changing, inconstant, flexible, uncertain, fluid, unconfirmed, impermanent.

understandingly: (*adv*) sensitively, knowingly, sympathetically, intelligently, perceptively, considerately, compassionately, tolerantly, discerningly, thoughtfully, supportively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unkindly, insensitively.

He saw her black hair, her correct facial curves and profile, and the **roundness** of her chin and throat. He saw then the side of her eyelids, eyes, and lashes, and the shape of her ear. Next he noticed her figure, her skirt, and the very **soles** of her shoes.

Boldwood thought her beautiful, but wondered whether he was right in his thought, for it seemed impossible that this romance in the flesh, if so sweet as he imagined, could have been going on long without creating a commotion of delight among men, and **provoking** more inquiry than Bathsheba had done, even though that was not a little. To the best of his judgement neither nature nor art could improve this perfect one of an imperfect many. His heart began to move within him. Boldwood, it must be remembered, though forty years of age, had never before inspected a woman with the very centre and force of his glance; they had struck upon all his senses at wide angles.

Was she really beautiful? He could not assure himself that his opinion was true even now. He **furtively** said to a neighbour, "Is Miss Everdene considered handsome?"

"Oh yes; she was a good deal noticed the first time she came, if you remember. A very handsome girl indeed."

A man is never more **credulous** than in receiving favourable opinions on the beauty of a woman he is half, or quite, in love with; a mere child's word on the point has the weight of an R.A.'s. Boldwood was satisfied now.

And this charming woman had in effect said to him, "Marry me." Why should she have done that strange thing? Boldwood's blindness to the difference between approving of what circumstances suggest, and originating what they do not suggest, was well matched by Bathsheba's **insensibility** to the possibly great issues of little beginnings.

She was at this moment coolly dealing with a dashing young farmer, adding up accounts with him as indifferently as if his face had been the pages of a **ledger**. It was evident that such a nature as his had no attraction for a woman of Bathsheba's taste. But Boldwood grew hot down to his hands with an incipient jealousy; he trod for the first time the threshold of "the injured lover's hell." His

Thesaurus

credulous: (*adj*) gullible, unsuspecting, simple, unsuspecting, unquestioning, green, trusting, unwary, innocent, believing, illogical. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) suspicious, wary, disbelieving, suspecting, skeptical, cynical, untrusting, shrewd, rational, smart, mistrustful.

furtively: (*adv*) stealthily, covertly, surreptitiously, sneakily, clandestinely, secretively, sly, sneakingly, underhandedly,

undercoverly, craftily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) deliberately, brazenly.

insensibility: (*n*) callousness, hardness, indifference, dullness, stupidity, stupor, impassiveness, coma, physical insensibility, impassivity, trance.

ledger: (*n*) book, account book, daybook, account, book of account, leger, books, calendar, diary, ephemeris, crossbar.

provoking: (*adj*) provocative,

annoying, aggravating, galling, maddening, vexatious, agitative, tempting, agitating; (*adj, v*) irritating, insulting. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) conciliatory, courteous, satisfying.

roundness: (*n*) rotundity, globosity, sphericity, rondure, plumpness, globularness, cylindricalness, cylindricality, shape, rotundness, circle. ANTONYMS: (*n*) angularity, slenderness, thinness.

soles: (*n*) family Soleidae.

first impulse was to go and thrust himself between them. This could be done, but only in one way—by asking to see a sample of her corn. Boldwood renounced the idea. He could not make the request; it was **debasing loveliness** to ask it to buy and sell, and jarred with his conceptions of her.

All this time Bathsheba was conscious of having broken into that dignified **stronghold** at last. His eyes, she knew, were following her everywhere. This was a triumph; and had it come naturally, such a triumph would have been the sweeter to her for this **piquing** delay. But it had been brought about by **misdirected ingenuity**, and she valued it only as she valued an artificial flower or a wax fruit.

Being a woman with some good sense in reasoning on subjects wherein her heart was not involved, Bathsheba genuinely repented that a freak which had owed its existence as much to Liddy as to herself, should ever have been undertaken, to disturb the **placidity** of a man she respected too highly to deliberately **tease**.

She that day nearly formed the intention of begging his pardon on the very next occasion of their meeting. The worst features of this arrangement were that, if he thought she ridiculed him, an apology would increase the offence by being disbelieved; and if he thought she wanted him to woo her, it would read like additional evidence of her **forwardness**.

Thesaurus

debasing: (*adj*) degrading, demeaning, opprobrious, libelous, humiliating, pejorative, *infra dig*, corrupting, outrageous; (*adv*) debasingly; (*n*) disgrace.

forwardness: (*adj*) alacrity, readiness, earnestness; (*n*) precocity, impudence, presumption, cockiness, bumptiousness, impertinence, cheekiness, temerity.

ingenuity: (*adj, n*) ability; (*n*) adroitness, ingeniousness, cunning,

imagination, acumen, resource, originality, skill, wit, inventiveness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) ineptness.

loveliness: (*n*) comeliness, fairness, grace, attractiveness, charm, glamour, pulchritude, beauteousness, good looks, cuteness, fineness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) unattractiveness, unpleasantness, awkwardness.

misdirected: (*adj*) led astray, undirected, wry.

piquing: (*adj*) crisp.

placidity: (*n*) peace, equanimity, calm, serenity, tranquility, calmness, tranquillity, placidness, repose, quiet, ataraxia.

stronghold: (*n*) bastion, fortress, keep, fortification, fort, bulwark, redoubt, strength; (*adj, n*) castle, fastness; (*v*) hold.

tease: (*n, v*) annoy; (*adj, v*) molest, harry, worry, bait; (*v*) taunt, kid, pester, plague, provoke, mock. ANTONYM: (*v*) placate.

CHAPTER XVIII

BOLDWOOD IN MEDITATION—
REGRET

Boldwood was tenant of what was called Little Weatherbury Farm, and his person was the nearest approach to aristocracy that this remoter quarter of the parish could boast of. **Genteel** strangers, whose god was their town, who might happen to be compelled to **linger** about this nook for a day, heard the sound of light wheels, and prayed to see good society, to the degree of a solitary lord, or squire at the very least, but it was only Mr. Boldwood going out for the day. They heard the sound of wheels yet once more, and were re-animated to expectancy: it was only Mr. Boldwood coming home again.

His house stood **recessed** from the road, and the stables, which are to a farm what a fireplace is to a room, were behind, their lower portions being lost amid bushes of **laurel**. Inside the blue door, open half-way down, were to be seen at this time the backs and tails of half-a-dozen warm and **contented** horses standing in their stalls; and as thus viewed, they presented alternations of **roan** and bay, in shapes like a Moorish arch, the tail being a streak down the midst of each. Over these, and lost to the eye gazing in from the outer light, the mouths of the same animals could be heard **busily sustaining** the above-named warmth and

Thesaurus

busily: (*adv*) actively, occupiedly, briskly, industriously, engagedly, energetically, assiduously, lively, officiously, fussily, meddlesomely.
ANTONYM: (*adv*) inactively.
contented: (*adj*) content, happy, comfortable, quiet, cheerful, smug, complacent, satisfied, easy, proud, delighted. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) discontented, unhappy, depressed, unsatisfied, sad, anxious.
genteel: (*adj*) elegant, polite, cultured,

refined, graceful, courtly, courteous, fashionable, nice, civil, ladylike.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uncouth, improper, vulgar.
laurel: (*n*) bays, honor, rose-laurel, cassia, cinnamon, sweet bay, Daphne, bay tree, palm, garland, fame.
linger: (*v*) loiter, delay, dally, hover, stay, hesitate, hang around, procrastinate, dawdle, tarry, saunter. **ANTONYMS:** (*v*) hurry, end, rush, depart, lead.

recessed: (*adj*) buried, concave, hollow, dug in, depressed.
roan: (*n*) horse, Galloway, thoroughbred, leather, courser; (*adj*) dingy, pearly, drab, dun, livid, somber.
sustaining: (*adj*) underneath, alimentary, at the bottom of, comforting, filling, fundamental, healthy, profitable, rich; (*n*) continuation, maintenance.

plumpness by **quantities** of oats and hay. The restless and shadowy figure of a colt wandered about a loose-box at the end, whilst the steady grind of all the eaters was occasionally diversified by the rattle of a rope or the stamp of a foot.

Pacing up and down at the heels of the animals was Farmer Boldwood himself. This place was his almonry and cloister in one: here, after looking to the feeding of his four-footed dependants, the **celibate** would walk and **meditate** of an evening till the moon's rays streamed in through the cobwebbed windows, or total darkness enveloped the scene.

His square-framed **perpendicularity** showed more fully now than in the crowd and bustle of the market-house. In this meditative walk his foot met the floor with heel and toe simultaneously, and his fine reddish-fleshed face was bent downwards just enough to render obscure the still mouth and the **well**-rounded though rather prominent and broad chin. A few clear and thread-like horizontal lines were the only interruption to the otherwise smooth surface of his large forehead.

The phases of Boldwood's life were ordinary enough, but his was not an ordinary nature. That stillness, which struck casual observers more than anything else in his character and habit, and seemed so precisely like the rest of **inanition**, may have been the perfect balance of enormous antagonistic forces—positives and negatives in fine adjustment. His equilibrium disturbed, he was in extremity at once. If an emotion possessed him at all, it ruled him; a feeling not **mastering** him was entirely latent. Stagnant or rapid, it was never slow. He was always hit **mortally**, or he was missed.

He had no light and careless touches in his constitution, either for good or for evil. Stern in the outlines of action, mild in the details, he was serious throughout all. He saw no absurd sides to the follies of life, and thus, though not quite **companionable** in the eyes of merry men and scoffers, and those to whom all things show life as a jest, he was not intolerable to the earnest and those acquainted with grief. Being a man-who read all the dramas of life seriously, if he failed to please when they were comedies, there was no frivolous treatment to reproach him for when they chanced to end tragically.

Thesaurus

celibate: (*adj*) continent, unmarried, single, chaste, maiden, virgin, virtuous, pure; (*n*) religionist, celibacy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) promiscuous, sexual.

companionable: (*adj*) sociable, affable, convivial, gregarious, cordial, clubbable, congenial, friendly, jovial, genial, cosey. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) nasty, antagonistic, cold, unfriendly, different, frosty, shy, hostile.

inanition: (*n*) lethargy, emptiness,

starvation, lassitude, inanity, vacancy, airiness; (*adj*) collapse, prostration, deliquium, apoplexy.

mastering: (*adj*) victorious.

meditate: (*n, v*) muse; (*v*) contemplate, consider, cogitate, reflect, speculate, wonder, ruminate, ponder, think, bethink.

mortally: (*adv*) lethally, deadly, pestilently, perniciously, extremely, humanly, grievously, poisonously, individually, killingly, dangerously.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) mildly.

perpendicularity: (*n*) orthogonality, rectangularity, opposition, oblongness.

plumpness: (*n*) embonpoint, obesity, roundness, fatness, fleshiness, chubbiness, portliness, fullness, rotundity, stoutness, globularness.

ANTONYM: (*n*) thinness.

quantities: (*n*) quantity.

well-rounded: (*adj*) curvaceous, knowledgeable, learned.

Bathsheba was far from dreaming that the dark and silent shape upon which she had so carelessly thrown a seed was a **hotbed** of **tropic** intensity. Had she known Boldwood's moods, her blame would have been fearful, and the stain upon her heart **ineradicable**. Moreover, had she known her present power for good or evil over this man, she would have trembled at her responsibility. Luckily for her present, **unluckily** for her future tranquillity, her understanding had not yet told her what Boldwood was. Nobody knew entirely; for though it was possible to form guesses concerning his wild capabilities from old floodmarks faintly visible, he had never been seen at the high tides which caused them.

Farmer Boldwood came to the stable-door and looked forth across the level fields. Beyond the first enclosure was a hedge, and on the other side of this a meadow belonging to Bathsheba's farm.

It was now early spring—the time of going to grass with the sheep, when they have the first feed of the meadows, before these are laid up for mowing. The wind, which had been blowing east for several weeks, had veered to the **southward**, and the middle of spring had come abruptly—almost without a beginning. It was that period in the vernal quarter when we may suppose the Dryads to be waking for the season. The vegetable world begins to move and swell and the saps to rise, till in the completest silence of lone gardens and **trackless** plantations, where everything seems helpless and still after the bond and slavery of frost, there are bustlings, strainings, united thrusts, and pulls-all-together, in comparison with which the powerful tugs of **cranes** and pulleys in a noisy city are but **pigmy** efforts.

Boldwood, looking into the distant meadows, saw there three figures. They were those of Miss Everdene, Shepherd Oak, and Cainy Ball.

When Bathsheba's figure shone upon the farmer's eyes it lighted him up as the moon lights up a great tower. A man's body is as the shell, or the tablet, of his soul, as he is reserved or ingenuous, **overflowing** or self-contained. There was a change in Boldwood's exterior from its former impassibleness; and his face showed that he was now living outside his defences for the first time, and with a

Thesaurus

cranes: (*n*) Gruiformes, Gruidae, family Gruidae.

hotbed: (*n*) nursery, hothouse, nidus, nest, cradle, birthplace, seminary, situation, breeding ground, focus, nerve center.

ineradicable: (*adj*) indelible, ingrained, ineffaceable, permanent, inveterate, fixed, impossible to remove, chronic, inextirpable; (*n*) incorrigible, incurable. ANTONYM: (*adj*) eradicable.

overflowing: (*adj*) full, copious, exuberant, flooding, bountiful, generous, brimming, profuse; (*n, v*) flood, inundation, deluge.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sparse, scarce.

pigmy: (*adj, n*) pygmy; (*adj*) tiny, exiguous, petty, minikin, pigwidgeon, urchin, elfin; (*n*) elf, manikin, atom.

southward: (*adv*) southwards, southernly; (*adj*) southbound, southern.

trackless: (*adj*) shoreless, roadless, unaccessible, inaccessible, lacking pathways, untracked, untrodden, untrod.

tropic: (*adj*) hot, torrid, equatorial; (*n*) parallel of latitude, line of latitude, latitude.

unluckily: (*adv*) unfortunately, inauspiciously, lucklessly, unhappily, untowardly, unsuccessfully, alas, regrettably, ill-fatedly, tragically, haplessly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) luckily.

fearful sense of exposure. It is the usual experience of strong natures when they love.

At last he arrived at a conclusion. It was to go across and inquire boldly of her.

The insulation of his heart by reserve during these many years, without a channel of any kind for disposable emotion, had worked its effect. It has been observed more than once that the causes of love are chiefly subjective, and Boldwood was a living testimony to the truth of the proposition. No mother existed to absorb his devotion, no sister for his tenderness, no idle ties for sense. He became surcharged with the compound, which was genuine lover's love.

He approached the gate of the meadow. Beyond it the ground was **melodious** with ripples, and the sky with **larks**; the low **bleating** of the flock **mingling** with both. Mistress and man were engaged in the operation of making a lamb "take," which is performed whenever an ewe has lost her own offspring, one of the twins of another ewe being given her as a substitute. Gabriel had **skinned** the dead lamb, and was **tying** the skin over the body of the live lamb, in the customary manner, whilst Bathsheba was holding open a little pen of four hurdles, into which the Mother and foisted lamb were driven, where they would remain till the old sheep **conceived** an affection for the young one.

Bathsheba looked up at the completion of the manouvre, and saw the farmer by the gate, where he was overhung by a willow tree in full bloom. Gabriel, to whom her face was as the uncertain glory of an April day, was ever **regardful** of its faintest changes, and instantly discerned thereon the mark of some influence from without, in the form of a keenly self-conscious **reddening**. He also turned and beheld Boldwood.

At once connecting these signs with the letter Boldwood had shown him, Gabriel suspected her of some **coquettish** procedure begun by that means, and carried on since, he knew not how.

Farmer Boldwood had read the pantomime **denoting** that they were aware of his presence, and the perception was as too much light turned upon his new **sensibility**. He was still in the road, and by moving on he hoped that neither

Thesaurus

bleating: (*n*) bleat, baaing.

conceived: (*adj*) formed.

coquettish: (*adj*) flirtatious, coy, kittenish, charming, coquet, arch, fickle.

denoting: (*adj*) significant.

larks: (*n*) family Alaudidae.

melodious: (*adj*) harmonious, musical, sweet, tuneful, mellow, dulcet, soft, gentle, full, canorous, mellifluous.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) harsh, unmelodious, inharmonious,

tuneless, grating, loud.

mingling: (*adj*) blending, merging, confluent, blended; (*n*) mixture, mixing, commixion, interchange, exchange, commixture; (*adv*) minglingly.

reddening: (*n*) flush, rubescence; (*v*) redden.

regardful: (*adj*) observant, mindful, deferential, respectful, careful, dutiful, heedful, obedient, deferent, considerate, thoughtful.

sensibility: (*adj, n, v*) feeling, notion; (*n, v*) sensation, appreciation, sense; (*n*) emotion, sensitivity, consciousness, perceptivity, awareness; (*adj, n*) sentiment. ANTONYM: (*n*) insensitivity.

skinned: (*adj*) scraped, dartos, frustrated, raw, scratched, sensitive, sore, tender, painful.

tying: (*n*) ligation, bundling, attachment, knotting, lacing; (*adj*) binding; (*v*) restrict.

would recognize that he had originally intended to enter the field. He passed by with an utter and overwhelming sensation of ignorance, shyness, and doubt. Perhaps in her manner there were signs that she wished to see him—perhaps not—he could not read a woman. The **cabala** of this **erotic** philosophy seemed to consist of the subtlest meanings expressed in misleading ways. Every turn, look, word, and accent contained a mystery quite distinct from its obvious import, and not one had ever been pondered by him until now.

As for Bathsheba, she was not deceived into the belief that Farmer Boldwood had **walked** by on business or in **idleness**. She collected the probabilities of the case, and concluded that she was herself responsible for Boldwood's appearance there. It troubled her much to see what a great flame a little **wildfire** was likely to **kindle**. Bathsheba was no **schemer** for marriage, nor was she deliberately a **trifler** with the **affections** of men, and a censor's experience on seeing an actual **flirt** after observing her would have been a feeling of surprise that Bathsheba could be so different from such a one, and yet so like what a flirt is supposed to be.

She resolved never again, by look or by sign, to interrupt the steady flow of this man's life. But a resolution to avoid an evil is seldom framed till the evil is so far advanced as to make avoidance impossible.

Thesaurus

affections: (*n*) bosom.

cabala: (*n*) kabbala, kabbalah, cabbala, secret, anagoge, spell, arcanum, exorcism, charm, mystery, occultness.

erotic: (*adj*) sexy, amatory, passionate, sexual, voluptuous, carnal, lascivious, lecherous, libidinous, lewd; (*v*) motherly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unerotic, bland, dull, frigid, anaphrodisiac.

flirt: (*n, v*) coquette; (*v*) dally, coquet, toy, romance, trifle, spoon; (*n*)

dalliance, vamp, tease, flirting.

idleness: (*n*) lethargy, laziness, torpor, inactivity, idling, unemployment, sloth, inaction, inertia, faineance, idlesse. ANTONYMS: (*n*) energy, activity, bustle, liveliness, responsibility.

kindle: (*adj, v*) inflame; (*v*) fire, excite, arouse, burn, flame, awaken, incite, enkindle, stir; (*n, v*) light. ANTONYMS: (*v*) enkindle, dampen, calm, extinguish, quench, stifle.

schemer: (*n*) plotter, politician, contriver, conspirator, designer, machinator, projector, deviser, intriguer, planner, angler.

trifler: (*n*) dilettante, fribble, fribbler, gamester, gambler, wanton, doodle, dangler, toyer, dallier; (*v*) waiter on Providence.

walked: (*adj*) exempt; (*v*) yode.

wildfire: (*n*) conflagration, bush fire, blaze, forest fire, inferno, flame.

CHAPTER XIX

THE SHEEP-WASHING—THE OFFER

Boldwood did eventually call upon her. She was not at home. "Of course not," he murmured. In contemplating Bathsheba as a woman, he had forgotten the accidents of her position as an agriculturist—that being as much of a farmer, and as extensive a farmer, as himself, her probable **whereabouts** was **out-of-doors** at this time of the year. This, and the other oversights Boldwood was guilty of, were natural to the mood, and still more natural to the circumstances. The great aids to **idealization** in love were present here: occasional observation of her from a distance, and the absence of social intercourse with her—visual familiarity, oral **strangeness**. The smaller human elements were kept out of sight; the pettinesses that enter so largely into all **earthly** living and doing were **disguised** by the accident of lover and loved-one not being on visiting terms; and there was hardly awakened a thought in Boldwood that sorry household realities appertained to her, or that she, like all others, had moments of commonplace, when to be least plainly seen was to be most prettily remembered. Thus a mild sort of **apotheosis** took place in his fancy, whilst she still lived and breathed within his own horizon, a troubled creature like himself.

Thesaurus

apotheosis: (*n*) deification, exaltation, ideal, paragon, canonization, worship, glorification, embodiment, epitome, angel, crackerjack.
disguised: (*adj*) cloaked, concealed, masked, secret, hidden, veiled, in disguise, incognito, blind; (*adj, v*) private; (*n*) groggy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) recognizable, unmasked, uncovered, uncloaked, revealed, open, obvious.
earthly: (*adj, n*) terrestrial; (*adj*) carnal,

worldly, conceivable, human, geotic, secular, terrene, temporal, telluric, sublunary. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) spiritual, divine, ethereal, immortal, impossible, improbable, inconceivable, celestial.
idealization: (*n*) glorification, thought, appreciation, defence, defence mechanism, defence reaction, defense, defense reaction, glory, idea, idolization.

out-of-doors: (*n*) outdoors, outside;

(*adj*) airy; (*adv*) without.
strangeness: (*n*) oddity, oddness, quaintness, peculiarity, curiousness, abnormality, weirdness, foreignness, queerness, singularity, quirk. ANTONYMS: (*n*) familiarity, nativeness.
whereabouts: (*adv, n*) whereabouts; (*n*) place, site, position, seat, location, venue, station, address, situation, actions.

It was the end of May when the farmer determined to be no longer repulsed by trivialities or distracted by suspense. He had by this time grown used to being in love; the passion now startled him less even when it tortured him more, and he felt himself adequate to the situation. On inquiring for her at her house they had told him she was at the sheepwashing, and he went off to seek her there.

The sheep-washing pool was a perfectly circular basin of **brickwork** in the meadows, full of the clearest water. To birds on the wing its glassy surface, reflecting the light sky, must have been visible for miles around as a glistening Cyclops' eye in a green face. The grass about the margin at this season was a sight to remember long—in a minor sort of way. Its activity in sucking the moisture from the rich damp sod was almost a process observable by the eye. The outskirts of this level water-meadow were diversified by rounded and hollow pastures, where just now every flower that was not a **buttercup** was a daisy. The river slid along **noiselessly** as a shade, the swelling reeds and **sedge** forming a flexible **palisade** upon its moist brink. To the north of the mead were trees, the leaves of which were new, soft, and moist, not yet having stiffened and darkened under summer sun and drought, their colour being yellow beside a green—green beside a yellow. From the **recesses** of this knot of foliage the loud notes of three **cuckoos** were resounding through the still air.

Boldwood went meditating down the slopes with his eyes on his boots, which the yellow pollen from the buttercups had **bronzed** in artistic gradations. A **tributary** of the main stream flowed through the basin of the pool by an inlet and outlet at opposite points of its diameter. Shepherd Oak, Jan Coggan, Moon, Poorgrass, Cain Ball, and several others were assembled here, all dripping wet to the very roots of their hair, and Bathsheba was standing by in a new riding-habit—the most elegant she had ever worn—the reins of her horse being **looped** over her arm. Flagon of cider were rolling about upon the green. The meek sheep were pushed into the pool by Coggan and Matthew Moon, who stood by the lower hatch, immersed to their waists; then Gabriel, who stood on the brink, thrust them under as they swam along, with an instrument like a **crutch**, formed for the purpose, and also for assisting the exhausted animals when the wool

Thesaurus

brickwork: (*n*) masonry, bricklaying, nogging, stonework.

bronzed: (*adj*) bronze, browned, tan, suntanned, sunburned, ruddy, brunet, brown, brunette.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) pale.

buttercup: (*n*) kingcup, crowfoot, herb, goldcup; (*adj*) anemone, asphodel, rhododendron, daffodil, windflower, geranium, lily.

crutch: (*n, v*) support; (*n*) staff, groin, stick, prop, ankle, stilt, crutches,

zigzag, sickle, scythe.

cuckoos: (*n*) order Cuculiformes.

looped: (*adj*) coiled, coiling, curly, intoxicated, curved, helical, continuous, interminable, round, whorled.

noiselessly: (*adv*) silently, soundlessly, stilly, softly, mutely, delicately, wordlessly, gently, speechlessly; (*adj, adv*) stealthily; (*adj*) noiseless.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) heavily, audibly.

palisade: (*n, v*) fence, palisado, wall;

(*n*) paling, pale, post, barricade, fencing; (*v*) circumvallate, fence in, sangar.

recesses: (*n*) penitentialia, bowels, inside.

sedge: (*n*) rush, nutsedge, papyrus, nutgrass, chufa, galingale, galangal, weed, rush nut, nut sedge, nut grass.

tributary: (*n*) feeder, branch, affluent, arm, stream, brook, watercourse; (*adj*) secondary, subsidiary, contributory, subordinate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) original, primary, source.

became saturated and they began to sink. They were let out against the stream, and through the upper opening, all **impurities** flowing away below. Cainy Ball and Joseph, who performed this latter operation, were if possible **wetter** than the rest; they resembled dolphins under a fountain, every **protuberance** and angle of their clothes **dribbling** forth a small rill.

Boldwood came close and **bade** her good morning, with such constraint that she could not but think he had stepped across to the washing for its own sake, hoping not to find her there; more, she fancied his brow severe and his eye **slighting**. Bathsheba immediately contrived to withdraw, and glided along by the river till she was a stone's throw off. She heard footsteps brushing the grass, and had a consciousness that love was **encircling** her like a perfume. Instead of turning or waiting, Bathsheba went further among the high **sedges**, but Boldwood seemed determined, and pressed on till they were completely past the bend of the river. Here, without being seen, they could hear the splashing and **shouts** of the washers above.

"Miss Everdene!" said the farmer.

She trembled, turned, and said "Good morning." His tone was so utterly removed from all she had expected as a beginning. It was **lowness** and quiet accentuated: an emphasis of deep meanings, their form, at the same time, being scarcely expressed. Silence has sometimes a remarkable power of showing itself as the **disembodied** soul of feeling wandering without its **carcase**, and it is then more impressive than speech. In the same way, to say a little is often to tell more than to say a great deal. Boldwood told everything in that word.

As the consciousness expands on learning that what was fancied to be the **rumble** of wheels is the reverberation of thunder, so did Bathsheba's at her intuitive conviction.

"I feel—almost too much—to think," he said, with a solemn simplicity. "I have come to speak to you without preface. My life is not my own since I have beheld you clearly, Miss Everdene—I come to make you an offer of marriage."

Thesaurus

bade: (*v*) bid, command, bad.

carcase: (*n*) body, skeleton, dead body.

disembodied: (*adj*) bodiless, unembodied, incorporeal, discorporate, bodiless, spiritual, impalpable, disembodied, unbodyed; (*adj, prep*) separate; (*prep*) disconnected.

dribbling: (*n*) trickle, drip, actuation.

encircling: (*adj, prep*) surrounding; (*prep*) around; (*adj*) comprehensive, encompassing, roundabout,

circuitous, rotary, circumferential, inclusive; (*v*) encircle.

impurities: (*n*) dross, bastard, scum, cinder.

lowness: (*n*) depression, baseness, tallness, meanness, deepness, sordidness, baby blues, completeness, dejection, truncation, abundance.

protuberance: (*n*) prominence, bulge, swelling, bump, hump, lump, nub, node, knob, protrusion, jut.

rumble: (*n, v*) murmur, roll, roar, grumble, mutter, bang, brawl, sound; (*v*) growl; (*n*) peal, noise.

sedges: (*n*) grasses.

shouts: (*n*) cries.

slighting: (*adj*) belittling, deprecating, deprecative, deprecatory, depreciatory, pejorative, derogatory, offensive, invidious, abusive; (*n*) disregard. ANTONYM: (*adj*) polite.

wetter: (*n*) detergent, bedwetter, bed Wetter, wetting agent, surfactant.

Bathsheba tried to preserve an absolutely neutral countenance, and all the motion she made was that of closing **lips** which had previously been a little parted.

"I am now forty-one years old," he went on. "I may have been called a confirmed bachelor, and I was a confirmed bachelor. I had never any views of myself as a husband in my earlier days, nor have I made any calculation on the subject since I have been older. But we all change, and my change, in this matter, came with seeing you. I have felt lately, more and more, that my present way of living is bad in every respect. Beyond all things, I want you as my wife."

"I feel, Mr. Boldwood, that though I respect you much, I do not feel—what would justify me to—in accepting your offer," she stammered.

This giving back of dignity for dignity seemed to open the sluices of feeling that Boldwood had as yet kept closed.

"My life is a burden without you," he exclaimed, in a low voice. "I want you—I want you to let me say I love you again and again!"

Bathsheba answered nothing, and the horse upon her arm seemed so impressed that instead of **cropping** the **herbage** she looked up.

"I think and hope you care enough for me to listen to what I have to tell!"

Bathsheba's **momentary** impulse at hearing this was to ask why he thought that, till she remembered that, far from being a **conceited** assumption on Boldwood's part, it was but the natural conclusion of serious reflection based on **deceptive** premises of her own offering.

"I wish I could say **courteous** flatteries to you," the farmer continued in an easier tone, "and put my rugged feeling into a graceful shape: but I have neither power nor patience to learn such things. I want you for my wife—so wildly that no other feeling can abide in me; but I should not have spoken out had I not been led to hope."

"The valentine again! O that valentine!" she said to herself, but not a word to him.

"If you can love me say so, Miss Everdene. If not—don't say no!"

Thesaurus

conceited: (*adj*) arrogant, cocky, vain, boastful, proud, smug, affected, assuming, egotistical, haughty, pompous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) modest, insecure, meek, selfless, unassuming.

courteous: (*adj, v*) civil; (*adj*) affable, attentive, gracious, decorous, chivalrous, bland, thoughtful, urbane, mannerly, gentlemanly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rude, impolite, boorish, insulting, unmannerly, gruff,

improper, vulgar, unhelpful, neglectful, graceless.

cropping: (*n*) harvest, napping, masking.

deceptive: (*adj*) deceitful, dishonest, false, fallacious, lying, deceiving, misleading, untrue, spurious, insidious, unfounded. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) real, honest, straightforward, open, frank, upright, genuine, correct, actual, valid, innocent.

herbage: (*n*) herb, grass, pasture,

pasturage, foliage, herbaceous plant, forage, flora, eatage, vegetable kingdom.

lips: (*n*) lip, inlet, logical inference per second, chops, porch, portal, portico, propylon, snout, door, orifice.

momentary: (*adj*) brief, fugitive, transient, short, instantaneous, ephemeral, passing, momentaneous, temporary, impermanent, temporal. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lasting, lengthy, long.

“Mr. Boldwood, it is painful to have to say I am surprised, so that I don’t know how to answer you with propriety and respect—but am only just able to speak out my feeling—I mean my meaning; that I am afraid I can’t marry you, much as I respect you. You are too dignified for me to suit you, sir.”

“But, Miss Everdene!”

“I—I didn’t—I know I ought never to have dreamt of sending that valentine—forgive me, sir—it was a **wanton** thing which no woman with any **self-respect** should have done. If you will only pardon my thoughtlessness, I promise never to— —”

“No, no, no. Don’t say thoughtlessness! Make me think it was something more—that it was a sort of prophetic instinct—the beginning of a feeling that you would like me. You torture me to say it was done in thoughtlessness—I never thought of it in that light, and I can’t endure it. Ah! I wish I knew how to win you! but that I can’t do—I can only ask if I have already got you. If I have not, and it is not true that you have come unwittingly to me as I have to you, I can say no more.”

“I have not fallen in love with you, Mr. Boldwood—certainly I must say that.” She allowed a very small smile to creep for the first time over her serious face in saying this, and the white row of upper teeth, and keenly-cut lips already noticed, suggested an idea of **heartlessness**, which was immediately contradicted by the pleasant eyes.

“But you will just think—in kindness and **condescension** think—if you cannot bear with me as a husband! I fear I am too old for you, but believe me I will take more care of you than would many a man of your own age. I will protect and **cherish** you with all my strength—I will indeed! You **shall** have no cares—be worried by no household affairs, and live quite at ease, Miss Everdene. The dairy **superintendence** shall be done by a man—I can afford it well—you shall never have so much as to look out of doors at **haymaking** time, or to think of weather in the harvest. I rather cling to the chaise, because it is the same my poor father and mother drove, but if you don’t like it I will sell it, and you shall have a pony-carriage of your own. I cannot say how far above every other idea

Thesaurus

cherish: (*v*) care for, nurture, treasure, entertain, cultivate, bosom, prize, esteem, harbor; (*n, v*) hug, foster.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) hate, scorn, reject, denounce, despise, neglect.

condescension: (*n*) arrogance, lordliness, disparagement, patronage, affability, disdain, pride, superciliousness, contempt, stoop, depreciation. ANTONYMS: (*n*) respect, acceptance, admiration.

haymaking: (*n*) labour, toil, making of

hay, achievement, report, accomplishment.

heartlessness: (*n*) coldheartedness, hardheartedness, callousness, mercilessness, unkindness, atrocity, pitilessness, brutality, malice, meanness, coldness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) sensitivity, humanity.

self-respect: (*n*) pride, self-esteem, dignity, face, honesty.

shall: (*n*) must, necessity; (*v*) require, bequeath, leave.

superintendence: (*n*) oversight, direction, management, inspection, control, government, surveillance, supervising, care, guidance, invigilation.

wanton: (*adj*) loose, dissolute, light, licentious, unchaste, lewd, debauched, unprovoked; (*v*) dally; (*n, v*) sport; (*adj, v*) flirt. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) moral, wise, nice, kind, gentle, decent, clean, careful, observant, justifiable, involuntary.

and object on earth you seem to me—nobody knows—God only knows—how much you are to me!”

Bathsheba’s heart was young, and it **swelled** with sympathy for the deep-natured man who spoke so simply.

“Don’t say it! don’t! I cannot bear you to feel so much, and me to feel nothing. And I am afraid they will notice us, Mr. Boldwood. Will you let the matter rest now? I cannot think **collectedly**. I did not know you were going to say this to me. Oh, I am **wicked** to have made you suffer so!” She was frightened as well as **agitated** at his **vehemence**.

“Say then, that you don’t absolutely refuse. Do not quite refuse?”

“I can do nothing. I cannot answer.”

“I may speak to you again on the subject?”

“Yes.”

“I may think of you?”

“Yes, I suppose you may think of me.”

“And hope to obtain you?”

“No—do not hope! Let us go on.”

“I will call upon you again to-morrow.”

“No—please not. Give me time.”

“Yes—I will give you any time,” he said **earnestly** and gratefully. “I am happier now.”

“No—I beg you! Don’t be happier if happiness only comes from my **agreeing**. Be neutral, Mr. Boldwood! I must think.”

“I will wait,” he said.

And then she turned away. Boldwood dropped his gaze to the ground, and stood long like a man who did not know where he was. Realities then returned upon him like the pain of a wound received in an excitement which eclipses it, and he, too, then went on.

Thesaurus

agitated: (*adj*) upset, excited, nervous, restive, tumultuous, distressed, tense, jumpy, overwrought, anxious, alarmed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) calm, lethargic, tranquil, relaxed, assured, cool, still.

agreeing: (*adj*) concurring, concordant, assentient, accordant, suitable, harmonious, in accord, in agreement; (*n*) assenting; (*v*) agree, accept.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) conflicting, **collectedly:** (*adv*) coolly, calmly,

quietly, placidly, serenely, soberly, steadily, tranquilly, sedately, stilly, levelheadedly.

earnestly: (*adj, adv*) seriously; (*adv*) eagerly, intently, zealously, solemnly, ardently, fervently, heartily, gravely, warmly, passionately. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) indifferently, insincerely, unconcernedly, jokingly.

swelled: (*adj*) big, inflated, bloated, swollen, adult, boastful, bighearted, bad, fully grown, crowing, elder.

vehemence: (*n*) force, violence, fury, passion, eagerness, strength, impetuosity, enthusiasm, fierceness, heat, fervor. ANTONYMS: (*n*) indifference, meekness, serenity.

wicked: (*adj*) bad, sinful, atrocious, evil, vile, depraved, mischievous, immoral, unholy, nasty, naughty. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) innocent, pure, pious, moral, kind, admirable, kindhearted, helpful, decent, assisting, aiding.

CHAPTER XX

PERPLEXITY—GRINDING THE SHEARS—A
QUARREL

“He is so **disinterested** and kind to offer me all that I can desire,” Bathsheba mused.

Yet Farmer Boldwood, whether by nature kind or the reverse to kind, did not exercise kindness, here. The rarest offerings of the purest loves are but a **self-indulgence**, and no generosity at all.

Bathsheba, not being the least in love with him, was eventually able to look calmly at his offer. It was one which many women of her own station in the neighbourhood, and not a few of higher rank, would have been wild to accept and proud to publish. In every point of view, ranging from politic to passionate, it was desirable that she, a lonely girl, should marry, and marry this earnest, well-to-do, and respected man. He was close to her doors: his standing was sufficient: his qualities were even **supererogatory**. Had she felt, which she did not, any wish whatever for the married state in the abstract, she could not reasonably have rejected him, being a woman who frequently appealed to her understanding for **deliverance** from her **whims**. Boldwood as a means to marriage was **unexceptionable**: she **esteemed** and liked him, yet she did not

Thesaurus

deliverance: (*n*) salvation, rescue, release, freedom, escape, emancipation, delivery, relief, liberation, liberty, salvage.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) downfall, suppression.

disinterested: (*adj*) indifferent, detached, fair, unbiased, objective, neutral, dispassionate, equitable, evenhanded, uninterested, impassive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) biased, interested, prejudiced, eager,

passionate, riveted, concerned, partial, personal.

esteemed: (*adj*) dear, reputable, respected, honorable, noble, honored, prestigious, important, distinguished, August, respect. ANTONYM: (*adj*) disreputable.

self-indulgence: (*n*) dissipation, pleasure, merriment, enjoyment, decadence, excess.

supererogatory: (*adj, v*) spare; (*adj*) excess, extra, superfluous,

supernumerary, unnecessary, additional, surplus, unasked, supererogative; (*v*) duplicate.

unexceptionable: (*adj*) unimpeachable, immaculate, faultless, acceptable, blameless, completely acceptable, irrefragable, inculpable, sufficient, tolerable; (*v*) square.

whims: (*n*) vagaries, freaks, humor, ill humor, mood, facetiousness, caprices, disposition, temper.

want him. It appears that ordinary men take wives because possession is not possible without marriage, and that ordinary women accept husbands because marriage is not possible without possession; with totally differing aims the method is the same on both sides. But the understood incentive on the woman's part was wanting here. Besides, Bathsheba's position as absolute mistress of a farm and house was a novel one, and the novelty had not yet begun to wear off.

But a **disquiet** filled her which was somewhat to her credit, for it would have affected few. Beyond the mentioned reasons with which she combated her objections, she had a strong feeling that, having been the one who began the game, she ought in honesty to accept the consequences. Still the reluctance remained. She said in the same breath that it would be **ungenerous** not to marry Boldwood, and that she couldn't do it to save her life.

Bathsheba's was an impulsive nature under a **deliberative** aspect. An Elizabeth in brain and a Mary Stuart in spirit, she often **performed** actions of the greatest **temerity** with a manner of extreme discretion. Many of her thoughts were perfect syllogisms; unluckily they always remained thoughts. Only a few were irrational assumptions; but, unfortunately, they were the ones which most frequently grew into deeds.

The next day to that of the declaration she found Gabriel Oak at the bottom of her garden, grinding his **shears** for the sheep-shearing. All the surrounding cottages were more or less scenes of the same operation; the scurr of whetting spread into the sky from all parts of the village as from an armoury previous to a campaign. Peace and war kiss each other at their hours of preparation—sickles, scythes, shears, and pruning-hooks, ranking with swords, bayonets, and lances, in their common necessity for point and edge.

Cainy Ball turned the handle of Gabriel's **grindstone**, his head performing a melancholy see-saw up and down with each turn of the wheel. Oak stood somewhat as Eros is represented when in the act of **sharpening** his arrows: his figure slightly bent, the weight of his body thrown over on the shears, and his head balanced side-ways, with a critical compression of the lips and contraction of the eyelids to crown the attitude.

Thesaurus

deliberative: (*v*) contemplative, introspective, studious, philosophical, sedate, wistful, museful, speculative, pensive, reflective; (*adj*) platonic.

disquiet: (*v*) discompose, perturb; (*n*, *v*) worry, alarm, trouble, disorder, dismay, discomfort, concern; (*n*) anxiety, apprehension. ANTONYMS: (*n*) reassurance, quiet, tranquility, serenity, calmness, optimism; (*v*) soothe, settle, relax, compose,

tranquilize.

grindstone: (*v*) grinder, mill, arrastra, file, grater, kern, quern, koniology; (*n*) grinding wheel, whetstone, oilstone.

performed: (*adj*, *v*) done, finished; (*adj*) fulfilled.

sharpening: (*n*) grinding, training, filing, dressing, acumination, aggravation; (*adj*) abrasive.

shears: (*n*) clippers, clipper, shear, pair of scissors, snips, shearing machine,

pruning shears; (*adj*, *n*) cutters.

temerity: (*n*) nerve, effrontery, hardihood, boldness, rashness, imprudence, audaciousness, carelessness, assurance, indiscretion, venturesomeness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) caution, care, reticence.

ungenerous: (*adj*, *v*) illiberal; (*adj*) stingy, parsimonious, miserly, cheap, uncharitable, close, narrow, tightfisted, closefisted, penurious. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) generous, kind.

His mistress came up and looked upon them in silence for a minute or two; then she said—

“Cain, go to the lower **mead** and catch the bay mare. I’ll turn the **winch** of the grindstone. I want to speak to you, Gabriel.”

Cain departed, and Bathsheba took the handle. Gabriel had glanced up in intense surprise, **quelled** its expression, and looked down again. Bathsheba turned the winch, and Gabriel applied the shears.

The peculiar motion involved in turning a wheel has a wonderful tendency to **benumb** the mind. It is a sort of attenuated variety of Ixion’s punishment, and contributes a dismal chapter to the history of goals. The brain gets **muddled**, the head grows heavy, and the body’s centre of gravity seems to settle by degrees in a leaden lump somewhere between the eyebrows and the crown. Bathsheba felt the unpleasant symptoms after two or three dozen turns.

“Will you turn, Gabriel, and let me hold the shears?” she said. “My head is in a **whirl**, and I can’t talk.”

Gabriel turned. Bathsheba then began, with some awkwardness, allowing her thoughts to stray occasionally from her story to attend to the shears, which required a little **nicety** in sharpening.

“I wanted to ask you if the men made any **observations** on my going behind the sedge with Mr. Boldwood yesterday?”

“Yes, they did,” said Gabriel. “You don’t hold the shears right, miss—I knew you wouldn’t know the way—hold like this.”

He **relinquished** the winch, and **inclosing** her two hands completely in his own (taking each as we sometimes **slap** a child’s hand in teaching him to write), grasped the shears with her. “Incline the edge so,” he said.

Hands and shears were inclined to suit the words, and held thus for a peculiarly long time by the instructor as he spoke.

“That will do,” exclaimed Bathsheba. “Loose my hands. I won’t have them held! Turn the winch.”

Thesaurus

benumb: (*n, v*) numb; (*adj, n, v*) blunt; (*adj, n*) obtund; (*adj*) anaesthetize; (*v*) daze, damp, stiffen, dull, petrify, paralyze, freeze.

inclosing: (*adj*) inclusive, surrounding.
mead: (*n*) field, metheglin, hydromel, lea, meadow, sweet wine, grassland, sward, pasture, green, pasturage.

muddled: (*adj*) bewildered, disorganized, messy, addled, disordered, incoherent, bemused, unintelligible, chaotic, upset,

jumbled. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) organized, precise, lucid, coherent, distinct, clear.

nicety: (*n*) detail, exactness, fastidiousness, nuance, refinement, exactitude, justness, precision, correctness, daintiness, elegance.

observations: (*n*) commentary, remarks, explanation, comments.

quelled: (*adj*) quenched, allayed, extinguished, extinct.

relinquished: (*adj*) forsaken, deserted,

derelict, unoccupied, given, surrendered.

slap: (*n, v*) clap, cuff, knock, hit, whack, beat, strike, spank; (*n*) blow; (*v*) buffet; (*adv*) bang.

whirl: (*n, v*) spin, turn, eddy, roll, wheel, twist, swirl; (*v*) reel, gyrate; (*n*) go, fling.

winch: (*v*) capstan, crane; (*n, v*) windlass, derrick, wince; (*n*) crank, hoist, pinion, pulley, spindle, the redwing.

Gabriel **freed** her hands quietly, retired to his handle, and the **grinding** went on.

“Did the men think it odd?” she said again.

“Odd was not the idea, miss.”

“What did they say?”

“That Farmer Boldwood’s name and your own were likely to be flung over **pulpit** together before the year was out.”

“I thought so by the look of them! Why, there’s nothing in it. A more foolish remark was never made, and I want you to **contradict** it! that’s what I came for.”

Gabriel looked **incredulous** and sad, but between his moments of **incredulity**, relieved.

“They must have heard our conversation,” she continued.

“Well, then, Bathsheba!” said Oak, stopping the handle, and gazing into her face with astonishment.

“Miss Everdene, you mean,” she said, with dignity.

“I mean this, that if Mr. Boldwood really spoke of marriage, I bain’t going to tell a story and say he didn’t to please you. I have already tried to please you too much for my own good!”

Bathsheba regarded him with round-eyed perplexity. She did not know whether to pity him for disappointed love of her, or to be angry with him for having got over it—his tone being ambiguous.

“I said I wanted you just to mention that it was not true I was going to be married to him,” she murmured, with a slight decline in her assurance.

“I can say that to them if you wish, Miss Everdene. And I could likewise give an opinion to ‘ee on what you have done.”

“I daresay. But I don’t want your opinion.”

“I suppose not,” said Gabriel bitterly, and going on with his turning, his words rising and falling in a regular **swell** and cadence as he stooped or rose

Thesaurus

contradict: (*v*) deny, oppose, belie, conflict, confute, controvert, contravene, disprove, refute, invalidate, impugn. ANTONYMS: (*v*) agree, match, correspond, approve, corroborate, prove, support, reinforce.
freed: (*adj*) disentangled, emancipated, disengaged, liberated, extricated, freer, unchained, untied, loosened, disillusioned, not tied up.
grinding: (*v*) cutting, excruciating,

consuming, corroding; (*n*) abrasion, friction, sharpening, detrition; (*adj*) grating, extortionate, hard.
incredulity: (*n*) doubt, unbelief, skepticism, incredulousness, distrust, wonder, surprise, suspicion, suspiciousness, mistrust, scepticism. ANTONYMS: (*n*) faith, understanding, belief.
incredulous: (*adj*) dubious, doubtful, suspicious, unbelieving, faithless, skeptical, doubting, lacking faith,

questioning, cynical, mistrustful. ANTONYM: (*adj*) convinced.
pulpit: (*n*) platform, dais, ambo, lectern, hustings, stump, rostrum, forum, desk, stand, state.
swell: (*n, v*) rise, heave, increase, wave, billow; (*v*) enlarge, expand, puff, grow, bloat; (*adj, n*) dandy. ANTONYMS: (*v*) deflate, desiccate, shrink, compress, concentrate, wane; (*n, v*) decline; (*adj*) bad, horrible, shabby, awful.

with the winch, which directed them, according to his position, perpendicularly into the earth, or horizontally along the garden, his eyes being fixed on a leaf upon the ground.

With Bathsheba a hastened act was a rash act; but, as does not always happen, time gained was prudence insured. It must be added, however, that time was very seldom gained. At this period the single opinion in the parish on herself and her doings that she valued as sounder than her own was Gabriel Oak's. And the outspoken honesty of his character was such that on any subject even that of her love for, or marriage with, another man, the same **disinterestedness** of opinion might be calculated on, and be had for the asking. Thoroughly convinced of the impossibility of his own suit, a high resolve constrained him not to injure that of another. This is a lover's most **stoical** virtue, as the lack of it is a lover's most **venial** sin. Knowing he would reply truly she asked the question, painful as she must have known the subject would be. Such is the selfishness of some charming women. Perhaps it was some excuse for her thus **torturing** honesty to her own advantage, that she had absolutely no other sound judgment within easy reach.

"Well, what is your opinion of my conduct," she said, quietly.

"That it is unworthy of any thoughtful, and meek, and comely woman."

In an instant Bathsheba's face coloured with the angry crimson of a danby sunset. But she forbore to utter this feeling, and the **reticence** of her tongue only made the **loquacity** of her face the more noticeable.

The next thing Gabriel did was to make a mistake.

"Perhaps you don't like the **rudeness** of my reprimanding you, for I know it is rudeness; but I thought it would do good."

She instantly replied sarcastically –

"On the contrary, my opinion of you is so low, that I see in your abuse the praise of discerning people!"

"I am glad you don't mind it, for I said it honestly and with every serious meaning."

Thesaurus

disinterestedness: (*n*) fairness, disinterest, nonpartisanship, detachment, indifference, equity, aloofness, neutrality, disadvantage, unfriendliness.

loquacity: (*n*) garrulity, garrulousness, communicativeness, talkativeness, gab, verbiage, prate, verbosity, effusiveness, futility, eloquence.

reticence: (*n*) reserve, reservation, uncommunicativeness, taciturnity, silence, reticency, restraint, secrecy,

reservedness, muteness, humility.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) chattiness, honesty, nerve, boldness, openness, arrogance, brashness.

rudeness: (*n*) disrespect, audacity, insolence, impudence, discourtesy, incivility, effrontery, bad manners, impoliteness, impropriety, primitiveness. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) civility, refinement, propriety, courteousness, courtesy, decency, respect, diplomacy, praise,

thoughtfulness, gentleness.

stoical: (*adj, n*) stoic; (*adj*) indifferent, patient, imperturbable, calm, spirited, princely, phlegmatic, exalted, elevated, lofty.

torturing: (*n*) torture, excruciation, crucifixion, torment, agony, anguish, dismemberment; (*adj*) harrowing, agonizing, torturesome, agonising.

venial: (*adj*) excusable, pardonable, forgivable, minor, veniable, small, underage, modest, nonaged.

"I see. But, unfortunately, when you try not to speak in jest you are amusing—just as when you wish to avoid seriousness you sometimes say a sensible word."

It was a hard hit, but Bathsheba had unmistakably lost her temper, and on that account Gabriel had never in his life kept his own better. He said nothing. She then broke out—

"I may ask, I suppose, where in particular my **unworthiness** lies? In my not **marrying** you, perhaps!"

"Not by any means," said Gabriel quietly. "I have long given up thinking of that matter."

"Or wishing it, I suppose," she said; and it was apparent that she expected an **unhesitating** denial of this supposition.

Whatever Gabriel felt, he coolly echoed her words—

"Or wishing it either."

A woman may be treated with a bitterness which is sweet to her, and with a rudeness which is not offensive. Bathsheba would have submitted to an indignant **chastisement** for her **levity** had Gabriel protested that he was loving her at the same time; the **impetuosity** of passion unrequited is bearable, even if it **stings** and anathematizes there is a triumph in the humiliation, and a tenderness in the strife. This was what she had been expecting, and what she had not got. To be lectured because the lecturer saw her in the cold morning light of open-shuttered disillusion was **exasperating**. He had not finished, either. He continued in a more agitated voice:—

"My opinion is (since you ask it) that you are greatly to blame for playing **pranks** upon a man like Mr. Boldwood, merely as a pastime. Leading on a man you don't care for is not a praiseworthy action. And even, Miss Everdene, if you seriously inclined towards him, you might have let him find it out in some way of true loving-kindness, and not by sending him a valentine's letter."

Bathsheba laid down the shears.

Thesaurus

chastisement: (*n*) castigation, rebuke, discipline, punishment, penalty, reprimand, chastening, reproof, penalization, lashing, scolding.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) persuasion, reward.
exasperating: (*adj*) annoying, bothersome, maddening, infuriating, trying, irritating, tedious, vexatious, vexing, galling, exacerbating.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pleasing, pleasant, satisfying.

impetuosity: (*n*) eagerness, haste, heat, violence, vehemence, impulsiveness, impetuousness, excitability, temerity, precipitation, fervency.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) deliberation, patience, consideration, carefulness.
levity: (*n*) flightiness, frivolity, flippancy, buoyancy, lightness, giddiness, inconstancy, frivolousness, humorousness, jocosity; (*n, v*) fickleness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) gravity, seriousness.

marrying: (*adj*) married.
pranks: (*n*) trouble.
stings: (*adj*) stung.
unhesitating: (*adj*) resolute, decided, determined, unflinching, decisive, expeditious; (*adj, v*) sure, assured, certain; (*v*) unshrinking, positive.
unworthiness: (*n*) baseness, despicability, despicableness, badness, unworth, shamefulfulness, ignominiousness, disgracefulness, bad. ANTONYM: (*n*) worthiness.

“I cannot allow any man to—to **criticise** my private Conduct!” she exclaimed. “Nor will I for a minute. So you’ll please leave the farm at the end of the week!”

It may have been a peculiarity—at any rate it was a fact—that when Bathsheba was **swayed** by an emotion of an earthly sort her lower lip trembled: when by a **refined** emotion, her upper or **heavenward** one. Her **nether** lip quivered now.

“Very well, so I will,” said Gabriel calmly. He had been held to her by a beautiful thread which it **pained** him to **spoil** by breaking, rather than by a chain he could not break. “I should be even better pleased to go at once,” he added.

“Go at once then, in Heaven’s name!” said she, her eyes **flashing** at his, though never meeting them. “Don’t let me see your face any more.”

“Very well, Miss Everdene—so it shall be.”

And he took his shears and went away from her in placid dignity, as Moses left the presence of Pharaoh.

Thesaurus

criticise: (*v*) comment, criminate, chide, berate, reprehend, knock, reprove, denounce, deplore, criticize; (*adj*) judge.

flashing: (*adj*) bright, sparkling, blinking, meteoric, scintillating, light, brilliant, dazzling, gleaming; (*n*) flare, flashes.

heavenward: (*adj*) skyward; (*adj, adv*) toward heaven; (*adv*) heavenwardly.

nether: (*adj*) lower, inferior, down, low, chthonic, chthonian, infernal,

subadjacent, less, lesser; (*adj, adv*) under.

pained: (*adj*) offended, aggrieved, distressed, displeased, sore, grieved, miserable, injured, wounded, worried, upset. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unaffected.

refined: (*adj*) delicate, cultured, graceful, polite, gentle, urbane, courteous, courtly, cultivated; (*adj, n*) polished, pure. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unrefined, raw, uncouth, rough,

careless, crude, brute, boorish, plain, lowly, inelegant.

spoil: (*n, v*) ruin; (*v*) rot, corrupt, mar, deface, sack; (*adj, v*) impair, damage, injure, harm, indulge. ANTONYMS: (*v*) improve, conserve, enliven, help, abuse, beautify, deny, neglect, correct, respect, clean.

swayed: (*adj*) persuaded, susceptible, touched, convinced. ANTONYM: (*adj*) doubtful.

CHAPTER XXI

TROUBLES IN THE FOLD—A MESSAGE

Gabriel Oak had ceased to **feed** the Weatherbury **flock** for about four-and-twenty hours, when on Sunday afternoon the **elderly gentlemen** Joseph Poorgrass, Matthew Moon, Fray, and half-a-dozen others, came running up to the house of the mistress of the Upper Farm.

"Whatever *is* the matter, men?" she said, meeting them at the door just as she was coming out on her way to church, and ceasing in a moment from the close **compression** of her two red lips, with which she had accompanied the exertion of pulling on a **tight glove**. "Sixty!" said Joseph Poorgrass.

"Seventy!" said Moon.

"Fifty-nine!" said Susan Tall's husband.

"— Sheep have **broke** fence," said Fray.

"— And got into a field of young clover," said Tall.

"— Young clover!" said Moon. "— Clover!" said Joseph Poorgrass.

"And they be getting blasted," said Henery Fray.

"That they be," said Joseph.

"And will all die as dead as nits, if they bain't got out and cured!" said Tall.

Thesaurus

broke: (*adj*) bankrupt, poor, insolvent, impecunious, penniless, impoverished, skint, bust, destitute, strapped, ruined. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) solvent, wealthy, affluent.

compression: (*n*) compaction, pressure, contraction, consolidation, concentration, compressing, squeezing, concretion, compactness, data compression, constriction. ANTONYM: (*n*) looseness.

elderly: (*adj*) old, elder, senior, older,

antiquated, geriatric; (*adv*) superiorly, bigly, eldestly, anciently, adultly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) immature, youthful.

feed: (*v*) eat, dine, browse, encourage, board, diet, nourish, fatten; (*n, v*) nurture, provender; (*n*) aliment. ANTONYMS: (*v*) thwart, crave, desire, sap.

flock: (*n, v*) crowd, cluster, pack, mass; (*adj, n*) bevy; (*adj, n, v*) swarm; (*n*) band, horde, congregation, herd; (*v*)

assemble. ANTONYM: (*v*) disperse.

gentlemen: (*n*) sirs, messieurs.

glove: (*n*) boxing glove, gloves, mitt, mitten, baseball mitt, baseball glove, handwear, wristband, sleeve, mittens, batting glove.

tight: (*adj, v*) narrow, parsimonious, compact, stingy; (*adj, adv, v*) fast, firm; (*adj*) mean, taut, secure, snug, tense. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) generous, baggy, slack, wide, easy, open, leaky, giving, free, floppy; (*adv*) loosely.

Joseph's countenance was drawn into lines and puckers by his concern. Fray's forehead was wrinkled both perpendicularly and **crosswise**, after the pattern of a portcullis, expressive of a double despair. Laban Tall's lips were thin, and his face was rigid. Matthew's jaws sank, and his eyes turned whichever way the strongest muscle happened to pull them.

"Yes," said Joseph, "and I was sitting at home, looking for Ephesians, and says I to myself, 'Tis nothing but Corinthians and Thessalonians in this danged Testament,' when who should come in but Henery there: 'Joseph,' he said, 'the sheep have blasted theirselves — ' "

With Bathsheba it was a moment when thought was speech and speech exclamation. Moreover, she had hardly recovered her equanimity since the disturbance which she had suffered from Oak's remarks.

"That's enough—that's enough!—oh, you fools!" she cried, throwing the **parasol** and Prayer-book into the passage, and running out of doors in the direction signified. "To come to me, and not go and get them out directly! Oh, the stupid numskulls!"

Her eyes were at their darkest and brightest now. Bathsheba's beauty belonged rather to the demonian than to the **angelic** school, she never looked so well as when she was angry—and particularly when the effect was **heightened** by a rather dashing velvet dress, carefully put on before a glass.

All the ancient men ran in a **jumbled** throng after her to the clover-field, Joseph sinking down in the midst when about half-way, like an individual **withering** in a world which was more and more **insupportable**. Having once received the stimulus that her presence always gave them they went round among the sheep with a will. The majority of the afflicted animals were lying down, and could not be stirred. These were bodily lifted out, and the others driven into the adjoining field. Here, after the lapse of a few minutes, several more fell down, and lay helpless and **livid** as the rest.

Bathsheba, with a sad, bursting heart, looked at these primest specimens of her prime flock as they rolled there—

Thesaurus

angelic: (*adj*) cherubic, heavenly, seraphic, virtuous, celestial, beautiful, angelical, divine, good, holy, saintly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) devilish, demonic, dark, wicked.

crosswise: (*adj, adv*) across, crossways; (*adv*) athwart, diagonally, traverse, slantwise, bias, transversely; (*adj*) diagonal, crossed, transversal.

heightened: (*adj*) excited, intense, irritate, keen, resonant, sensitive.

insupportable: (*adj, v*) insufferable,

intolerable; (*adj*) indefensible, unbearable, excruciating, unjustifiable, unendurable, impossible, unsupportable, heavy, obnoxious. ANTONYM: (*adj*) bearable.

jumbled: (*adj*) confused, disorganized, disordered, untidy, muddled, mixed, cluttered, incoherent, chaotic, promiscuous; (*adj, adv*) topsy-turvy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) tidy, systematic, coherent, clear, organized, sound.

livid: (*adj*) furious, irate, ashen, mad, blue, gray, ghastly, leaden, colorless, angry, enraged. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) flushed, happy, pleased.

parasol: (*n*) sunshade, canopy, awning, umbrella, marquee, beach umbrella, shade, cover, tilt, tent.

withering: (*adj*) devastating, extortionate, grinding; (*v*) dry, sarcastic, sharp, severe, satirical, sardonic, cutting; (*n*) shrinkage. ANTONYM: (*adj*) hopeful.

Swoln with wind and the rank **mist** they drew.

Many of them foamed at the mouth, their breathing being quick and short, whilst the **bodies** of all were **fearfully distended**.

“Oh, what can I do, what can I do!” said Bathsheba, helplessly. “Sheep are such unfortunate animals!—there’s always something happening to them! I never knew a flock pass a year without getting into some **scrape** or other.”

“There’s only one way of saving them,” said Tall.

“What way? Tell me quick!”

“They must be **pierced** in the side with a thing made on purpose.”

“Can you do it? Can I?”

“No, ma’am. We can’t, nor you neither. It must be done in a particular spot. If ye go to the right or left but an inch you **stab** the ewe and kill her. Not even a shepherd can do it, as a rule.”

“Then they must die,” she said, in a resigned tone.

“Only one man in the neighbourhood knows the way,” said Joseph, now just come up. “He could cure ‘em all if he were here.”

“Who is he? Let’s get him!”

“Shepherd Oak,” said Matthew. “Ah, he’s a clever man in talents!”

“Ah, that he is so!” said Joseph Poorgrass.

“True—he’s the man,” said Laban Tall.

“How dare you name that man in my presence!” she said **excitedly**. “I told you never to **allude** to him, nor shall you if you stay with me. Ah!” she added, brightening, “Farmer Boldwood knows!”

“O no, ma’am” said Matthew. “Two of his store ewes got into some vetches t’other day, and were just like these. He sent a man on horseback here post-haste

Thesaurus

allude: (*v*) advert, refer, hint, glance, intimate, suggest, touch, bring up, mean, notice, pertain.

bodies: (*n*) people, public.

distended: (*adj*) inflated, bloated, turgid, puffed, bombastic, distent, expanded, enlarged; (*adj, v*) puffy; (*v*) blowzy, bigswoln.

excitedly: (*adv*) passionately, feverishly, wildly, frantically, nervously, ardently, enthusiastically, eagerly, animatedly, fervently,

cheerfully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) lifelessly, patiently, peacefully, nonchalantly, indifferently, despondently, unenthusiastically.

fearfully: (*adv*) timidly, timorously, awfully, apprehensively, horrendously, hideously, anxiously, appallingly, terribly; (*adj, adv*) shockingly, dreadfully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) bravely, calmly, confidently, wonderfully, rationally, unconcernedly.

mist: (*n, v*) cloud; (*v*) blur, cover, obscure, befog, drizzle, bedim; (*n*) haze, vapor, brume; (*adj*) misty.

pierced: (*adj*) punctured, perforate, penetrated, cut, cleft.

scrape: (*n, v*) scratch, graze, score, mark; (*v*) rub, pare, rake, grate, chafe, abrade; (*n*) abrasion.

stab: (*n, v*) thrust, impale, jab, pierce, prod, dig, stick, pink; (*n*) try, prick; (*v*) spike.

for Gable, and Gable went and saved 'em, Farmer Boldwood hev got the thing they do it with. 'Tis a **holler** pipe, with a sharp **pricker** inside. Isn't it, Joseph?"

"Ay — a holler pipe," echoed Joseph. "That's what 'tis."

"Ay, sure — that's the machine," chimed in Henery Fray, **reflectively**, with an Oriental indifference to the flight of time.

"Well," burst out Bathsheba, "don't stand there with your 'ayes' and your 'sures' talking at me! Get somebody to cure the sheep instantly!"

All then stalked off in **consternation**, to get somebody as directed, without any idea of who it was to be. In a minute they had vanished through the gate, and she stood alone with the dying flock.

"Never will I send for him never!" she said firmly.

One of the ewes here contracted its muscles horribly, extended itself, and jumped high into the air. The leap was an astonishing one. The ewe fell heavily, and lay still.

Bathsheba went up to it. The sheep was dead.

"Oh, what shall I do — what shall I do!" she again exclaimed, **wringing** her hands. "I won't send for him. No, I won't!"

The most vigorous expression of a resolution does not always coincide with the greatest vigour of the resolution itself. It is often flung out as a sort of **prop** to support a decaying conviction which, whilst strong, required no enunciation to prove it so. The "No, I won't" of Bathsheba meant virtually, "I think I must."

She followed her **assistants** through the gate, and lifted her hand to one of them. Laban answered to her signal.

"Where is Oak staying?"

"Across the valley at Nest Cottage!"

"Jump on the bay mare, and ride across, and say he must return instantly — that I say so."

Tall **scrambled** off to the field, and in two minutes was on Poll, the bay, bare-backed, and with only a **halter** by way of **rein**. He diminished down the hill.

Thesaurus

assistants: (*n*) cabinet.

consternation: (*n*) alarm, shock, fear, apprehension, astonishment, fright, confusion; (*adj, n*) terror, awe, dread, horror. ANTONYMS: (*n*) peacefulness, composure, happiness, tranquility, hopefulness, comfort, equanimity.

halter: (*n*) gibbet, rein, bridle, gallows, rope, noose, cestus, collar, drop; (*v*) confine, cramp.

holler: (*n, v*) cry, scream, call, shout,

yell, bawl, hollo, shriek, bellow; (*v*) exclaim, screech. ANTONYM: (*v*) whisper.

pricker: (*n*) prickle, awl, spine, sticker, thorn, pricking needle, stabber, bodkin, spur, back, cartridge pricker.

prop: (*n, v*) support, buttress, brace, shore, rest; (*n*) post, fulcrum, property, mainstay; (*v*) bolster, hold.

reflectively: (*adv*) contemplatively, meditatively, wistfully, thoughtfully, speculatively, ruminatively,

studiously, regretfully, sadly, longingly, reflexively.

rein: (*n*) bridle, curb, restraint, check, strap; (*v*) leash, harness, contain, rule, rein in, confine.

scrambled: (*adj*) twisted, snarled, miscellaneous, knotted, jumbled.

wringing: (*adj*) saturated, soaked, soaked to the skin, soaking wet, sodden, sopping, sopping wet, wet, wet through, wringing wet, soaking. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dry.

Bathsheba watched. So did all the rest. Tall cantered along the bridle-path through Sixteen Acres, Sheeplands, Middle Field, The Flats, Cappel's Piece, **shrank** almost to a point, crossed the bridge, and ascended from the valley through Springmead and Whitepits on the other side. The cottage to which Gabriel had retired before taking his final departure from the locality was visible as a white spot on the opposite hill, backed by blue firs. Bathsheba walked up and down. The men entered the field and endeavoured to ease the anguish of the dumb creatures by rubbing them. Nothing availed.

Bathsheba continued walking. The horse was seen **descending** the hill, and the **wearisome** series had to be repeated in reverse order: Whitepits, Springmead, Cappel's Piece, The Flats, Middle Field, Sheeplands, Sixteen Acres. She hoped Tall had had presence of mind enough to give the mare up to Gabriel, and return himself on foot. The rider neared them. It was Tall.

"Oh, what folly!" said Bathsheba.

Gabriel was not visible anywhere.

"Perhaps he is already gone!" she said.

Tall came into the **inclosure**, and leapt off, his face tragic as Morton's after the battle of Shrewsbury.

"Well?" said Bathsheba, unwilling to believe that her verbal *lettre-de-cachet* could possibly have miscarried.

"He says *beggars mustn't be choosers*," replied Laban.

"What!" said the young farmer, opening her eyes and drawing in her breath for an **outburst**. Joseph Poorgrass retired a few steps behind a **hurdle**.

"He says he shall not come unless you request en to come civilly and in a proper manner, as becomes any 'ooman **begging** a favour."

"Oh, oh, that's his answer! Where does he get his **airs**? Who am I, then, to be treated like that? Shall I beg to a man who has begged to me?"

Another of the flock sprang into the air, and fell dead.

The men looked grave, as if they suppressed opinion.

Thesaurus

airs: (*n, v*) pretension; (*n*) affectation, pride, pose, pretensions, attitude; (*adj, n*) arrogance; (*v*) precisionism, euphuism, purism, pedantry.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) humility, personality, realness, truthfulness, honesty.

begging: (*n*) mendicancy, request, plea; (*v*) asking, beg; (*adj*) beseeching, entreating, mendicant, imploring, suppliant, vagabond.

descending: (*v*) descend; (*adj*)

downhill, down, descendent, decreasing, dropping, falling, sloping, degressive, occasive; (*adv*) downward. ANTONYM: (*adj*) upward.

hurdle: (*v*) overcome, surmount; (*n, v*) vault; (*n*) barrier, hitch, obstruction, obstacle, impediment, hindrance, difficulty, bar. ANTONYM: (*n*) help.

inclosure: (*n*) enclosing, fence, incasement, encasement, circumscription, boxing,

envelopment, introduction, intromission, papers; (*n, v*) boundary.

outburst: (*n*) explosion, spurt, eruption, fit, burst, flash, effusion, gush, ebullition, blast, rage.

shrank: (*v*) minify.

wearisome: (*adj, v*) tiresome, irksome, troublesome; (*adj*) tedious, dull, monotonous, boring, laborious, trying, slow, annoying. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) satisfying, soothing, exciting, refreshing, easy.

Bathsheba turned aside, her eyes full of tears. The **strait** she was in through pride and **shrewishness** could not be disguised longer: she burst out crying bitterly; they all saw it; and she attempted no further concealment.

“I wouldn’t cry about it, miss,” said William Small-bury, **compassionately**. “Why not ask him softer like? I’m sure he’d come then. Gable is a true man in that way.”

Bathsheba checked her grief and wiped her eyes. “Oh, it is a wicked cruelty to me—it is—it is!” she murmured. “And he drives me to do what I wouldn’t; yes, he does!—Tall, come indoors.”

After this collapse, not very dignified for the head of an establishment, she went into the house, Tall at her heels. Here she sat down and hastily **scribbled** a note between the small **convulsive** sobs of **convalescence** which follow a fit of crying as a ground-swell follows a storm. The note was none the less polite for being written in a hurry. She held it at a distance, was about to fold it, then added these words at the bottom:—

“Do not desert me, Gabriel!”

She looked a little redder in refolding it, and closed her lips, as if thereby to suspend till too late the action of conscience in examining whether such strategy were justifiable. The note was despatched as the message had been, and Bathsheba waited indoors for the result.

It was an anxious quarter of an hour that intervened between the messenger’s departure and the sound of the horse’s tramp again outside. She could not watch this time, but, leaning over the old bureau at which she had written the letter, closed her eyes, as if to keep out both hope and fear.

The case, however, was a promising one. Gabriel was not angry: he was simply neutral, although her first command had been so **haughty**. Such **imperiousness** would have damned a little less beauty; and on the other hand, such beauty would have redeemed a little less imperiousness.

Thesaurus

compassionately: (*adv*) kindly, humanely, mercifully, pityingly, benevolently, graciously, tenderly, clemently, caringly, humanitarianly, indulgently. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) severely, unkindly, malevolently, meanly, roughly, inhumanely.
convalescence: (*n*) recuperation, rally, convalesce, upturn, improvement, rehabilitation, restitution, restoration, retrieval, healing, progress.
 ANTONYM: (*n*) decline.

convulsive: (*adj*) spastic, galvanic, fitful, paroxysmal, violent, choreic, unsteady, hysterical; (*v*) unquiet, restless, saltatory.
haughty: (*adj*) supercilious, arrogant, assuming, contemptuous, proud, lordly, cavalier, vain, contumelious, grand; (*n*) boastful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) modest, meek, subservient, unassuming, considerate, deferential.
imperiousness: (*n*) haughtiness, domineeringness, lordliness,

overbearingness, tyranny, assumption.
scribbled: (*adj*) hard to decipher, illegible, indecipherable, impossible to read, unreadable, incomprehensible.
shrewishness: (*n*) ill nature, cursing, cursedness.
strait: (*adj*) narrow; (*n*) pinch, pass, inlet, need, channel, crisis, poverty, difficulty; (*adj, n*) quandary; (*n, v*) dilemma.

She went out when the horse was heard, and looked up. A mounted figure passed between her and the sky, and drew on towards the field of sheep, the rider turning his face in receding. Gabriel looked at her. It was a moment when a woman's eyes and tongue tell distinctly opposite tales. Bathsheba looked full of gratitude, and she said:—

“Oh, Gabriel, how could you serve me so unkindly!”

Such a tenderly-shaped reproach for his previous delay was the one speech in the language that he could pardon for not being **commendation** of his readiness now.

Gabriel murmured a confused reply, and hastened on. She knew from the look which sentence in her note had brought him. Bathsheba followed to the field.

Gabriel was already among the **turgid**, **prostrate** forms. He had flung off his coat, rolled up his shirt-sleeves, and taken from his pocket the **instrument** of salvation. It was a small tube or trochar, with a lance passing down the inside; and Gabriel began to use it with a **dexterity** that would have graced a hospital surgeon. Passing his hand over the sheep's left flank, and selecting the proper point, he **punctured** the skin and rumen with the lance as it stood in the tube; then he suddenly withdrew the lance, retaining the tube in its place. A current of air rushed up the tube, **forcible** enough to have extinguished a candle held at the orifice.

It has been said that mere ease after torment is delight for a time; and the countenances of these poor creatures expressed it now. Forty-nine operations were successfully performed. Owing to the great hurry necessitated by the **far-gone** state of some of the flock, Gabriel missed his aim in one case, and in one only—striking wide of the mark, and inflicting a mortal blow at once upon the suffering ewe. Four had died; three recovered without an operation. The total number of sheep which had thus **strayed** and injured themselves so dangerously was fifty-seven.

When the love-led man had ceased from his labours, Bathsheba came and looked him in the face.

Thesaurus

commendation: (*n, v*) acclaim, applause, praise; (*n*) approval, citation, approbation, tribute, credit, plaudit, acclamation, admiration. ANTONYMS: (*n*) disapproval, criticism, censure, demotion.
dexterity: (*n*) agility, cleverness, ability, aptitude, skill, deftness, expertise; (*adj, n*) art, cunning; (*n, v*) adroitness, address. ANTONYMS: (*n*) clumsiness, awkwardness, ineptitude, inability, uselessness,

inexperience, ineptness, inaccuracy.
far-gone: (*adj*) spent, effete, drained, done in; (*adv*) head over heels.
forcible: (*adj*) forceful, active, energetic, powerful, strong, violent, coercive, vigorous, effective, convincing; (*prep*) conclusive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) weak, gentle, peaceful.
prostrate: (*adj, v*) prone, exhaust, level, fatigue; (*v*) fell, overwhelm, overcome, floor, overthrow; (*adj*)

deject, knock down. ANTONYM: (*adj*) upright.
punctured: (*adj*) perforated, perforate, flat, cut, disillusioned.
rumen: (*n*) breadbasket.
strayed: (*v*) stray.
turgid: (*adj*) bombastic, tumid, inflated, puffy, declamatory, large, tumescent, orotund; (*adj, prep, v*) bloated, swollen; (*v*) dropsical. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) readable, concise, lively, modest.

“Gabriel, will you **stay** on with me?” she said, **smiling winningly**, and not troubling to **bring** her lips quite **together again** at the end, because there was going to be another **smile** soon.

“I will,” said Gabriel.

And she smiled on him again.

Thesaurus

again: (*adv*) more, then, repeatedly, anew, encore, furthermore, yet, also, often, once again, once more.

bring: (*v*) convey, get, take, bear, carry, put, conduct, return, reduce, set, bring in. ANTONYMS: (*v*) drop, free, leave, lose, remove, avoid.

smile: (*n*) grin, grinning, smiling, luck, facial expression; (*v*) laugh, beam, chuckle, simper; (*n, v*) grimace; (*adv*) smilingly. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) scowl; (*v*) glower.

smiling: (*adv*) smilingly; (*adj*) bright, cheerful, jolly, joyful, of good cheer, twinkly, fair, sunny; (*n*) grinning, grin. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sad, gloomy.

stay: (*adj, n, v*) remain; (*n, v*) rest, prop, stop, delay, abide, continue, pause, endure, halt, support. ANTONYMS: (*v*) change, abscond, depart, move, disappear, become, go.

together: (*adv*) in concert, conjointly, at the same time, at once, simultaneously, mutually, in unison,

all together, at the same moment; (*adj*) united, stable. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) separately, individually, independently, apart, alone; (*adj*) separate, upset, unstable, separated, imbalanced, scatterbrained.
winningly: (*adv*) victoriously, charmingly, winsomely, delightfully, takingly, fetchingly, conqueringly, convincingly, appealingly, invitingly, influentially.

CHAPTER XXII

THE GREAT BARN
AND THE SHEEP-SHEARERS

Men thin away to **insignificance** and oblivion quite as often by not making the most of good spirits when they have them as by lacking good spirits when they are indispensable. Gabriel lately, for the first time since his **prostration** by misfortune, had been independent in thought and vigorous in action to a marked extent—conditions which, powerless without an opportunity as an opportunity without them is barren, would have given him a sure lift upwards when the favourable conjunction should have occurred. But this incurable **loitering** beside Bathsheba Everdene stole his time **ruinously**. The spring tides were going by without floating him off, and the **neap** might soon come which could not.

It was the first day of June, and the sheep-shearing season culminated, the landscape, even to the leanest pasture, being all health and colour. Every green was young, every pore was open, and every stalk was swollen with racing currents of juice. God was **palpably** present in the country, and the devil had gone with the world to town. Flossy catkins of the later kinds, fern-sprouts like bishops' croziers, the square-headed moschatel, the odd cuckoo-pint,—like an apoplectic saint in a niche of malachite,—snow-white ladies'-smocks, the

Thesaurus

insignificance: (*n*) unimportance, insignificance, indifference, immateriality, inconsiderableness, slightness, smallness, meanness, littleness, futility, inconsequentiality.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) seriousness, importance, gravity, appropriateness, value, fame.
loitering: (*n*) delay, dalliance; (*adj*) slow, dilatory, delaying, inactive, truant, trifling, tardy; (*v*) loiter; (*adv*) loiteringly.

neap: (*n*) neap tide, neaped timber, high water, high tide, highwater; (*adj*) debased.
palpably: (*adv*) patently, noticeably, clearly, manifestly, obviously, plainly, transparently, unmistakably, evidently, tangibly, markedly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) imperceptibly, insignificantly.
prostration: (*n*) depression, exhaustion, kneeling, breakdown, weakness, dejection, inanition,

genuflexion, curtsy; (*adj*) decline; (*adj, n*) syncope.
ruinously: (*adv*) calamitously, harmfully, catastrophically, cataclysmically, perniciously, wastefully, subversively, devastatingly, banefully, appallingly, detrimentally.

toothwort, approximating to human flesh, the enchanter's night-shade, and the black-petaled doleful-bells, were among the quainter objects of the vegetable world in and about Weatherbury at this teeming time; and of the animal, the metamorphosed figures of Mr. Jan Coggan, the master-shearer; the second and third shearers, who travelled in the exercise of their calling, and do not require definition by name; Henery Fray the fourth shearer, Susan Tall's husband the fifth, Joseph Poorgrass the sixth, young Cain Ball as assistant-shearer, and Gabriel Oak as general supervisor. None of these were clothed to any extent worth mentioning, each appearing to have hit in the matter of **raiment** the decent mean between a high and low caste Hindoo. An **angularity** of lineament, and a **fixity** of facial machinery in general, proclaimed that serious work was the order of the day.

They **sheared** in the great barn, called for the **nonce** the Shearing-barn, which on ground-plan resembled a church with transepts. It not only emulated the form of the neighbouring church of the parish, but vied with it in antiquity. Whether the barn had ever formed one of a group of **conventual** buildings nobody seemed to be aware; no trace of such surroundings remained. The vast porches at the sides, lofty enough to admit a waggon laden to its highest with corn in the **sheaf**, were spanned by heavy-pointed arches of stone, broadly and boldly cut, whose very simplicity was the origin of a grandeur not apparent in erections where more ornament has been attempted. The **dusky**, filmed, chestnut roof, braced and tied in by huge collars, curves, and diagonals, was far nobler in design, because more wealthy in material, than nine-tenths of those in our modern churches. Along each side wall was a range of striding **buttresses**, throwing deep shadows on the spaces between them, which were **perforated** by **lancet** openings, combining in their proportions the precise requirements both of beauty and ventilation.

One could say about this barn, what could hardly be said of either the church or the castle, akin to it in age and style, that the purpose which had dictated its original erection was the same with that to which it was still applied. Unlike and superior to either of those two typical remnants of mediaevalism, the old barn

Thesaurus

angularity: (*n*) angular, angularness, bend, triangularity, rectangularity, plication, oblongness, jog, furcation, fold, crease.
buttresses: (*n*) ramparts, defenses.
conventual: (*n*) cenobite, palmer, prior, mendicant, pilgrim, lay brother, monk, friar; (*adj*) monastic, cloistered, unworldly.
dusky: (*adj*) dark, cloudy, gloomy, black, swarthy, dull, murky, obscure, dingy, sooty, somber. ANTONYMS:

(*adj*) light, bright, sunny, radiant, clear.
fixity: (*n*) fixedness, fastness, firmness, fixing, immutability, constancy, inalterability, inflexibility, immobility, stronghold, fixture.
lancet: (*adj*) bistoury; (*n*) knife, gimlet, probe, lancer, needle, gig, piercer, Rimer, scoop, fizgig.
nonce: (*n*) hour, nowadays, crisis, moment, instant, epoch, present, time being, minute, day.

perforated: (*adj*) pierced, punctured, penetrated, porous, cut, entered.
raiment: (*n, v*) dress, garb, apparel, garment, clothes; (*n*) costume, attire, clothing, array, habit; (*v*) clothe.
sheaf: (*n*) fagot, faggot, bunch, bale, package, bundle, truss, stack, parcel, fardel, packet.
sheared: (*adj*) Sheard, Shearn, cut.
toothwort: (*n*) crinkleroot, Dentaria Diphylla, crinkle root, pepper root, bitter cress, bittercress.

embodied practices which had suffered no mutilation at the hands of time. Here at least the spirit of the ancient builders was at one with the spirit of the modern beholder. Standing before this **abraded** pile, the eye regarded its present usage, the mind **dwelt** upon its past history, with a satisfied sense of functional continuity throughout—a feeling almost of gratitude, and quite of pride, at the permanence of the idea which had heaped it up. The fact that four **centuries** had neither proved it to be founded on a mistake, inspired any hatred of its purpose, nor given rise to any reaction that had battered it down, invested this simple grey effort of old minds with a repose, if not a grandeur, which a too curious reflection was apt to disturb in its ecclesiastical and military compeers. For once **medievalism** and modernism had a common stand-point. The **lanceolate** windows, the time-eaten arch-stones and chamfers, the orientation of the axis, the misty chestnut work of the rafters, referred to no exploded **fortifying** art or worn-out religious creed. The defence and salvation of the body by daily bread is still a study, a religion, and a desire.

To-day the large side doors were thrown open towards the sun to admit a **bountiful** light to the immediate spot of the shearers' operations, which was the wood threshing-floor in the centre, formed of thick oak, black with age and polished by the beating of flails for many generations, till it had grown as slippery and as rich in hue as the state-room floors of an Elizabethan mansion. Here the shearers knelt, the sun **slanting** in upon their bleached shirts, tanned arms, and the polished shears they flourished, causing these to **bristle** with a thousand rays strong enough to blind a weak-eyed man. Beneath them a captive sheep lay panting, **quicken**ing its pants as misgiving merged in terror, till it quivered like the hot landscape outside.

This picture of to-day in its frame of four hundred years ago did not produce that marked contrast between ancient and modern which is implied by the contrast of date. In comparison with cities, Weatherbury was **immutable**. The citizen's *then* is the rustic's *now*. In London, twenty or thirty-years ago are old times; in Paris ten years, or five; in Weatherbury three or four score years were included in the mere present, and nothing less than a century set a mark on its

Thesaurus

abraded: (*adj*) scraped, raw, scratched.

bountiful: (*adj*) ample, abundant, plentiful, generous, liberal, profuse, fruitful, luxuriant, lush, rich, openhanded. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sparse, miserly, wanting, spare, scarce, scanty, scant, lean, lacking, insufficient, barren.

bristle: (*n*) fiber, hair, whisker; (*v*) teem, burn, seethe, rage, arise, fume, blow up; (*n, v*) brustle. ANTONYM: (*v*) calm.

centuries: (*n*) century.

dwelt: (*v*) dwell, inhabit.

fortifying: (*adj*) fortify, healthy, hopeful, cold, invigorating, stimulating, revitalizing, refreshing, bracing, restorative, brisk.

immutable: (*adj*) unchangeable, permanent, changeless, eternal, inflexible, unchanging, irrevocable, stable, unalterable, invariable, fixed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) changeable, variable, flexible.

lanceolate: (*adj*) lanceolated, simple, lanceolar, pointed.

medievalism: (*n*) antiquarianism.

quickening: (*n*) hurrying, hastening, speedup; (*v*) hasten, lively, flowing, having life, ignited, laving; (*adj*) bracing, moving.

slanting: (*adj*) oblique, sloping, diagonal, askew, slanted, aslant, aslope, awry, leaning, sloped; (*adj, adv*) sideways. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) upright, direct.

face or tone. Five decades hardly modified the cut of a **gaiter**, the embroidery of a smock-frock, by the breadth of a hair. Ten generations failed to alter the turn of a single phrase. In these Wessex nooks the busy outsider's ancient times are only old; his old times are still new; his present is futurity.

So the barn was natural to the shearers, and the shearers were in harmony with the barn.

The spacious ends of the building, answering **ecclesiastically** to nave and chancel extremities, were **fenced** off with hurdles, the sheep being all collected in a crowd within these two enclosures; and in one angle a catching-pen was formed, in which three or four sheep were continuously kept ready for the shearers to seize without loss of time. In the background, **mellowed** by **tawny** shade, were the three women, Maryann Money, and Temperance and Soberness Miller, gathering up the fleeces and twisting ropes of wool with a **wimble** for tying them round. They were indifferently well assisted by the old maltster, who, when the malting season from October to April had passed, made himself useful upon any of the bordering farmsteads.

Behind all was Bathsheba, carefully watching the men to see that there was no cutting or wounding through carelessness, and that the animals were **shorn** close. Gabriel, who flitted and hovered under her bright eyes like a moth, did not shear continuously, half his time being spent in attending to the others and selecting the sheep for them. At the present moment he was engaged in handing round a mug of mild liquor, supplied from a barrel in the corner, and cut pieces of bread and cheese.

Bathsheba, after throwing a glance here, a caution there, and **lecturing** one of the younger operators who had allowed his last finished sheep to go off among the flock without re-stamping it with her initials, came again to Gabriel, as he put down the **luncheon** to drag a frightened ewe to his shear-station, **flinging** it over upon its back with a **dexterous** twist of the arm. He **lopped** off the **tresses** about its head, and opened up the neck and collar, his mistress quietly looking on.

"She blushes at the insult," murmured Bathsheba, watching the pink flush which arose and **overspread** the neck and shoulders of the ewe where they were

Thesaurus

dexterous: (*adj*) adept, deft, skillful, expert, clever, able, agile, cunning, handy, neat; (*adj, v*) crafty.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) inept, awkward, uncoordinated, incompetent, useless.
ecclesiastically: (*adv*) spiritually, ecclesiologically.
fenced: (*adj*) hedged in, provisional, guarded, bounded.
flinging: (*n*) casting, cast.
gaiter: (*n*) legging, legin, shoe, gambado, leggings, bickering,

buskin, Gamache, fuss, galligaskin, bicker.
lecturing: (*n*) instruction, talk.
lopped: (*adj*) docked, truncated, lopped off, cropped, mutilated.
luncheon: (*n*) meal, tiffin, dejeuner, dinner, repast, party; (*v*) nunchion.
mellowed: (*adj*) mature, easygoing, high, maturer, ripe.
overspread: (*v*) cover, spread, disseminate, distribute, scatter, diffuse, disperse, broadcast, overlay,

mantle, clothe.
shorn: (*adj*) sheared, hairless, bald, stubbed, Shearn, Sheard, shear, clipped, not, Nott, shaven.
tawny: (*n*) tan, buff; (*adj, n*) brown, auburn; (*adj*) luteous, golden, sallow, russet, chestnut, creamy, moderately black.
tresses: (*n*) locks, mop, head of hair.
wimble: (*n*) gimlet, auger, screw auger, borer, perforator, chisel, stylet, piercer.

left bare by the clicking shears—a flush which was **enviable**, for its delicacy, by many queens of coteries, and would have been **creditable**, for its promptness, to any woman in the world.

Poor Gabriel's soul was fed with a luxury of content by having her over him, her eyes critically regarding his skilful shears, which apparently were going to gather up a piece of the flesh at every close, and yet never did so. Like Guildenstern, Oak was happy in that he was not over happy. He had no wish to **converse** with her: that his bright lady and himself formed one group, exclusively their own, and containing no others in the world, was enough.

So the chatter was all on her side. There is a loquacity that tells nothing, which was Bathsheba's; and there is a silence which says much: that was Gabriel's. Full of this dim and temperate bliss, he went on to fling the ewe over upon her other side, covering her head with his knee, gradually running the shears line after line round her **dewlap**; thence about her flank and back, and finishing over the tail.

"Well done, and done quickly!" said Bathsheba, looking at her watch as the last **snip** resounded.

"How long, miss?" said Gabriel, wiping his brow.

"Three-and-twenty minutes and a half since you took the first lock from its forehead. It is the first time that I have ever seen one done in less than half an hour."

The clean, sleek creature arose from its fleece—how perfectly like Aphrodite rising from the foam should have been seen to be realized—looking startled and shy at the loss of its garment, which lay on the floor in one soft cloud, united throughout, the portion visible being the inner surface only, which, never before exposed, was white as snow, and without flaw or **blemish** of the minutest kind.

"**Cain** Ball!"

"Yes, Mister Oak; here I be!"

Cainy now runs forward with the tar-pot. "B. E." is newly stamped upon the shorn skin, and away the simple dam leaps, panting, over the board into the

Thesaurus

blemish: (*n, v*) stain, scar, flaw, blot, slur; (*n*) defect, stigma, fault; (*v*) deface; (*adj, n*) imperfection; (*adj, v*) disfigure. ANTONYMS: (*v*) enhance, beautify, embellish, improve; (*n*) perfection, enhancement.
cain: (*v*) matador, garroter, thug, bravo, assassin, sabreur, terrorist, Moloch, cutthroat, slayer, butcher.
converse: (*n, v*) chat, discourse, argue; (*v*) confer, confabulate, speak; (*n*) conversation, colloquy, contrast; (*adj,*

n) opposite; (*adj*) counter. ANTONYMS: (*adj, n*) equal; (*adj*) similar, complementary; (*n*) similarity.
creditable: (*adj, v*) reputable, respectable; (*adj, n*) meritorious; (*adj*) praiseworthy, laudable, worthy, admirable, believable; (*n*) estimable, dignity; (*v*) up to the mark. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unworthy, disrespected, disgraceful, discreditable, lamentable, poor,

blameworthy.
dewlap: (*n*) tegument, skin, palea, cutis.
enviable: (*adj*) invidious, advantageous, envious, happy, pleasing, attractive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unwelcomed, undesirable, undesired, unpleasant.
snip: (*n, v*) cut; (*v*) slice, crop, trim, nip, prune, pare, pinch, lop, sever; (*n*) clipping.

shirtless flock outside. Then up comes Maryann; throws the loose locks into the middle of the fleece, rolls it up, and carries it into the background as three-and-a-half pounds of **unadulterated** warmth for the winter enjoyment of persons unknown and far away, who will, however, never experience the **superlative** comfort **derivable** from the wool as it here exists, new and pure—before the **unctuousness** of its nature whilst in a living state has dried, stiffened, and been **washed** out—rendering it just now as superior to anything *woollen* as cream is superior to milk-and-water.

But heartless circumstance could not leave entire Gabriel's happiness of this morning. The rams, old ewes, and two-shear ewes had duly undergone their **stripping**, and the men were proceeding with the shear-lings and **hogs**, when Oak's belief that she was going to stand pleasantly by and time him through another performance was painfully interrupted by Farmer Boldwood's appearance in the extremest corner of the barn. Nobody seemed to have perceived his entry, but there he certainly was. Boldwood always carried with him a social atmosphere of his own, which everybody felt who came near him; and the talk, which Bathsheba's presence had somewhat suppressed, was now totally suspended.

He crossed over towards Bathsheba, who turned to greet him with a carriage of perfect ease. He spoke to her in low tones, and she instinctively modulated her own to the same pitch, and her voice ultimately even caught the **inflection** of his. She was far from having a wish to appear mysteriously connected with him; but woman at the **impressionable** age gravitates to the larger body not only in her choice of words, which is apparent every day, but even in her shades of tone and humour, when the influence is great.

What they conversed about was not audible to Gabriel, who was too independent to get near, though too concerned to disregard. The issue of their dialogue was the taking of her hand by the courteous farmer to help her over the spreading-board into the bright June sunlight outside. Standing beside the sheep already shorn, they went on talking again. Concerning the flock? Apparently not. Gabriel theorized, not without truth, that in quiet discussion of any matter

Thesaurus

derivable: (*adj*) inferable, dogmatic, inducible, obtainable, traductive.
hogs: (*n*) Suidae, boars, family Suidae, stock.
impressionable: (*adj*) susceptible, responsive, thin-skinned, susceptible, receptive, tender, touchy, sensible, sentimental, vulnerable, sensitive.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unimpressionable, rebellious, invulnerable.
inflection: (*n*) accent, inflexion,

flexion, modulation, flexion, intonation, declension, bending, conjugation, accentuation, emphasis.
stripping: (*n*) baring, denudation, striping, removal, disforestation, scrubbing, strippingly, uncovering, find, back washing, cornhusking.
superlative: (*adj*) matchless, greatest, excellent, peerless, outstanding, supreme, maximum, highest; (*n*) peak; (*adj, n*) top; (*adv*) most.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unexceptional,

inferior, mediocre, poor, abysmal.
unadulterated: (*adj*) clean, simple, genuine, sheer, absolute, perfect, unsophisticated, true, authentic, real, neat. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) diluted, hidden, imitation, provisional.
unctuousness: (*n*) flattery, fulsomeness, greasiness, smarminess, unction, oleaginousness, oiliness, inunction, ointment, lip service, puff.
washed: (*adj*) wash, cleaner, colored, refined, wet, watery.

within reach of the speakers' eyes, these are usually fixed upon it. Bathsheba **demurely** regarded a contemptible straw lying upon the ground, in a way which suggested less ovine criticism than **womanly** embarrassment. She became more or less red in the cheek, the blood wavering in uncertain flux and reflux over the sensitive space between ebb and flood. Gabriel sheared on, constrained and sad.

She left Boldwood's side, and he walked up and down alone for nearly a quarter of an hour. Then she reappeared in her new riding-habit of myrtle-green, which fitted her to the waist as a rind fits its fruit; and young Bob Coggan led on her mare, Boldwood fetching his own horse from the tree under which it had been tied.

Oak's eyes could not **forsake** them; and in endeavouring to continue his **shearing** at the same time that he watched Boldwood's manner, he snipped the sheep in the groin. The animal plunged; Bathsheba instantly gazed towards it, and saw the blood.

"Oh, Gabriel!" she exclaimed, with severe **remonstrance**, "you who are so strict with the other men—see what you are doing yourself!"

To an outsider there was not much to complain of in this remark; but to Oak, who knew Bathsheba to be well aware that she herself was the cause of the poor ewe's wound, because she had wounded the ewe's shearer in a—still more vital part, it had a sting which the abiding sense of his inferiority to both herself and Boldwood was not calculated to heal. But a manly resolve to recognize boldly that he had no longer a lover's interest in her, helped him occasionally to conceal a feeling.

"Bottle!" he shouted, in an unmoved voice of routine. Cainy Ball ran up, the wound was anointed, and the shearing continued.

Boldwood gently tossed Bathsheba into the saddle, and before they turned away she again spoke out to Oak with the same **dominative** and **tantalizing graciousness**.

Thesaurus

demurely: (*adv*) soberly, primly, virtuously, staidly, reservedly, solemnly, sedately, bashfully, seriously, gravely, properly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) improperly, brazenly, brashly, boldly.
dominative: (*adj*) governing.
forsake: (*v*) abandon, ditch, relinquish, abdicate, fail, leave, forgo, chuck, disclaim; (*n, v*) drop; (*adj, v*) quit.
ANTONYM: (*v*) support.
graciousness: (*n*) benignity, goodness,

kindness, gentleness, good manners, blandness, benignancy, gallantry, civility, grace, benevolence.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) ungraciousness, impoliteness, malignity, unkindness, cruelty, incivility.
remonstrance: (*n*) protest, expostulation, objection, dissuasion, censure, remonstrations, reprehension, admonition, monstration, mediation, dehortation.
shearing: (*n, v*) shear; (*n*) cutting,

clipping, clip, pruning, sheepshearing, embrace, pulling, cutting off; (*v*) fleece.
tantalizing: (*adj*) tempting, attractive, inviting, tantalising, alluring, appealing, enticing, fine; (*adj, v*) appetizing; (*v*) provoquant, spicy.
womanly: (*adj, v*) effeminate; (*adj*) ladylike, womanish, female, womanlike, wifely, weak, maidenly, matronly; (*v*) soft, feminine.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) unwomanly.

"I am going now to see Mr. Boldwood's Leicesters. Take my place in the barn, Gabriel, and keep the men carefully to their work."

The horses' heads were put about, and they trotted away.

Boldwood's deep attachment was a matter of great interest among all around him; but, after having been pointed out for so many years as the perfect **exemplar** of thriving **bachelorship**, his lapse was an **anticlimax** somewhat **resembling** that of St. John Long's death by consumption in the midst of his proofs that it was not a fatal disease.

"That means matrimony," said Temperance Miller, following them out of sight with her eyes.

"I reckon that's the size o't," said Coggan, working along without looking up.

"Well, better wed over the **mixen** than over the moor," said Laban Tall, turning his sheep.

Henery Fray spoke, **exhibiting** miserable eyes at the same time: "I don't see why a maid should take a husband when she's bold enough to fight her own battles, and don't want a home; for 'tis keeping another woman out. But let it be, for 'tis a pity he and she should trouble two houses."

As usual with decided characters, Bathsheba invariably provoked the criticism of **individuals** like Henery Fray. Her emblazoned fault was to be too pronounced in her objections, and not sufficiently overt in her likings. We learn that it is not the rays which bodies absorb, but those which they reject, that give them the colours they are known by; and in the same way people are specialized by their dislikes and antagonisms, whilst their goodwill is looked upon as no attribute at all.

Henery continued in a more **complaisant** mood: "I once **hinted** my mind to her on a few things, as nearly as a battered frame dared to do so to such a **froward** piece. You all know, neighbours, what a man I be, and how I come down with my powerful words when my pride is boiling wi' scorn?"

"We do, we do, Henery."

Thesaurus

anticlimax: (*n*) bathos, letdown, fall, end, downfall, close, closing, conclusion, ending, frustration, disappointment.

bachelorship: (*n*) bachelorhood, celibacy, single, singleness, spinsterhood, unmarried.

complaisant: (*adj, v*) civil, polite; (*adj*) benign, accommodating, amiable, debonair, friendly, courteous, tractable, attentive, affable.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) antagonistic,

contrary, difficult, disagreeable, discontented.

exemplar: (*n*) pattern, archetype, model, standard, classic, case, representative, prototype, protoplast, ideal, precedent.

exhibiting: (*n*) advertising; (*adj*) exhibitory, ostensive.

froward: (*adj*) wayward, willful, headstrong, cantankerous, naughty, perverse, wilful, intractable, contumacious, exceptionous, deaf to

reason.

hinted: (*adj*) veiled, roundabout, not explicit, implicit, coded, oblique.

individuals: (*n*) people, persons.

mixen: (*adj*) dunghill, sink, privy, mixed, jakes, laystall, midden, bog.

resembling: (*adj, prep*) like; (*adj*) analogous, parallel, similar, conformable, approximate, semblative, other, probable; (*prep*) similar to, reminiscent of.

ANTONYM: (*prep*) unlike.

“So I said, ‘Mistress Everdene, there’s **places** empty, and there’s gifted men willing; but the spite’ – no, not the spite – I didn’t say spite – ‘but the **villainy** of the contrarikind,’ I said (meaning womankind), ‘keeps ‘em out.’ That wasn’t too strong for her, say?”

“Passably well put.”

“Yes; and I would have said it, had death and salvation overtook me for it. Such is my spirit when I have a mind.”

“A true man, and proud as a lucifer.”

“You see the **artfulness**? Why, ‘twas about being baily really; but I didn’t put it so plain that she could understand my meaning, so I could lay it on all the stronger. That was my depth! ... However, let her marry an she will. Perhaps ‘tis high time. I believe Farmer Boldwood kissed her behind the spear-bed at the sheep-washing t’other day – that I do.”

“What a lie!” said Gabriel.

“Ah, neighbour Oak – how’st know?” said, Henery, mildly.

“Because she told me all that passed,” said Oak, with a **pharisaical** sense that he was not as other shearers in this matter.

“Ye have a right to believe it,” said Henery, with **dudgeon**; “a very true right. But I mid see a little distance into things! To be long-headed enough for a baily’s place is a poor mere trifle – yet a trifle more than nothing. However, I look round upon life quite cool. Do you **heed** me, neighbours? My words, though made as simple as I can, mid be rather deep for some heads.”

“O yes, Henery, we quite heed ye.”

“A strange old piece, goodmen – whirled about from here to **yonder**, as if I were nothing! A little warped, too. But I have my depths; ha, and even my great depths! I might **gird** at a certain shepherd, brain to brain. But no – O no!”

“A strange old piece, ye say!” interposed the maltster, in a **querulous** voice. “At the same time ye be no old man worth naming – no old man at all. Yer teeth bain’t half gone yet; and what’s a old man’s standing if so be his teeth bain’t

Thesaurus

artfulness: (*n*) art, craft, diplomacy, subtlety, finesse, artifice, guile, disingenuousness, knack, deceit, craftiness. ANTONYM: (*n*) straightforwardness.

dudgeon: (*n*) resentment, huff, pique, umbrage, spleen bitterness, virulence, gall, rancor; (*adj*) dumps, mumps, scowl.

gird: (*adv, v*) encircle, environ; (*v*) begird, circle, girt, jest; (*n*) jeer, scoff, deride; (*n, v*) fortify, brace.

heed: (*n, v*) consideration, concern, regard, mind, attention, notice; (*n*) caution, advertence, advertency; (*v*) attend, hear. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) disregard; (*n*) inattentiveness.

pharisaical: (*adj*) hypocritical, Jesuitical, overrighteous, pious, pietistic; (*adj, v*) sanctimonious, pietistical; (*v*) canting, righteous over much, unctuous.

places: (*n*) chairs, seating, spaces.

querulous: (*adj*) petulant, irritable,

fretful, discontented, tetchy, complaining, fractious, touchy, cross, grumpy, grouchy.

villainy: (*n*) evil, infamy, crime, villainy, misdeed, baseness, enormity, atrocity, evildoing, evilness, injustice.

yonder: (*adv*) beyond, further, farther, abroad, thither, further away, at that place; (*adj*) distant, yond, furious, fierce.

gone? Weren't I stale in **wedlock** afore ye were out of arms? 'Tis a poor thing to be sixty, when there's people far past four-score—a boast' weak as water."

It was the unvarying custom in Weatherbury to sink minor differences when the maltster had to be pacified.

"Weak as-water! yes," said Jan Coggan. "Malter, we feel ye to be a wonderful veteran man, and nobody can **gainsay** it."

"Nobody," said Joseph Poorgrass. "Ye be a very rare old spectacle, malter, and we all admire ye for that gift."

"Ay, and as a young man, when my senses were in prosperity, I was likewise liked by a good-few who knowed me," said the maltster.

"'Thout doubt you was—'thout doubt."

The bent and hoary 'man was satisfied, and so apparently was Henery Frag. That matters should continue pleasant Maryann spoke, who, what with her brown complexion, and the working **wrapper** of rusty linsey, had at present the mellow hue of an old sketch in oils—notably some of Nicholas Poussin's:—

"Do anybody know of a crooked man, or a lame, or any second-hand fellow at all that would do for poor me?" said Maryann. "A perfect one I don't expect to at my time of life. If I could hear of such a thing twould do me more good than toast and ale."

Coggan furnished a suitable reply. Oak went on with his shearing, and said not another word. Pestilent moods had come, and teased away his quiet. Bathsheba had shown indications of **anointing** him above his fellows by installing him as the bailiff that the farm **imperatively** required. He did not **covet** the post relatively to the farm: in relation to herself, as beloved by him and unmarried to another, he had **coveted** it. His readings of her seemed now to be vapoury and indistinct. His lecture to her was, he thought, one of the absurdest mistakes. Far from coquetting with Boldwood, she had trifled with himself in thus **feigning** that she had trifled with another. He was inwardly convinced that, in **accordance** with the anticipations of his easy-going and worse-educated comrades, that day would see Boldwood the accepted husband of Miss

Thesaurus

accordance: (*n*) harmony, agreement, conformity, unison, concordance, coincidence, accordancy, admission, fitness, consensus, concert.

anointing: (*v*) plating, barrel plating; (*n*) inunction, anointment.

covet: (*v*) envy, begrudge, long, crave, aspire, grudge, hanker, want, wish for, long for, wish. ANTONYMS: (*v*) spurn, renounce, reject, ignore, forswear.

coveted: (*adj*) sought after, desirable,

in demand. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unpopular.

feigning: (*v*) feign; (*n*) pretending, pretense, dissimulation, dissembling, deceit, appearance, acting, deception, misrepresentation, pretension.

gainsay: (*v*) disavow, negate, contradict, deny, refute, controvert, disclaim, impugn, oppose, contest, contravene. ANTONYMS: (*v*) agree, correspond.

imperatively: (*adv*) commandingly,

imperiously, urgently, pressingly, authoritatively, obligatorily, essentially, magisterially, necessarily, instantly, critically.

wedlock: (*n, v*) marriage, matrimony; (*n*) union, wedding, polygyny, bigamy, intermarriage, exogamy, endogamy, polyandry, misalliance.

wrapper: (*n*) cover, wrap, cloak, peignoir, housecoat, negligé, envelope, wrapping, covering, dust cover, mantle.

Everdene. Gabriel at this time of his life had out-grown the **instinctive** dislike which every Christian boy has for reading the Bible, **perusing** it now quite frequently, and he **inwardly** said, "I find more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets!" This was mere exclamation—the froth of the storm. He **adored** Bathsheba just the same.

"We workfolk shall have some lordly-junketing to-night," said Cainy Ball, casting forth his thoughts in a new direction. "This morning I see'em making the great puddens in the milking-pails—lumps of fat as big as yer **thumb**, Mister Oak! I've never seed such splendid large knobs of fat before in the days of my life—they never used to be bigger then a horse-bean. And there was a great black **crock** upon the **brandish** with his legs a-sticking out, but I don't know what was in within."

"And there's two bushels of biffins for apple-pies," said Maryann.

"Well, I hope to do my duty by it all," said Joseph Poorgrass, in a pleasant, masticating manner of anticipation. "Yes; victuals and drink is a cheerful thing, and gives nerves to the **nerveless**, if the form of words may be used. 'Tis the gospel of the body, without which we **perish**, so to speak it."

Thesaurus

adored: (*adj*) loved, respected, precious, idolized, idolised, acclaimed, blessed, favorite, dearly loved, beloved, venerated.

brandish: (*n, v*) flourish; (*v*) display, wield, flaunt, shake, agitate, swing, bandy, beckon, raise, jerk.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) conceal, lower, sheathe.

crock: (*n*) jar, vat, sudee crock, container, banger, urn, jalopy, bowl, amphora; (*v*) begrime, smut.

instinctive: (*adj*) inherent, inborn, automatic, natural, mechanical, spontaneous, intuitive, unconscious, gut, reflex; (*adj, v*) involuntary.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) learned, stilted, deliberate, factual, systematic, trained, spiritual.

inwardly: (*adv*) inside, interiorly, innerly, within, secretly, intrinsically, intimately, privately, spiritually, incomingly; (*adj*) inwards.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) openly.

nerveless: (*adj*) coolheaded, feeble, weak, cool, powerless, spineless, impuissant, flaccid, marrowless, composed, imperturbable.

perish: (*v*) expire, pass away, decease, go, fade, decay, depart, fall, pass, ruin, annihilate. ANTONYMS: (*v*) survive, live, appear.

perusing: (*n*) poring over, studying.

thumb: (*v*) feel, flip, handle, leaf, touch, flick, hitch, riff; (*n*) pollex, bull nose, forefinger.

CHAPTER XXIII

EVENTIDE—A SECOND DECLARATION

For the shearing-supper a long table was placed on the grass-plot beside the house, the end of the table being thrust over the **sill** of the wide **parlour** window and a foot or two into the room. Miss Everdene sat inside the window, facing down the table. She was thus at the head without mingling with the men.

This evening Bathsheba was unusually excited, her red **cheeks** and lips **contrasting lustrously** with the **mazy** skeins of her **shadowy** hair. She seemed to expect assistance, and the seat at the bottom of the table was at her request left vacant until after they had begun the meal. She then asked Gabriel to take the place and the duties **appertaining** to that end, which he did with great readiness.

At this moment Mr. Boldwood came in at the gate, and crossed the green to Bathsheba at the window. He apologized for his **lateness**: his arrival was evidently by arrangement.

"Gabriel," said she, "will you move again, please, and let Mr. Boldwood come there?"

Oak moved in silence back to his original seat.

Thesaurus

appertaining: (*adj*) appertinent.

cheeks: (*n*) Gemini, twins, couple, posterior, pair, deuce, two, duet.

contrasting: (*adj*) diverse, conflicting, counter, diametric, distinct, assorted, contrastive, dissimilar, incongruent, miscellaneous; (*n*) division.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) like, uniform.

lateness: (*n*) slowness, delay, sluggishness, timing, dilatoriness, late, slothfulness, earliness, late maturity, tardiance, posteriority.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) promptness, punctuality, earliness.

lustrously: (*adv*) shinily, radiantly, splendidly, lucidly, brightly, polishedly, lightly, splendidly, gleamingly, glossily, glowingly.

mazy: (*adj*) labyrinthian, knotty, complex, involved, tortuous, sinuous, intricate, anfractuous; (*v*) rivulose, reclivate, scoleoid.

parlour: (*n*) living room, parlor, sitting room, front room, livingroom, room

to meet guests, parlours, parlors, salon, reception room, room.

shadowy: (*adj*) indistinct, misty, dark, faint, obscure, hazy, gloomy, vague, shady, insubstantial, dusky.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clear, palpable, light, distinct, open.

sill: (*n*) ledge, threshold, doorstep, rung, step, round, stone, cornerstone, sole, window sill, windowsill.

The gentleman-farmer was dressed in cheerful style, in a new coat and white **waistcoat**, quite contrasting with his usual sober suits of grey. Inwardly, too, he was blithe, and consequently **chatty** to an exceptional degree. So also was Bathsheba now that he had come, though the **uninvited** presence of Pennyways, the bailiff who had been dismissed for theft, disturbed her **equanimity** for a while.

Supper being ended, Coggan began on his own private account, without reference to listeners:—

I've lost my love, and I care not,
 I've lost my love, and I care not;
 I shall soon have another
 That's better than t'other;
 I've lost my love, and I care not.

This **lyric**, when concluded, was received with a silently appreciative gaze at the table, implying that the performance, like a work by those established authors who are independent of notices in the papers, was a well-known delight which required no applause.

"Now, Master Poorgrass, your song!" said Coggan.

"I be all but in liquor, and the gift is wanting in me," said Joseph, diminishing himself.

"Nonsense; wou'st never be so **ungrateful**, Joseph—never!" said Coggan, expressing hurt feelings by an inflection of voice. "And mistress is looking hard at ye, as much as to say, 'Sing at once, Joseph Poorgrass.' "

"Faith, so she is; well, I must suffer it! ... Just eye my features, and see if the tell-tale blood overheats me much, neighbours?"

"No, yer blushes be quite reasonable," said Coggan.

"I always tries to keep my colours from rising when a beauty's eyes get fixed on me," said Joseph, differently; "but if so be 'tis **willed** they do, they must."

Thesaurus

chatty: (*adj*) gabby, garrulous, loquacious, familiar, informal, communicative, gossipy, voluble, talky, conversable, expansive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) taciturn, quiet, formal, silent, laconic, reticent, restrained, reserved.
equanimity: (*n*) aplomb, poise, calmness, calm, temper, peace, imperturbability, temperament, serenity, tranquility; (*adj, n*) stoicism. ANTONYMS: (*n*) panic, anger,

excitableness, fear, hysteria, nervousness, agitation, anxiety.
lyric: (*n*) tuneful, poem, song, language, verse; (*adj*) lyrical, choral, vocal, instrumental, operatic; (*v*) write.
ungrateful: (*adj*) unmindful, unthankful, unappreciative, unnatural, ingrate, unpleasant, distasteful, displeasing, unkind, disagreeable, not kind. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) grateful, thankful, appreciative.

uninvited: (*adj*) unbidden, unwelcome, unintroduced, undesirable, unwanted, unsolicited, unsought, annoying, not needed, not bidden, unasked for. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) welcome, desirable.
waistcoat: (*n*) CHUDDER, barbe, garment, jerkin, jubbah, oilskins, pilot jacket, pajamas, cardigan, singlet, talma jacket.
willed: (*adj*) voluntary, hereditary.

"Now, Joseph, your song, please," said Bathsheba, from the window.

"Well, really, ma'am," he replied, in a yielding tone, "I don't know what to say. It would be a poor plain ballet of my own composure."

"Hear, hear!" said the supper-party.

Poorgrass, thus assured, **trilled** forth a flickering yet **commendable** piece of sentiment, the tune of which consisted of the key-note and another, the latter being the sound chiefly dwelt upon. This was so successful that he **rashly** plunged into a second in the same breath, after a few false starts: —

I sow'-ed th'-e
 I sow'-ed
 I sow'-ed the'-e seeds' of love',
 I-it was' all' i'-in the'-e spring',
 I-in A'-pril', Ma'-ay, a'-nd sun'-ny' June',
 When sma'-all bi'-irds they' do' sing.

"Well put out of hand," said Coggan, at the end of the verse. "They do sing' was a very taking paragraph."

"Ay; and there was a pretty place at "seeds of love." and 'twas well heaved out. Though "love" is a nasty high corner when a man's voice is getting **crazed**. Next verse, Master Poorgrass."

But during this rendering young Bob Coggan exhibited one of those anomalies which will **afflict** little people when other persons are particularly serious: in trying to check his laughter, he pushed down his throat as much of the **tablecloth** as he could get hold of, when, after continuing **hermetically** sealed for a short time, his mirth burst out through his nose. Joseph perceived it, and with hectic cheeks of indignation instantly ceased singing. Coggan **boxed** Bob's **ears** immediately.

Thesaurus

afflict: (*n, v*) pain, distress; (*v*) trouble, grieve, torment, hurt, strike, aggrieve, smite, bother, disturb.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) aid, comfort, encourage, help, soothe.
boxed: (*adj*) bordered, enclosed.
commendable: (*adj, n*) praiseworthy; (*adj*) admirable, creditable, good, worthy, deserving, meritorious, applaudable; (*adv*) praiseworthily, laudably, admirably. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unworthy, despicable,

contemptible, disgraceful, rotten, lamentable, poor.
crazed: (*adj*) deranged, crazy, wild, mad, insane, crackled, loopy, non compos mentis, lunatic, demented, barmy.
ears: (*n*) antenna.
hermetically: (*adv*) chemically, tightly, impenetrably, sealedly, imperviously.
rashly: (*adj, adv*) hastily, headlong; (*adv*) thoughtlessly, recklessly,

impetuously, imprudently, carelessly, indiscreetly, headily, heedlessly, wildly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) thoughtfully, prudently, late, pensively, sensibly, responsibly, cautiously, deliberately, patiently.
tablecloth: (*n*) duster, napery, rag, table linen.
trilled: (*adj*) rolling, involute, furred, billowing, reverberating, resounding, resonating, resonant, pronounceable, reverberative.

“Go on, Joseph—go on, and never mind the young scamp,” said Coggan. “ ‘Tis a very catching ballet. Now then again—the next bar; I’ll help ye to flourish up the shrill notes where yer wind is rather wheezy:—

Oh the wi’-il-lo’-ow tree’ will’ twist’,
And the wil’-low’ tre’-ee wi’ill twine’.

But the singer could not be set going again. Bob Coggan was sent home for his ill manners, and **tranquility** was restored by Jacob Smallbury, who volunteered a **ballad** as inclusive and **interminable** as that with which the worthy toper old Silenus amused on a similar occasion the swains Chromis and Mnasyllus, and other jolly dogs of his day.

It was still the **beaming** time of evening, though night was stealthily making itself visible low down upon the ground, the western lines of light taking the earth without alighting upon it to any extent, or **illuminating** the dead levels at all. The sun had crept round the tree as a last effort before death, and then began to sink, the shearers’ lower parts becoming **steeped** in embrowning **twilight**, whilst their heads and shoulders were still enjoying day, touched with a yellow of **self-sustained** brilliancy that seemed inherent rather than acquired.

The sun went down in an **ochreous** mist; but they sat, and talked on, and grew as merry as the gods in Homer’s heaven. Bathsheba still remained enthroned inside the window, and occupied herself in knitting, from which she sometimes looked up to view the fading scene outside. The slow twilight expanded and enveloped them completely before the signs of moving were shown.

Gabriel suddenly missed Farmer Boldwood from his place at the bottom of the table. How long he had been gone Oak did not know; but he had apparently withdrawn into the encircling dusk. Whilst he was thinking of this, Liddy brought candles into the back part of the room overlooking the shearers, and their lively new flames shone down the table and over the men, and dispersed among the green shadows behind. Bathsheba’s form, still in its original position,

Thesaurus

ballad: (*n*) song, folk song, carol, poem, ballade, recitative, solfeggio, pastoral, recitativo, ditty, bravura.
beaming: (*adj*) bright, radiant, glowing, glad, beamy, cheerful, refulgent, sunny, luminous, resplendent, incandescent.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) gloomy, dark, dusky, frowning, sad, sullen, tenebrous.
illuminating: (*adj*) illuminate, informative, edifying, illuminatingly,

instructive, descriptive, brilliant, light, elucidate, illustrative, lighten.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) hidden, unilluminating, secretive.
interminable: (*adj*) endless, eternal, incessant, infinite, illimitable, immeasurable, unending, ceaseless, timeless, continual, unlimited.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) temporary, finite, intermittent, sporadic, concise.
ochreous: (*adj*) ocherous.
self-sustained: (*adj*) closed, self-

sufficient.
steeped: (*adj*) seasoned, experienced.
tranquility: (*n*) peace, serenity, repose, calm, ease, rest, easiness, quietude, quietness, harmony; (*adj, n*) placidity.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) chaos, violence, uproar, upheaval.
twilight: (*n*) nightfall, night, sunset, gloaming, evening, sundown, eventide, fall, decline, evenfall; (*adj*) aurora. ANTONYMS: (*n*) daybreak, sunrise.

was now again distinct between their eyes and the light, which revealed that Boldwood had gone inside the room, and was sitting near her.

Next came the question of the evening. Would Miss Everdene sing to them the song she always sang so charmingly — “The Banks of Allan Water” — before they went home?

After a moment’s consideration Bathsheba assented, **beckoning** to Gabriel, who hastened up into the coveted atmosphere.

“Have you brought your flute?” she whispered.

“Yes, miss.”

“Play to my singing, then.”

She stood up in the window-opening, facing the men, the candles behind her, Gabriel on her right hand, immediately outside the sash-frame. Boldwood had drawn up on her left, within the room. Her singing was soft and rather **tremulous** at first, but it soon swelled to a steady clearness. Subsequent events caused one of the verses to be remembered for many months, and even years, by more than one of those who were gathered there: —

For his **bride** a soldier sought her,
And a winning tongue had he:
On the banks of Allan Water
None was gay as she!

In addition to the dulcet piping of Gabriel’s flute, Boldwood supplied a bass in his **customary** profound voice, uttering his notes so softly, however, as to **abstain** entirely from making anything like an ordinary **duet** of the song; they rather formed a rich **unexplored** shadow, which threw her tones into relief. The shearers reclined against each other as at **suppers** in the early ages of the world, and so silent and absorbed were they that her breathing could almost be heard between the bars; and at the end of the ballad, when the last tone loitered on to

Thesaurus

abstain: (*v*) desist, forbear, avoid, give up, eschew, withhold, cease, decline, fast, neglect; (*adj*, *v*) deny oneself. ANTONYMS: (*v*) consume, yield, use, surrender, partake, indulge, imbibe, persist, vote, eat.
beckoning: (*adj*) irresistible.
bride: (*n*) fiancée, Bridget, Brigid, saint Brigid, saint Bridget, honeymooner, prioress, newlywed, participant, wife, bridegroom. ANTONYMS: (*n*) bridegroom, groom.

customary: (*adj*, *n*) accustomed, usual, habitual; (*adj*) conventional, ordinary, commonplace, traditional, average, wonted, regular, standard. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unusual, abnormal, exceptional, unconventional, offbeat, irregular, innovative, different, unfamiliar, extraordinary, rare.
duet: (*n*) twosome, deuce, brace, pair, duo, duetto, dyad, two, Twain, Gemini, twins.

suppers: (*n*) supper.
tremulous: (*adj*) shaky, trembling, shaking, fearful, apprehensive, quavering, fidgety, shivering; (*n*) nervous, diffident, coy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stable, confident, steady.
unexplored: (*adj*) unexplained, unapprehended, unascertained, undiscovered, unheard of; (*v*) unexamined, uninvented, unsearched, unstudied, unweighed, unsifted.

an **inexpressible** close, there arose that buzz of pleasure which is the **attar** of applause.

It is scarcely necessary to state that Gabriel could not avoid noting the farmer's bearing to-night towards their **entertainer**. Yet there was nothing exceptional in his actions beyond what appertained to his time of performing them. It was when the rest were all looking away that Boldwood observed her; when they regarded her he turned aside; when they thanked or praised he was silent; when they were **inattentive** he murmured his thanks. The meaning lay in the difference between actions, none of which had any meaning of itself; and the necessity of being jealous, which lovers are troubled with, did not lead Oak to underestimate these signs.

Bathsheba then wished them good-night, withdrew from the window, and retired to the back part of the room, Boldwood **thereupon** closing the **sash** and the shutters, and remaining inside with her. Oak wandered away under the quiet and scented trees. Recovering from the softer impressions produced by Bathsheba's voice, the shearers rose to leave, Coggan turning to Pennyways as he pushed back the bench to pass out: —

"I like to give praise where praise is due, and the man deserves it — that 'a do so," he remarked, looking at the worthy thief, as if he were the masterpiece of some world-renowned artist.

"I'm sure I should never have believed it if we hadn't proved it, so to allude," hiccupped Joseph Poorgrass, "that every cup, every one of the best knives and forks, and every empty bottle be in their place as perfect now as at the beginning, and not one stole at all."

"I'm sure I don't deserve half the praise you give me," said the **virtuous** thief, grimly.

"Well, I'll say this for Pennyways," added Coggan, "that whenever he do really make up his mind to do a noble thing in the shape of a good action, as I could see by his face he did to-night afore sitting down, he's generally able to carry it out. Yes, I'm proud to say, neighbours, that he's stole nothing at all."

Thesaurus

attar: (*n*) Otto, ottar, atar, athar, Ferd-Eddn, perfume.

entertainer: (*n*) host, performer, comedian, actor, humorist, artist, musician, bombshell, busker, artiste, comic.

inattentive: (*adj*) negligent, neglectful, forgetful, reckless, careless, unaware, regardless, inconsiderate, mindless, inadvertent; (*adj, v*) remiss.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) attentive, alert, observant, carefree, cautious,

conscientious, considerate, diligent, prudent.

inexpressible: (*adj, v*) indescribable; (*adj*) ineffable, unspeakable, unutterable, undefinable, incommunicable, nameless, untold, beyond description, unexpressible, undefinable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) definite.

sash: (*n*) girdle, cincture, band, cummerbund, baldric, framing, waistband, framework, frame, fillet,

fascia.

thereupon: (*adv*) hereupon, next, then, immediately, therefore, therewith, in the sequel, close upon, upon which, whereupon, accordingly.

virtuous: (*adj*) upright, pure, righteous, good, moral, just, honorable, honest, respectable, decent, pious. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bad, sinful, corrupt, impure, unethical, decadent, degenerate, irreverent.

“Well, ‘tis an honest deed, and we thank ye for it, Pennyways,” said Joseph; to which opinion the remainder of the company subscribed unanimously.

At this time of departure, when nothing more was visible of the inside of the parlour than a thin and still **chink** of light between the shutters, a passionate scene was in course of **enactment** there.

Miss Everdene and Boldwood were alone. Her cheeks had lost a great deal of their **healthful** fire from the very seriousness of her position; but her eye was bright with the excitement of a triumph—though it was a triumph which had rather been **contemplated** than desired.

She was standing behind a low arm-chair, from which she had just **risen**, and he was kneeling in it—inclining himself over its back towards her, and holding her hand in both his own. His body moved **restlessly**, and it was with what Keats daintily calls a too happy happiness. This unwonted abstraction by love of all dignity from a man of whom it had ever seemed the chief component, was, in its **distressing** incongruity, a pain to her which **quenched** much of the pleasure she derived from the proof that she was **idolized**.

“I will try to love you,” she was saying, in a trembling voice quite unlike her usual self-confidence. “And if I can believe in any way that I shall make you a good wife I shall indeed be willing to marry you. But, Mr. Boldwood, hesitation on so high a matter is honourable in any woman, and I don’t want to give a solemn promise to-night. I would rather ask you to wait a few weeks till I can see my situation better.

“But you have every reason to believe that *then* — —”

“I have every reason to hope that at the end of the five or six weeks, between this time and harvest, that you say you are going to be away from home, I shall be able to promise to be your wife,” she said, firmly. “But remember this distinctly, I don’t promise yet.”

“It is enough I don’t ask more. I can wait on those dear words. And now, Miss Everdene, good-night!”

Thesaurus

chink: (*v*) jingle, tinkle; (*n*) cleft, crevice, Chinaman, aperture, hiatus, scissure, blunt; (*n, v*) clink, break.
contemplated: (*adj*) intended, willful.
distressing: (*adj*) sorrowful, deplorable, pitiful, painful, bad, depressing, disturbing, sore, lamentable, hurtful, worrying.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) reassuring, heartwarming, pleasing, unemotional, soothing, comforting, comfortable, cheerful, appealing,

happy.
enactment: (*n*) constitution, edict, act, law, acting, statute, canon, institution, establishment, fiat; (*n, v*) passage.
healthful: (*adj*) healthy, hale, salubrious, beneficial, hygienic, sanitary, wholesome, salutary, remedial, good, nourishing.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unhealthy, unsanitary, unhealthy.
idolized: (*adj*) adored, beloved, loved,

precious, worshipped.
quenched: (*adj*) extinct, quelled, out, slaked, squelched, dead, kayoed, permanently inactive, prohibited, proscribed, put out.
restlessly: (*adv*) fidgetily, apprehensively, agitatedly, fretfully, unquietly, sleeplessly, nervously, restively, edgily, anxiously, disturbedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) peacefully, unconcernedly.
risen: (*v*) uprise.

“Good-night,” she said, graciously—almost tenderly; and Boldwood withdrew with a serene smile.

Bathsheba knew more of him now; he had entirely **bared** his heart before her, even until he had almost worn in her eyes the sorry look of a grand bird without the **feathers** that make it grand. She had been **awe-struck** at her past temerity, and was struggling to make **amends** without thinking whether the sin quite **deserved** the penalty she was **schooling** herself to pay. To have brought all this about her ears was terrible; but after a while the situation was not without a fearful joy. The facility with which even the most **timid** woman sometimes acquire a **relish** for the dreadful when that is **amalgamated** with a little triumph, is marvellous.

Thesaurus

amalgamated: (*adj*) amalgamate, mixed, fused, merged, combined, consolidated, integrated, joined, coalesced, incorporated, unified.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) disjointed.

amends: (*n*) atonement, compensation, recompense, satisfaction, redress, damages, reprisal, indemnity, requital; (*n, v*) restitution, restoration.

awe-struck: (*adj*) bewildered.

bared: (*adj*) naked, unclothed, exposed.

deserved: (*v*) merited, richly deserved; (*adj*) appropriate, due, fitting, just, earned, suitable, rightful, adequate, required.

feathers: (*n*) plumage, fur, indument, garment, garb, fine hair, clothing, dress, apparel, attire, array.

relish: (*n, v*) enjoy, fancy, love; (*n*) gusto, liking, palate, enthusiasm, enjoyment; (*adj, n*) flavor; (*v*) bask, like. ANTONYM: (*n*) apathy.

schooling: (*n, v*) training; (*n*) learning,

instruction, school, drilling, teaching, pedagogy, edification, coaching, preparation, doctrine.

timid: (*adj*) shy, afraid, diffident, coy, bashful, nervous, frightened, apprehensive, modest; (*adj, adv*) cowardly; (*adj, n*) cautious.

ANTONYMS: (*adj, n*) brave; (*adj*) confident, bold, fearless, resolute, forward, daring, brazen, extrovert, brash, talkative.

CHAPTER XXIV

THE SAME NIGHT— THE FIR PLANTATION

Among the **multifarious** duties which Bathsheba had voluntarily **imposed** upon herself by dispensing with the services of a bailiff, was the particular one of looking round the **homestead** before going to bed, to see that all was right and safe for the night. Gabriel had almost constantly preceded her in this tour every evening, watching her affairs as carefully as any specially appointed officer of surveillance could have done; but this tender devotion was to a great extent unknown to his mistress, and as much as was known was somewhat **thanklessly** received. Women are never tired of **bewailing** man's **fickleness** in love, but they only seem to snub his constancy.

As watching is best done **invisibly**, she usually carried a dark lantern in her hand, and every now and then turned on the light to examine nooks and corners with the coolness of a metropolitan policeman. This coolness may have owed its existence not so much to her **fearlessness** of expected danger as to her freedom from the suspicion of any; her worst anticipated discovery being that a horse might not be well **bedded**, the fowls not all in, or a door not closed.

Thesaurus

bedded: (*adj*) lay, laminal, laminar, layered, foliate, foliated.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unstratified, bedless.

bewailing: (*n*) cry, grief, noise; (*adj*) lamenting; (*v*) querulous.

fearlessness: (*n*) courage, daring, valor, boldness, dauntlessness, hardihood, nerve, confidence, coolness, heroism; (*adj, n*) prowess. ANTONYMS: (*n*) fear, fearfulness.

fickleness: (*n*) faithlessness, levity,

volatility, instability, capriciousness, changeableness, falseness, flightiness; (*n, v*) caprice; (*v*) fancy, legerete.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) fidelity, loyalty, predictability.

homestead: (*n, v*) farm; (*n*) home, abode, farmhouse, farmstead, dwelling, habitation, estate, demesne, homestall, house.

imposed: (*adj*) compulsory, obligatory.

invisibly: (*adv*) unvisibly, indiscernibly, latently, untraceably,

unnoticeably, barely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) obviously, noticeably, conspicuously.

multifarious: (*adj, v*) diverse, heterogeneous, different; (*adj*) manifold, multifaceted, complex, varied, miscellaneous, multiple, many, multiform. ANTONYM: (*adj*) homogeneous.

thanklessly: (*adv*) unthankfully, unappreciatively, ingratelately, unappreciatedly, ungratifyingly.

This night the buildings were inspected as usual, and she went round to the farm paddock. Here the only sounds disturbing the stillness were steady **munchings** of many mouths, and **stentorian** breathings from all but invisible noses, ending in snores and puffs like the blowing of bellows slowly. Then the munching would **recommence**, when the lively imagination might assist the eye to discern a group of pink-white nostrils, shaped as caverns, and very **clammy** and humid on their surfaces, not exactly pleasant to the touch until one got used to them; the mouths beneath having a great partiality for closing upon any loose end of Bathsheba's **apparel** which came within reach of their tongues. Above each of these a still keener vision suggested a brown forehead and two staring though not unfriendly eyes, and above all a pair of whitish crescent-shaped horns like two particularly new moons, an occasional **stolid** "moo!" proclaiming beyond the shade of a doubt that these phenomena were the features and persons of Daisy, Whitefoot, Bonny-lass, Jolly-O, Spot, Twinkle-eye, etc., etc.—the respectable dairy of Devon cows belonging to Bathsheba aforesaid.

Her way back to the house was by a path through a young plantation of tapering firs, which had been planted some years earlier to shelter the premises from the north wind. By reason of the density of the interwoven foliage overhead, it was gloomy there at cloudless **noontide**, twilight in the evening, dark as midnight at dusk, and black as the ninth plague of Egypt at midnight. To describe the spot is to call it a vast, low, naturally formed hall, the **plummy** ceiling of which was supported by slender pillars of living wood, the floor being covered with a soft dun carpet of dead spikelets and **mildewed** cones, with a **tuft** of grass-blades here and there.

This bit of the path was always the crux of the night's ramble, though, before starting, her apprehensions of danger were not vivid enough to lead her to take a companion. Slipping along here covertly as Time, Bathsheba fancied she could hear footsteps entering the track at the opposite end. It was certainly a rustle of footsteps. Her own instantly fell as gently as snowflakes. She reassured herself by a remembrance that the path was public, and that the traveller was probably some **villager** returning home; regretting, at the same time, that the meeting

Thesaurus

apparel: (*n, v*) garb, attire, garment, array, vesture; (*n*) clothing, finery, costume, clothes; (*v*) adorn, clothe.
clammy: (*adj*) viscous, sweaty, sticky, muggy, moist, humid, damp, viscid, sultry, dank; (*n*) ropy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) arid, dried, fresh.
mildewed: (*v*) moldy, rusty, seedy, spotted, decayed; (*adj, v*) fusty; (*adj*) trite.
munching: (*n*) feeding.
noontide: (*n*) noon, midday, high

noon, summit, top, apex, zenith, acme, pinnacle, climax, culmination.
plummy: (*adj*) feathery, plumose, plumelike, plumed, decorated, featherlike, plumate, crested.
recommence: (*v*) renew, restart, regenerate, rejuvenate, start again, take up, take it from the top, start afresh, shuffle the cards, reshuffle the cards, pick up.
stentorian: (*adj*) booming, vocal, piercing, strident, resonant,

powerful, flourishing, full, fuller, palmy, stentorophonic.
stolid: (*adj*) impassive, obtuse, stupid, heavy, doltish, bovine, insulse, expressionless, shallow, petty, apathetic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) emotional, imaginative, exciting.
tuft: (*n*) wisp, crest, cluster, truss, knot, fagot, tassel, strand, thicket, curl; (*adj, n*) feather.
villager: (*n*) denizen, dweller, inhabitant.

should be about to occur in the darkest point of her route, even though only just outside her own door.

The noise approached, came close, and a figure was apparently on the point of **gliding** past her when something tugged at her skirt and **pinned** it **forcibly** to the ground. The **instantaneous** check nearly threw Bathsheba off her balance. In recovering she struck against warm clothes and buttons.

"A rum start, upon my soul!" said a masculine voice, a foot or so above her head. "Have I hurt you, mate?"

"No," said Bathsheba, attempting to **shrink** away.

"We have got hitched together somehow, I think."

"Yes."

"Are you a woman?"

"Yes."

"A lady, I should have said."

"It doesn't matter."

"I am a man."

"Oh!"

Bathsheba softly tugged again, but to no purpose.

"Is that a dark lantern you have? I fancy so," said the man. "Yes."

"If you'll allow me I'll open it, and set you free."

A hand seized the lantern, the door was opened, the rays burst out from their prison, and Bathsheba beheld her position with astonishment.

The man to whom she was **hooked** was brilliant in brass and scarlet. He was a soldier. His sudden appearance was to darkness what the sound of a trumpet is to silence. Gloom, the genius loci at all times hitherto, was now totally **overthrown**, less by the lantern-light than by what the lantern lighted. The contrast of this revelation with her anticipations of some sinister figure in sombre **garb** was so great that it had upon her the effect of a fairy transformation.

Thesaurus

forcibly: (*adv*) forcefully, emphatically, powerfully, by force, mightily, under protest, cogently, hard, strongly, convincingly, clearly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) voluntarily, weakly, gently.
garb: (*n, v*) dress, apparel, array, garment; (*n*) attire, clothing, costume, frock, outfit, clothes; (*v*) clothe.
gliding: (*adj*) sliding, flying, slipping, labent, elusory; (*n*) sailing, soaring, flight, glissando; (*v*) slither; (*adv*) glidingly.

hooked: (*adj*) bent, curved, aquiline, addicted, infatuated, obsessed, enamored, dependent, dependant, engrossed, uncinat. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unenthusiastic.
instantaneous: (*adj*) immediate, prompt, sudden, precipitate, momentary, abrupt, precipitous, precipitant, swift, momentaneous, quick. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) gradual, delayed, considered.
overthrown: (*adj*) overcome,

conquered, battered, overpowered, dejected, cast down, dissolute, doomed, flooded, discomfit, mat.
pinned: (*adj*) fastened, engaged, helpless, stapled, intended; (*adv*) under.
shrink: (*adj, v*) recoil; (*n, v*) flinch, wince; (*v*) contract, shorten, lessen, diminish, cower, reduce, quail, decrease. ANTONYMS: (*v*) increase, enlarge, grow, stretch, swell, bloom, rise, inflate.

It was immediately apparent that the military man's spur had become **entangled** in the **gimp** which decorated the skirt of her dress. He caught a view of her face.

"I'll **unfasten** you in one moment, miss," he said, with new-born gallantry.

"Oh no—I can do it, thank you," she hastily replied, and stooped for the performance.

The **unfastening** was not such a trifling affair. The **rowel** of the spur had so wound itself among the **gimp cords** in those few moments, that separation was likely to be a matter of time.

He too stooped, and the lantern standing on the ground **betwixt** them threw the gleam from its open side among the fir-tree needles and the blades of long damp grass with the effect of a large **glowworm**. It **radiated** upwards into their faces, and sent over half the plantation gigantic shadows of both man and woman, each dusky shape becoming distorted and mangled upon the tree-trunks till it wasted to nothing.

He looked hard into her eyes when she raised them for a moment; Bathsheba looked down again, for his gaze was too strong to be received **point-blank** with her own. But she had **obliquely** noticed that he was young and slim, and that he wore three chevrons upon his sleeve.

Bathsheba pulled again.

"You are a prisoner, miss; it is no use blinking the matter," said the soldier, drily. "I must cut your dress if you are in such a hurry."

"Yes—please do!" she exclaimed, helplessly.

"It wouldn't be necessary if you could wait a moment," and he unwound a cord from the little wheel. She withdrew her own hand, but, whether by accident or design, he touched it. Bathsheba was **vexed**; she hardly knew why.

His unravelling went on, but it nevertheless seemed coming to no end. She looked at him again.

Thesaurus

betwixt: (*n*) midst; (*prep*) among, amid; (*adv*) atwixt.

cords: (*n*) trousers, bands, line, strings, corduroys, raised bands.

entangled: (*adj*) complicated, intricate, embroiled, complex, foul, confused, matted, tangled, inextricable, knotty; (*v*) entangle.

gimp: (*n*) claudication, lameness, gameness, frame, disability of walking, fringe, furbelow, edging; (*v*) hobble; (*adj*) disabled, crippled.

glowworm: (*n*) lightning bug.

obliquely: (*adj, adv*) athwart, transversely, askew; (*adv*) askant, indirectly, slopingly, slantingly, sideways, sidelong, skewly, askance. ANTONYM: (*adv*) straight.

point-blank: (*adj, adv*) straight; (*adj*) direct, outspoken, ingenuous, candid, straightforward; (*adv*) smack.

radiated: (*adj*) radial, stellular, stelliform, penciled, diffuse.

rowel: (*n, v*) goad; (*n*) ankus, fillip,

incentive, whet, whip, dram, stimulus; (*adj*) provocative.

unfasten: (*v*) open, detach, release, unbind, unbutton, disengage, unbolt, separate, loose, loosen, unchain.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) attach, lock, close.

unfastening: (*n*) loosening, untying. **vexed:** (*adj*) troubled, irritated, angry, pestered, peeved, harassed, sore, harried, uneasy, cross, offended.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) calm, uncomplicated.

“Thank you for the sight of such a beautiful face!” said the young sergeant, without ceremony.

She coloured with embarrassment. “ ‘Twas un-willingly shown,” she replied, stiffly, and with as much dignity—which was very little—as she could **infuse** into a position of captivity.

“I like you the better for that **incivility**, miss,” he said.

“I should have liked—I wish—you had never shown yourself to me by **intruding** here!” She pulled again, and the gathers of her dress began to give way like **liliputian musketry**.

“I deserve the chastisement your words give me. But why should such a fair and **dutiful** girl have such an aversion to her father’s sex?”

“Go on your way, please.”

“What, Beauty, and drag you after me? Do but look; I never saw such a tangle!”

“Oh, ‘tis shameful of you; you have been making it worse on purpose to keep me here—you have!”

“Indeed, I don’t think so,” said the sergeant, with a merry twinkle.

“I tell you you have!” she exclaimed, in high temper. “I insist upon **undoing** it. Now, allow me!”

“Certainly, miss; I am not of steel.” He added a sigh which had as much archness in it as a sigh could possess without losing its nature altogether. “I am thankful for beauty, even when ‘tis thrown to me like a bone to a dog. These moments will be over too soon!”

She closed her lips in a determined silence.

Bathsheba was **revolving** in her mind whether by a bold and desperate rush she could free herself at the risk of leaving her skirt bodily behind her. The thought was too dreadful. The dress—which she had put on to appear stately at the supper—was the head and front of her **wardrobe**; not another in her stock became her so well. What woman in Bathsheba’s position, not naturally timid,

Thesaurus

dutiful: (*adj*) duteous, good, faithful, docile, devoted, deferential, compliant, loyal, pious, meek, constant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unfaithful, undutiful, disrespectful, irresponsible, negligent, assertive, impious, irreverent, neglectful, thoughtful, uncaring.

incivility: (*n*) disrespect, impoliteness, discourtesy, impertinence, insolence, rudeness, indecorum, boorishness, unmannerliness, indecency, crudity.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) civility, refinement.

infuse: (*v*) implant, inculcate, instill, steep, imbue, impregnate, brew, indoctrinate, engraft, fill, soak.

ANTONYM: (*v*) dip.

intruding: (*adj*) aggressive, interfering, intrusive.

liliputian: (*adj*) pigwidgeon, elf, dapper, chit, urchin, pigmy, pollard, pygmy, dwarf.

musketry: (*n*) proficiency, rifle, musket, facility, army unit.

revolving: (*adj*) turning, rotating, vertiginous, rotary, gyratory, wheeling, rotative, rotatory, rotational; (*n*) revolution; (*v*) revolve.

undoing: (*n*) ruin, destruction, loss, curse, cancellation, reverse, bane, doom, collapse, annulment, disaster. ANTONYMS: (*n*) building, creation.

wardrobe: (*n*) costume, clothing, cupboard, garb, clothes, apparel, dress, wear, clothespress, palliament, garment.

and within call of her **retainers**, would have bought escape from a dashing soldier at so dear a price?

“All in good time; it will soon be done, I perceive,” said her cool friend.

“This trifling provokes, and – and – –”

“Not too cruel!”

“ – Insults me!”

“It is done in order that I may have the pleasure of apologizing to so charming a woman, which I **straightway** do most **humbly**, madam,” he said, **bowing** low.

Bathsheba really knew not what to say.

“I’ve seen a good many women in my time,” continued the young man in a murmur, and more thoughtfully than hitherto, critically regarding her bent head at the same time; “but I’ve never seen a woman so beautiful as you. Take it or leave it – be offended or like it – I don’t care.”

“Who are you, then, who can so well afford to **despise** opinion?”

“No stranger. Sergeant Troy. I am **staying** in this place. – There! it is undone at last, you see. Your light fingers were more eager than mine. I wish it had been the knot of knots, which there’s no untying!”

This was worse and worse. She started up, and so did he. How to **decently** get away from him – that was her difficulty now. She sidled off inch by inch, the lantern in her hand, till she could see the **redness** of his coat no longer.

“Ah, Beauty; good-bye!” he said.

She made no reply, and, reaching a distance of twenty or thirty yards, turned about, and ran indoors.

Liddy had just retired to rest. In ascending to her own chamber, Bathsheba opened the girl’s door an inch or two, and, panting, said –

“Liddy, is any soldier staying in the village – sergeant somebody – rather gentlemanly for a sergeant, and good looking – a red coat with blue facings?”

Thesaurus

bowing: (*n*) obeisance, playing, gesticulation, capitulation, genuflection, scraping, submission; (*adj*) bowed, bent, fawning, submissive.

decently: (*adv*) becomingly, decorously, fairly, correctly, seemly, fitly, courteously, justly, appropriately, rightly, right. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) rudely, improperly, disreputably, inappropriately, immorally.

despise: (*v*) disdain, loathe, depreciate, abhor, dislike, detest, slight, hate; (*n, v*) contempt, deride. ANTONYMS: (*v*) respect, love, adore, appreciate, cherish, like, praise, accept.

humbly: (*adv*) lowly, meanly, modestly, submissively, low, shyly, lowly, naturally, regretfully, remorsefully, repentantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) conceitedly, haughtily, pompously,

ostentatiously, unrepentantly, affluently, brashly, pretentiously.

redness: (*n*) red, blush, glow, crimson, carmine, catarrh, cellulitis, cerise, mastoiditis, colitis, enteritis.

retainers: (*n*) entourage, suite.

staying: (*n*) stays, arrest; (*adj*) continual, old, left.

straightway: (*adv*) presently, forthwith, directly, right, anon, immediately, at once, straightforward, promptly; (*adj*) straight, immediate.

“No, miss ... No, I say; but really it might be Sergeant Troy home on **furlough**, though I have not seen him. He was here once in that way when the regiment was at Casterbridge.”

“Yes; that’s the name. Had he a moustache – no whiskers or beard?”

“He had.”

“What kind of a person is he?”

“Oh! miss – I blush to name it – a gay man! But I know him to be very quick and trim, who might have made his thousands, like a **squire**. Such a clever young dandy as he is! He’s a doctor’s son by name, which is a great deal; and he’s an earl’s son by nature!”

“Which is a great deal more. Fancy! Is it true?”

“Yes. And, he was brought up so well, and sent to Casterbridge Grammar School for years and years. Learnt all languages while he was there; and it was said he got on so far that he could take down Chinese in shorthand; but that I don’t answer for, as it was only reported. However, he wasted his gifted lot, and listed a soldier; but even then he rose to be a sergeant without trying at all. Ah! such a blessing it is to be high-born; nobility of blood will shine out even in the ranks and files. And is he really come home, miss?”

“I believe so. Good-night, Liddy.”

After all, how could a cheerful wearer of skirts be permanently offended with the man? There are occasions when girls like Bathsheba will put up with a great deal of **unconventional** behaviour. When they want to be praised, which is often, when they want to be mastered, which is sometimes; and when they want no nonsense, which is seldom. Just now the first feeling was in the **ascendant** with Bathsheba, with a dash of the second. Moreover, by chance or by **devilry**, the **ministrant** was **antecedently** made interesting by being a handsome stranger who had evidently seen better days.

So she could not clearly decide whether it was her opinion that he had **insulted** her or not.

Thesaurus

antecedently: (*adv*) precedently, anteriorly, precedingly, formerly, foregoingly, priorly, before, firstly, forward, fore, ahead.

ascendant: (*n*) ancestor, forefather, ascending, progenitor, primogenitor; (*adj*) rising, predominant, regnant, prevalent, prevailing; (*adj, n*) ascendent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) minor, downward.

devilry: (*n*) mischief, devilment, evil, atrocity, roguery, rascality, blaze,

brutality, heartless, ruthless, ferocious.

furlough: (*n*) vacation, leave, ticket of leave, pass, time off, sabbatical year; (*v*) dismiss, terminate, force out, lay off; (*adj*) On leave.

insulted: (*adj*) affronted, offended, injured, huffy.

ministrant: (*adj*) ministering, attending, ancillary, helpful; (*n*) rector, parson, pastor, servant, curate; (*v*) subservient.

squire: (*n, v*) escort; (*n*) landlord, gallant, attendant, beau, gentleman, esquire, landowner, landholder, armiger; (*v*) attend.

unconventional: (*adj*) improper, original, eccentric, unusual, irregular, different, odd, peculiar, extreme, kinky, wrong. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) usual, typical, normal, orthodox, Standard, mainstream, conformist, outdated, ordinary, proper, traditional.

“Was ever anything so odd!” she at last exclaimed to herself, in her own room. “And was ever anything so **meanly** done as what I did do to **sulk** away like that from a man who was only civil and kind!” Clearly she did not think his **barefaced** praise of her person an **insult** now.

It was a **fatal omission** of Boldwood’s that he had never once told her she was beautiful.

Thesaurus

barefaced: (*adj*) insolent, brassy, open, bold, bald, audacious, blatant, impudent, overt, presumptuous, unconcealed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) shamed, reserved, respectful, furtive, discreet, prudish, veiled, ashamed.

fatal: (*adj*) deadly, pestilent, lethal, disastrous, destructive, dangerous, deathly, fateful, murderous, critical; (*adj, v*) mortal. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) harmless, nourishing, healthful, benign, uncritical, mild.

insult: (*n, v*) contumely, affront, abuse, flout, outrage, wound, taunt; (*n*) disgrace, indignity, contempt; (*v*) cut. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) compliment, praise; (*v*) flatter, consecrate; (*n*) privilege.

meanly: (*adv*) poorly, nastily, averagely, humbly, ungenerously, tightly, rudely, stingily, parsimoniously, scurvily, mediocrely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) generously, sympathetically, compassionately,

genially, respectfully, pleasantly, affluently.

omission: (*n*) exclusion, error, ellipsis, inadvertence, negligence, mistake, neglect, oversight, flaw; (*adj, n*) fault, defect. ANTONYMS: (*n*) adherence, performance, addition.

sulk: (*v*) mope, pout, brood, glower, stew, grizzle, frown, gripe; (*n*) mood, temper, sulkiness. ANTONYMS: (*v*) grin, smile.

CHAPTER XXV

THE NEW ACQUAINTANCE DESCRIBED

Idiosyncrasy and **vicissitude** had combined to **stamp** Sergeant Troy as an exceptional being.

He was a man to whom memories were an **incumbrance**, and anticipations a **superfluity**. Simply feeling, considering, and caring for what was before his eyes, he was vulnerable only in the present. His outlook upon time was as a transient flash of the eye now and then: that projection of consciousness into days gone by and to come, which makes the past a **synonym** for the pathetic and the future a word for **circumspection**, was foreign to Troy. With him the past was yesterday; the future, to-morrow; never, the day after.

On this account he might, in certain lights, have been regarded as one of the most fortunate of his order. For it may be argued with great **plausibility** that **reminiscence** is less an endowment than a disease, and that expectation in its only comfortable form—that of absolute faith—is practically an impossibility; whilst in the form of hope and the secondary compounds, patience, impatience, resolve, curiosity, it is a constant fluctuation between pleasure and pain.

Sergeant Troy, being entirely innocent of the practice of expectation, was never disappointed. To set against this negative gain there may have been some

Thesaurus

circumspection: (*n*) care, wariness, chariness, cautiousness, calculation, precaution, vigilance, discernment, judgment; (*adj, n*) discretion, prudence. ANTONYM: (*n*) recklessness.

incumbrance: (*n*) impediment, hindrance, obstruction, clog, fardel, imposition, charge, hitch, burden, worry, vexation.

plausibility: (*n*) credibility, possibility, probability, admissibility,

believability, credibleness, fair appearance, plausibleness, presumption, reasonableness; (*adj, n*) verisimilitude.

reminiscence: (*n*) memory, recall, recollection, anamnesis, memoir, nostalgia, mind, recollections, retrospect, memorial, memento.

stamp: (*n, v*) print, imprint, mark, seal, brand, impress, cast, punch, shape; (*v*) trample; (*n*) impression.

superfluity: (*n*) plethora, redundancy,

superabundance, nimiety, overabundance, overplus, embarrassment, redundancy, extravagance, surplus, glut.

ANTONYM: (*n*) shortfall.

synonym: (*n*) equivalent word, word, equivalence, definition.

vicissitude: (*adj*) fluctuation; (*n*) variation, mutation, innovation, reverse, turn, revolution, novelty, transition, alteration, alternation.

ANTONYM: (*n*) stagnation.

positive losses from a certain narrowing of the higher tastes and sensations which it **entailed**. But limitation of the capacity is never recognized as a loss by the loser therefrom: in this attribute moral or aesthetic poverty contrasts **plausibly** with material, since those who suffer do not mind it, whilst those who mind it soon cease to suffer. It is not a denial of anything to have been always without it, and what Troy had never enjoyed he did not miss; but, being fully conscious that what sober people missed he enjoyed, his capacity, though really less, seemed greater than theirs.

He was moderately **truthful** towards men, but to women lied like a Cretan—a system of ethics above all others calculated to win popularity at the first flush of admission into lively society; and the possibility of the favour gained being **transitory** had reference only to the future.

He never passed the line which divides the **spruce** vices from the ugly; and hence, though his morals had hardly been applauded, disapproval of them had frequently been tempered with a smile. This treatment had led to his becoming a sort of regrater of other men's gallantries, to his own **aggrandizement** as a Corinthian, rather than to the moral profit of his hearers.

His reason and his propensities had seldom any **reciprocating** influence, having separated by mutual consent long ago: thence it sometimes happened that, while his intentions were as honourable as could be wished, any particular deed formed a dark background which threw them into fine relief. The sergeant's vicious phases being the offspring of impulse, and his virtuous phases of cool meditation, the latter had a modest tendency to be oftener heard of than seen.

Troy was full of activity, but his activities were less of a locomotive than a **vegetative** nature; and, never being based upon any original choice of foundation or direction, they were exercised on whatever object chance might place in their way. Hence, whilst he sometimes reached the brilliant in speech because that was spontaneous, he fell below the commonplace in action, from inability to guide incipient effort. He had a quick comprehension and considerable force of character; but, being without the power to combine them,

Thesaurus

aggrandizement: (*n*) elevation, exaggeration, exaltation, growth, increase, promotion, rise, aggravation, dilation, rarefaction, spread.
entailed: (*adj*) eldest, eigne.
plausibly: (*adv*) credibly, probably, convincingly, realistically, sensibly, reasonably, rationally, truly, practically, possibly, logically.
 ANTONYMS: (*adv*) improbably, incredibly, unimaginably, illogically,

irrationally, unconvincingly, implausibly.
reciprocating: (*adj*) reciprocatory.
spruce: (*adj*) dapper, neat, natty, jaunty, trim, rakish, stylish, dashing, snappy; (*adj, v*) tidy; (*adj, n*) bright.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) untidy, messy, unkempt.
transitory: (*adj*) transient, temporary, fleeting, momentary, brief, ephemeral, temporal, fugacious, impermanent, fugitive, transitive.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) permanent, lasting.
truthful: (*adj*) honest, genuine, frank, real, candid, sincere, guileless, realistic, reliable, faithful, honorable.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dishonest, inaccurate, fictional, guarded, lying, improbable, deceptive, deceitful, false, wrong, evasive.
vegetative: (*adj*) vegetal, vegetational, involuntary, fertile, asexual, vegetive, nonsexual.

the comprehension became engaged with trivialities whilst waiting for the will to direct it, and the force wasted itself in useless grooves through **unheeding** the comprehension.

He was a fairly well-educated man for one of middle class—exceptionally well educated for a common soldier. He spoke fluently and **unceasingly**. He could in this way be one thing and seem another: for instance, he could speak of love and think of dinner; call on the husband to look at the wife; be eager to pay and intend to owe.

The wondrous power of flattery in *passados* at woman is a perception so universal as to be remarked upon by many people almost as automatically as they repeat a proverb, or say that they are Christians and the like, without thinking much of the enormous corollaries which spring from the proposition. Still less is it acted upon for the good of the **complemental** being alluded to. With the majority such an opinion is shelved with all those trite aphorisms which require some catastrophe to bring their tremendous meanings thoroughly home. When expressed with some amount of reflectiveness it seems **co-ordinate** with a belief that this flattery must be reasonable to be effective. It is to the credit of men that few attempt to settle the question by experiment, and it is for their happiness, perhaps, that accident has never settled it for them. Nevertheless, that a male **dissembler** who by deluging her with untenable fictions charms the female wisely, may acquire powers reaching to the extremity of **perdition**, is a truth taught to many by **unsought** and wringing occurrences. And some profess to have attained to the same knowledge by experiment as aforesaid, and **jauntily** continue their indulgence in such experiments with terrible effect. Sergeant Troy was one.

He had been known to observe casually that in dealing with **womankind** the only alternative to flattery was cursing and swearing. There was no third method. "Treat them fairly, and you are a lost man." he would say.

This person's public appearance in Weatherbury promptly followed his arrival there. A week or two after the shearing, Bathsheba, feeling a nameless relief of spirits on account of Boldwood's absence, approached her hayfields and

Thesaurus

complemental: (*adj*) supplementary, supplemental, unessential, completing.

co-ordinate: (*v*) harmonize, equalize.

dissembler: (*n*) deceiver, charmer, trickster, dissimulator, sham, impostor, dissimuler, phoney, cheat, Tartuffe, tartufe.

jauntily: (*adv*) cheerfully, airily, brightly, sprucely, smartly, merrily, dashingly, nattily, buoyantly, breezily, lightly.

perdition: (*adj, n*) downfall, fall, ruin; (*n*) hell, inferno, infernal region, nether region, deperdition, bane, destruction, overthrow. ANTONYM: (*n*) heaven.

unceasingly: (*adv*) incessantly, endlessly, ceaselessly, continually, unremittingly, unendingly, constantly, always, perpetually, uninterruptedly, eternally. ANTONYM: (*adv*) acutely.

unheeding: (*adj*) regardless, heedless,

inattentive, unmindful, unobservant, deaf to, unthinking, neglectful, inadvertent; (*adj, n*) careless; (*n*) incautious. ANTONYM: (*adj*) heedful.

unsought: (*adj*) unwelcome, undesired, uninvited, unasked, undesirable, unwanted, unbesought, unattempted, not requested, not desired. ANTONYM: (*adj*) welcome.

womankind: (*n*) womanhood, gentle sex, people.

looked over the hedge towards the haymakers. They consisted in about equal proportions of gnarled and **flexuous** forms, the former being the men, the latter the women, who wore **tilt** bonnets covered with **nankeen**, which **hung** in a curtain upon their shoulders. Coggan and Mark Clark were mowing in a less forward meadow, Clark **humming** a tune to the strokes of his **scythe**, to which Jan made no attempt to keep time with his. In the first mead they were already **loading** hay, the women raking it into cocks and windrows, and the men **tossing** it upon the waggon.

From behind the waggon a bright scarlet spot emerged, and went on loading **unconcernedly** with the rest. It was the gallant sergeant, who had come haymaking for pleasure; and nobody could deny that he was doing the mistress of the farm real knight-service by this voluntary contribution of his labour at a busy time.

As soon as she had entered the field Troy saw her, and sticking his **pitchfork** into the ground and picking up his crop or **cane**, he came forward. Bathsheba blushed with half-angry embarrassment, and adjusted her eyes as well as her feet to the direct line of her path.

Thesaurus

cane: (*n, v*) scourge, whip; (*v*) flog, beat, birch, thrash, lash; (*n*) stick, bat, rattan, twig.

flexuous: (*adj, v*) tortuous, sinuous; (*adj*) anfractuous, winding, curved, devious, undulant, flabby; (*v*) rivulose, scolecoïd, reclivate.

humming: (*adj*) droning, zippy, reeking, bustling, grunting, stinking; (*n*) buzzing, vocalizing, sound, murmur, growling.

hung: (*n*) hanging; (*v*) Heng; (*adj*)

fatigued, puzzled, decorated.

loading: (*n*) cargo, load, burden, consignment, lading, charging, filler, freightage, encumbrance, shipment, burthen.

nankeen: (*n*) cloth, fabric.

pitchfork: (*v*) bolt, fulminate, drive, sling, branch; (*n*) hayfork, hand tool, shakefork.

scythe: (*n*) crotch, crutch, crane, elbow, ankle, fluke, groin, knee, zigzag; (*n, v*) sithe; (*v*) reap.

tilt: (*n, v*) slant, slope, lean, list, rock, careen, sway; (*v*) pitch, tip, cant, lurch. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) surrender; (*n*) agreement; (*v*) yield.

tossing: (*n*) cast; (*adj*) moving.

unconcernedly: (*adv*) nonchalantly, impassively, aloofly, carelessly, uninterestedly, unsympathetically, dispassionately, lackadaisically, insouciantly, apathetically, distantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) nervously, anxiously.

CHAPTER XXVI

SCENE ON THE VERGE OF THE HAY-MEAD

“Ah, Miss Everdene!” said the **sergeant**, **touching** his diminutive cap. “Little did I think it was you I was speaking to the other night. And yet, if I had **reflected**, the “Queen of the Corn-market” (truth is truth at any hour of the day or night, and I heard you so **named** in Casterbridge yesterday), the “Queen of the Corn-market.” I say, could be no other woman. I step across now to beg your **forgiveness** a thousand times for **having** been led by my feelings to express myself too strongly for a stranger. To be sure I am no stranger to the place—I am Sergeant Troy, as I told you, and I have **assisted** your uncle in these fields no end of times when I was a lad. I have been doing the same for you today.”

“I suppose I must thank you for that, Sergeant Troy,” said the Queen of the Corn-market, in an indifferently **grateful** tone.

The sergeant looked hurt and sad. “Indeed you must not, Miss Everdene,” he said. “Why could you think such a thing necessary?”

“I am glad it is not.”

“Why? if I may ask without offence.”

Thesaurus

assisted: (*adj*) aided.

forgiveness: (*n*) mercy, condonation, clemency, kindness, pity, remission, leniency, absolution, grace, compassion; (*n, v*) pardon.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) condemnation, cruelty, harshness.

grateful: (*adj, n*) welcome; (*adj*) agreeable, appreciative, beholden, pleasing, pleasant, acceptable, indebted, obliged, pleasurable; (*v*) appreciate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

ungrateful, unwelcome, unappreciative.

having: (*n*) estate, possession, acceptance, enjoyment.

named: (*adj, v*) called; (*adj*) nominative, nominal, chosen, appointed, nominated, designated, titled, specified; (*v*) benempt, ycleped.

reflected: (*adj*) reflecting, reverberant, reflectent.

sergeant: (*n*) police sergeant, noncom,

serjeant, sergeant major, staff sergeant, technical sergeant, corporal, master sergeant, officer, deskman, gunnery sergeant.

touching: (*adj, v*) affecting; (*adj*) poignant, pitiful, pathetic, adjacent, adjoining, emotional; (*n*) touch, contact; (*prep*) concerning, about. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unaffecting, everyday, heartwarming, unmoving, heartbreaking, emotionless, unemotional, impassive.

“Because I don’t much want to thank you for anything.”

“I am afraid I have made a hole with my tongue that my heart will never mend. O these intolerable times: that ill-luck should follow a man for honestly telling a woman she is beautiful! ‘Twas the most I said – you must own that; and the least I could say – that I own myself.”

“There is some talk I could do without more easily than money.”

“Indeed. That **remark** is a sort of digression.”

“No. It means that I would rather have your room than your company.”

“And I would rather have **curse**s from you than kisses from any other woman; so I’ll stay here.”

Bathsheba was absolutely **speechless**. And yet she could not help feeling that the assistance he was rendering **forbade** a harsh repulse.

“Well,” continued Troy, “I suppose there is a praise which is rudeness, and that may be mine. At the same time there is a treatment which is injustice, and that may be yours. Because a plain blunt man, who has never been taught **concealment**, speaks out his mind without exactly intending it, he’s to be snapped off like the son of a sinner.”

“Indeed there’s no such case between us,” she said, turning away. “I don’t allow strangers to be bold and impudent – even in praise of me.”

“Ah – it is not the fact but the method which offends you,” he said, carelessly. “But I have the sad satisfaction of knowing that my words, whether pleasing or offensive, are **unmistakably** true. Would you have had me look at you, and tell my acquaintance that you are quite a common-place woman, to save you the embarrassment of being stared at if they come near you? Not I. I couldn’t tell any such ridiculous lie about a beauty to encourage a single woman in England in too excessive a modesty.”

“It is all pretence – what you are saying!” exclaimed Bathsheba, laughing in **spite** of herself at the sly method. “You have a rare invention, Sergeant Troy. Why couldn’t you have passed by me that night, and said nothing? – that was all I meant to **reproach** you for.”

Thesaurus

concealment: (*n*) suppression, confidentiality, concealing, secrecy, screen, disguise, hiding, privacy, camouflage, blind, covering.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) discovery, disclosure, exposure, expression, openness, uncovering, revelation.
curse: (*n*) abuse.
forbade: (*v*) prohibit, to prohibit.
remark: (*n, v*) comment, notice, note, mention, regard, mind; (*adj, n, v*) observe; (*v*) perceive, mark, discern;

(*n*) observation.
reproach: (*n, v*) blame, rebuke, charge, abuse, disgrace, reprimand, invective; (*v*) accuse, chide, condemn; (*n*) condemnation. **ANTONYMS:** (*n, v*) praise; (*v*) commend, approve; (*n*) compliment, commendation, approval.
speechless: (*adj*) silent, mute, dumb, dumbfounded, voiceless, quiet, tongueless, tacit, noiseless, mum, wordless. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*)

loquacious, eloquent, talkative.
spite: (*n*) malice, grudge, hatred, malevolence, rancour, venom, rancor, maliciousness, ill will, animosity; (*n, v*) pique. **ANTONYMS:** (*v*) please; (*n*) benevolence, goodwill, love, affection, harmony.
unmistakably: (*adv*) undoubtedly, manifestly, decidedly, signally, remarkably, evidently, apparently, visibly, palpably, unambiguously, markedly.

"Because I wasn't going to. Half the pleasure of a feeling lies in being able to express it on the spur of the moment, and I let out mine. It would have been just the same if you had been the reverse person—ugly and old—I should have exclaimed about it in the same way."

"How long is it since you have been so **afflicted** with strong feeling, then?"

"Oh, ever since I was big enough to know loveliness from deformity."

" 'Tis to be hoped your sense of the difference you speak of doesn't stop at faces, but extends to **morals** as well."

"I won't speak of morals or religion—my own or anybody else's. Though perhaps I should have been a very good Christian if you pretty women hadn't made me an idolater."

Bathsheba moved on to hide the irrepressible dimplings of **merriment**. Troy followed, **whirling** his crop.

"But—Miss Everdene—you do forgive me?"

"Hardly."

"Why?"

"You say such things."

"I said you were beautiful, and I'll say so still; for, by—so you are! The most beautiful ever I saw, or may I fall dead this instant! Why, upon my—"

"Don't—don't! I won't listen to you—you are so profane!" she said, in a restless state between distress at hearing him and a **penchant** to hear more.

"I again say you are a most fascinating woman. There's nothing remarkable in my saying so, is there? I'm sure the fact is evident enough. Miss Everdene, my opinion may be too forcibly let out to please you, and, for the matter of that, too **insignificant** to convince you, but surely it is honest, and why can't it be excused?"

"Because it—it isn't a correct one," she **femininely** murmured.

"Oh, fie—fie! Am I any worse for **breaking** the third of that Terrible Ten than you for breaking the ninth?"

Thesaurus

afflicted: (*adj*) miserable, distressed, stricken, pitiful, sorrowful, ill, woeful, dejected, sorry; (*v*) afflict, displeased.

breaking: (*n*) breakage, breach, violation, infringement, contravention, smash, rift, scutching, shift, intermission; (*v*) deaden.

femininely: (*adv*) femalely.

insignificant: (*adj*) inconsequential, inconsiderable, humble, poor, immaterial, trivial, unimportant,

light, infinitesimal, indifferent, small. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) significant, enormous, major, important, huge, substantial, considerable, great, colossal, valuable, influential.

merriment: (*n*) fun, amusement, cheerfulness, hilarity, glee, jollity, frolic, gaiety, happiness, festivity; (*adj, n*) mirth. ANTONYMS: (*n*) misery, gloom, seriousness, despondency, boredom.

morals: (*n*) ethics, moral, light,

hedonism, ethical motive, conscience, motivation, motive, need, behavior, moral philosophy.

penchant: (*n*) partiality, leaning, inclination, taste, predilection, fondness, liking, relish, fancy, proclivity, disposition. ANTONYMS: (*n*) indifference, antipathy, horror.

whirling: (*adj*) rotary, revolving, dizzy, giddy, lightheaded, rotating, vortical; (*n*) rotation, gyration, revolution; (*adj, n*) swirling.

"Well, it doesn't seem *quite* true to me that I am fascinating," she replied evasively.

"Not so to you: then I say with all respect that, if so, it is **owing** to your modesty, Miss Everdene. But surely you must have been told by everybody of what everybody notices? and you should take their words for it."

"They don't say so exactly."

"Oh yes, they must!"

"Well, I mean to my face, as you do," she went on, allowing herself to be further lured into a conversation that intention had **rigorously** forbidden.

"But you know they think so?"

"No—that is—I certainly have heard Liddy say they do, but——" She paused.

Capitulation—that was the **purport** of the simple reply, **guarded** as it was—capitulation, unknown to her-self. Never did a fragile **tailless** sentence convey a more perfect meaning. The careless sergeant smiled within himself, and probably too the devil smiled from a loop-hole in Tophet, for the moment was the turning-point of a career. Her tone and **mien** signified beyond mistake that the seed which was to lift the foundation had taken root in the chink: the remainder was a mere question of time and natural changes.

"There the truth comes out!" said the soldier, in reply. "Never tell me that a young lady can live in a buzz of admiration without knowing something about it. Ah, well, Miss Everdene, you are—pardon my blunt way—you are rather an injury to our race than other-wise."

"How—indeed?" she said, opening her eyes.

"Oh, it is true enough. I may as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb (an old country saying, not of much account, but it will do for a rough soldier), and so I will speak my mind, regardless of your pleasure, and without hoping or intending to get your pardon. Why, Miss Everdene, it is in this manner that your good looks may do more harm than good in the world." The sergeant looked down the mead in critical **abstraction**. "Probably some one man on an average

Thesaurus

abstraction: (*n*) abstract, reverie, engrossment, extraction, withdrawal, removal, deduction, abbreviation, preoccupation, theorisation, theorization. ANTONYMS: (*n*) attentiveness, inclusion, alertness, concentration, fact.

guarded: (*adj*) wary, careful, chary, circumspect, cagey, vigilant, watchful, conditional, discreet, gingerly, conservative. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) frank, careless, trusting, reckless,

open, unwary, natural.

mien: (*n, v*) deportment, carriage, bearing, demeanor; (*n*) look, countenance, appearance, guise, manner, aspect, air.

owing: (*adj*) due, unpaid, unsettled, outstanding, overdue, owed, payable, undischarged, indebted, fulfilling obligation, lawful. ANTONYM: (*adj*) settled.

purport: (*n, v*) aim, amount; (*n*) intent, drift, intention, meaning, end, effect,

design; (*v*) mean, propose.

rigorously: (*adv*) severely, strictly, stringently, carefully, harshly, exactly, austere, closely, narrowly, stiffly, gravely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) leniently, lightheartedly, negligently.

signified: (*n*) common sense, acceptance, good sense, horse sense, mother wit, sensation, sense, sensory faculty, sentience, sentience; (*adj*) implied.

tailless: (*adj*) acaudate, ecaudate.

falls in love, with each ordinary woman. She can marry him: he is content, and leads a useful life. Such women as you a hundred men always covet—your eyes will **bewitch** scores on scores into an **unavailing** fancy for you—you can only marry one of that many. Out of these say twenty will endeavour to drown the bitterness of **despised** love in drink; twenty more will **mope** away their lives without a wish or attempt to make a mark in he world, because they have no ambition apart from their attachment to you; twenty more—the susceptible person myself possibly among them—will be always dragging after you, getting where they may just see you, doing desperate things. Men are such constant fools! The rest may try to get over their passion with more or less success. But all these men will be **saddened**. And not only those ninety-nine men, but the ninety-nine women they might have married are saddened with them. There's my tale. That's why I say that a woman so charming as yourself, Miss Everdene, is hardly a blessing to her race."

The handsome sergeant's features were during this speech as rigid and stern as John Knox's in addressing his gay young queen.

Seeing she made no reply, he said, "Do you read French?"

"No; I began, but when I got to the verbs, father died," she said simply.

"I do—when I have an opportunity, which latterly has not been often (my mother was a Parisienne)—and there's a **proverb** they have, *qui aime bien chatie bien*—'He chastens who loves well.' Do you understand me?"

"Ah!" she replied, and there was even a little tremulousness in the usually cool girl's voice; "if you can only fight half as winningly as you can talk, you are able to make a pleasure of a **bayonet** wound!" And then poor Bathsheba instantly perceived her slip in making this admission: in hastily trying to retrieve it, she went from bad to worse. "Don't, however, suppose that I derive any pleasure from what you tell me."

"I know you do not—I know it perfectly," said Troy, with much hearty conviction on the exterior of his face: and altering the expression to **moodiness**; "when a dozen men are ready to speak tenderly to you, and give the admiration you deserve without adding the warning you need, it stands to reason that my

Thesaurus

bayonet: (*n, v*) spear; (*n*) sword, cutlass, Creese, stiletto, cimeter, broadsword, brand, dagger; (*v*) butt, eviscerate.

bewitch: (*adj, n, v*) fascinate; (*adj, v*) charm, attract; (*v*) enchant, entrance, enrapture, witch, spell, beguile, enamor; (*n, v*) allure. ANTONYM: (*v*) disgust.

despised: (*adj*) scorned, despicable, hated, abject, disparaged, mean, attaching disgrace, unpopular,

unloved, reviled, opprobrious.
moodiness: (*n*) temperament, depression, capriciousness, grumpiness, petulance, sullenness, humorousness, ill humor, ill humour, jocularly, unhappiness. ANTONYM: (*n*) cheeriness.
mope: (*v*) sulk, fret, moon around, moon about, moon, despond, amble, saunter; (*n*) dillydallier, dallier, lounge. ANTONYMS: (*v*) grin, smile, delight.

proverb: (*n*) adage, byword, aphorism, dictum, saying, axiom, parable, motto, expression; (*n, v*) maxim, saw.
saddened: (*adj*) sorry, sad, depressed, dejected, upset, dismayed, unhappy, dissatisfied, troubled, disillusioned, in a state. ANTONYM: (*adj*) satisfied.
unavailing: (*adj*) fruitless, bootless, useless, ineffectual, inefficacious, otiose, inutile, ineffective, idle, vain, pointless.

poor **rough-and-ready** mixture of praise and blame cannot convey much pleasure. Fool as I may be, I am not so conceited as to suppose that!"

"I think you—are conceited, nevertheless," said Bathsheba, looking **askance** at a reed she was fitfully pulling with one hand, having lately grown **feverish** under the soldier's system of procedure—not because the nature of his **cajolery** was entirely unperceived, but because its vigour was overwhelming.

"I would not own it to anybody else—nor do I exactly to you. Still, there might have been some **self-conceit** in my foolish supposition the other night. I knew that what I said in admiration might be an opinion too often forced upon you to give any pleasure but I certainly did think that the kindness of your nature might prevent you judging an uncontrolled tongue harshly—which you have done—and thinking badly of me and **wounding** me this morning, when I am working hard to save your hay."

"Well, you need not think more of that: perhaps you did not mean to be rude to me by speaking out your mind: indeed, I believe you did not," said the shrewd woman, in **painfully** innocent earnest. "And I thank you for giving help here. But—but mind you don't speak to me again in that way, or in any other, unless I speak to you."

"Oh, Miss Bathsheba! That is too hard!"

"No, it isn't. Why is it?"

"You will never speak to me; for I shall not be here long. I am soon going back again to the miserable **monotony** of drill—and perhaps our regiment will be ordered out soon. And yet you take away the one little ewe-lamb of pleasure that I have in this dull life of mine. Well, perhaps generosity is not a woman's most marked characteristic."

"When are you going from here?" she asked, with some interest.

"In a month."

"But how can it give you pleasure to speak to me?"

"Can you ask Miss Everdene—knowing as you do—what my offence is based on?"

Thesaurus

askance: (*adj*) askint, awry, askant, sidelong, oblique, indirect, squint; (*adv*) suspiciously, obliquely, mistrustfully, edgewise. ANTONYM: (*adv*) trustingly.

cajolery: (*n*) cajolement, blarney, adulation, enticement, palaver, flattery, persuasion, wheedling, humbug, soft soap, allurements.

feverish: (*adj*) febrile, feverous, fiery, frenzied, fevered, excited, sick, fanatical; (*adj, v*) hot, flushed; (*adj, n*)

hysterical. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) calm, afebrile, collected, composed, mellow.

monotony: (*n*) boredom, dullness, evenness, sameness, tediousness, flatness, dreariness, tautophony, tiresomeness; (*adj*) dull work, humdrum. ANTONYMS: (*n*) variety, variation.

painfully: (*adv*) sorely, grievously, distressingly, severely, tenderly, badly, agonizingly, laboriously,

sadly, bitterly, poignantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) easily, tolerably.

rough-and-ready: (*adj*) makeshift, stopgap, provisional.

self-conceit: (*n*) conceit.

wounding: (*n*) wound, injury; (*adj*) hurtful, spiteful, traumatic, grievous, offensive, stabbing, inflicting wounds, impertinent, harmful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) harmless, complimentary, kind, polite, sympathetic.

"If you do care so much for a silly trifle of that kind, then, I don't mind doing it," she uncertainly and **doubtingly** answered. "But you can't really care for a word from me? you only say so—I think you only say so."

"That's unjust—but I won't repeat the remark. I am too **gratified** to get such a mark of your friendship at any price to **cavil** at the tone. I *do* Miss Everdene, care for it. You may think a man foolish to want a mere word—just a good morning. Perhaps he is—I don't know. But you have never been a man looking upon a woman, and that woman yourself."

"Well."

"Then you know nothing of what such an experience is like—and Heaven **forbid** that you ever should!"

"Nonsense, **flatterer!** What is it like? I am interested in knowing."

"Put shortly, it is not being able to think, hear, or look in any direction except one without wretchedness, nor there without torture."

"Ah, sergeant, it won't do—you are pretending!" she said, shaking her head. "Your words are too **dashing** to be true."

"I am not, upon the honour of a soldier."

"But *why* is it so?—Of course I ask for mere pastime."

"Because you are so distracting—and I am so distracted."

"You look like it."

"I am indeed."

"Why, you only saw me the other night!"

"That makes no difference. The lightning works **instantaneously**. I loved you then, at once—as I do now."

Bathsheba surveyed him curiously, from the **feet** upward, as high as she liked to venture her glance, which was not quite so high as his eyes.

Thesaurus

cavil: (*v*) carp, split hairs, equivocate, quarrel, protest, repudiate, nitpick, knock, reproach; (*adj*) refine; (*n*) censoriousness.
dashing: (*adj*) stylish, dapper, gallant, showy, smart, snappy, impetuous, rakish, raffish, brave; (*adj, n*) spruce. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) boring, unstylish, dull, bumbling, bland, awkward, drab, graceless.
doubtingly: (*adv*) distrustfully, skeptically, suspiciously, sceptically,

uncertainly, questioningly, hesitantly, cynically, apprehensively, incredulously; (*adj*) doubting. ANTONYM: (*adv*) optimistically.
feet: (*v*) legs, pegs, pins, trotters; (*n*) foats, ft, fete, meter, rescue.
flatterer: (*n*) toady, sycophant, adulator, crawler, lackey, follower, coaxer, flunkey, wheedler, obsequious, apple polisher.
forbid: (*v*) prohibit, ban, disallow, bar, obstruct, exclude, deny, avert,

frustrate, to prohibit, enjoin. ANTONYMS: (*v*) allow, let, approve, authorize, stand.
gratified: (*adj*) glad, satisfied, pleased, delighted, happy, thankful, grateful, content, complacent, comfortable, cheerful.
instantaneously: (*adv*) directly, instantly, at once, forthwith, suddenly, promptly, abruptly, momentarily, outright, right away, in a flash. ANTONYM: (*adv*) eventually.

"You cannot and you don't," she said demurely. "There is no such sudden feeling in people. I won't listen to you any **longer**. Hear me, I wish I knew what o'clock it is—I am going—I have wasted too much time here already!"

The sergeant looked at his watch and told her. "What, haven't you a watch, miss?" he inquired.

"I have not just at present—I am about to get a new one."

"No. You shall be given one. Yes—you shall. A gift, Miss Everdene—a gift."

And before she knew what the young man was intending, a heavy gold watch was in her hand.

"It is an unusually good one for a man like me to possess," he quietly said. "That watch has a history. Press the spring and open the back."

She did so.

"What do you see?"

"A crest and a motto."

"A **coronet** with five points, and beneath, *cedit amor rebus*—"Love yields to circumstance." It's the motto of the Earls of Severn. That watch belonged to the last lord, and was given to my mother's husband, a medical man, for his use till I came of age, when it was to be given to me. It was all the fortune that ever I inherited. That watch has regulated imperial interests in its time—the stately ceremonial, the **courtly assignation**, pompous travels, and **lordly** sleeps. Now it is yours.

"But, Sergeant Troy, I cannot take this—I cannot!" she exclaimed, with round-eyed wonder. "A gold watch! What are you doing? Don't be such a dissembler!"

The sergeant retreated to avoid receiving back his gift, which she held out **persistently** towards him. Bathsheba followed as he retired.

"Keep it—do, Miss Everdene—keep it!" said the erratic child of impulse. "The fact of your possessing it makes it worth ten times as much to me. A more **plebeian** one will answer my purpose just as well, and the pleasure of knowing

Thesaurus

amor: (*n*) Cupid.

assignation: (*n*) meeting, tryst, engagement, date, assignment, apportionment, allocation, allocate, allotment, alienation, assign.

coronet: (*n*) corona, chaplet, tiara, snood, necklace, circlet, wreath, diadem, cap of maintenance, laurel, ribbon.

courtly: (*adj*) civil, stately, polite, elegant, gallant, dignified, respectful, noble, formal; (*adj, n*) refined; (*adv*)

wooly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) boorish, rude, unrefined, unpolished, uncivil, churlish, impolite, rough.

longer: (*adj*) longest, better, lengest; (*adv*) farther; (*n*) yearner, thirster.

lordly: (*adj, v*) dignified, proud, noble; (*adj*) haughty, grand, August, domineering, disdainful, arrogant, imperious, lofty. ANTONYM: (*adj*) humble.

persistently: (*adv*) stubbornly, constantly, continually, firmly,

tenaciously, unremittingly, continuously, incessantly, insistently, doggedly, pertinaciously.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) sporadically, acutely, aimlessly, inconsistently, spasmodically, halfheartedly.

plebeian: (*adj*) low, vulgar, ignoble, humble, coarse, mean; (*n*) pleb, commoner; (*adj, n*) proletarian; (*adj, v*) ordinary, general. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cultivated, proletarian, patrician, refined; (*n*) aristocrat, noble.

whose heart my old one **beats** against—well, I won't speak of that. It is in far worthier hands than ever it has been in before."

"But indeed I can't have it!" she said, in a perfect **simmer** of distress. "Oh, how can you do such a thing; that is if you really mean it! Give me your dead father's watch, and such a valuable one! You should not be so reckless, indeed, Sergeant Troy!"

"I loved my father: good; but better, I love you more. That's how I can do it," said the sergeant, with an intonation of such exquisite fidelity to nature that it was evidently not all acted now. Her beauty, which, whilst it had been **quiescent**, he had praised in **jest**, had in its animated phases moved him to earnest; and though his seriousness was less than she imagined, it was probably more than he imagined himself.

Bathsheba was **brimming** with agitated **bewilderment**, and she said, in half-suspicious accents of feeling, "Can it be! Oh, how can it be, that you care for me, and so suddenly! You have seen so little of me: I may not be really so—so **nice-looking** as I seem to you. Please, do take it; Oh, do! I cannot and will not have it. Believe me, your generosity is too great. I have never done you a single kindness, and why should you be so kind to me?"

A factitious reply had been again upon his lips, but it was again suspended, and he looked at her with an arrested eye. The truth was, that as she now stood—excited, wild, and honest as the day—her alluring beauty bore out so fully the epithets he had **bestowed** upon it that he was quite startled at his temerity in advancing them as false. He said mechanically, "Ah, why?" and continued to look at her.

"And my workfolk see me following you about the field, and are wondering. Oh, this is dreadful!" she went on, unconscious of the **transmutation** she was **effecting**.

"I did not quite mean you to accept it at first, for it was my one poor patent of nobility," he broke out, bluntly; "but, upon my soul, I wish you would now. Without any shamming, come! Don't deny me the happiness of wearing it for my sake? But you are too lovely even to care to be kind as others are."

Thesaurus

beats: (*n*) beat, beatniks, Beat Generation.

bestowed: (*adj*) presented, conferred, awarded, accurate.

bewilderment: (*n*) astonishment, quandary, confusion, surprise, wonder, bemusement, maze, chaos, jumble, mess; (*adj, n*) perplexity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) order, clarity.

brimming: (*adj*) teeming, brimful, brimful of, full, brimfull, brimfull of, replete, overflowing, chock-full,

spilling over, packed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) empty, unfilled.

effecting: (*n*) accomplishment, implementation, completing, finishing, fulfillment, carrying out; (*adj*) effectual.

jest: (*n*) gag, gibe, quip, game; (*n, v*) jape; (*v*) banter, jeer, deride, gird, sneer, clown.

nice-looking: (*adj*) neat, attractive, handsome.

quiescent: (*adj*) dormant, calm,

passive, inert, immovable, serene, immobile, latent, placid, stationary, quiet. ANTONYM: (*adj*) active.

simmer: (*adj, v*) boil, seethe, stew; (*v*) cook, parboil, fizz, bubble, scald, foam, digest, bake.

transmutation: (*n*) transformation, metamorphosis, change, alteration, mutation, transition, shift, reduction, transubstantiation, retrogression, strengthening.

“No, no; don’t say so! I have **reasons** for reserve which I cannot explain.”

“Let it be, then, let it be,” he said, receiving back the watch at last; “I must be leaving you now. And will you speak to me for these few weeks of my stay?”

“Indeed I will. Yet, I don’t know if I will! Oh, why did you come and **disturb** me so!”

“Perhaps in setting a gin, I have caught myself. Such things have happened. Well, will you let me work in your fields?” he coaxed.

“Yes, I suppose so; if it is any pleasure to you.”

“Miss Everdene, I thank you.”

“No, no.”

“Good-bye!”

The sergeant brought his hand to the cap on the slope of his head, saluted, and returned to the distant group of haymakers.

Bathsheba could not face the haymakers now. Her heart **erratically flitting hither** and **thither** from perplexed excitement, hot, and almost **tearful**, she retreated **homeward**, **murmuring**, Oh, what have I done! What does it mean! I wish I knew how much of it was true!

Thesaurus

disturb: (*v*) trouble, disorder, disconcert, distress, perturb, disquiet, distract, discompose, disrupt, upset, concern. ANTONYMS: (*v*) calm, please, soothe, smooth, order, reassure, sort, settle, respect, quiet, organize.

erratically: (*adv*) irregularly, variably, fitfully, inconstantly, changeably, unevenly, volatily, unpredictably, whimsically, arbitrarily, capriciously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) deliberately,

regularly, predictably, firmly, dependably, always, peacefully, evenly, constantly.

flitting: (*adj*) fleeting, fugitive, momentary, transient, ephemeral; (*v*) migration.

hither: (*adv*) here, whither, hitherward, thither.

homeward: (*adj*) oriented, orientated.

murmuring: (*n*) murmuration, murmur, complaint, grumble, muttering, mutter, murmur vowel;

(*adj*) whispering, humming, droning, murmurous.

reasons: (*n*) proof.

tearful: (*adj*) dolorous, maudlin, watery, weeping, teary, sad, dolourous, wet, whimpering, sorrowful; (*v*) mournful.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cheerful, tearless.

thither: (*adv*) hither, whither, on that point, in that respect, at that place, in that location; (*adj*) further, ulterior, remoter, succeeding, more distant.

CHAPTER XXVII

HIVING THE BEES

The Weatherbury bees were late in their **swarming** this year. It was in the latter part of June, and the day after the interview with Troy in the **hayfield**, that Bathsheba was standing in her garden, watching a swarm in the air and guessing their probable settling place. Not only were they late this year, but unruly. Sometimes throughout a whole season all the swarms would alight on the lowest **attainable** bough—such as part of a currant-bush or **espalier** apple-tree; next year they would, with just the same unanimity, make straight off to the uppermost member of some tall, gaunt costard, or quarrenden, and there defy all invaders who did not come armed with **ladders** and staves to take them.

This was the case at present. Bathsheba's eyes, shaded by one hand, were following the ascending multitude against the unexplorable stretch of blue till they ultimately halted by one of the **unwieldy** trees spoken of. A process somewhat analogous to that of alleged formations of the universe, time and times ago, was observable. The bustling swarm had **swept** the sky in a scattered and uniform haze, which now **thickened** to a **nebulous** centre: this glided on to a bough and grew still denser, till it formed a solid black spot upon the light.

Thesaurus

attainable: (*adj*) possible, obtainable, gettable, available, feasible, approachable, accessible, viable, doable, realistic, open. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unattainable, unachievable, impossible.
espalier: (*n*) trellis tree, trellis, treillage.
hayfield: (*n*) grassland.
ladders: (*n*) washboard.
nebulous: (*adj*) hazy, indistinct, dark, muddy, indefinite, vague, nebulous,

dim, murky, formless, shapeless.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) defined, precise, definite.
swarm: (*n*) host, horde, multitude, drove, throng, cloud, assembly; (*n, v*) mob; (*v*) teem, pour; (*adj*) shoal.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) retreat; (*n*) few.
swarming: (*adj*) full, crowded, alive, packed, populous, sensitive, thick; (*v*) dense, crowded to suffocation, serried, closely packed.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clear, deserted.

swept: (*adj*) clean.
thickened: (*adj*) calloused, concentrated, incrassated, spissated, stiff, tough, becoming thicker, inspissated.
unwieldy: (*adj*) clumsy, cumbersome, unmanageable, heavy, bulky, ponderous, gawky, massive, ungainly, lumbering; (*v*) cumbrous.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) convenient, manageable, wieldy, compact, handy, dainty, light.

The men and women being all busily engaged in saving the hay—even Liddy had left the house for the purpose of **lending** a hand—Bathsheba resolved to **hive** the bees herself, if possible. She had dressed the hive with herbs and honey, fetched a ladder, brush, and crook, made herself **impregnable** with armour of leather gloves, straw hat, and large **gauze** veil—once green but now faded to snuff colour—and **ascended** a dozen rungs of the ladder. At once she heard, not ten yards off, a voice that was beginning to have a strange power in **agitating** her.

“Miss Everdene, let me assist you; you should not attempt such a thing alone.”

Troy was just opening the garden gate.

Bathsheba flung down the brush, crook, and empty hive, pulled the skirt of her dress tightly round her ankles in a tremendous **flurry**, and as well as she could slid down the ladder. By the time she reached the bottom Troy was there also, and he stooped to pick up the hive.

“How fortunate I am to have dropped in at this moment!” exclaimed the sergeant.

She found her voice in a minute. “What! and will you shake them in for me?” she asked, in what, for a defiant girl, was a faltering way; though, for a timid girl, it would have seemed a brave way enough.

“Will I!” said Troy. “Why, of course I will. How **blooming** you are to-day!” Troy flung down his cane and put his foot on the ladder to ascend.

“But you must have on the veil and gloves, or you’ll be **stung** fearfully!”

“Ah, yes. I must put on the veil and gloves. Will you kindly show me how to fix them properly?”

“And you must have the broad-brimmed hat, too, for your cap has no brim to keep the veil off, and they’d reach your face.”

“The broad-brimmed hat, too, by all means.”

Thesaurus

agitating: (*adj*) stirring, provoking, poignant, vexatious, sensational, provocative, afflictive, terrific.

ascend: (*n, v*) mount; (*v*) arise, scale, uprising, climb, go up, come up, increase, elevate; (*n*) ascending, ascent. ANTONYMS: (*v*) descend, drop, decline, fall, lower, set, sink.

blooming: (*adj*) rosy, thriving, flourishing, healthy, prosperous, ruddy, booming, blossoming, cherry, verdant, green. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

arid, pale.

flurry: (*n*) commotion, stir, bother, squall, breeze, ado; (*adj, n*) bustle, fuss, hurry; (*n, v*) fluster; (*v*) disconcert. ANTONYM: (*n*) quiet.

gauze: (*n*) film, curtain, blind, bandage, mask, mantle, muslin, screen, gauze bandage, shutter, daze.

hive: (*adj*) swarm, herd; (*v*) store, SE nicher; (*n*) concourse, hiding place, cave, cell, den, aerie, eyry.

impregnable: (*adj, v*) fast; (*adj*) secure,

inexpugnable, unassailable, unconquerable, invulnerable, insurmountable, unshakable, irresistible, strong, safe. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) vulnerable, tenuous.

lending: (*n*) lend, loaning, borrowing, usury, disposal, disposition.

stung: (*adj*) sting, bit, annoyed, roiled, irritated, nettled, peeved, pissed, riled, stings, thrust.

So a whimsical fate ordered that her hat should be taken off—veil and all attached—and placed upon his head, Troy tossing his own into a **gooseberry** bush. Then the veil had to be tied at its lower edge round his collar and the gloves put on him.

He looked such an extraordinary object in this **guise** that, **flurried** as she was, she could not avoid laughing outright. It was the removal of yet another stake from the palisade of cold manners which had kept him off.

Bathsheba looked on from the ground whilst he was busy sweeping and shaking the bees from the tree, holding up the hive with the other hand for them to fall into. She made use of an unobserved minute whilst his attention was absorbed in the operation to arrange her plumes a little. He came down holding the hive at arm's length, behind which trailed a cloud of bees.

"Upon my life," said Troy, through the veil, "holding up this hive makes one's arm ache worse than a week of sword-exercise." When the manoeuvre was complete he approached her. "Would you be good enough to **untie** me and let me out? I am nearly **stifled** inside this silk cage."

To hide her embarrassment during the unwonted process of **untying** the string about his neck, she said:—

"I have never seen that you spoke of."

"What?"

"The sword-exercise."

"Ah! would you like to?" said Troy.

Bathsheba hesitated. She had heard **wondrous** reports from time to time by dwellers in Weatherbury, who had by chance sojourned awhile in Casterbridge, near the **barracks**, of this strange and glorious performance, the sword-exercise. Men and boys who had peeped through chinks or over walls into the barrack-yard returned with accounts of its being the most flashing affair conceivable; **accoutrements** and weapons **glistening** like stars—here, there, around—yet all by rule and compass. So she said mildly what she felt strongly.

"Yes; I should like to see it very much."

Thesaurus

accoutrements: (*n*) accouterments, trappings, paraphernalia, equipment, gear, dress, clothes, apparel, attire.

barracks: (*n*) billet, quarters, encampment, casern.

flurried: (*adj*) frightened, agitated; (*v*) galled.

glistening: (*adj*) shining, glossy, shiny, glisten, brilliant, beaming, sleek, lustrous, sparkling, reflecting light, gleaming. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dull.

gooseberry: (*n*) fish story, Ribes

grossularia, shrub, bush, gooseberry bush, feaberry.

guise: (*n*) form, dress, aspect, costume, disguise, fashion, pretense, camouflage, attire, figure, color.

stifled: (*adj*) strangled, suppressed, muffled, deafened, completely covered, dead, deadened, weak, deaf corn, regardless, decayed.

untie: (*v*) disentangle, unfasten, free, loosen, release, loose, disengage, untangle, open, unlace, unbind.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) fasten, bind, tighten, tie, entangle, enslave, close, fetter.

untying: (*n*) undoing, unfastening, unraveling, loosening, disentanglement, unscrambling, opening.

wondrous: (*adj*) marvelous, miraculous, marvellous, astonishing, tremendous, fantastic, phenomenal, extraordinary, rattling; (*adv*) wonderfully, marvellously.

“And so you shall; you shall see me go through it.”

“No! How?”

“Let me consider.”

“Not with a walking-stick—I don’t care to see that. It must be a real sword.”

“Yes, I know; and I have no sword here; but I think I could get one by the evening. Now, will you do this?”

Troy bent over her and murmured some suggestion in a low voice.

“Oh no, indeed!” said Bathsheba, blushing. “Thank you very much, but I couldn’t on any account.”

“Surely you might? Nobody would know.”

She shook her head, but with a weakened **negation**. “If I were to,” she said, “I must bring Liddy too. Might I not?”

Troy looked far away. “I don’t see why you want to bring her,” he said **coldly**.

An unconscious look of **assent** in Bathsheba’s eyes betrayed that something more than his **coldness** had made her also feel that Liddy would be **superfluous** in the suggested scene. She had felt it, even whilst making the proposal.

“Well, I won’t bring Liddy—and I’ll come. But only for a very short time,” she added; “a very short time.”

“It will not take five minutes,” said Troy.

Thesaurus

assent: (*n*) acceptance, acquiescence, approval, agreement, compliance, admission, approbation; (*v*) accede, accord, agree; (*adj, v*) acquiesce. ANTONYMS: (*v*) resist, disagree, disapprove, reject, refuse; (*n*) disagreement, refusal, resistance.
coldly: (*adv*) frigidly, icily, coolly, indifferently, frostily, distantly, gelidly, reservedly, bleakly, wintrily, frozenly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) warmly, affectionately, sympathetically,

sensitively, kindly, cheerfully, emotionally.
coldness: (*n*) chilliness, coolness, indifference, distance, apathy, iciness, reserve, frost, frigidity, unconcern; (*adj, n*) cold. ANTONYMS: (*n*) friendliness, sympathy, sensitivity, hotness, heat, responsiveness, concern, brightness, kindness.
negation: (*n*) contradiction, negate, opposition, disavowal, deny, cancellation, rebuttal, refusal,

refutation, rejection, abnegation. ANTONYMS: (*n*) acceptance, confirmation, affirmation, substantiation, reinforcement, agreement.
superfluous: (*adj, v*) spare; (*adj*) needless, extra, excess, excessive, unnecessary, surplus, pointless, superabundant, supernumerary, supererogatory. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) indispensable, important, essential, basic, pertinent.

CHAPTER XXVIII

THE HOLLOW AMID THE FERNS

The hill opposite Bathsheba's dwelling extended, a mile off, into an **uncultivated** tract of land, dotted at this season with tall thickets of brake fern, plump and **diaphanous** from recent rapid growth, and radiant in hues of clear and **untainted** green.

At eight o'clock this midsummer evening, whilst the **bristling** ball of gold in the west still swept the tips of the ferns with its long, **luxuriant** rays, a soft brushing-by of garments might have been heard among them, and Bathsheba appeared in their midst, their soft, **feathery** arms caressing her up to her shoulders. She paused, turned, went back over the hill and half-way to her own door, whence she cast a farewell glance upon the spot she had just left, having resolved not to remain near the place after all.

She saw a dim spot of artificial red moving round the shoulder of the rise. It disappeared on the other side.

She waited one minute—two minutes—thought of Troy's disappointment at her non-fulfilment of a promised engagement, till she again ran along the field, clambered over the bank, and followed the original direction. She was now literally trembling and panting at this her **temerity** in such an errant

Thesaurus

bristling: (*n*) brisling; (*adj*) thorny, muricated, pectinated, studded, thistly, bristled, bushy, teeming, horrid, horrent.

diaphanous: (*adj*) sheer, filmy, gauzy, thin, translucent, lucid, clear, hyaline, gossamer, dainty, hyaloid.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) thick, opaque, heavy, robust.

feathery: (*adj*) light, fluffy, plummy, soft, downy, featherlike, plumose, plumelike, velvety, creamy, tender.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) rough.

luxuriant: (*adj, n*) lush; (*adj*) abundant, lavish, exuberant, dense, thick, fertile, flourishing, fecund, opulent, profuse.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) barren, meager, unhealthy, arid, withering, sparse, shabby, unadorned.

temerity: (*n*) nerve, effrontery, hardihood, boldness, rashness, imprudence, audaciousness, carelessness, assurance, indiscretion, venturesomeness. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

caution, care, reticence.

uncultivated: (*adj*) savage, ignorant, uneducated, wild, fresh, uncivilized, rude, untutored, uncultured, artless, lowbrow. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cultivated, familiar, refined.

untainted: (*adj*) unsullied, unstained, unspotted, innocent, unsoiled, unblemished, untarnished, stainless; (*n*) unmarred, unscathed, uninjured. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) tainted, impure.

undertaking; her breath came and went quickly, and her eyes shone with an infrequent light. Yet go she must. She reached the verge of a pit in the middle of the ferns. Troy stood in the bottom, looking up towards her.

"I heard you rustling through the fern before I saw you," he said, coming up and giving her his hand to help her down the slope.

The pit was a saucer-shaped **concave**, naturally formed, with a top diameter of about thirty feet, and shallow enough to allow the sunshine to reach their heads. Standing in the centre, the sky overhead was met by a circular horizon of fern: this grew nearly to the bottom of the slope and then abruptly ceased. The middle within the belt of **verdure** was **floored** with a thick **flossy** carpet of moss and grass **intermingled**, so yielding that the foot was half-buried within it.

"Now," said Troy, producing the sword, which, as he raised it into the sunlight, gleamed a sort of greeting, like a living thing, "first, we have four right and four left **cuts**; four right and four left thrusts. Infantry cuts and guards are more interesting than ours, to my mind; but they are not so swashing. They have seven cuts and three thrusts. So much as a preliminary. Well, next, our cut one is as if you were **sowing** your corn—so." Bathsheba saw a sort of rainbow, **upside** down in the air, and Troy's arm was still again. "Cut two, as if you were hedging—so. Three, as if you were reaping—so. Four, as if you were threshing—in that way. Then the same on the left. The thrusts are these: one, two, three, four, right; one, two, three, four, left." He repeated them. "Have 'em again?" he said. "One, two—"

She hurriedly interrupted: "I'd rather not; though I don't mind your twos and fours; but your ones and threes are terrible!"

"Very well. I'll let you off the ones and threes. Next, cuts, points and guards altogether," Troy duly exhibited them. "Then there's **pursuing** practice, in this way." He gave the movements as before. "There, those are the **stereotyped** forms. The infantry have two most **diabolical** upward cuts, which we are too humane to use. Like this—three, four."

"How murderous and bloodthirsty!"

Thesaurus

concave: (*n*) indentation, depression, concavity; (*adj*) cavernous, biconcave, cupped, dipped, arched, indented; (*adj, n*) crescent; (*v*) stove in.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) curved.
cuts: (*n*) film waste.
diabolical: (*adj*) diabolic, demonic, demonic, infernal, hellish, unholy, fiendish, wicked, satanic, atrocious, evil.
floored: (*adj*) floors, flooring, dumbfounded, bewildered.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) ceilinged.
flossy: (*adj*) downy, downlike, fuzzy, showy.
intermingled: (*adj*) amalgamated, integrated, coalesced, blended, incorporated, assorted, consolidated, incorporate, amalgamate, fused.
pursuing: (*n*) pursuit, search, hunt; (*adj*) coming, engaged.
sowing: (*v*) plowing, tilling; (*n*) insemination, semination.
stereotyped: (*adj, v*) commonplace,

stock, trite; (*adj*) hackneyed, banal, stale, corny, stereotypical; (*v*) established, familiar, incontrovertible. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) original, unconventional, fresh.
upside: (*n*) crest, crown, poll, top side, upper side, pate, round top, acme, summit, superlative, teetotum.
verdure: (*adj, n*) greenness; (*n*) greenery, foliage, verdancy, viridity, green, leafage, flora, freshness, strength, vegetable kingdom.

“They are rather **deathly**. Now I’ll be more interesting, and let you see some loose play—giving all the cuts and points, infantry and cavalry, **quicker** than lightning, and as promiscuously—with just enough rule to regulate instinct and yet not to **fetter** it. You are my **antagonist**, with this difference from real warfare, that I shall miss you every time by one hair’s breadth, or perhaps two. Mind you don’t **flinch**, whatever you do.”

“I’ll be sure not to!” she said invincibly.

He pointed to about a yard in front of him.

Bathsheba’s adventurous spirit was beginning to find some grains of relish in these highly novel proceedings. She took up her position as directed, facing Troy.

“Now just to learn whether you have pluck enough to let me do what I wish, I’ll give you a preliminary test.”

He flourished the sword by way of introduction number two, and the next thing of which she was conscious was that the point and blade of the sword were **darting** with a gleam towards her left side, just above her hip; then of their **reappearance** on her right side, emerging as it were from between her **ribs**, having apparently passed through her body. The third item of consciousness was that of seeing the same sword, perfectly clean and free from blood held vertically in Troy’s hand (in the position technically called “recover swords”). All was as quick as electricity.

“Oh!” she cried out in **affright**, pressing her hand to her side. “Have you run me through?—no, you have not! Whatever have you done!”

“I have not touched you,” said Troy, quietly. “It was mere **sleight** of hand. The sword passed behind you. Now you are not afraid, are you? Because if you are I can’t perform. I give my word that I will not only not hurt you, but not once touch you.”

“I don’t think I am afraid. You are quite sure you will not hurt me?”

“Quite sure.”

“Is the Sword very sharp?”

Thesaurus

affright: (*v*) frighten, scare, horrify, startle, terrorize, terrify, intimidate; (*n*) dread, alarm, fear; (*n, v*) fright.
antagonist: (*n*) opponent, adversary, enemy, foe, rival, match, opposition, opposer, assailant, opposite, competitor. ANTONYMS: (*n*) supporter, advocate, colleague, synergist, ally, defender.
darting: (*adj*) arrowy, moving; (*v*) Sally.
deathly: (*adj*) mortal, cadaverous,

deathlike, fatal, lethal, ghastly, macabre, pale, wan, baneful; (*adv*) mortally. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) blooming, robust, lively, harmless, benign, animated, healthy.
fetter: (*n, v*) shackle, bond, gyve, hamper, hobble, tether; (*v*) bind, chain, confine, handcuff, band. ANTONYMS: (*v*) free, facilitate.
flinch: (*v*) cower, quail, recoil, recede, blench, shrink; (*n, v*) cringe, start, retreat, jump, jerk.

quicker: (*adv*) more quickly, sooner, earlier.
reappearance: (*n*) emersion, recurrence, repetition, resurrection, homecoming, reanimation, comeback, egress, restoration, revival, reproduction.
ribs: (*n*) dinner, chest, bosom.
sleight: (*adj, n*) trick; (*n*) dexterity, imposture, skill, manual dexterity, guile; (*adj*) facility, knack, proficiency, callidity, competence.

“O no—only stand as still as a statue. Now!”

In an instant the atmosphere was transformed to Bathsheba’s eyes. Beams of light caught from the low sun’s rays, above, around, in front of her, **well-nigh** shut out earth and heaven—all emitted in the marvellous **evolutions** of Troy’s reflecting blade, which seemed everywhere at once, and yet nowhere specially. These **circling** gleams were accompanied by a keen rush that was almost a whistling—also **springing** from all sides of her at once. In short, she was enclosed in a firmament of light, and of sharp hisses, resembling a sky-full of meteors close at hand.

Never since the **broadsword** became the national weapon had there been more dexterity shown in its management than by the hands of Sergeant Troy, and never had he been in such splendid temper for the performance as now in the evening sunshine among the ferns with Bathsheba. It may safely be asserted with respect to the closeness of his cuts, that had it been possible for the edge of the sword to leave in the air a permanent substance wherever it flew past, the space left untouched would have been almost a mould of Bathsheba’s figure.

Behind the **luminous** streams of this *aurora militaris*, she could see the hue of Troy’s sword arm, spread in a scarlet haze over the space covered by its motions, like a twanged harpstring, and behind all Troy himself, mostly facing her; sometimes, to show the rear cuts, half turned away, his eye nevertheless always keenly measuring her breadth and outline, and his lips tightly closed in sustained effort. Next, his movements **lapsed** slower, and she could see them individually. The **hissing** of the sword had ceased, and he stopped entirely.

“That outer loose lock of hair wants tidying,” he said, before she had moved or spoken. “Wait: I’ll do it for you.”

An arc of silver shone on her right side: the sword had descended. The lock dropped to the ground.

“Bravely borne!” said Troy. “You didn’t flinch a shade’s thickness. Wonderful in a woman!”

“It was because I didn’t expect it. Oh, you have **spoil** my hair!”

Thesaurus

aurora: (*n*) daybreak, sunrise, dawn, morning, prime, cockcrow, dawning, dayspring, first light, Apollo, Eos. ANTONYM: (*n*) sunset.

broadsword: (*n*) steel, backsword, glaive, blade, brand, claymore, saber.

circling: (*v*) snaky, serpentine; (*adj*) rotating, spinning, circular, spiral, moving; (*n*) circulation, circuit, cycling; (*adv*) around.

evolutions: (*n*) evolution.

hissing: (*adj*) sibilant, sibilous,

sibilatory; (*n*) whistling, heckling, scoffing, sibilance, taunts, sibilation, white noise; (*v*) fizzle. ANTONYM: (*n*) applause.

lapsed: (*adj*) fallen, elapsed, slip, defunct, forgotten, invalid, irreligious, lost, nonchurchgoing, finished.

luminous: (*adj*) glowing, brilliant, lustrous, lucent, sunny, lambent, radiant, light, aglow; (*adj, n*) lucid, clear. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dark,

obscure.

spoil: (*adj*) spoiled, blighted, be stunted, destroyed, unsound, corrupt, disordered, reproduced fraudulently, defective, defiled, big.

springing: (*v*) jumping, climbing, bounding, furious, conspicuous, prominent, ascending, projecting outwardly; (*n*) growth, suspension, emanation.

well-nigh: (*adv*) nearly, most; (*adj*) practically.

“Only once more.”

“No—no! I am afraid of you—indeed I am!” she cried.

“I won’t touch you at all—not even your hair. I am only going to kill that **caterpillar** settling on you. Now: still!”

It appeared that a caterpillar had come from the **fern** and chosen the front of her **bodice** as his resting place. She saw the point **glisten** towards her bosom, and seemingly enter it. Bathsheba closed her eyes in the full persuasion that she was **killed** at last. However, feeling just as usual, she opened them again.

“There it is, look,” said the sergeant, holding his sword before her eyes.

The caterpillar was spitted upon its point.

“Why, it is magic!” said Bathsheba, amazed.

“Oh no—dexterity. I merely gave point to your bosom where the caterpillar was, and instead of running you through checked the extension a **thousandth** of an inch short of your surface.”

“But how could you **chop** off a curl of my hair with a sword that has no edge?”

“No edge! This sword will **shave** like a **razor**. Look here.”

He touched the palm of his hand with the blade, and then, lifting it, showed her a thin **shaving** of scarf-skin **dangling** therefrom.

“But you said before beginning that it was blunt and couldn’t cut me!”

“That was to get you to stand still, and so make sure of your safety. The risk of injuring you through your moving was too great not to force me to tell you a fib to escape it.”

She shuddered. “I have been within an inch of my life, and didn’t know it!”

“More precisely speaking, you have been within half an inch of being pared alive two hundred and ninety-five times.”

“Cruel, cruel, ‘tis of you!”

Thesaurus

bodice: (*n*) corsage, stays, corset, brassiere, top, slip, waist, corselet.

caterpillar: (*n*) cutworm, larva, Aurelia, cabbageworm, armyworm, bollworm, cankerworm, worm, maggot, orphan, cocoon.

chop: (*n, v*) chip, slice, cut; (*v*) mince, slash, whittle, hash, hack, cleave, hew, chop up.

dangling: (*adj*) suspended, pendent, pendant, limp, floppy, pendulous; (*n*) suspension, abeyance, break,

abatement; (*adv*) adangle.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) upright.

fern: (*n*) maidenhair, davallia, christella, pteridophyte, fan fern, bristle fern, button fern, buckler fern, cliff brake, beech fern, canker brake.

glisten: (*n, v*) gleam, sparkle, flash, glance, shimmer, glitter, glisten; (*v*) glimmer, beam, coruscate, glint.

killed: (*n*) casualty; (*adj*) fallen.

razor: (*adj, n*) straight razor; (*adj*) knife, cutlery, edge tool, penknife; (*n*)

electric razor, shaver, safety razor, electric shaver, rasour; (*v*) epilate.

shave: (*v*) scrape, reduce, pare, cut, brush, chip, whittle, crop; (*adj, v*) clip, shear, lop. ANTONYMS: (*v*) augment, expand, lengthen.

shaving: (*adj, n*) paring, sliver, shiver; (*n, v*) shave; (*n*) cut, splinter, rasher, grazing, slice; (*adj*) clipping, dribblet.

thousandth: (*adj*) millesimal; (*n*) simple fraction.

“You have been perfectly safe, nevertheless. My sword never errs.” And Troy returned the weapon to the scabbard.

Bathsheba, overcome by a hundred **tumultuous** feelings resulting from the scene, abstractedly sat down on a tuft of heather.

“I must leave you now,” said Troy, softly. “And I’ll venture to take and keep this in remembrance of you.”

She saw him **stoop** to the grass, pick up the winding lock which he had severed from her **manifold** tresses, twist it round his fingers, unfasten a button in the breast of his coat, and carefully put it inside. She felt powerless to withstand or deny him. He was altogether too much for her, and Bathsheba seemed as one who, facing a **reviving** wind, finds it blow so strongly that it stops the breath. He drew near and said, “I must be leaving you.”

He drew nearer still. A minute later and she saw his scarlet form disappear amid the **ferny thicket**, almost in a flash, like a brand swiftly waved.

That minute’s interval had brought the blood beating into her face, set her **stinging** as if **aflake** to the very hollows of her feet, and enlarged emotion to a compass which quite swamped thought. It had brought upon her a stroke resulting, as did that of Moses in Horeb, in a liquid stream—here a stream of tears. She felt like one who has sinned a great sin.

The circumstance had been the gentle dip of Troy’s mouth **downwards** upon her own. He had kissed her.

Thesaurus

aflake: (*adj*) ablaze, burning, excited, afire, passionate, fiery, on fire, flaming, alight, reddened, red.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) pale.

downwards: (*adv*) down, downhill, downwardly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) up.

ferny: (*adj*) ferned, braky.

manifold: (*adj*) diverse, different, many, various, multiplex, multiplied, frequent; (*v*) duplicate, copy, multiply; (*n*) diversity.

reviving: (*adj*) bracing, restorative,

renewing, refreshing, revival, brisk, enlivening, recuperative, reanimating, promoting recuperation, giving life.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) soothing.

stinging: (*adj*) cutting, bitter, piquant, prickling; (*adj, v*) caustic, acrid, piercing, poignant, biting, pungent, keen. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stingless, gentle.

stoop: (*v*) crouch, bend, deign, condescend, descend, squat, couch,

cringe, lean, lower oneself; (*n*) porch. ANTONYM: (*v*) straighten.

thicket: (*n*) brake, coppice, brush, grove, spinney, bush, brushwood, cluster, underbrush, undergrowth, underwood.

tumultuous: (*adj, n*) boisterous, tempestuous; (*adj*) disorderly, riotous, turbulent, noisy, furious, loud, troubled, disturbed; (*adj, v*) tumultuary. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) peaceful, calm.

CHAPTER XXIX

PARTICULARS OF A TWILIGHT WALK

We now see the element of folly distinctly mingling with the many varying particulars which made up the character of Bathsheba Everdene. It was almost foreign to her intrinsic nature. Introduced as **lymph** on the **dart** of Eros, it eventually permeated and coloured her whole constitution. Bathsheba, though she had too much understanding to be entirely governed by her **womanliness**, had too much womanliness to use her understanding to the best advantage. Perhaps in no minor point does woman astonish her **helpmate** more than in the strange power she possesses of believing cajoleries that she knows to be false—except, indeed, in that of being utterly sceptical on strictures that she knows to be true.

Bathsheba loved Troy in the way that only **self-reliant** women love when they abandon their **self-reliance**. When a strong woman **recklessly** throws away her strength she is worse than a weak woman who has never had any strength to throw away. One source of her inadequacy is the **novelty** of the occasion. She has never had practice in making the best of such a condition. Weakness is **doubly** weak by being new.

Thesaurus

dart: (*n, v*) dash, run, flit; (*v*) bound, flash, shoot, rush, race, gallop; (*adj, n*) arrow, rocket. ANTONYMS: (*v*) plod, trudge, slog, linger, dawdle, dally, delay, amble; (*n*) tonic.

doubly: (*adv*) twice, twofold, two times, in two ways, dualistically.

helpmate: (*n*) helpmeet, mate, wife, partner, better half, help, husband, spouse, helper; (*v*) old woman, old lady.

lymph: (*adj*) lymphate, limpid, rheum,

sanies, serosity, lymphatic; (*n*) karyolymph, crystal, glass, water, vitrite.

novelty: (*adj*) news; (*n*) freshness, mutation, newness, trinket, curiosity, originality, oddity, bauble; (*n, v*) change, difference.

recklessly: (*adv*) rashly, carelessly, imprudently, hastily, heedlessly, negligently, foolhardily, inattentively, wildly, wantonly, neglectfully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*)

prudently, responsibly, calmly, discreetly, sensibly, cautiously.

self-reliance: (*n*) confidence, assurance, independence, manhood, enterprise.

self-reliant: (*adj*) confident, independent, responsible, valiant, manly.

womanliness: (*n*) womanlike, femaleness, femineity, femininity, sex, womanishness, feminineness.

ANTONYM: (*n*) masculinity.

Bathsheba was not conscious of **guile** in this matter. Though in one sense a woman of the world, it was, after all, that world of daylight coteries and green **carpets** wherein cattle form the passing crowd and winds the busy hum; where a quiet family of rabbits or **hares** lives on the other side of your party-wall, where your neighbour is everybody in the tything, and where calculation is confined to market-days. Of the **fabricated** tastes of good fashionable society she knew but little, and of the formulated self-indulgence of bad, nothing at all. Had her utmost thoughts in this direction been distinctly worded (and by herself they never were), they would only have amounted to such a matter as that she felt her impulses to be pleasanter guides than her discretion. Her love was entire as a child's, and though warm as summer it was fresh as spring. Her **culpability** lay in her making no attempt to control feeling by subtle and careful inquiry into consciences. She could show others the steep and thorny way, but "reck'd not her own rede."

And Troy's deformities lay deep down from a woman's vision, whilst his **embellishments** were upon the very surface; thus contrasting with homely Oak, whose defects were patent to the blindest, and whose virtues were as metals in a mine.

The difference between love and respect was markedly shown in her conduct. Bathsheba had spoken of her interest in Boldwood with the greatest freedom to Liddy, but she had only communed with her own heart concerning Troy.

All this **infatuation** Gabriel saw, and was troubled **thereby** from the time of his daily journey a-field to the time of his return, and on to the small hours of many a night. That he was not beloved had hitherto been his great sorrow; that Bathsheba was getting into the **toils** was now a sorrow greater than the first, and one which nearly obscured it. It was a result which paralleled the oft-quoted observation of Hippocrates concerning physical pains.

That is a noble though perhaps an **unpromising** love which not even the fear of breeding aversion in the bosom of the one beloved can deter from **combating** his or her errors. Oak determined to speak to his mistress. He would base his

Thesaurus

carpets: (*n*) carpeting.

combating: (*adj*) militant, rival, opposed; (*n*) hostility.

culpability: (*n*) fault, guilt, blameworthiness, responsibility, criminality, guiltiness, onus, culpableness, liability, disgrace; (*v*) crime.

embellishments: (*n*) trimmings, arrangements, added extras, fixing, trappings.

fabricated: (*adj*) fictitious, false, fake,

ben trovato, unfounded, pretended, feigned, forged, sham, improbable, made-up. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) factual, truthful, honest, true.

guile: (*n*) fraud, cunning, craft, duplicity, deception, trickery, deceitfulness, wiliness, craftiness, artifice, slyness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) honesty, straightforwardness, candor, frankness.

hares: (*n*) Lagomorpha.

infatuation: (*adj*) devotion,

fascination, enchantment, gross credulity; (*adj, n*) passion, fervor, fanaticism; (*n*) crush, idolatry, love, hobby. ANTONYM: (*n*) indifference.

thereby: (*adv*) whereby, hereby.

toils: (*n*) net, cobweb, meshes, mesh.
unpromising: (*adj*) unpropitious, hopeless, worrying, bleak, warning, bad, ominous, threatening, unattractive, unfavorable, gloomy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) optimistic, hopeful, encouraging.

appeal on what he considered her unfair treatment of Farmer Boldwood, now absent from home.

An opportunity occurred one evening when she had gone for a short walk by a path through the neighbouring cornfields. It was **dusk** when Oak, who had not been far a-field that day, took the same path and met her returning, quite **pensively**, as he thought.

The wheat was now tall, and the path was narrow; thus the way was quite a **sunken groove** between the embowing thicket on either side. Two persons could not walk **abreast** without damaging the crop, and Oak stood aside to let her pass.

"Oh, is it Gabriel?" she said. "You are taking a walk too. Good-night."

"I thought I would come to meet you, as it is rather late," said Oak, turning and following at her heels when she had **brushed** somewhat quickly by him.

"Thank you, indeed, but I am not very fearful."

"Oh no; but there are bad characters about."

"I never meet them."

Now Oak, with marvellous ingenuity, had been going to introduce the gallant sergeant through the channel of "bad characters." But all at once the scheme broke down, it suddenly occurring to him that this was rather a clumsy way, and too barefaced to begin with. He tried another **preamble**.

"And as the man who would naturally come to meet you is away from home, too—I mean Farmer Boldwood—why, thinks I, I'll go," he said.

"Ah, yes." She walked on without turning her head, and for many steps nothing further was heard from her quarter than the rustle of her dress against the heavy corn-ears. Then she resumed rather **tartly**—

"I don't quite understand what you meant by saying that Mr. Boldwood would naturally come to meet me."

I meant on account of the wedding which they say is likely to take place between you and him, miss. Forgive my speaking plainly."

Thesaurus

abreast: (*adv*) opposite, acquainted, off, au fait, alongside, on one side, abeam; (*adj*) near, aligned, knowledgeable; (*prep*) against. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) uninformed, lost, unaware.
brushed: (*adj*) napped, fleecy.
dusk: (*n*) nightfall, twilight, darkness, gloaming, sunset, gloom, night, shade, shadow, sundown; (*adj*) dusky. ANTONYMS: (*n*) dawn, light, daybreak, morning, afternoon.

groove: (*n, v*) channel, rut, chamfer, score, crease; (*v*) flute; (*n*) ditch, cut, track, custom, notch. ANTONYMS: (*n*) bump, ridge.
pensively: (*adv*) thoughtfully, reflectively, wistfully, contemplatively, sadly, ponderingly, musingly, mournfully, abstractedly, dreamily, broodingly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) rashly, unthinkingly, alertly.
preamble: (*n*) introduction, prelude, foreword, preface, overture,

preliminary, prologue, opening, proemium, protasis, prolepsis. ANTONYMS: (*n*) conclusion, finale.
sunken: (*adj*) concave, depressed, submerged, empty, underwater, cavernous, recessed, gaunt, low, depression, submarine. ANTONYM: (*adj*) convex.
tartly: (*adv*) sharply, sarcastically, sourly, biting, bitterly, acerbically, harshly, caustically, keenly, cuttingly, vinegarily. ANTONYM: (*adv*) kindly.

"They say what is not true," she returned quickly. "No marriage is likely to take place between us."

Gabriel now put forth his **unobscured** opinion, for the moment had come. "Well, Miss Everdene," he said, "putting aside what people say, I never in my life saw any courting if his is not a courting of you."

Bathsheba would probably have **terminated** the conversation there and then by **flatly forbidding** the subject, had not her conscious weakness of position allured her to **palter** and argue in endeavours to better it.

"Since this subject has been mentioned," she said very **emphatically**, "I am glad of the opportunity of clearing up a mistake which is very common and very provoking. I didn't definitely promise Mr. Boldwood anything. I have never cared for him. I respect him, and he has urged me to marry him. But I have given him no distinct answer. As soon as he returns I shall do so; and the answer will be that I cannot think of marrying him."

"People are full of mistakes, seemingly."

"They are."

The other day they said you were trifling with him, and you almost proved that you were not; **lately** they have said that you be not, and you straightway begin to show — —"

"That I am, I suppose you mean."

"Well, I hope they speak the truth."

"They do, but wrongly applied. I don't trifle with him; but then, I have nothing to do with him."

Oak was unfortunately led on to speak of Boldwood's rival in a wrong tone to her after all. "I wish you had never met that young Sergeant Troy, miss," he sighed.

Bathsheba's steps became faintly **spasmodic**. "Why?" she asked.

"He is not good enough for 'ee."

"Did any one tell you to speak to me like this?"

Thesaurus

emphatically: (*adv*) decidedly, definitely, positively, categorically, flatly, distinctly, absolutely, explicitly, forcefully, firmly, expressly.

flatly: (*adv*) categorically, smoothly, plainly, levelly, insipidly, evenly, firmly, monotonously, horizontally, peremptorily, directly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) animatedly.

forbidding: (*adj*) grim, ominous, dismal, dour, austere, abominable,

ugly, hard, repulsive, redoubtable; (*n*) banning. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) alluring, inviting, pleasant, hospitable, friendly, favorable, comforting.

lately: (*adv*) tardily, newly, freshly, belatedly, slowly, latterly, deadily; (*adj, adv*) anew, late, afresh; (*adj*) recent.

palter: (*v*) prevaricate, bargain, tergiversate, mislead, be off, forfeit, go back from, lie, higgie, trifle; (*adj*)

shuffle.

spasmodic: (*adj*) spastic, convulsive, intermittent, erratic, broken, irregular, sporadic, desultory, sudden, discontinuous; (*v*) inconsonant. ANTONYM: (*adj*) continuous.

terminated: (*adj*) complete, all over, over, extinct, accomplished, closed, highly skilled; (*adj, adv*) ended, finished, done; (*adv*) completed.

unobscured: (*adj*) light.

"Nobody at all."

"Then it **appears** to me that Sergeant Troy does not concern us here," she said, **intractably**. "Yet I must say that Sergeant Troy is an educated man, and quite worthy of any woman. He is well born."

"His being higher in learning and birth than the **ruck** o' soldiers is anything but a proof of his worth. It show's his course to be down'ard."

"I cannot see what this has to do with our conversation. Mr. Troy's course is not by any means downward; and his superiority *is* a proof of his worth!"

"I believe him to have no conscience at all. And I cannot help begging you, miss, to have nothing to do with him. Listen to me this once—only this once! I don't say he's such a bad man as I have fancied—I pray to God he is not. But since we don't exactly know what he is, why not behave as if he *might* be bad, simply for your own safety? Don't trust him, mistress; I ask you not to trust him so."

"Why, pray?"

"I like soldiers, but this one I do not like," he said, **sturdily**. "His **cleverness** in his calling may have tempted him astray, and what is mirth to the neighbours is ruin to the woman. When he tries to talk to 'ee again, why not turn away with a short "Good day"; and when you see him coming one way, turn the other. When he says anything **laughable**, fail to see the point and don't smile, and speak of him before those who will report your talk as "that **fantastical** man," or "that Sergeant What's-his-name." "That man of a family that has come to the dogs." Don't be **unmannerly** towards en, but harmless-uncivil, and so get rid of the man."

No Christmas robin detained by a window-pane ever pulsed as did Bathsheba now.

"I say—I say again—that it doesn't become you to talk about him. Why he should be mentioned passes me quite!" she exclaimed desperately. "I know this, th-th-that he is a thoroughly conscientious man—blunt sometimes even to rudeness—but always speaking his mind about you plain to your face!"

Thesaurus

appears: (*n*) appearing.

cleverness: (*n*) ingenuity, adroitness, wisdom, aptitude, acumen, intelligence, skill, dexterity, astuteness, brightness, smartness.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) slowness, clumsiness, imbecility, foolishness, ineptness, simplicity, straightforwardness, uselessness, frankness.

fantastical: (*adj, v*) fanciful; (*adj*) antic, chimerical, unusual, beautiful,

unreal, strange, grotesque, odd, extraordinary; (*v*) fancy.

intractably: (*adv*) mulishly, obdurately, inflexibly.

laughable: (*adj*) absurd, amusing, humorous, comical, ludicrous, ridiculous, farcical, droll, comic, foolish, jocular. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) serious, tragic, adequate, generous, impressive.

ruck: (*n, v*) pucker, gather, wrinkle, crinkle, crumple, fold; (*n*) crease,

herd; (*v*) cockle, crimp, tuck.

sturdily: (*adv*) strongly, firmly, stoutly, solidly, robustly, hardily, powerfully, soundly, hardly, substantially, stalwartly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) lightly, flimsily, slightly.

unmannerly: (*adj*) impolite, unmannered, uncivil, impertinent, insolent, ill-mannered, discourteous, ungracious, rustic, disrespectful, churlish.

“Oh.”

“He is as good as anybody in this parish! He is very particular, too, about going to church—yes, he is!”

“I am **afeard** nobody saw him there. I never did, certainly.”

“The reason of that is,” she said eagerly, “that he goes in privately by the old tower door, just when the service commences, and **sits** at the back of the gallery. He told me so.”

This supreme instance of Troy’s goodness fell upon Gabriel ears like the thirteenth stroke of crazy clock. It was not only received with utter incredulity as **regarded** itself, but threw a doubt on all the assurances that had preceded it.

Oak was **grieved** to find how entirely she trusted him. He brimmed with deep feeling as he replied in a steady voice, the **steadiness** of which was spoilt by the palpableness of his great effort to keep it so:—

“You know, mistress, that I love you, and shall love you always. I only mention this to bring to your mind that at any rate I would wish to do you no harm: beyond that I put it aside. I have lost in the race for money and good things, and I am not such a fool as to pretend to ‘ee now I am poor, and you have got altogether above me. But Bathsheba, dear mistress, this I beg you to consider—that, both to keep yourself well **honoured** among the workfolk, and in common generosity to an honourable man who loves you as well as I, you should be more **discreet** in your bearing towards this soldier.”

“Don’t, don’t, don’t!” she exclaimed, in a **choking** voice.

“Are ye not more to me than my own affairs, and even life!” he went on. “Come, listen to me! I am six years older than you, and Mr. Boldwood is ten years older than I, and consider—I do beg of ‘ee to consider before it is too late—how safe you would be in his hands!”

Oak’s **allusion** to his own love for her **lessened**, to some extent, her anger at his interference; but she could not really forgive him for letting his wish to marry her be eclipsed by his wish to do her good, any more than for his slighting treatment of Troy.

Thesaurus

afeard: (*adj*) afraid.

allusion: (*n*) innuendo, reference, cue, suggestion, mention, intimation, pointer, insinuation, implication, indication, clue.

choking: (*n*) strangulation, throttling, slugging, asphyxiation; (*adj*) suffocative, suffocating, smothering, breathless, clogging, bitter, blinding.

discreet: (*adj*) circumspect, prudent, careful, cautious, chary, discerning, tactful, diplomatic, sensible, politic;

(*adj, v*) wise. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) elaborate, tactless, careless, indiscreet, reckless, bold, incautious, thoughtless, insensitive, loud, obvious.

grieved: (*adj*) sore, sad, sorry, sorrowful, upset, woeful, pained, affected, brokenhearted.

honoured: (*adj*) esteemed, respected, worthy.

lessened: (*adj*) diminished, hurt, lower, mitigated, pointed, tapering,

vitiated, atrophied, short, attenuate, attenuated.

regarded: (*adj*) reputed.

sits: (*n*) sat.

steadiness: (*adj, n*) stability, firmness, steadfastness; (*n*) regularity, equilibrium, consistency, resolution, permanence, persistence, sureness; (*adj*) stableness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) unsteadiness, instability, unreliability.

"I wish you to go elsewhere," she commanded, a **paleness** of face invisible to the eye being suggested by the trembling words. "Do not remain on this farm any longer. I don't want you—I beg you to go!"

"That's nonsense," said Oak, calmly. "This is the second time you have **pretended** to dismiss me; and what's the use o' it?"

"Pretended! You shall go, sir—your lecturing I will not hear! I am mistress here."

"Go, indeed—what folly will you say next? Treating me like Dick, Tom and Harry when you know that a short time ago my position was as good as yours! Upon my life, Bathsheba, it is too barefaced. You know, too, that I can't go without putting things in such a strait as you wouldn't get out of I can't tell when. Unless, indeed, you'll promise to have an understanding man as bailiff, or manager, or something. I'll go at once if you'll promise that."

"I shall have no bailiff; I shall continue to be my own manager," she said decisively.

"Very well, then; you should be **thankful** to me for biding. How would the farm go on with nobody to mind it but a woman? But mind this, I don't wish 'ee to feel you owe me anything. Not I. What I do, I do. Sometimes I say I should be as glad as a bird to leave the place—for don't suppose I'm content to be a nobody. I was made for better things. However, I don't like to see your concerns going to ruin, as they must if you keep in this mind.... I hate taking my own measure so plain, but, upon my life, your provoking ways make a man say what he wouldn't dream of at other times! I own to being rather **interfering**. But you know well enough how it is, and who she is that I like too well, and feel too much like a fool about to be civil to her!"

It is more than probable that she privately and **unconsciously** respected him a little for this grim **fidelity**, which had been shown in his tone even more than in his words. At any rate she murmured something to the effect that he might stay if he wished. She said more distinctly, "Will you leave me alone now? I don't order it as a mistress—I ask it as a woman, and I expect you not to be so **uncourteous** as to refuse."

Thesaurus

fidelity: (*n*) constancy, devotion, faithfulness, adherence, allegiance, loyalty, faith, dedication, exactness; (*adj, n*) honesty, truth. ANTONYMS: (*n*) infidelity, unfaithfulness, disloyalty, inaccuracy, faithlessness, dishonesty, unreliability.
interfering: (*adj, n*) meddling; (*adj*) officious, busy, disturbing, meddlesome, nosy, busybodied, curious, overbearing, domineering; (*n*) hindrance.

paleness: (*adj, n*) pallor; (*n*) pallidness, wanness, whiteness, achromasia, blondness, lividity, luridness, lividness, fairness, pale. ANTONYM: (*n*) strength.
pretended: (*adj, v*) sham, mock, counterfeit, pseudo, spurious; (*adj*) assumed, fake, feigned, fictitious, bogus, affected.
thankful: (*adj*) appreciative, indebted, beholden, obliged, contented, pleased, gratified, relieved, under

obligation, appreciatory, welcome. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) worried, unappreciative, unthankful, sorry.
unconsciously: (*adv*) instinctively, unintentionally, unthinkingly, unwittingly, ignorantly, innocently, comatosely, automatically, obviously, unsuspectingly, inadvertently. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) consciously, deliberately, knowingly, purposely.
uncourteous: (*adj*) uncivil, rude.

“Certainly I will, Miss Everdene,” said Gabriel, gently. He wondered that the request should have come at this moment, for the **strife** was over, and they were on a most **desolate** hill, far from every human **habitation**, and the hour was getting late. He stood still and allowed her to get far ahead of him till he could only see her form upon the sky.

A distressing explanation of this anxiety to be rid of him at that point now ensued. A figure apparently rose from the earth beside her. The shape beyond all doubt was Troy’s. Oak would not be even a possible listener, and at once turned back till a good two hundred yards were between the lovers and himself.

Gabriel went home by way of the **churchyard**. In passing the tower he thought of what she had said about the sergeant’s virtuous habit of entering the church unperceived at the beginning of service. Believing that the little gallery door alluded to was quite **disused**, he ascended the external flight of steps at the top of which it stood, and examined it. The pale **lustre** yet hanging in the north-western heaven was sufficient to show that a **sprig** of ivy had grown from the wall across the door to a length of more than a foot, delicately tying the panel to the stone **jamb**. It was a decisive proof that the door had not been opened at least since Troy came back to Weatherbury.

Thesaurus

churchyard: (*n*) graveyard, burial ground, yard, necropolis, cloisters, kirkyard.

desolate: (*adj, v*) desert, forlorn; (*adj*) bare, barren, alone, bleak, deserted, cheerless, disconsolate; (*v*) devastate, destroy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cheerful, inhabited, happy, sheltered, mobbed, overcrowded, ecstatic, hopeful; (*v*) create, construct, build.

disused: (*adj*) antiquated, old, outmoded, deserted, ancient, antique,

neglected, derelict, unoccupied, old-fashioned, abandoned.

habitation: (*adj, n*) abode; (*n*) domicile, residence, house, home, habitat, lodging, place, occupancy, inhabitation, inhabitancy. ANTONYM: (*n*) vacancy.

jamb: (*n*) doorpost, abutment, mullion, vertical, cheek, upright, doorjamb, coaming, currant jam, door jamb, beam.

lustre: (*n*) brilliance, gloss, brilliancy,

grandeur, splendour, effulgence, splendor, shininess, shine, sheen, brightness.

sprig: (*n*) branch, scion, twig, spray, bough, limb, sprout, staff, shillelah, bludgeon, brier.

strife: (*n*) discord, disagreement, dissension, conflict, competition, feud, fight; (*adj, n, v*) dispute, debate; (*n, v*) controversy; (*adj, n*) quarrel. ANTONYMS: (*n*) accord, cooperation, calm, peace.

CHAPTER XXX

HOT CHEEKS AND TEARFUL EYES

Half an hour later Bathsheba entered her own house. There burnt upon her face when she met the light of the candles the **flush** and excitement which were little less than chronic with her now. The **farewell** words of Troy, who had accompanied her to the very door, still lingered in her ears. He had bidden her **adieu** for two days, which were so he stated, to be spent at Bath in **visiting** some friends. He had also kissed her a second time.

It is only fair to Bathsheba to explain here a little fact which did not come to light till a long time afterwards: that Troy's presentation of himself so **aptly** at the roadside this evening was not by any distinctly preconcerted arrangement. He had hinted—she had forbidden; and it was only on the chance of his still coming that she had dismissed Oak, fearing a meeting between them just then.

She now sank down into a chair, wild and **perturbed** by all these new and fevering sequences. Then she jumped up with a manner of decision, and fetched her desk from a side table.

In three minutes, without pause or modification, she had written a letter to Boldwood, at his address beyond Casterbridge, saying **mildly** but firmly that she had well considered the whole subject he had brought before her and kindly

Thesaurus

adieu: (*int, n*) farewell; (*n*) valediction, goodbye, leave, cheerio, adios, bye, so long, parting; (*int*) bon voyage. ANTONYM: (*n*) greeting.

aptly: (*adv*) fitly, appropriately, adroitly, appositely, fittingly, properly, readily, felicitously, handily, ably, pronely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) incompetently, unsuitably.

farewell: (*int, n*) adieu; (*n*) bye, leave, valediction, adios, parting, goodbye, separation, departure, aloha; (*int*) bon

voyage. ANTONYMS: (*n*) hello, salutation, welcome.

flush: (*adj, n, v*) blush, glow; (*adj*) flat, affluent, rich; (*adj, v*) even, smooth, level; (*n*) bloom; (*n, v*) color; (*v*) redden. ANTONYMS: (*n*) pallor; (*v*) blanch, blench; (*adj*) empty, low, poor.

mildly: (*adv*) moderately, placidly, gently, tenderly, graciously, softly, lightly, kindly, calmly, sweetly, suavely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*)

passionately, intensely, extremely, enormously, pithily, powerfully, harshly, severely, considerably.

perturbed: (*adj*) disturbed, agitated, hot and bothered, confused, uneasy, concerned, worried, unsettled, troubled, upset, distraught. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) untroubled, relaxed.

visiting: (*adj*) guest, impermanent, temporary, visitant.

given her time to decide upon; that her final decision was that she could not marry him. She had expressed to Oak an intention to wait till Boldwood came home before **communicating** to him her **conclusive** reply. But Bathsheba found that she could not wait.

It was impossible to send this letter till the next day; yet to **quell** her uneasiness by getting it out of her hands, and so, as it were, setting the act in motion at once, she arose to take it to any one of the women who might be in the kitchen.

She paused in the passage. A dialogue was going on in the kitchen, and Bathsheba and Troy were the subject of it.

“If he marry her, she’ll gie up farming.”

“ ‘Twill be a gallant life, but may bring some trouble between the mirth—so say I.”

“Well, I wish I had half such a husband.”

Bathsheba had too much sense to mind seriously what her servitors said about her; but too much womanly **redundance** of speech to leave alone what was said till it died the natural death of unminded things. She burst in upon them.

“Who are you speaking of?” she asked.

There was a pause before anybody replied. At last Liddy said **frankly**, “What was passing was a bit of a word about **yourself**, miss.”

“I thought so! Maryann and Liddy and Temperance—now I forbid you to suppose such things. You know I don’t care the least for Mr. Troy—not I. Everybody knows how much I hate him.—Yes,” repeated the froward young person, “*Hate him!*”

“We know you do, miss,” said Liddy; “and so do we all.”

“I hate him too,” said Maryann.

“Maryann—Oh you **perjured** woman! How can you speak that wicked story!” said Bathsheba, excitedly. “You admired him from your heart only this morning in the very world, you did. Yes, Maryann, you know it!”

Thesaurus

communicating: (*n*) communication, intercommunication, suasion, expression, transmission, examination, intercourse, dramaturgy; (*v*) communicate; (*adj*) communicant, dramaturgic.

conclusive: (*adj*) decisive, undeniable, definitive, certain, definite, crucial, indisputable, ultimate; (*adj, prep*) cogent; (*adj, v*) unanswerable, determinate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) indecisive, uncertain, dubious,

unconfirmed, indefinite, questionable, iffy, opening, unconvincing, provisional.

frankly: (*adv*) openly, sincerely, bluntly, honestly, truthfully, directly, unreservedly, straightforwardly, ingenuously, plainly; (*adj, adv*) freely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) hesitantly, indirectly, guardedly, untruthfully, deceitfully, ambiguously, politely.

perjured: (*v*) perjure; (*adj*) treacherous, untrue, false, mendacious.

quell: (*adj, v*) appease, pacify, calm; (*v*) overpower, crush, allay, put down, suppress, conquer, defeat, quash. ANTONYMS: (*v*) prompt, submit, resist, aggravate, incite.

redundance: (*n*) exuberance, excess, nimety, plethora, overplus, overflow, affluence, abundance, plenty, copiousness, pleonasm.

yourself: (*adv*) herself, themselves, itself, myself, ourselves, yourselves, physically.

"Yes, miss, but so did you. He is a wild **scamp** now, and you are right to hate him."

"He's *not* a wild scamp! How dare you to my face! I have no right to hate him, nor you, nor anybody. But I am a silly woman! What is it to me what he is? You know it is nothing. I don't care for him; I don't mean to defend his good name, not I. Mind this, if any of you say a word against him you'll be **dismissed** instantly!"

She flung down the letter and surged back into the parlour, with a big heart and tearful eyes, Liddy following her.

"Oh miss!" said mild Liddy, looking **pitifully** into Bathsheba's face. "I am sorry we mistook you so! I did think you cared for him; but I see you don't now."

"Shut the door, Liddy."

Liddy closed the door, and went on: "People always say such **foolery**, miss. I'll make answer hencefor'ard, 'Of course a lady like Miss Everdene can't love him'; I'll say it out in plain black and white."

Bathsheba burst out: "O Liddy, are you such a **simpleton**? Can't you read riddles? Can't you see? Are you a woman yourself?"

Liddy's clear eyes rounded with **wonderment**.

"Yes; you must be a blind thing, Liddy!" she said, in reckless abandonment and grief. "Oh, I love him to very **distraction** and misery and agony! Don't be frightened at me, though perhaps I am enough to frighten any innocent woman. Come closer—closer." She put her arms round Liddy's neck. "I must let it out to somebody; it is wearing me away! Don't you yet know enough of me to see through that miserable denial of mine? O God, what a lie it was! Heaven and my Love forgive me. And don't you know that a woman who loves at all thinks nothing of **perjury** when it is balanced against her love? There, go out of the room; I want to be quite alone."

Liddy went towards the door.

Thesaurus

dismissed: (*adj*) discharged, unemployed, clear, convalescent.

distraction: (*adj, n*) desperation, raving; (*n*) beguilement, pastime, diversion, confusion, entertainment, disturbance, daze, recreation; (*adj*) madness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) fascination, attentiveness, attention, noninterference, calmness, concentration.

foolery: (*n*) folly, tomfoolery, foolishness, buffoonery, clowning,

inanity, romp, gambol, frolic, imbecility, lunacy.

perjury: (*v*) mendacity; (*n*) bearing false witness, lying under oath, false evidence, violation, lie, infringement, infraction, falsehood, offense, offence.

pitifully: (*adv*) sadly, piteously, wretchedly, sorrowfully, touchingly, distressingly, poorly, meanly, movingly, ruefully, woefully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) cheerfully, happily.

scamp: (*n*) rascal, imp, miscreant, scalawag, rogue, monkey, villain, brat, scallywag, rapsallion; (*v*) skimp.

simpleton: (*n*) fool, blockhead, dolt, dunce, numskull, ninny, nincompoop, booby, sap, dummy, dullard.

wonderment: (*n*) wonder, admiration, amazement, astonishment, surprise, awe, bewilderment, marvel, curiosity, annus Mirabilis, esteem.

"Liddy, come here. Solemnly swear to me that he's not a fast man; that it is all lies they say about him!"

"But, miss, how can I say he is not if — —"

"You **graceless** girl! How can you have the cruel heart to repeat what they say? Unfeeling thing that you are.... But *I'll* see if you or anybody else in the village, or town either, dare do such a thing!" She started off, **pacing** from fireplace to door, and back again.

"No, miss. I don't—I know it is not true!" said Liddy, frightened at Bathsheba's unwonted vehemence.

"I suppose you only agree with me like that to please me. But, Liddy, he *cannot be* bad, as is said. Do you hear?"

"Yes, miss, yes."

"And you don't believe he is?"

"I don't know what to say, miss," said Liddy, beginning to cry. "If I say No, you don't believe me; and if I say Yes, you rage at me!"

"Say you don't believe it — say you don't!"

"I don't believe him to be so bad as they make out."

"He is not bad at all.... My poor life and heart, how weak I am!" she moaned, in a relaxed, **desultory** way, **heedless** of Liddy's presence. "Oh, how I wish I had never seen him! Loving is misery for women always. I shall never forgive God for making me a woman, and **dearly** am I beginning to pay for the honour of **owning** a pretty face." She freshened and turned to Liddy suddenly. "Mind this, Lydia Smallbury, if you repeat **anywhere** a single word of what I have said to you inside this closed door, I'll never trust you, or love you, or have you with me a moment longer — not a moment!"

"I don't want to repeat anything," said Liddy, with womanly dignity of a diminutive order; "but I don't wish to stay with you. And, if you please, I'll go at the end of the harvest, or this week, or to-day.... I don't see that I deserve to be put upon and stormed at for nothing!" concluded the small woman, **bigly**.

Thesaurus

anywhere: (*adv, n*) anyplace; (*adv*) someplace, wherever, everywhere.

bigly: (*adv*) hugely, largely, extensively, greatly, liberally, majorly, grossly, enormously, massively, elderly, grandly.

dearly: (*adv*) affectionately, precious, darlingly, sweetly, petly, expensively, belovedly, intimately, highly, heartfelty, lovely.

desultory: (*adj*) indiscriminate, aimless, spasmodic, purposeless,

capricious, superficial, cursory, random, rambling, immethodical, fitful. ANTONYM: (*adj*) wholehearted.

graceless: (*adj*) inelegant, clumsy, godless, depraved, gauche, abandoned, ungracious, dissolute, ungraceful, rude, barbaric. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sophisticated, suave, elegant.

heedless: (*adj*) careless, reckless, inattentive, neglectful, negligent,

thoughtless, rash, regardless, unwary, indifferent; (*adj, v*) wanton. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) heedful, attentive, mindful, conscientious, prudent, careful, cautious.

owning: (*n*) admission, avowal, confession, courteous recognition, acknowledgment.

pacing: (*n*) accelerando, andante, allegro, allegretto, pace, walk, tempo, musical time, maneuvering alongside another vessel, cardiac pacing.

“No, no, Liddy; you must stay!” said Bathsheba, dropping from **haughtiness** to **entreaty** with **capricious inconsequence**. “You must not notice my being in a taking just now. You are not as a servant—you are a companion to me. Dear, dear—I don’t know what I am doing since this miserable ache of my heart has **weighted** and worn upon me so! What shall I come to! I suppose I shall get further and further into troubles. I wonder sometimes if I am doomed to die in the Union. I am **friendless** enough, God knows!”

“I won’t notice anything, nor will I leave you!” sobbed Liddy, impulsively putting up her lips to Bathsheba’s, and kissing her.

Then Bathsheba kissed Liddy, and all was smooth again.

“I don’t often cry, do I, Lidd? but you have made tears come into my eyes,” she said, a smile shining through the moisture. “Try to think him a good man, won’t you, dear Liddy?”

“I will, miss, indeed.”

“He is a sort of steady man in a wild way, you know. That’s better than to be as some are, wild in a steady way. I am afraid that’s how I am. And promise me to keep my secret—do, Liddy! And do not let them know that I have been crying about him, because it will be dreadful for me, and no good to him, poor thing!”

“Death’s head himself shan’t **wring** it from me, mistress, if I’ve a mind to keep anything; and I’ll always be your friend,” replied Liddy, emphatically, at the same time bringing a few more tears into her own eyes, not from any particular necessity, but from an artistic sense of making herself in keeping with the remainder of the picture, which seems to influence women at such times. “I think God likes us to be good friends, don’t you?”

“Indeed I do.”

“And, dear miss, you won’t harry me and storm at me, will you? because you seem to swell so tall as a lion then, and it frightens me! Do you know, I fancy you would be a match for any man when you are in one o’ your takings.”

Thesaurus

capricious: (*adj*) fanciful, whimsical, irregular, freakish, arbitrary, fickle, changeable, impulsive, volatile, variable, unpredictable.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dependable, predictable, stable, steady, steadfast, placid, logical, fixed, consistent, serious.
entreaty: (*n*) plea, prayer, request, petition, adjuration, supplication, suit, demand, desire, invocation; (*v*) solicitation.

friendless: (*adj*) alone, lonely, abandoned, solitary, helpless, lonesome, forsaken, unfriended, deserted, introverted, unwanted.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) sociable.
haughtiness: (*n*) pride, disdain, condescension, conceit, snobbishness, lordliness, imperiousness, hauteur, contempt, superiority, arrogant.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) humility, humbleness.
inconsequence: (*n*) illogicality,

independence, irrelevance, inconsequentness, inconsistency, insignificance, unimportance.
ANTONYM: (*n*) importance.
weighted: (*adj*) laden, leaden, adjusted, plodding, impure, unfair, prejudiced, gray, loaded, opinionated, grey. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) impartial.
wring: (*n, v*) squeeze; (*v*) twist, wrench, wrest, torture, torment, distort, extract, twine, contort, rack.

“Never! do you?” said Bathsheba, slightly laughing, though somewhat seriously **alarmed** by this Amazonian picture of herself. “I hope I am not a **bold** sort of **maid – mannish?**” she continued with some anxiety.

“Oh no, not mannish; but so **almighty womanish** that ‘tis getting on that way sometimes. Ah! miss,” she said, after having drawn her breath very **sadly** in and sent it very sadly out, “I wish I had half your failing that way. ‘Tis a great protection to a poor maid in these illegit’mate days!”

Thesaurus

alarmed: (*adj*) afraid, scared, frightened, apprehensive, horrified, anxious, uneasy, agitated, shocked, terrified, concerned. ANTONYM: (*adj*) carefree.
almighty: (*adj*) omnipotent, powerful, potent, great, supreme; (*adj, n*) divine; (*n*) lord, Jehovah, deity, God, godhead. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ineffectual, insignificant, lay, powerless, lowly.
bold: (*adj*) adventurous, audacious,

manly, arrogant, intrepid, fearless, spirited, heroic, daring, courageous, stalwart. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) timid, modest, afraid, meek, shy, light, courteous, discreet, faint, fearful, abashed.
maid: (*n*) damsel, chambermaid, lass, lassie, girl, domestic, amah, virgin, maiden, housemaid, handmaid.
mannish: (*adj*) male, manly, unwomanly.
sadly: (*adv*) pitifully, dolefully,

unfortunately, mournfully, sorrowfully, woefully, dejectedly, pathetically, wretchedly, forlornly; (*adj, adv*) seriously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) cheerfully, contentedly, gladly, joyfully, fortunately, luckily, enthusiastically.
womanish: (*adj*) tender, feminine, female, womanlike, womanly, weak, unmanly.

CHAPTER XXXI

BLAME—FURY

The next evening Bathsheba, with the idea of getting out of the way of Mr. Boldwood in the event of his returning to answer her note in person, proceeded to fulfil an engagement made with Liddy some few hours earlier. Bathsheba's companion, as a gauge of their reconciliation, had been granted a week's holiday to visit her sister, who was married to a **thriving hurdler** and cattle-crib-maker living in a delightful **labyrinth** of hazel **copse** not far beyond Yalbury. The arrangement was that Miss Everdene should honour them by coming there for a day or two to **inspect** some **ingenious** contrivances which this man of the woods had introduced into his wares.

Leaving her instructions with Gabriel and Maryann, that they were to see everything carefully locked up for the night, she went out of the house just at the close of a **timely** thunder-shower, which had refined the air, and daintily bathed the coat of the land, though all beneath was dry as ever. Freshness was exhaled in an essence from the varied contours of bank and hollow, as if the earth breathed **maiden** breath; and the pleased birds were hymning to the scene. Before her, among the clouds, there was a contrast in the shape of lairs of fierce light which showed themselves in the neighbourhood of a hidden sun, lingering

Thesaurus

copse: (*n*) brush, coppice, brake, brushwood, forest, underwood, grove, spinney, thicket, undergrowth, canebrake.

hurdler: (*n*) long jumper, high jumper.

ingenious: (*adj*) adroit, artful, clever, cunning, deft, expert, creative, imaginative, cute, acute, able.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) impulsive, naive, unoriginal, inept.

inspect: (*v*) overhaul, overlook, survey, watch, scrutinize, view,

explore, look, review, inquire, monitor. ANTONYMS: (*v*) skim, ignore.

labyrinth: (*n*) inner ear, tangle, confusion, complication, internal ear, web, unit, system; (*adj, n*) network; (*v*) eel, labyrinthian.

maiden: (*n*) maid, girl, demoiselle, damosel, wench, fille, lass, miss; (*adj*) first, initiatory, unmarried.

thriving: (*adj*) successful, prosperous, prospering, booming, rich, affluent,

growing, lush, lucky, healthy, luxuriant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) declining, languishing, arid, moribund, dying, disappearing, poor, unwell.

timely: (*adj, adv, v*) seasonable; (*adj, v*) convenient, appropriate; (*adj*) punctual, apt, prompt, propitious, pat, fit; (*adv*) apropos; (*adj, adv*) early. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) inopportune, premature, unlucky, inappropriate, late.

on to the **farthest** north-west corner of the heavens that this midsummer season allowed.

She had walked nearly two **miles** of her journey, watching how the day was retreating, and thinking how the time of deeds was quietly melting into the time of thought, to give place in its turn to the time of prayer and sleep, when she beheld advancing over Yalbury hill the very man she sought so anxiously to **elude**. Boldwood was stepping on, not with that quiet tread of reserved strength which was his customary **gait**, in which he always seemed to be balancing two thoughts. His manner was stunned and sluggish now.

Boldwood had for the first time been awakened to woman's privileges in **tergiversation** even when it involves another person's possible blight. That Bathsheba was a firm and positive girl, far less **inconsequent** than her fellows, had been the very lung of his hope; for he had held that these qualities would lead her to adhere to a straight course for consistency's sake, and accept him, though her fancy might not flood him with the **iridescent** hues of uncritical love. But the argument now came back as sorry gleams from a broken mirror. The discovery was no less a scourge than a surprise.

He came on looking upon the ground, and did not see Bathsheba till they were less than a stone's throw apart. He looked up at the sound of her pit-pat, and his changed appearance sufficiently denoted to her the depth and strength of the feelings **paralyzed** by her letter.

"Oh; is it you, Mr. Boldwood?" she faltered, a guilty warmth **pulsing** in her face.

Those who have the power of **reproaching** in silence may find it a means more effective than words. There are accents in the eye which are not on the tongue, and more tales come from pale lips than can enter an ear. It is both the grandeur and the pain of the remoter moods that they avoid the pathway of sound. Boldwood's look was unanswerable.

Seeing she turned a little aside, he said, "What, are you afraid of me?"

"Why should you say that?" said Bathsheba.

Thesaurus

elude: (*adj, v*) evade, circumvent; (*v*) dodge, duck, avoid, skirt, escape, baffle, defy, shirk, bilk. ANTONYMS: (*v*) face, encounter, meet, acquire.
farthest: (*adj*) ultimate, extreme, farthestmost, utmost, uttermost, last, furthestmost, endmost, greatest, most distant; (*adv*) remotest.
 ANTONYMS: (*adv*) closest, nearest.
gait: (*n, v*) pace, step, tread, footstep, rate, stride, action; (*n*) walk, carriage, movement, velocity.

inconsequent: (*adj*) inconsequential, irrelevant, unimportant, desultory, incoherent, immaterial, discrepant, petty, inconsistency, disjointed, illegitimate.
iridescent: (*adj*) opalescent, pearly, chatoyant, changeable, shimmering, colorful, shining, prismatic, pavonine, opaline, clear.
miles: (*adj*) far.
paralyzed: (*adj*) palsied, crippled, disabled, helpless, torpid, powerless,

prostrate, enervated, dead, impotent, inert.
pulsing: (*adj*) beating, pulsating; (*n*) pulse, pulsation, impulse, caprice, heartbeat, impulsion, beat, nerve impulse, heart rate.
reproaching: (*adj*) opprobrious.
tergiversation: (*n*) equivocation, defection, desertion, prevarication, veering, turningness, state's evidence, renunciation, recidivation, recantation, double entendre.

"I fancied you looked so," said he. "And it is most strange, because of its contrast with my feeling for you."

She regained **self-possession**, fixed her eyes calmly, and waited.

"You know what that feeling is," continued Boldwood, deliberately. "A thing strong as death. No dismissal by a hasty letter affects that."

"I wish you did not feel so strongly about me," she murmured. "It is generous of you, and more than I deserve, but I must not hear it now."

"Hear it? What do you think I have to say, then? I am not to marry you, and that's enough. Your letter was **excellently** plain. I want you to hear nothing—not I."

Bathsheba was unable to direct her will into any definite groove for freeing herself from this fearfully and was moving on. Boldwood walked up to her heavily and dully.

"Bathsheba—darling—is it final indeed?"

"Indeed it is."

"Oh, Bathsheba—have pity upon me!" Boldwood burst out. "God's sake, yes—I am come to that low, lowest stage—to ask a woman for pity! Still, she is you—she is you."

Bathsheba commanded herself well. But she could hardly get a clear voice for what came instinctively to her lips: "There is little honour to the woman in that speech." It was only whispered, for something **unutterably mournful** no less than distressing in this spectacle of a man showing himself to be so entirely the vane of a passion **enervated** the feminine instinct for punctilios.

"I am beyond myself about this, and am mad," he said. "I am no **stoic** at all to be **supplicating** here; but I do **supplicate** to you. I wish you knew what is in me of devotion to you; but it is impossible, that. In bare human mercy to a lonely man, don't throw me off now!"

Thesaurus

enervated: (*adj*) debilitated, limp, tired, lethargic, weak, languid, faint, colorless, adynamic, asthenic, enfeebled. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) activated, invigorated, strengthened, energized, strong.
excellently: (*adv*) splendidly, beautifully, exquisitely, magnificently, finely, marvelously, goodly, worthily, grandly, primely, superbly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) poorly, badly, terribly.

mournful: (*adj*) sad, miserable, melancholy, funereal, dolorous, dark, pensive, gloomy, lugubrious, lamentable; (*adj, n*) plaintive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) joyful, happy, emotionless.
self-possession: (*n*) composure, poise, imperturbability, serenity, aplomb, coolness, balance, restraint, self-control, morale, presence.
stoic: (*adj*) stoical, matter-of-fact, stolid, apathetic; (*n*) unemotional

person, philosopher.
supplicate: (*v*) plead, entreat, beseech, request, pray, solicit, implore, beg, invoke, crave, petition.
supplicating: (*adj*) imploring, soliciting, beseeching, entreating, petitioning, apologetic, begging, manifesting entreaty, petitory, piteous; (*v*) supplicate.
unutterably: (*adv*) ineffably, inexpressibly, indescribably, beyond words, deeply, overwhelmingly.

"I don't throw you off—indeed, how can I? I never had you." In her noon-clear sense that she had never loved him she forgot for a moment her **thoughtless** angle on that day in February.

"But there was a time when you turned to me, before I thought of you! I don't reproach you, for even now I feel that the ignorant and cold darkness that I should have lived in if you had not attracted me by that letter—valentine you call it—would have been worse than my knowledge of you, though it has brought this misery. But, I say, there was a time when I knew nothing of you, and cared nothing for you, and yet you drew me on. And if you say you gave me no encouragement, I cannot but contradict you."

"What you call encouragement was the **childish** game of an idle minute. I have bitterly repented of it—ay, bitterly, and in tears. Can you still go on reminding me?"

"I don't **accuse** you of it—I **deplore** it. I took for earnest what you insist was jest, and now this that I pray to be jest you say is awful, wretched earnest. Our moods meet at wrong places. I wish your feeling was more like mine, or my feeling more like yours! Oh, could I but have **foreseen** the torture that trifling trick was going to lead me into, how I should have cursed you; but only having been able to see it since, I cannot do that, for I love you too well! But it is weak, idle drivelling to go on like this.... Bathsheba, you are the first woman of any shade or nature that I have ever looked at to love, and it is the having been so near claiming you for my own that makes this denial so hard to bear. How nearly you promised me! But I don't speak now to move your heart, and make you **grieve** because of my pain; it is no use, that. I must bear it; my pain would get no less by paining you."

"But I do pity you—deeply—O, so deeply!" she earnestly said.

"Do no such thing—do no such thing. Your dear love, Bathsheba, is such a vast thing beside your pity, that the loss of your pity as well as your love is no great addition to my sorrow, nor does the gain of your pity make it sensibly less. O sweet—how dearly you spoke to me behind the spear-bed at the washing-pool, and in the barn at the shearing, and that **dearest** last time in the evening at

Thesaurus

accuse: (*v*) charge, incriminate, arraign, denounce, defame, criminate, indict, fault, betray, condemn, inculpate. ANTONYMS: (*v*) absolve, exculpate, exonerate, praise, support, clear.
childish: (*adj*) childlike, naive, babyish, immature, simple, puerile, infantile, juvenile, silly, frivolous, young. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sensible, old, wise, adult, jaded.
dearest: (*n*) dear, darling, love, honey,

lover, sweetheart, loved one, baby; (*adj*) precious, intimate, sweet.
deplore: (*v*) bemoan, regret, bewail, mourn, wail, moan, weep, condemn, grieve, censure, deprecate. ANTONYMS: (*v*) praise, rejoice, delight, support.
foreseen: (*v*) foresee, long expected; (*adj*) envisioned, foretold, contingent, concourse, coming, casual, adventitious, accidental, predictable.
grieve: (*n, v*) distress, aggrieve, afflict,

sorrow, annoy; (*v*) trouble, lament, deplore, bemoan, fret, bewail. ANTONYMS: (*v*) rejoice, celebrate, encourage.
thoughtless: (*adj, v*) careless, heedless, rash, improvident; (*adj*) reckless, inattentive, hasty, unthinking, negligent, neglectful, imprudent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) considerate, considered, heedful, prudent, kind, cautious, mindful, responsible, attentive, observant, sensible.

your home! Where are your pleasant words all gone—your earnest hope to be able to love me? Where is your firm conviction that you would get to care for me very much? Really forgotten?—really?”

She checked emotion, looked him quietly and clearly in the face, and said in her low, firm voice, “Mr. Boldwood, I promised you nothing. Would you have had me a woman of clay when you paid me that **furthest**, highest compliment a man can pay a woman—telling her he loves her? I was bound to show some feeling, if I would not be a graceless **shrew**. Yet each of those pleasures was just for the day—the day just for the pleasure. How was I to know that what is a **pastime** to all other men was death to you? Have reason, do, and think more kindly of me!”

“Well, never mind arguing—never mind. One thing is sure: you were all but mine, and now you are not nearly mine. Everything is changed, and that by you alone, remember. You were nothing to me once, and I was contented; you are now nothing to me again, and how different the second nothing is from the first! Would to God you had never taken me up, since it was only to throw me down!”

Bathsheba, in spite of her **mettle**, began to feel un-mistakable signs that she was inherently the weaker vessel. She **strove** miserably against this femininity which would insist upon supplying **unbidden** emotions in stronger and stronger current. She had tried to elude agitation by fixing her mind on the trees, sky, any trivial object before her eyes, whilst his reproaches fell, but ingenuity could not save her now.

“I did not take you up—surely I did not!” she answered as **heroically** as she could. “But don’t be in this mood with me. I can endure being told I am in the wrong, if you will only tell it me gently! O sir, will you not kindly forgive me, and look at it cheerfully?”

“Cheerfully! Can a man fooled to utter heart-burning find a reason for being merry? If I have lost, how can I be as if I had won? Heavens you must be **heartless** quite! Had I known what a fearfully bitter sweet this was to be, how would I have **avoided** you, and never seen you, and been deaf of you. I tell you all this, but what do you care! You don’t care.”

Thesaurus

avoided: (*adj*) unpopular.

furthest: (*adj*) furthestmost, extreme, farthermost, remotest, ultimate, utmost, uttermost, most remote, final, outermost; (*adv*) most. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) nearest, near.

heartless: (*adj*) hardhearted, ruthless, cruel, pitiless, obdurate, merciless, unfeeling, unkind, stony, insensitive, grim. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) kind, caring, hearted, warmhearted, compassionate, softhearted, merciful,

sympathetic, concerned, flattering, generous.

heroically: (*adj, adv*) courageously, daringly; (*adv*) intrepidly, fearlessly, gallantly, boldly, grandly, nobly, resolutely, splendidly, chivalrously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) halfheartedly, fearfully, execrably.

mettle: (*n*) heart, courage, spunk, fortitude, guts, character, spirit, bravery, valor, boldness; (*adj, n*) pluck.

pastime: (*n*) game, avocation, entertainment, recreation, hobby, distraction, interest, fun, pursuit, amusement, sideline.

shrew: (*n*) shrewmouse, harridan, termagant, virago, dragon, fury, bitch, vixen, disagreeable woman, common shrew, shrew.

strove: (*v*) strive.

unbidden: (*adj*) unbid, uninvited, spontaneous, voluntary, willing, unwanted.

She returned silent and weak denials to his **charges**, and swayed her head desperately, as if to thrust away the words as they came showering about her ears from the lips of the trembling man in the climax of life, with his bronzed Roman face and fine frame.

“Dearest, dearest, I am **wavering** even now between the two opposites of recklessly **renouncing** you, and **labouring** humbly for you again. Forget that you have said No, and let it be as it was! Say, Bathsheba, that you only wrote that refusal to me in fun—come, say it to me!”

“It would be untrue, and painful to both of us. You **overrate** my capacity for love. I don’t possess half the warmth of nature you believe me to have. An **unprotected** childhood in a cold world has beaten gentleness out of me.”

He immediately said with more resentment: “That may be true, somewhat; but ah, Miss Everdene, it won’t do as a reason! You are not the cold woman you would have me believe. No, no! It isn’t because you have no feeling in you that you don’t love me. You naturally would have me think so—you would hide from me that you have a burning heart like mine. You have love enough, but it is turned into a new channel. I know where.”

The swift music of her heart became **hubbub** now, and she **throbbed** to extremity. He was coming to Troy. He did then know what had occurred! And the name fell from his lips the next moment.

“Why did Troy not leave my treasure alone?” he asked, fiercely. “When I had no thought of injuring him, why did he force himself upon your notice! Before he worried you your inclination was to have me; when next I should have come to you your answer would have been Yes. Can you deny it—I ask, can you deny it?”

She delayed the reply, but was too honest to withhold it. “I cannot,” she whispered.

“I know you cannot. But he stole in in my absence and robbed me. Why didn’t he win you away before, when nobody would have been grieved?—when nobody would have been set tale-bearing. Now the people **sneer** at me—the

Thesaurus

charges: (*n*) expenditure, dues.

hubbub: (*n*) commotion, uproar, disorder, din, noise, bustle, tumult, bedlam, brouhaha; (*n, v*) racket, brawl. ANTONYM: (*n*) calm.

labouring: (*adj*) drudging, work, working, busy, toiling.

overrate: (*v*) misjudge, overreckon, magnify, overstrain, overweigh, overdo, overvalue, miscalculate, overprize, overpraise, overcapitalize. ANTONYMS: (*v*) underestimate,

underrate, undervalue.

renouncing: (*adj*) negative, denying, abnegative, abdicating, resigned, abdicant.

robbed: (*adj*) plundered, rubato, fleeced, borrowed, bereft.

sneer: (*n, v*) deride, jeer, scorn, flout, ridicule, scoff, mock, leer, grimace, gird; (*n*) smirk.

unprotected: (*adj*) exposed, unguarded, open, naked, helpless, defenseless, unshielded, uncovered,

unarmed, undefended, insecure.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) armed, protected, secure, invulnerable.

wavering: (*adj, v*) vacillating; (*n*) fluctuation, hesitation, vacillation; (*adj*) irresolute, indecisive, undecided, hesitant, uncertain, variable, changeable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) decided, constant, resolute, stable, decisive; (*n*) resolution, stability.

very hills and sky seem to laugh at me till I blush **shamefully** for my folly. I have lost my respect, my good name, my standing—lost it, never to get it again. Go and marry your man—go on!”

“Oh sir—Mr. Boldwood!”

“You may as well. I have no further claim upon you. As for me, I had better go somewhere alone, and hide—and pray. I loved a woman once. I am now ashamed. When I am dead they’ll say, Miserable love-sick man that he was. Heaven—heaven—if I had got jilted **secretly**, and the **dishonour** not known, and my position kept! But no matter, it is gone, and the woman not **gained**. Shame upon him—shame!”

His unreasonable anger terrified her, and she glided from him, without obviously moving, as she said, “I am only a girl—do not speak to me so!”

“All the time you knew—how very well you knew—that your new freak was my misery. Dazzled by brass and scarlet—Oh, Bathsheba—this is woman’s folly indeed!”

She fired up at once. “You are taking too much upon yourself!” she said, **vehemently**. “Everybody is upon me—everybody. It is **unmanly** to attack a woman so! I have nobody in the world to fight my battles for me; but no mercy is shown. Yet if a thousand of you sneer and say things against me, I *will not* be put down!”

“You’ll **chatter** with him doubtless about me. Say to him, “Boldwood would have died for me.” Yes, and you have given way to him, knowing him to be not the man for you. He has kissed you—claimed you as his. Do you hear—he has kissed you. Deny it!”

The most tragic woman is **cowed** by a tragic man, and although Boldwood was, in vehemence and glow, nearly her own self rendered into another sex, Bathsheba’s cheek quivered. She gasped, “Leave me, sir—leave me! I am nothing to you. Let me go on!”

“Deny that he has kissed you.”

“I shall not.”

Thesaurus

chatter: (*n, v*) babble, gossip, prattle, gab, cackle, natter; (*adj, n, v*) jabber; (*adj, v*) prate, palaver; (*v*) blabber, patter. ANTONYM: (*v*) drawl.

cowed: (*adj*) afraid, browbeaten, bullied, timid, crestfallen, frightened, hangdog, intimidated, passive.

dishonour: (*v*) discredit, disgrace, attain, shame, degrade, desecrate, violate, rape, outrage; (*n*) stigma, opprobrium.

gained: (*adj*) extrinsic.

secretly: (*adv*) privately, confidentially, quietly, stealthily, surreptitiously, furtively, in secret, darkly, secretively, clandestinely, occultly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) publicly, deliberately, brazenly.

shamefully: (*adv*) ignominiously, ingloriously, scandalously, infamously, shockingly, discredibly, basely, outrageously; (*adv, v*) dishonorably, foully, nastily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) commendably,

compassionately, nobly.

unmanly: (*adj*) pusillanimous, fearful, unmanlike, unchivalric, unknighly, unmanful, craven, weak; (*adv*) unmanfully, cowardly, effeminately. ANTONYM: (*adv*) manfully.

vehemently: (*adj, adv*) ardently; (*adv*) violently, zealously, strongly, fervently, passionately, ferociously, fervidly, keenly, intensely, furiously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) feebly, gently, impassively.

“Ha – then he has!” came hoarsely from the farmer.

“He has,” she said, slowly, and, in spite of her fear, defiantly. “I am not ashamed to speak the truth.”

“Then curse him; and curse him!” said Boldwood, breaking into a whispered fury. “Whilst I would have given worlds to touch your hand, you have let a rake come in without right or ceremony and – kiss you! Heaven’s mercy – kiss you! ... Ah, a time of his life shall come when he will have to repent, and think **wretchedly** of the pain he has caused another man; and then may he ache, and wish, and curse, and yearn – as I do now!”

“Don’t, don’t, oh, don’t pray down evil upon him!” she implored in a miserable cry. “Anything but that – anything. Oh, be kind to him, sir, for I love him true!”

Boldwood’s ideas had reached that point of fusion at which outline and consistency entirely disappear. The impending night appeared to concentrate in his eye. He did not hear her at all now.

“I’ll punish him – by my soul, that will I! I’ll meet him, soldier or no, and I’ll **horsewhip** the untimely **stripling** for this reckless theft of my one delight. If he were a hundred men I’d horsewhip him – –” He dropped his voice suddenly and unnaturally. “Bathsheba, sweet, lost **coquette**, pardon me! I’ve been blaming you, threatening you, behaving like a **churl** to you, when he’s the greatest sinner. He stole your dear heart away with his **unfathomable** lies! ... It is a fortunate thing for him that he’s gone back to his regiment – that he’s away up the country, and not here! I hope he may not return here just yet. I pray God he may not come into my sight, for I may be tempted beyond myself. Oh, Bathsheba, keep him away – yes, keep him away from me!”

For a moment Boldwood stood so **inertly** after this that his soul seemed to have been entirely exhaled with the breath of his passionate words. He turned his face away, and withdrew, and his form was soon covered over by the twilight as his footsteps mixed in with the low hiss of the leafy trees.

Thesaurus

churl: (*adj, n*) niggard; (*n*) peasant, clown, curmudgeon, crosspatch, skinflint, countryman, tyke, tike, scrooge; (*adj*) miser. ANTONYMS: (*n*) aristocrat, gentleman.
coquette: (*n*) vamp, jilt, minx, woman; (*v*) coquet, dally, romance, chat up, puritan, speak, prude.
horsewhip: (*v*) flog, lash, scourge, trounce, flagellate, lick, give the stick, birch, give a dressing, dress down, dress.

inertly: (*adv*) inactively, passively, torpidly, motionlessly, lazily, dully, quiescently, stagnantly, flatly, statically, listlessly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) aggressively.
stripling: (*n*) lad, boy, adolescent, teenager, youth, rocker, youngster, young man, child, pachuco; (*adj*) younker.
unfathomable: (*adj*) incomprehensible, inexplicable, inscrutable, unintelligible, impenetrable, abysmal,

deep, immeasurable, unaccountable, obscure, enigmatic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) fathomable, shallow, explicable, explainable, comprehensible, believable, straightforward, understandable, legible, clear.
wretchedly: (*adv*) pathetically, unhappily, desperately, calamitously, sadly, meanly, forlornly, piteously, disastrously, gloomily; (*adj, adv*) miserably. ANTONYM: (*adv*) hopefully.

Bathsheba, who had been standing motionless as a model all this latter time, flung her hands to her face, and wildly attempted to ponder on the exhibition which had just passed away. Such astounding wells of fevered feeling in a still man like Mr. Boldwood were incomprehensible, dreadful. Instead of being a man trained to repression he was – what she had seen him.

The force of the farmer's threats lay in their relation to a circumstance known at present only to herself: her lover was coming back to Weatherbury in the course of the very next day or two. Troy had not returned to his distant barracks as Boldwood and others supposed, but had merely gone to visit some acquaintance in Bath, and had yet a week or more remaining to his furlough.

She felt wretchedly certain that if he revisited her just at this nick of time, and came into contact with Boldwood, a fierce quarrel would be the consequence. She panted with **solicitude** when she thought of possible injury to Troy. The least spark would kindle the farmer's swift feelings of rage and jealousy; he would lose his **self-mastery** as he had this evening; Troy's **blitheness** might become aggressive; it might take the direction of derision, and Boldwood's anger might then take the direction of revenge.

With almost a morbid dread of being thought a **gushing** girl, this **guileless** woman too well concealed from the world under a manner of carelessness the warm depths of her strong emotions. But now there was no reserve. In her distraction, instead of advancing further she walked up and down, beating the air with her fingers, pressing on her brow, and sobbing **brokenly** to herself. Then she sat down on a heap of stones by the **wayside** to think. There she remained long. Above the dark margin of the earth appeared foreshores and promontories of **coppery** cloud, bounding a green and **pellucid** expanse in the western sky. Amaranthine glosses came over them then, and the unresting world wheeled her round to a contrasting prospect eastward, in the shape of indecisive and **palpitating** stars. She gazed upon their silent **throes** amid the shades of space, but realised none at all. Her troubled spirit was far away with Troy.

Thesaurus

blitheness: (*n*) gaiety, gladness, glee, cheerfulness, buoyancy.

brokenly: (*adv*) interruptedly, disconnectedly, crackedly, irregularly, faultily, fragmentarily, tamely, intermittently, ruggedly, discontinuously, defectively.

coppery: (*adj*) copper Colored, chromatic.

guileless: (*adj*) candid, artless, forthright, sincere, innocent, ingenuous, honest, pure, simple,

open, straightforward. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dishonest, sly, evasive.

gushing: (*adj*) pouring, enthusiastic, burbly, alive to, burbling, emotional, effusive, garrulous, torrential; (*n*) sincere, passionate. ANTONYM: (*adj*) taciturn.

palpitating: (*adj*) fluttering, throbbing, aflame, fluttering, flying, unsteady, vibrant, flaring.

pellucid: (*adj*) limpid, transparent, lucid, clear, bright, crystalline, crystal

clear, lustrous, perspicuous, liquid, crystal.

self-mastery: (*n*) self-government, self-restraint, discipline.

solicitude: (*n*) care, consideration, anxiety, thought, apprehension, regard, attention, fear, disquietude, heed, fret. ANTONYMS: (*n*) negligence, serenity, thoughtlessness.

throes: (*n*) hurt, labor, suffering.

wayside: (*n*) edge, curb, verge, margin, shoulder, border.

CHAPTER XXXII

NIGHT—HORSES TRAMPING

The village of Weatherbury was quiet as the **graveyard** in its midst, and the living were lying well-nigh as still as the dead. The church clock struck eleven. The air was so empty of other sounds that the **whirr** of the clock-work immediately before the strokes was distinct, and so was also the **click** of the same at their close. The notes flew forth with the usual blind **obtuseness** of **inanimate** things—flapping and **rebounding** among walls, undulating against the scattered **clouds**, spreading through their interstices into unexplored miles of space.

Bathsheba's crannied and mouldy halls were to-night occupied only by Maryann, Liddy being, as was stated, with her sister, whom Bathsheba had set out to visit. A few minutes after eleven had struck, Maryann turned in her bed with a sense of being disturbed. She was totally unconscious of the nature of the **interruption** to her sleep. It led to a dream, and the dream to an awakening, with an uneasy sensation that something had happened. She left her bed and looked out of the window. The **paddock** abutted on this end of the building, and in the paddock she could just discern by the uncertain gray a moving figure approaching the horse that was feeding there. The figure seized the horse by the **forelock**, and led it to the corner of the field. Here she could see some object

Thesaurus

click: (*n, v*) clack, tick; (*n*) catch, chink, dog, detent, pawl, clink; (*v*) chatter, beat, cluck.

clouds: (*n*) exhaust, fumes, gas, smoke, vapors.

forelock: (*n*) foretop, hair, ringlet, whorl, cotter, lock, quiff, curl, key.

graveyard: (*n*) burial ground, churchyard, necropolis, burying ground, burial site, site, burial place, radioactive cemetery, memorial park, morgue.

inanimate: (*adj*) defunct, dull, breathless, inorganic, inactive, lifeless, exanimate, deceased, extinct, unconscious, spiritless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) living, animate, spirited.

interruption: (*n*) disruption, intermission, halt, pause, suspension, discontinuance, hiatus; (*n, v*) break, hindrance, impediment; (*v*) interrupt. ANTONYMS: (*n*) permanence, help, respect.

obtuseness: (*n*) bluntness, dulness,

stupidity, dimness, ignorance, stolidity, density, heaviness, drowsiness, impenetrability, obtusity. ANTONYM: (*n*) acuteness.

paddock: (*n*) field, enclosure, pasture, meadow, corral, compound, pound, stall, ground, hutch, parrock.

rebounding: (*adj*) leaping back, driven back, repercussive.

whirr: (*n, v*) whir, hum, drone, buzz, birr, whine; (*v*) whiz, churr, hiss, emit; (*n*) murmur.

which circumstances proved to be a vehicle, for after a few minutes spent apparently in harnessing, she heard the **trot** of the horse down the road, **mingled** with the sound of light wheels.

Two varieties only of humanity could have entered the paddock with the **ghostlike glide** of that mysterious figure. They were a woman and a **gipsy** man. A woman was out of the question in such an occupation at this hour, and the comer could be no less than a thief, who might probably have known the weakness of the household on this particular night, and have chosen it on that account for his daring attempt. Moreover, to raise suspicion to conviction itself, there were gipsies in Weatherbury Bottom.

Maryann, who had been afraid to shout in the robber's presence, having seen him depart had no fear. She hastily slipped on her clothes, **stumped** down the **disjointed** staircase with its hundred creaks, ran to Coggan's, the nearest house, and raised an alarm. Coggan called Gabriel, who now again lodged in his house as at first, and together they went to the paddock. Beyond all doubt the horse was gone.

"Hark!" said Gabriel.

They listened. Distinct upon the stagnant air came the sounds of a trotting horse passing up Longpuddle Lane—just beyond the gipsies' **encampment** in Weatherbury Bottom.

"That's our Dainty—I'll swear to her step," said Jan.

"Mighty me! Won't mis'ess storm and call us stupids wen she comes back!" moaned Maryann. "How I wish it had happened when she was at home, and none of us had been answerable!"

"We must ride after," said Gabriel, decisively. "I'll be responsible to Miss Everdene for what we do. Yes, we'll follow."

"Faith, I don't see how," said Coggan. "All our horses are too heavy for that trick except little Poppet, and what's she between two of us?—If we only had that pair over the hedge we might do something."

"Which pair?"

Thesaurus

disjointed: (*adj*) disconnected, confused, split, broken, dislocated, rambling, unconnected, disordered, fragmentary, discontinuous, muddled. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) jointed, united, affiliated, attached, connected, continuous.
encampment: (*n*) camp, campsite, bivouac, campground, camping site, camping ground, camping, cantonment, barracks, camping area, bivouacking.

ghostlike: (*adj*) spectral, apparitional, supernatural, unearthly, haunted, eerie, ghastly, phantom, creepy, ethereal, mystic. ANTONYM: (*adj*) normal.
gipsy: (*n*) Gypsy, Romany, bohemian, warping end, tzigane, vagrant, Rommany.
glide: (*adj, n, v*) slide; (*n, v*) coast, slip; (*v*) float, run, fly, flow, drift, lapse, slink, skid. ANTONYMS: (*v*) lurch, hurtle, flounder, sink.

mingled: (*adj*) miscellaneous, complex, indiscriminate, heterogeneous, medley, confused, eclectic, motley, different; (*v*) blended, blent.
stumped: (*adj*) bewildered, confused, at sea, without an answer, thrown, mystified, having difficulties, flummoxed, dumbfounded, baffled, at a complete loss.
trot: (*n, v*) run; (*n*) crib, canter, pony, gait, ride, lope; (*v*) gallop, general, frequent, household.

“Mr. Boldwood’s Tidy and Moll.”

“Then wait here till I come hither again,” said Gabriel. He ran down the hill towards Farmer Boldwood’s.

“Farmer Boldwood is not at home,” said Maryann.

“All the better,” said Coggan. “I know what he’s gone for.”

Less than five minutes brought up Oak again, running at the same pace, with two halters dangling from his hand.

“Where did you find ‘em?” said Coggan, turning round and **leaping** upon the hedge without waiting for an answer.

“Under the eaves. I knew where they were kept,” said Gabriel, following him. “Coggan, you can ride bare-backed? there’s no time to look for saddles.”

“Like a hero!” said Jan.

“Maryann, you go to bed,” Gabriel **shouted** to her from the top of the hedge.

Springing down into Boldwood’s pastures, each pocketed his halter to hide it from the horses, who, seeing the men empty-handed, **docilely** allowed themselves to be seized by the mane, when the halters were dexterously slipped on. Having neither bit nor **bridle**, Oak and Coggan **extemporized** the former by passing the rope in each case through the animal’s mouth and **looping** it on the other side. Oak **vaulted** astride, and Coggan clambered up by aid of the bank, when they ascended to the gate and galloped off in the direction taken by Bathsheba’s horse and the **robber**. Whose vehicle the horse had been harnessed to was a matter of some uncertainty.

Weatherbury Bottom was reached in three or four minutes. They scanned the **shady** green patch by the roadside. The gipsies were gone.

“The villains!” said Gabriel. “Which way have they gone, I wonder?”

“Straight on, as sure as God made little apples,” said Jan.

“Very well; we are better mounted, and must **overtake** em”, said Oak. “Now on at full speed!”

Thesaurus

bridle: (*n, v*) curb, check, control, snaffle, rein, leash; (*n*) arrest, reins, brake; (*v*) inhibit, contain.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) unbridle, unharness, release.
docilely: (*adv*) obediently, tamely, mildly, submissively, pliantly, compliantly, yieldingly, softly, gently, dutifully, willingly.
extemporized: (*adv*) impromptu, unarranged, unrehearsed, unprepared, unplanned, informal, ad

lib, ad-lib, spontaneous, off the cuff, unpremeditated.
leaping: (*n*) jump, bounce, bound, leap, spring, saltation, bouncing; (*v*) jumping; (*adj, v*) bounding; (*adj*) springing; (*adv*) leapingly.
looping: (*v*) circulate; (*n*) iteration.
overtake: (*v*) catch, attain, catch up with, exceed, overpower, overcome, go by, gain, devastate, outstrip, beat.
robber: (*n*) highwayman, bandit, mugger, outlaw, plunderer, pillager,

burglar, pirate, crook, filcher, spoiler.
shady: (*adj*) questionable, dark, fishy, doubtful, queer, suspicious, dim, uncertain, obscure, disreputable, dishonest. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) sunny, trustworthy, bright, reputable, aboveboard.
shouted: (*adj*) screamed, loud.
vaulted: (*adj*) domed, hollow, hooked, testudinated, rounded, arcuated, in the form of an arch, curved, concave, roofed.

No sound of the rider in their van could now be discovered. The road-metal grew softer and more rain had wetted its surface to a somewhat plastic, but not muddy state. They came to **cross-roads**. Coggan suddenly pulled up Moll and slipped off.

"What's the matter?" said Gabriel.

"We must try to track 'em, since we can't hear 'em," said Jan, **fumbling** in his pockets. He struck a light, and held the match to the ground. The rain had been heavier here, and all foot and horse tracks made previous to the storm had been abraded and blurred by the drops, and they were now so many little scoops of water, which reflected the flame of the match like eyes. One set of tracks was fresh and had no water in them; one pair of ruts was also empty, and not small canals, like the others. The **footprints** forming this recent impression were full of information as to pace; they were in **equidistant** pairs, three or four feet apart, the right and left foot of each pair being exactly opposite one another.

"Straight on!" Jan exclaimed. "Tracks like that mean a stiff gallop. No wonder we don't hear him. And the horse is harnessed—look at the ruts. Ay, that's our mare sure enough!"

"How do you know?"

"Old Jimmy Harris only **shoed** her last week, and I'd swear to his make among ten thousand."

"The rest of the gipsies must ha' gone on earlier, or some other way," said Oak. "You saw there were no other tracks?"

"True." They rode along silently for a long weary time. Coggan carried an old **pinchbeck repeater** which he had inherited from some genius in his family; and it now struck one. He lighted another match, and examined the ground again.

" 'Tis a **canter** now," he said, throwing away the light. "A **twisty, rickety** pace for a gig. The fact is, they over-drove her at starting, we shall catch 'em yet."

Thesaurus

canter: (*n, v*) run, jump; (*n*) amble, caracole, caracoler, Fisk, frisk, prance; (*v*) gallop, jog, sit.

cross-roads: (*n*) intersection, crossing, crossroad.

equidistant: (*adj*) halfway, middle, center, median, parallel, equal.

footprints: (*n*) track, road, footpath, route, path, way.

fumbling: (*adj*) clumsy, fumble, butterfingered, awkward, bumbling, bunglesome, clunky, cumbersome,

incompetent, left-handed, unskilled.

pinchbeck: (*adj*) imitative, supposititious, bogus, spurious; (*n*) clinquant, gimcrack, gewgaw, frippery, finery; (*v*) meretricious, plated.

repeater: (*v*) floater, Indian giver, keener; (*n*) repeating firearm, habitual criminal, revolver, criminal, soul, master clock, somebody, someone.

rickety: (*adj*) unstable, wobbly,

decrepit, dilapidated, insecure, ramshackle, rachitic, flimsy, precarious, cranky, wonky.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stable, sturdy, firm, secure.

shoed: (*adj*) shod, shodden, calced, booted, roughshod, sandaled.

twisty: (*adj*) winding, twisting, oblique, tangled, squirming, roundabout, female, curved, labyrinthine, rambling, crooked.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) direct.

Again they hastened on, and entered Blackmore Vale. Coggan's watch struck one. When they looked again the hoof-marks were so **spaced** as to form a sort of **zigzag** if united, like the lamps along a street.

"That's a trot, I know," said Gabriel.

"Only a trot now," said Coggan, cheerfully. "We shall overtake him in time."

They pushed rapidly on for yet two or three miles. "Ah! a moment," said Jan. "Let's see how she was driven up this hill. 'Twill help us." A light was promptly struck upon his gaiters as before, and the examination made.

"Hurrah!" said Coggan. "She walked up here—and well she might. We shall get them in two miles, for a crown."

They rode three, and listened. No sound was to be heard save a **millpond** trickling **hoarsely** through a hatch, and suggesting gloomy possibilities of **drowning** by jumping in. Gabriel dismounted when they came to a turning. The tracks were absolutely the only guide as to the direction that they now had, and great caution was necessary to avoid confusing them with some others which had made their appearance lately.

"What does this mean?—though I guess," said Gabriel, looking up at Coggan as he moved the match over the ground about the turning. Coggan, who, no less than the panting horses, had latterly shown signs of **weariness**, again scrutinized the mystic characters. This time only three were of the regular **horseshoe** shape. Every fourth was a dot.

He screwed up his face and emitted a long "Whew-w-w!"

"Lame," said Oak.

"Yes Dainty is **lamed**; the near-foot-afore," said Coggan slowly staring still at the footprints.

"We'll push on," said Gabriel, remounting his **humid steed**.

Although the road along its greater part had been as good as any turnpike-road in the country, it was **nominally** only a **byway**. The last turning had brought them into the high road leading to Bath. Coggan recollected himself.

Thesaurus

byway: (*n*) byroad, detour, path, walk, side road, trail, road, way, course, crossroad, diverticle.

drowning: (*n*) masking, demersion.

hoarsely: (*adv*) roughly, huskily, raucously, gruffly, throatily, gratingly, stridently, gutturally, thickly, croakily, raggedly.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) smoothly.

horseshoe: (*n*) bow, arc, arch, carve, crescent, arcade, loop, curve, brake shoe, lunule, vault.

humid: (*adj*) wet, moist, dank, damp, sultry, steamy, watery, wettish, clammy, sticky, soggy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) fresh, cool, arid, temperate.

lamed: (*adj*) lame, impeded, injured, disabled.

millpond: (*n*) pond, lake, fishpond, dew pond, dam, pool.

nominally: (*adv*) formally, smally, nominatively.

spaced: (*adj*) space, detached, separate, isolated, drugged, distributed,

disjointed, dislocated.

steed: (*n*) horse, mount, charger, knight, courser, warhorse, pony, stallion, mare.

weariness: (*n*) exhaustion, tiredness, lassitude, languor, asthenopia, defatigation, grogginess, listlessness, boredom, ennui, prostration.

zigzag: (*v*) wind, meander, twist; (*n, v*) bend; (*adj*) furcated, winding, meandering, bifurcate; (*adj, v*) indirect; (*n*) groin, crane.

"We shall have him now!" he exclaimed.

"Where?"

"Sherton Turnpike. The keeper of that gate is the sleepest man between here and London – Dan Randall, that's his name – knowed en for years, when he was at Casterbridge gate. Between the **lameness** and the gate 'tis a done job."

They now advanced with extreme **caution**. Nothing was said until, against a shady background of **foliage**, five white bars were visible, crossing their route a little way ahead.

"Hush – we are almost close!" said Gabriel.

"**Amble** on upon the grass," said Coggan.

The white bars were blotted out in the midst by a dark shape in front of them. The silence of this lonely time was pierced by an exclamation from that quarter.

"Hoy-a-hoy! Gate!"

It appeared that there had been a previous call which they had not noticed, for on their close approach the door of the turnpike-house opened, and the keeper came out half-dressed, with a candle in his hand. The **rays** illumined the whole group.

"Keep the gate close!" shouted Gabriel. "He has stolen the horse!"

"Who?" said the turnpike-man.

Gabriel looked at the driver of the gig, and saw a woman – Bathsheba, his mistress.

On hearing his voice she had turned her face away from the light. Coggan had, however, caught sight of her in the meanwhile.

"Why, 'tis mistress – I'll take my oath!" he said, **amazed**.

Bathsheba it certainly was, and she had by this time done the trick she could do so well in crises not of love, namely, **mask** a surprise by coolness of manner.

"Well, Gabriel," she inquired quietly, "where are you going?"

"We thought – –" began Gabriel.

Thesaurus

amazed: (*adj*) astounded, astonished, stunned, dumbfounded, flabbergasted, shocked, staggered, bewildered, surprised, thunderstruck, aghast.
amble: (*n, v*) stroll, walk, ramble, trot, wander, run, hike; (*v*) mosey, dawdle, gallop; (*n*) promenade.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) race, hurry, run, stride.
caution: (*n*) advice, carefulness, warning, wariness, precaution,

vigilance, prudence, admonition, commandment; (*v*) warn, advise.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) carelessness, rashness, incaution, honesty, foolishness, encouragement, irresponsibility, openness, approval; (*v*) dare, approve.
foliage: (*n*) verdure, foliation, greenery, leaf, frond, cotyledon, ramage, tigella, stem, blade, leaves.
lameness: (*n*) limp, claudication, gameness, gimpiness, feebleness,

halt, limping, crippledness, disability of walking.
mask: (*n, v*) cover, veil, hide, conceal, disguise, screen, camouflage; (*v*) dissemble; (*n*) guise, blind, curtain.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) unmask, enhance, reinforce, reveal, expose, amplify.
rays: (*n*) light, sunlight, Selachii, dogfishes, elasmobranch, Elasmobranchii, emission, daylight, sunshine, selachian, subclass Elasmobranchii.

"I am driving to Bath," she said, taking for her own use the assurance that Gabriel lacked. "An important matter made it necessary for me to give up my visit to Liddy, and go off at once. What, then, were you following me?"

"We thought the horse was stole."

"Well—what a thing! How very foolish of you not to know that I had taken the trap and horse. I could neither wake Maryann nor get into the house, though I **hammered** for ten minutes against her window-sill. Fortunately, I could get the key of the coach-house, so I troubled no one further. Didn't you think it might be me?"

"Why should we, miss?"

"Perhaps not. Why, those are never Farmer Bold-wood's horses! Goodness mercy! what have you been doing—bringing trouble upon me in this way? What! mustn't a lady move an inch from her door without being **dogged** like a thief?"

"But how was we to know, if you left no account of your doings?" expostulated Coggan, "and ladies don't drive at these hours, miss, as a jeneral rule of society."

"I did leave an account—and you would have seen it in the morning. I wrote in **chalk** on the coach-house doors that I had come back for the horse and gig, and driven off; that I could **arouse** nobody, and should return soon."

"But you'll consider, ma'am, that we couldn't see that till it got daylight."

"True," she said, and though vexed at first she had too much sense to **blame** them long or seriously for a **devotion** to her that was as valuable as it was rare. She added with a very pretty grace, "Well, I really thank you **heartily** for taking all this trouble; but I wish you had **borrowed** anybody's horses but Mr. Boldwood's."

"Dainty is lame, miss," said Coggan. "Can ye go on?"

"It was only a stone in her shoe. I got down and pulled it out a hundred yards back. I can manage very well, thank you. I shall be in Bath by daylight. Will you now return, please?"

Thesaurus

arouse: (*v*) wake, stir, agitate, excite, awaken, stimulate, anger, kindle, provoke, raise; (*n, v*) rouse.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) calm, dampen, stifle, sedate, quiet, pacify, bore, allay, lull, quench, suppress.

borrowed: (*adj*) foreign, rubato, secondary.

chalk: (*n*) trace, score, mold, subsoil, whiteness, gravel, clod; (*v*) black lead, mark, pastel; (*adj*) lily.

devotion: (*n*) allegiance, attachment,

dedication, loyalty, worship, affection, enthusiasm, fondness, devotedness; (*adj, n*) veneration, passion. ANTONYMS: (*n*) disloyalty, negligence, apathy, disobedience, neglect, hatred, separation, dishonesty, infidelity.

dogged: (*adj*) obdurate, stubborn, willful, bullheaded, insistent, obstinate, tenacious, wilful, untiring, resolute, persistent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) yielding, compromising,

indifferent, undetermined.

hammered: (*adj*) drunk.

heartily: (*adv*) cordially, sincerely, enthusiastically, warmly, strongly, earnestly, vigorously, ardently, soundly, devoutly, eagerly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) feebly, languorously.

lame: (*adj*) crippled, disabled, halting, feeble, halt, weak, paralytic; (*adj, n*) game; (*adj, v*) paralyze, maim, besripple.

She turned her head—the gateman’s candle **shimmering** upon her quick, clear eyes as she did so—passed through the gate, and was soon wrapped in the embowering shades of mysterious summer boughs. Coggan and Gabriel put about their horses, and, fanned by the **velvety** air of this July night, retraced the road by which they had come.

“A strange **vagary**, this of hers, isn’t it, Oak?” said Coggan, curiously.

“Yes,” said Gabriel, shortly.

“She won’t be in Bath by no daylight!”

“Coggan, suppose we keep this night’s work as quiet as we can?”

“I am of one and the same mind.”

“Very well. We shall be home by three o’clock or so, and can creep into the parish like lambs.”

Bathsheba’s perturbed **meditations** by the roadside had ultimately **evolved** a conclusion that there were only two remedies for the present desperate state of affairs. The first was merely to keep Troy away from Weatherbury till Boldwood’s **indignation** had **cooled**; the second to listen to Oak’s entreaties, and Boldwood’s denunciations, and give up Troy altogether.

Alas! Could she give up this new love—induce him to **renounce** her by saying she did not like him—could no more speak to him, and beg him, for her good, to end his furlough in Bath, and see her and Weatherbury no more?

It was a picture full of misery, but for a while she contemplated it firmly, allowing herself, nevertheless, as girls will, to dwell upon the happy life she would have enjoyed had Troy been Boldwood, and the path of love the path of duty—inflicting upon herself **gratuitous** tortures by imagining him the lover of another woman after forgetting her; for she had **penetrated** Troy’s nature so far as to estimate his tendencies pretty accurately, but unfortunately loved him no less in thinking that he might soon cease to love her—indeed, considerably more.

Thesaurus

cooled: (*adj*) refrigerated, frozen; (*n*) cooler.

evolved: (*adj*) derivative.

gratuitous: (*adj*) complimentary, unnecessary, needless, superfluous, for nothing, gratis, unwarranted, costless, free of charge, unfounded; (*adj, v*) voluntary. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) necessary, paid, provoked, justified.

indignation: (*n*) anger, resentment, displeasure, grudge, umbrage, rage, outrage, exasperation, cholera,

dudgeon; (*adj, n*) wrath.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) contentment, pleasure.

meditations: (*n*) contemplation, consideration, cogitation.

penetrated: (*adj*) perforated, entered.

renounce: (*v*) abandon, abdicate, abjure, relinquish, desert, reject, give up, disown, deny, quit, forgo.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) acknowledge, reassert, assert, continue, retain, persist.

shimmering: (*adj*) glittering, sparkling, gleaming, dazzling, lustrous, bright, iridescent, shimmery, flashing, glittery, glowing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, dim.

vagary: (*n, v*) freak, crotchet, fancy, humor; (*n*) fad, whim, impulse, maggot, quirk, notion, prank.

velvety: (*adj*) smooth, soft, velvet, silky, fluffy, woolly, supple, creamy, delicate, furry; (*v*) lanate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) croaky, watery.

She jumped to her feet. She would see him at once. Yes, she would **implore** him by word of mouth to assist her in this dilemma. A letter to keep him away could not reach him in time, even if he should be disposed to listen to it.

Was Bathsheba altogether blind to the obvious fact that the support of a lover's arms is not of a kind best calculated to assist a resolve to renounce him? Or was she sophistically sensible, with a thrill of pleasure, that by adopting this course for getting rid of him she was ensuring a meeting with him, at any rate, once more?

It was now dark, and the hour must have been nearly ten. The only way to **accomplish** her purpose was to give up her idea of visiting Liddy at Yalbury, return to Weatherbury Farm, put the horse into the gig, and drive at once to Bath. The scheme seemed at first impossible: the journey was a fearfully heavy one, even for a strong horse, at her own estimate; and she much underrated the distance. It was most **venturesome** for a woman, at night, and alone.

But could she go on to Liddy's and leave things to take their course? No, no; anything but that. Bathsheba was full of a stimulating **turbulence**, beside which caution **vainly** prayed for a hearing. She turned back towards the village.

Her walk was slow, for she wished not to enter Weatherbury till the cottagers were in bed, and, particularly, till Boldwood was secure. Her plan was now to drive to Bath during the night, see Sergeant Troy in the morning before he set out to come to her, bid him farewell, and dismiss him: then to rest the horse thoroughly (herself to **weep** the while, she thought), starting early the next morning on her return journey. By this arrangement she could trot Dainty gently all the day, reach Liddy at Yalbury in the evening, and come home to Weatherbury with her whenever they chose—so nobody would know she had been to Bath at all. Such was Bathsheba's scheme. But in her **topographical** ignorance as a late **comer** to the place, she misreckoned the distance of her journey as not much more than half what it really was.

This idea she proceeded to carry out, with what initial success we have already seen.

Thesaurus

accomplish: (*v*) perform, reach, do, compass, perfect, attain, make, fulfill, realize, execute, carry out.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) abandon, neglect, choke, blow, lose.

comer: (*n*) newcomer, arriver, traveler, traveller, contender, competitor, competition, visitor, whiz kid, Young Turk; (*adj*) fresh.

implore: (*v*) beg, beseech, supplicate, ask, conjure, crave, pray, importune, appeal, plead, solicit. ANTONYMS:

(*v*) demand, grant, reject.

topographical: (*n*) local, topical; (*adv*) in situ.

turbulence: (*n*) disorder, confusion, agitation, commotion, fury, turmoil, upheaval, uproar, turbulency, hubbub, violence. ANTONYMS: (*n*) peace, calmness, order.

vainly: (*adv*) uselessly, futilely, fruitlessly, conceitedly, in vain, worthlessly, abortively, bootlessly, arrogantly, unproductively; (*adj, adv*)

foolishly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*)

fruitfully, successfully, effectively.

venturesome: (*adj, n*) hazardous, adventurous, bold, brave, venturesome, courageous, fearless, foolhardy; (*adj*) audacious, adventuresome, risky. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, cowardly, afraid, safe, cautious.

weep: (*v*) wail, bawl, lament, sob, blubber, moan, howl, drip, greet, whimper; (*n*) tear.

CHAPTER XXXIII

IN THE SUN—A HARBINGER

A week passed, and there were no tidings of Bathsheba; nor was there any explanation of her Gilpin's rig.

Then a note came for Maryann, stating that the business which had called her mistress to Bath still **detained** her there; but that she hoped to return in the course of another week.

Another week passed. The oat-harvest began, and all the men were a-field under a **monochromatic** Lammas sky, amid the trembling air and short shadows of noon. Indoors nothing was to be heard save the **droning** of blue-bottle flies; out-of-doors the whetting of scythes and the **hiss** of tressy oat-ears rubbing together as their **perpendicular** stalks of amber-yellow fell heavily to each **swath**. Every drop of **moisture** not in the men's bottles and flagons in the form of cider was **raining** as **perspiration** from their foreheads and cheeks. Drought was everywhere else.

They were about to withdraw for a while into the charitable shade of a tree in the fence, when Coggan saw a figure in a blue coat and brass buttons running to them across the field.

"I wonder who that is?" he said.

Thesaurus

detained: (*adj*) seized, locked up, jailed, intransitive, tardy, inside, caged, captive, behind bars; (*n*) in prison, under arrest.

droning: (*adj*) buzzing, humming, abuzz, booming, monotonous, noisy; (*n*) bourdon, dawdler, drone pipe, idleness, monotone. ANTONYM: (*adj*) varied.

hiss: (*v*) fizz, spit, whiz, whisper, whoosh; (*n*) buzz, jeer, hissing, ridicule; (*n, v*) hoot, taunt.

moisture: (*n*) damp, dampness, wet, humid, moist, moistness, vapor, moisture content, moisten, dank, dampen.

monochromatic: (*adj*) homochromatic, monochromic, colored, colorful, coloured, monochromous. ANTONYM: (*adj*) polychromatic.

perpendicular: (*adj*) upright, vertical, steep, plumb, straight, right, sheer, orthogonal, normal, precipitous, true. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) horizontal,

parallel, inclined, oblique, prone, gentle.

perspiration: (*n*) diaphoresis, hidrosis, sudor, sweating, extravasation, secretion, exertion, exudation, effort, lather, water.

raining: (*adj*) rainy, showery, drizzly; (*n*) woe. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dry.

swath: (*n*) swathe, band, track, windrow, swarth, short grass, space, bandage, swath width, swatch, smash.

"I hope nothing is wrong about mistress," said Maryann, who with some other women was tying the bundles (oats being always sheafed on this farm), "but an unlucky token came to me indoors this morning. I went to **unlock** the door and dropped the key, and it fell upon the stone floor and broke into two pieces. Breaking a key is a dreadful **bodement**. I wish mis'ess was home."

" 'Tis Cain Ball," said Gabriel, pausing from whetting his reaphook.

Oak was not bound by his agreement to assist in the corn-field; but the harvest month is an anxious time for a farmer, and the corn was Bathsheba's, so he **lent** a hand.

"He's dressed up in his best clothes," said Matthew Moon. "He hev been away from home for a few days, since he's had that **felon** upon his finger; for 'a said, since I can't work I'll have a hollerday."

"A good time for one—a' excellent time," said Joseph Poorgrass, **straightening** his back; for he, like some of the others, had a way of resting a while from his labour on such hot days for reasons **preternaturally** small; of which Cain Ball's advent on a week-day in his Sunday-clothes was one of the first magnitude. "Twas a bad leg allowed me to read the *Pilgrim's Progress*, and Mark Clark learnt All-Fours in a whitlow."

"Ay, and my father put his arm out of joint to have time to go courting," said Jan Coggan, in an **eclipsing** tone, wiping his face with his shirt-sleeve and thrusting back his hat upon the **nape** of his neck.

By this time Cainy was **nearing** the group of harvesters, and was perceived to be carrying a large slice of bread and ham in one hand, from which he took mouthfuls as he ran, the other being wrapped in a **bandage**. When he came close, his mouth assumed the bell shape, and he began to cough violently.

"Now, Cainy!" said Gabriel, sternly. "How many more times must I tell you to keep from running so fast when you be eating? You'll **choke** yourself some day, that's what you'll do, Cain Ball."

Thesaurus

bandage: (*v*) bind, wrap, dress, envelop; (*adj, n*) truss, tie; (*n*) swathe, binding, roller, gauze; (*adj*) string.
ANTONYM: (*v*) undress.

bodement: (*n*) presage, portent, auspices, auspice, omen, prognostic, abodement.

choke: (*v*) asphyxiate, block, stifle, back up, clog up, gag, suffocate, foul, strangle, smother, obstruct.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) free, open, release, unblock.

eclipsing: (*n*) occultation.

felon: (*n*) convict, culprit, crook, malefactor, thug, desperado, miscreant, offender, hoodlum, outlaw; (*adj*) felonious.

lent: (*n*) Quadragesima, Lententide.

nape: (*n*) nucha, scruff, occiput, rear, back end, backside, chine.

nearing: (*n*) approach; (*adj*) impending, forthcoming, oncoming, coming, imminent, looming; (*prep*) on the verge of, toward.

preternaturally: (*adv*) supernaturally, irregularly, transcendently, extraordinarily, occultly, abnormally, strangely, outlandishly, uncannily, miraculously.

straightening: (*n*) tapping, straightening of a water course.

unlock: (*v*) open, unfasten, disclose, unbar, reveal, free, release, disengage, unbolt, unclose, withdraw. ANTONYMS: (*v*) fasten, lock, close.

“Hok-hok-hok!” replied Cain. “A **crumb** of my victuals went the wrong way—hok-hok!, That’s what ‘tis, Mister Oak! And I’ve been visiting to Bath because I had a felon on my thumb; yes, and I’ve seen—ahok-hok!”

Directly Cain mentioned Bath, they all threw down their **hooks** and forks and drew round him. Unfortunately the erratic crumb did not improve his narrative powers, and a supplementary **hindrance** was that of a **sneeze**, jerking from his pocket his rather large watch, which dangled in front of the young man pendulum-wise.

“Yes,” he continued, directing his thoughts to Bath and letting his eyes follow, “I’ve seed the world at last—yes—and I’ve seed our mis’ess—ahok-hok-hok!”

“Bother the boy!” said Gabriel. “Something is always going the wrong way down your throat, so that you can’t tell what’s necessary to be told.”

“Ahok! there! Please, Mister Oak, a **gnat** have just fled into my stomach and brought the cough on again!”

“Yes, that’s just it. Your mouth is always open, you young rascal!”

“ ‘Tis terrible bad to have a gnat fly down yer throat, pore boy!” said Matthew Moon.

“Well, at Bath you saw — —” prompted Gabriel.

“I saw our mistress,” continued the junior shepherd, “and a sojer, walking along. And bymeby they got closer and closer, and then they went arm-in-crook, like courting complete—hok-hok! like courting complete—hok!—courting complete— —” Losing the thread of his narrative at this point simultaneously with his loss of breath, their **informant** looked up and down the field apparently for some clue to it. “Well, I see our mis’ess and a soldier—a-ha-a-wk!”

“Damn the boy!” said Gabriel.

“ ‘Tis only my manner, Mister Oak, if ye’ll excuse it,” said Cain Ball, looking **reproachfully** at Oak, with eyes **drenched** in their own dew.

Thesaurus

crumb: (*adj, n*) morsel, seed; (*n*) fragment, speck, scrap, grain, atom, trace, spot, iota; (*adj*) scantling.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) pile, mass, lot, heap, chunk.
drenched: (*adj*) saturated, soaked, soaking, damp, soppy, wet through, sodden, sopping, wringing wet, soaked to the skin, dripping wet.
gnat: (*adj*) midge, animalcule, emmet, shrimp, maggot, minnow, worm; (*n*) blackfly, mosquito, sandfly, black fly.

hindrance: (*n, v*) difficulty, obstacle, block, check, delay; (*n*) deterrent, barrier, obstruction, impediment, inconvenience, disturbance.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) advantage, contribution, assistance, success, boost, incentive, strength.
hooks: (*n*) maulers, meat hooks.
informant: (*n*) betrayer, sneak, informer, squealer, deponent, author, attestant, communicator, fink; (*v*) mouthpiece, teller.

reproachfully: (*adv*) critically, abusively, admonitorily, vituperatively, disapprovingly, wearily, contemptuously, disparagingly, disdainfully, witheringly, shamefully.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) approvingly, hopefully.
sneeze: (*n*) sneezing, physiological reaction, reflex; (*v*) arrest, despise, loathe, act involuntarily, Neese, act reflexively.

“Here’s some cider for him – that’ll cure his throat,” said Jan Coggan, lifting a flagon of cider, pulling out the cork, and applying the hole to Cainy’s mouth; Joseph Poorgrass in the meantime beginning to think **apprehensively** of the serious consequences that would follow Cainy Ball’s **strangulation** in his cough, and the history of his Bath adventures dying with him.

“For my poor self, I always say ‘please God’ afore I do anything,” said Joseph, in an **unboastful** voice; “and so should you, Cain Ball. ‘Tis a great safeguard, and might perhaps save you from being choked to death some day.”

Mr. Coggan poured the liquor with unstinted **liberality** at the suffering Cain’s circular mouth; half of it running down the side of the flagon, and half of what reached his mouth running down outside his throat, and half of what ran in going the wrong way, and being coughed and sneezed around the persons of the gathered reapers in the form of a cider fog, which for a moment hung in the sunny air like a small **exhalation**.

“There’s a great clumsy sneeze! Why can’t ye have better manners, you young dog!” said Coggan, **withdrawing** the flagon.

“The cider went up my nose!” cried Cainy, as soon as he could speak; “and now ‘tis gone down my neck, and into my poor dumb felon, and over my shiny buttons and all my best cloze!”

“The poor lad’s cough is terrible unfortunate,” said Matthew Moon. “And a great history on hand, too. Bump his back, shepherd.”

“ ‘Tis my nater,” mourned Cain. “Mother says I always was so **excitable** when my feelings were worked up to a point!”

“True, true,” said Joseph Poorgrass. “The Balls were always a very excitable family. I knowed the boy’s grandfather – a truly nervous and modest man, even to genteel **refinery**. ‘Twas blush, blush with him, almost as much as ‘tis with me – not but that ‘tis a fault in me!”

“Not at all, Master Poorgrass,” said Coggan. “ ‘Tis a very noble quality in ye.”

Thesaurus

apprehensively: (*adv*) uneasily, fearfully, worriedly, solicitously, timidly, restlessly, nervously, timorously, suspiciously, uncertainly, hesitantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) calmly, fearlessly, trustingly, unconcernedly.
excitable: (*adj*) nervous, irritable, combustible, hasty, edgy, fiery, sensitive, volatile, passionate, warm, quick. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unexcitable, calm, unflappable,

easygoing, easy, tranquil, reliable, mild.
exhalation: (*n*) emanation, expiration, breathing out, steam, vapour, emission, fumes, vapor, puff, effusion, wind.
liberality: (*n, v*) charity, almsgiving; (*adj, n*) bounty; (*n*) largess, munificence, benevolence, beneficence, generosity, tolerance; (*adj*) largesse, gift. ANTONYM: (*n*) illiberality.

refinery: (*n*) works, oil refinery, industrial plant, petroleum refinery, plant, refining plant.
strangulation: (*n*) strangling, constriction, throttling, asphyxiation, execution; (*v*) suffocation.
unboastful: (*adj*) modest, unobtrusive, unostentatious.
withdrawing: (*adj*) receding, outgoing, retiring, moving back, modest, lowly; (*n*) departure, privacy, seclusion, cancellation.

“Heh-heh! well, I wish to noise nothing abroad—nothing at all,” murmured Poorgrass, **diffidently**. “But we be born to things—that’s true. Yet I would rather my trifle were hid; though, perhaps, a high nater is a little high, and at my birth all things were possible to my Maker, and he may have begrudged no gifts.... But under your bushel, Joseph! under your bushel with ‘ee! A strange desire, neighbours, this desire to hide, and no praise due. Yet there is a Sermon on the Mount with a **calendar** of the **blessed** at the head, and certain meek men may be named therein.”

“Cainy’s grandfather was a very clever man,” said Matthew Moon. “Invented a’ apple-tree out of his own head, which is called by his name to this day—the Early Ball. You know ‘em, Jan? A Quarrenden grafted on a Tom Putt, and a Rathe-ripe upon top o’ that again. ‘Tis trew ‘a used to bide about in a public-house wi’ a ‘ooman in a way he had no business to by rights, but there—‘a were a clever man in the sense of the term.”

“Now then,” said Gabriel, **impatiently**, “what did you see, Cain?”

“I seed our mis’ess go into a sort of a park place, where there’s seats, and **shrubs** and **flowers**, arm-in-crook with a sojer,” continued Cainy, firmly, and with a dim sense that his words were very effective as regarded Gabriel’s emotions. “And I think the sojer was Sergeant Troy. And they sat there together for more than half-an-hour, talking moving things, and she once was crying a’most to death. And when they came out her eyes were **shining** and she was as white as a lily; and they looked into one another’s faces, as far-gone friendly as a man and woman can be.”

Gabriel’s features seemed to get **thinner**. “Well, what did you see besides?”

“Oh, all sorts.”

“White as a lily? You are sure ‘twas she?”

“Yes.”

“Well, what besides?”

“Great glass windows to the shops, and great clouds in the sky, full of rain, and old wooden **trees** in the country round.”

Thesaurus

blessed: (*adj*) happy, holy, cursed, sacred, damned, hallowed, blasted, fortunate, saintly, lucky, divine.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unlucky, condemned, damned, disapproved, unhappy, unholy, secular.

calendar: (*n*) agenda, the calendar, schedule, diary, journal, timetable, program, Calendar year, system, organization; (*n, v*) list.

diffidently: (*adv*) modestly, timidly, reservedly, shily, retiringly,

timorously, hesitantly, reluctantly, unassumingly, coyly, fearfully.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) confidently, brashly, arrogantly, decisively.

flowers: (*n*) analecta, anthology.

impatiently: (*adv*) petulantly, restlessly, keenly, intolerantly, hastily, avidly, uneasily, enthusiastically, edgily, fidgetily, restively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) uncomplainingly, calmly, unenthusiastically, lightly.

shining: (*adj, v*) brilliant; (*adj*) lustrous, radiant, glossy, luminous, glorious, glowing; (*adj, n*) lucid, resplendent, clear; (*v*) shine. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, pale, blemished.

shrubs: (*n*) undergrowth.

thinner: (*n*) dilutant, solvent, reducer, rarefied, phenylic acid, phenol, propanone, perchloromethane, resolvent, oxybenzene, methylbenzene.

trees: (*n*) foliage.

"You stun-poll! What will ye say next?" said Coggan.

"Let en alone," interposed Joseph Poorgrass. "The boy's meaning is that the sky and the earth in the kingdom of Bath is not altogether different from ours here. 'Tis for our good to gain knowledge of strange cities, and as such the boy's words should be suffered, so to speak it."

"And the people of Bath," continued Cain, "never need to light their fires except as a luxury, for the water springs up out of the earth ready **boiled** for use."

"'Tis true as the light," testified Matthew Moon. "I've heard other navigators say the same thing."

"They drink nothing else there," said Cain, "and seem to enjoy it, to see how they swaller it down."

"Well, it seems a **barbarian** practice enough to us, but I daresay the natives think nothing o' it," said Matthew.

"And don't victuals spring up as well as drink?" asked Coggan, twirling his eye.

"No—I own to a **blot** there in Bath—a true blot. God didn't provide 'em with victuals as well as drink, and 'twas a **drawback** I couldn't get over at all."

"Well, 'tis a curious **place**, to say the least," observed Moon; "and it must be a curious people that live therein."

"Miss Everdene and the soldier were walking about together, you say?" said Gabriel, returning to the group.

"Ay, and she wore a beautiful gold-colour silk gown, **trimmed** with black lace, that would have stood alone 'ithout legs inside if required. 'Twas a very **winsome** sight; and her hair was brushed splendid. And when the sun shone upon the bright gown and his red coat—my! how **handsome** they looked. You could see 'em all the length of the street."

"And what then?" murmured Gabriel.

Thesaurus

barbarian: (*n*) Goth, vandal, brute; (*adj*) heathen, barbaric, barbarous, uncivilized, uncultured, wild, rude, foreign. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cultured, refined; (*n*) native, citizen.
blot: (*n, v*) spot, blemish, smudge, mark, slur, taint, shame; (*v*) tarnish, blob; (*n*) blotch; (*adj, n*) fault. ANTONYMS: (*v*) dampen, grace, soak, wet, beautify, improve, enhance.
boiled: (*adj*) intoxicated, poached,

stewed; (*v*) sodden.
drawback: (*n*) catch, hitch, snag, shortcoming, defect, detriment, failing, inconvenience, disability, hurdle, encumbrance. ANTONYMS: (*n*) benefit, bonus, edge, strength.
handsome: (*adj*) fair, beautiful, fine, generous, charming, comely, attractive, bountiful, considerable, bonny, prepossessing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ugly, unattractive, meager, ungenerous, measly, plain.

lace: (*v*) entwine, interlace, braid, bind; (*adj, v*) tie, string; (*n*) lacing, ribbon, edging; (*n, v*) net, rope. ANTONYMS: (*v*) untie, untwine, unpick.
trimmed: (*adj, v*) down, slashed, shortened, neat, mown, level, gelded, emasculated, demure, cunning, sly.
winsome: (*adj, v*) winning; (*adj*) charming, engaging, fetching, sweet, comely, cheerful, merry, buxom, enchanting, lovable.

“And then I went into Griffin’s to hae my boots hobbled, and then I went to Riggs’s batty-cake shop, and asked ‘em for a penneth of the cheapest and nicest stales, that were all but blue-mouldy, but not quite. And whilst I was chawing ‘em down I walked on and seed a clock with a face as big as a **baking** trendle—”

“But that’s nothing to do with mistress!”

“I’m coming to that, if you’ll leave me alone, Mister Oak!” remonstrated Cainy. “If you excites me, perhaps you’ll bring on my cough, and then I shan’t be able to tell ye nothing.”

“Yes—let him tell it his own way,” said Coggan.

Gabriel settled into a **despairing** attitude of patience, and Cainy went on:—

“And there were great large houses, and more people all the week long than at Weatherbury club-walking on White Tuesdays. And I went to grand churches and chapels. And how the parson would pray! Yes; he would **kneel** down and put up his hands together, and make the holy gold rings on his fingers gleam and twinkle in yer eyes, that he’d earned by **praying** so excellent well!—Ah yes, I wish I lived there.”

“Our poor Parson Thirdly can’t get no money to buy such rings,” said Matthew Moon, thoughtfully. “And as good a man as ever walked. I don’t believe poor Thirdly have a single one, even of humblest tin or copper. Such a great **ornament** as they’d be to him on a dull afternoon, when he’s up in the pulpit lighted by the wax candles! But ‘tis impossible, poor man. Ah, to think how **unequal** things be.”

“Perhaps he’s made of different stuff than to wear ‘em,” said Gabriel, grimly. “Well, that’s enough of this. Go on, Cainy—quick.”

“Oh—and the new style of parsons wear moustaches and long beards,” continued the **illustrious** traveller, “and look like Moses and Aaron complete, and make we fokes in the congregation feel all over like the children of Israel.”

“A very right feeling—very,” said Joseph Poorgrass.

Thesaurus

baking: (*adj*) hot, scorching, roasting, burning, boiling, sweltering, torrid; (*n*) cookery, cooking, stoving, firing. ANTONYM: (*adj*) fresh.

despairing: (*adj*) hopeless, desperate, despondent, forlorn, desolate, dejected, pessimistic, sad, brokenhearted, miserable, inconsolable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) hopeful, optimistic, rosy, happy, confident, cheerful.

illustrious: (*adj, n*) glorious,

celebrated, excellent, grand; (*adj*) famous, bright, eminent, famed, distinguished, brilliant, well-known. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unknown, obscure, ordinary, undistinguished, lowly.

kneel: (*v*) genuflect, cringe, stoop, bob, cry for quarter, dip, duck, humble oneself; (*n*) kneeling, knee, movement.

ornament: (*n*) decoration, adornment, embellishment, decor; (*v*) beautify,

decorate, deck, embellish, adorn; (*n, v*) garnish, dress. ANTONYM: (*v*) strip.

praying: (*n*) prayer.

unequal: (*adj*) different, unlike, uneven, rough, lopsided, unfair, inadequate, disparate, disproportionate, unbalanced, unsymmetrical. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) equal, even, fair, identical, similar, same, level, constant, balanced, like, corresponding.

“And there’s two religions going on in the nation now—High Church and High Chapel. And, thinks I, I’ll play fair; so I went to High Church in the morning, and High Chapel in the afternoon.”

“A right and proper boy,” said Joseph Poorgrass.

“Well, at High Church they pray singing, and worship all the colours of the rainbow; and at High Chapel they pray **preaching**, and worship drab and **whitewash** only. And then—I didn’t see no more of Miss Everdene at all.”

“Why didn’t you say so afore, then?” exclaimed Oak, with much disappointment.

“Ah,” said Matthew Moon, “she’ll wish her cake dough if so be she’s over intimate with that man.”

“She’s not over intimate with him,” said Gabriel, **indignantly**.

“She would know better,” said Coggan. “Our mis’ess has too much sense under they knots of black hair to do such a mad thing.”

“You see, he’s not a coarse, ignorant man, for he was well brought up,” said Matthew, dubiously. “’Twas only **wildness** that made him a soldier, and maids rather like your man of sin.”

“Now, Cain Ball,” said Gabriel restlessly, “can you swear in the most awful form that the woman you saw was Miss Everdene?”

“Cain Ball, you be no longer a **babe** and suckling,” said Joseph in the **sepulchral** tone the circumstances demanded, “and you know what taking an oath is. ’Tis a horrible testament mind ye, which you say and seal with your blood-stone, and the **prophet** Matthew tells us that on whomsoever it shall fall it will **grind** him to powder. Now, before all the work-folk here assembled, can you swear to your words as the shepherd asks ye?”

“Please no, Mister Oak!” said Cainy, looking from one to the other with great uneasiness at the spiritual magnitude of the position. “I don’t mind saying ‘tis true, but I don’t like to say ‘tis damn true, if that’s what you mane.”

Thesaurus

babe: (*n*) infant, baby, chick, sweetie, suckling, nursling, child, newborn, chit, girl, darling. ANTONYMS: (*n*) grownup, adult, adolescent.

grind: (*n, v*) labor, toil, comminute, drudge; (*v*) grate, crunch, abrade, chew, scrape, mash; (*n*) mill. ANTONYMS: (*v*) blunt, smooth.

indignantly: (*adv*) irately, angrily, wrathfully, enragedly, sorely, acrimoniously, cynically, sulkily, hotly, exasperatedly, furiously.

preaching: (*n*) sermon, lecture, homily, preaching, baccalaureate, speech, pulpit, exhortation, kerygma; (*v*) preach; (*adj*) hence.

prophet: (*n*) augur, oracle, vaticinator, seer, predictor, diviner, forecaster, visionary, foreteller, priest, clairvoyant.

sepulchral: (*adj, v*) hollow, hoarse; (*v*) mortuary, harsh, rough, horrisonous, grum; (*adj*) ghastly, raucous, husky; (*n*) funeral.

whitewash: (*adj, v*) blanch, bleach; (*n*) clear; (*v*) absolve, gild, varnish, polish, exculpate; (*n, v*) exonerate, excuse; (*adj*) etiolate. ANTONYMS: (*v*) expose, reveal, lose.

wildness: (*n*) fierceness, ferocity, savageness, abandon, rage, extravagance, ferociousness, intensity, vehemence; (*v*) wilderness; (*n, v*) waste. ANTONYMS: (*n*) tameness, order, meekness, gentleness, caution, orderliness.

“Cain, Cain, how can you!” asked Joseph sternly. “You be asked to **swear** in a holy manner, and you swear like wicked Shimei, the son of Gera, who **cursed** as he came. Young man, fie!”

“No, I don’t! ‘Tis you want to **squander** a **pore** boy’s **soul**, Joseph Poorgrass—that’s what ‘tis!” said Cain, beginning to cry. “All I mane is that in common truth ‘twas Miss Everdene and Sergeant Troy, but in the horrible so-help-me truth that ye want to make of it perhaps ‘twas somebody else!”

“There’s no getting at the rights of it,” said Gabriel, turning to his work.

“Cain Ball, you’ll come to a bit of bread!” groaned Joseph Poorgrass.

Then the reapers’ hooks were flourished again, and the old sounds went on. Gabriel, without making any **pretence** of being **lively**, did nothing to show that he was particularly dull. However, Coggan knew pretty nearly how the land lay, and when they were in a nook together he said—

“Don’t take on about her, Gabriel. What difference does it make whose sweetheart she is, since she can’t be yours?”

“That’s the very thing I say to myself,” said Gabriel.

Thesaurus

cursed: (*adj*) damned, doomed, execrable, cussed, wretched, unlucky, accursed, blamed, blasted, confounded; (*v*) accurst.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) commendable, honorable, nice, sweet, kine.

lively: (*adj, adv*) jolly, sprightly; (*adj, v*) active, cheerful; (*adj*) energetic, agile, keen, busy, gay, fresh, jovial.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lethargic, listless, inactive, unexciting, lifeless, awkward, sad, gentle, tired, insipid,

subdued.

pore: (*n*) stoma, interstice, emunctory, gully hole; (*v*) speculate, meditate, contemplate, concentrate, centre, engulf, engross.

pretence: (*n*) deceit, pretext, dissimulation, pretense, affectation, falsehood, deception, hypocrisy, bluff, appearance, pretension.

soul: (*n*) creature, human, person, personification, ghost, individual, mind, essence, life, self; (*adj, n*) heart.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) surface, body.

squander: (*v*) fritter, dissipate, exhaust, lavish, blow, expend; (*adj, v*) consume, spend, desolate; (*n*) prodigality, dissipation.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) conserve, manage.

swear: (*v*) declare, assure, assert, affirm, curse, pledge; (*n, v*) promise, avow, depone, depose, aver.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) distrust, refute, deny, compliment.

CHAPTER XXXIV

HOME AGAIN—A TRICKSTER

That same evening at dusk Gabriel was leaning over Coggan's garden-gate, taking an **up-and-down** survey before retiring to rest.

A vehicle of some kind was softly creeping along the **grassy** margin of the lane. From it spread the tones of two women talking. The tones were natural and not at all suppressed. Oak instantly knew the voices to be those of Bathsheba and Liddy.

The carriage came opposite and passed by. It was Miss Everdene's gig, and Liddy and her mistress were the only occupants of the seat. Liddy was asking questions about the city of Bath, and her companion was answering them listlessly and unconcernedly. Both Bathsheba and the horse seemed weary.

The **exquisite** relief of finding that she was here again, safe and sound, **overpowered** all reflection, and Oak could only **luxuriate** in the sense of it. All grave reports were forgotten.

He lingered and lingered on, till there was no difference between the eastern and western expanses of sky, and the timid hares began to **limp courageously** round the dim hillocks. Gabriel might have been there an additional half-hour when a dark form walked slowly by. "Good-night, Gabriel," the **passer** said.

Thesaurus

courageously: (*adv*) intrepidly, valiantly, boldly, daringly, fearlessly, gallantly, heroically, hardily, dauntlessly, audaciously, stoutheartedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) timidly, execrably, fearfully, nervously.

exquisite: (*adj*) beautiful, delicate, excellent, dainty, gorgeous, admirable, acute, heavenly, choice, wonderful; (*adj, v*) delightful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, inferior,

ugly, subdued, rough, poor, coarse, mild, imperfect, horrible, flawed.

grassy: (*adj*) verdant, gramineous, weedy, herby, woody, fertile, blossoming, abundant, leafy, lush, flourishing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) grassless, urban, withering.

limp: (*adv, n, v*) hobble; (*adj, v*) flabby; (*n, v*) hitch; (*adj*) flaccid, slack, flexible, drooping, flimsy, weak, loose; (*v*) hop. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) taut, firm, hard, rigid, upright, alive,

strong, stiff, tight.

luxuriate: (*v*) revel, relish, bask, wallow, enjoy, thrive, prosper, mushroom, grow, savor, soak up. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dislike.

overpowered: (*adj*) beaten, conquered, inundated, engulfed, flooded, routed, vanquished, subdued, subjugated, overflowing, mild.

passer: (*n*) passerby, passenger, forward passer, genus passer.

up-and-down: (*adj*) mercurial.

It was Boldwood. “Good-night, sir,” said Gabriel.

Boldwood likewise vanished up the road, and Oak shortly afterwards turned indoors to bed.

Farmer Boldwood went on towards Miss Everdene’s house. He reached the front, and **approaching** the entrance, saw a light in the parlour. The blind was not drawn down, and inside the room was Bathsheba, looking over some papers or letters. Her back was towards Boldwood. He went to the door, knocked, and waited with tense muscles and an aching brow.

Boldwood had not been outside his garden since his meeting with Bathsheba in the road to Yalbury. Silent and alone, he had remained in **moody meditation** on woman’s ways, **deeming** as **essentials** of the whole sex the accidents of the single one of their number he had ever closely beheld. By degrees a more charitable temper had pervaded him, and this was the reason of his sally to-night. He had come to **apologize** and beg forgiveness of Bathsheba with something like a sense of shame at his violence, having but just now **learnt** that she had returned – only from a visit to Liddy, as he supposed, the Bath **escapade** being quite unknown to him.

He inquired for Miss Everdene. Liddy’s manner was odd, but he did not notice it. She went in, leaving him standing there, and in her absence the blind of the room containing Bathsheba was pulled down. Boldwood augured ill from that sign. Liddy came out.

“My mistress cannot see you, sir,” she said.

The farmer instantly went out by the gate. He was unforgiven – that was the issue of it all. He had seen her who was to him simultaneously a delight and a torture, sitting in the room he had shared with her as a **peculiarly** privileged guest only a little earlier in the summer, and she had denied him an entrance there now.

Boldwood did not hurry homeward. It was ten o’clock at least, when, walking deliberately through the lower part of Weatherbury, he heard the carrier’s spring van entering the village. The van ran to and from a town in a

Thesaurus

aching: (*adj*) sore, achy, hurt, uncomfortable, tender, hurtful, agonizing; (*n*) ache, pain, hurting; (*v*) griped.

apologize: (*n*) palliate, extenuate, apology, gloze; (*n, v*) excuse; (*v*) apologise, beg pardon, give satisfaction, justify, plead; (*adj*) sorry. ANTONYM: (*v*) defy.

deeming: (*v*) deem.

escapade: (*n*) lark, adventure, prank, caper, exploit, romp, dangerous

undertaking, crotchety, capriccio; (*adj, n*) monkey trick; (*adj*) boutade.

essentials: (*n*) basics, rudiments, details, facts, information, introduction, necessities, particulars, the whole story, brass tacks, specifics.

learnt: (*adj*) learned.

meditation: (*n, v*) contemplation, study; (*n*) consideration, reflection, deliberation, thought, introspection, musing, rumination, conception, reflexion. ANTONYM: (*n*)

distraction.

moody: (*adj*) gloomy, dark, irritable, morose, capricious, glum, grumpy, fickle, petulant, dour, sullen.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) equable, happy, reliable, stable, calm.

peculiarly: (*adj, adv*) particularly, curiously, unusually, uncommonly, singularly; (*adv*) especially, oddly, strangely, specifically, weirdly, specially. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) typically, ordinarily, slightly.

northern direction, and it was **owned** and driven by a Weatherbury man, at the door of whose house it now pulled up. The **lamp** fixed to the head of the **hood illuminated** a **scarlet** and **gilded** form, who was the first to alight.

“Ah!” said Boldwood to himself, “come to see her again.”

Troy entered the carrier’s house, which had been the place of his lodging on his last visit to his **native** place. Boldwood was moved by a sudden determination. He hastened home. In ten minutes he was back again, and made as if he were going to call upon Troy at the carrier’s. But as he approached, some one opened the door and came out. He heard this person say “Good-night” to the inmates, and the voice was Troy’s. This was strange, coming so immediately after his arrival. Boldwood, however, hastened up to him. Troy had what appeared to be a carpet-bag in his hand—the same that he had brought with him. It seemed as if he were going to leave again this very night.

Troy turned up the hill and **quickened** his pace. Boldwood stepped forward.

“Sergeant Troy?”

“Yes—I’m Sergeant Troy.”

“Just arrived from up the country, I think?”

“Just arrived from Bath.”

“I am William Boldwood.”

“Indeed.”

The tone in which this word was **uttered** was all that had been wanted to bring Boldwood to the point.

“I wish to speak a word with you,” he said.

“What about?”

“About her who lives just ahead there—and about a woman you have wronged.”

“I wonder at your impertinence,” said Troy, moving on.

Thesaurus

gilded: (*adj, v*) gilt; (*adj*) rich, gold, golden, deluxe, gilden, fortunate, garish, advantageous, aured, luxurious.

hood: (*n*) bonnet, cowl, hat, headdress, coif, hoodlum, thug, lid, kerchief, malefactor; (*n, v*) cover.

illuminated: (*adj*) lit, lighted, luminous, enlightened, clear, light, shining, irradiated, lighter, Lighty, irradiate.

lamp: (*n*) light, lantern, beacon,

headlight, flashbulb, flashgun, table lamp, oil lamp, storm lantern; (*n, v*) look; (*v*) behold.

native: (*adj, n*) aboriginal, natural; (*adj*) inherent, inborn, innate, congenital, inbred, indigenous, domestic; (*n*) autochthon, aborigine. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) stranger, migrant, foreigner; (*adj*) foreign, learned, acquired, nonnative, overseas, adopted; (*adj, n*) immigrant, imported.

owned: (*v*) owed, ought; (*adj*) own,

proprietary; (*n*) aught.

quickened: (*adj*) hasty, rapid, passionate, intoxicated.

scarlet: (*adj*) crimson, ruddy, carmine, ruby, sanguine, rubicund, reddish, cerise; (*n*) vermilion, orange red, redness.

troy: (*n*) city, Iliion, ilium, metropolis, system of weights, troy weight.

uttered: (*adj*) expressed, express, verbalised, verbalized, vocal, explicit, oral; (*v*) spoke, quoth, said.

“Now look here,” said Boldwood, standing in front of him, “wonder or not, you are going to hold a conversation with me.”

Troy heard the dull determination in Boldwood’s voice, looked at his **stalwart frame**, then at the thick **cudgel** he carried in his hand. He remembered it was past ten o’clock. It seemed worth while to be civil to Boldwood.

“Very well, I’ll listen with pleasure,” said Troy, **placing** his bag on the ground, “only speak low, for somebody or other may **overhear** us in the farmhouse there.”

“Well then—I know a good deal concerning your Fanny Robin’s attachment to you. I may say, too, that I believe I am the only person in the village, excepting Gabriel Oak, who does know it. You ought to marry her.”

“I suppose I ought. Indeed, I wish to, but I cannot.”

“Why?”

Troy was about to **utter** something hastily; he then checked himself and said, “I am too poor.” His voice was changed. Previously it had had a **devil-may-care** tone. It was the voice of a **trickster** now.

Boldwood’s present mood was not critical enough to notice tones. He continued, “I may as well speak plainly; and understand, I don’t wish to enter into the questions of right or wrong, woman’s honour and shame, or to express any opinion on your conduct. I intend a business transaction with you.”

“I see,” said Troy. “Suppose we sit down here.”

An old tree **trunk** lay under the hedge immediately opposite, and they sat down.

“I was engaged to be married to Miss Everdene,” said Boldwood, “but you came and — —”

“Not engaged,” said Troy.

“As good as engaged.”

“If I had not turned up she might have become engaged to you.”

“Hang might!”

Thesaurus

cudgel: (*n*) bludgeon, truncheon, stick, staff, switch, mace, baton; (*v*) beat, bat, hit, drub.

devil-may-care: (*adj*) reckless, rash, happy-go-lucky, jaunty, rollicking, unmindful, easygoing, careless, wanton, foolhardy, negligent.

frame: (*n, v*) construct, design, fabricate, make, fashion, border, build, forge; (*v*) draft, erect, contrive.

overhear: (*v*) catch, eavesdrop, listen, overheard, understand, fold up,

befool, fascinate, entrance, enchant, enamour.

placing: (*n*) placement, arrangement, disposition, installation, allocation, ordering, disposal, borrowing, composition.

stalwart: (*adj*) brawny, brave, sturdy, strapping, resolute, hardy, powerful, sinewy, firm, stout, courageous.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unreliable, weak, inconstant, feeble, delicate, cowardly, uncommitted.

trickster: (*n*) tricker, impostor, cheater, swindler, joker, deceiver, faker, fraud, liar, hypocrite; (*n, v*) rogue.

trunk: (*n*) stem, boot, torso, bole, body, stalk, snout, proboscis, stock, tree trunk, box.

utter: (*v*) say, state, speak, breathe, articulate, deliver, voice, pronounce; (*adj, n, v*) express, declare; (*adj, v*) tell.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) qualified, incomplete, uncertain, rather, slight; (*v*) conceal, hide, block.

“Would, then.”

“If you had not come I should certainly – yes, *certainly* – have been accepted by this time. If you had not seen her you might have been married to Fanny. Well, there’s too much difference between Miss Everdene’s station and your own for this **flirtation** with her ever to benefit you by ending in marriage. So all I ask is, don’t **molest** her any more. Marry Fanny. I’ll make it worth your while.”

“How will you?”

“I’ll pay you well now, I’ll settle a sum of money upon her, and I’ll see that you don’t suffer from poverty in the future. I’ll put it clearly. Bathsheba is only playing with you: you are too poor for her as I said; so give up **wasting** your time about a great match you’ll never make for a moderate and **rightful** match you may make to-morrow; take up your carpet-bag, turn about, leave Weatherbury now, this night, and you shall take fifty pounds with you. Fanny shall have fifty to enable her to prepare for the wedding, when you have told me where she is living, and she shall have five hundred paid down on her wedding-day.”

In making this statement Boldwood’s voice revealed only too clearly a consciousness of the weakness of his position, his aims, and his method. His manner had lapsed quite from that of the firm and dignified Boldwood of former times; and such a scheme as he had now engaged in he would have **condemned** as **childishly imbecile** only a few months ago. We discern a grand force in the lover which he lacks whilst a free man; but there is a breadth of vision in the free man which in the lover we vainly seek. Where there is much bias there must be some **narrowness**, and love, though added emotion, is subtracted capacity. Boldwood exemplified this to an abnormal degree: he knew nothing of Fanny Robin’s circumstances or whereabouts, he knew nothing of Troy’s possibilities, yet that was what he said.

“I like Fanny best,” said Troy; “and if, as you say, Miss Everdene is out of my reach, why I have all to gain by accepting your money, and marrying Fan. But she’s only a servant.”

“Never mind – do you agree to my arrangement?”

Thesaurus

childishly: (*adv*) foolishly, babyishly, silly, infantilely, stupidly, immaturely, simply, juvenily, absurdly, ridiculously, frivolously.
condemned: (*adj*) censured, convicted, doomed, destined, appropriated, taken, taken over, fated, seized, predestined; (*adj, v*) guilty.
flirtation: (*n*) flirt, coquetry, flirting, romp, trifling, tease, play, frolic, gambol, amour, gallantry.
imbecile: (*adj*) foolish, idiotic, fatuous,

dumb, imbecilic, simple; (*n*) idiot, moron, cretin, ass, oaf. ANTONYM: (*adj*) genius.
molest: (*v*) harass, assail, assault, plague, bother, harry, attack, annoy, haunt, beset, chevy. ANTONYM: (*v*) defend.
narrowness: (*n*) thinness, width, intolerance, illiberality, tightness, smallness, pettiness, sheerness, slimness, meanness, skinniness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) wideness,

stoutness, thickness, width, coarseness, inaccuracy.
rightful: (*adj*) right, lawful, just, justifiable, proper, legal, equitable, licit, real, genuine, true. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wrongful, illegal, unlawful, fake.
wasting: (*n*) homicide, atrophy, slaughter, slaying, cachexia, assassination, cachexy, amyotrophy, carnage; (*adj*) consuming, consumptive.

"I do."

"Ah!" said Boldwood, in a more **elastic** voice. "Oh, Troy, if you like her best, why then did you step in here and **injure** my happiness?"

"I love Fanny best now," said Troy. "But Bathsh— —Miss Everdene **inflamed** me, and **displaced** Fanny for a time. It is over now."

"Why should it be over so soon? And why then did you come here again?"

"There are **weighty** reasons. Fifty pounds at once, you said!"

"I did," said Boldwood, "and here they are—fifty sovereigns." He handed Troy a small **packet**.

"You have everything ready—it seems that you calculated on my accepting them," said the sergeant, taking the packet.

"I thought you might accept them," said Boldwood.

"You've only my word that the programme shall be adhered to, whilst I at any rate have fifty pounds."

"I had thought of that, and I have considered that if I can't appeal to your honour I can trust to your—well, **shrewdness** we'll call it—not to lose five hundred pounds in prospect, and also make a bitter enemy of a man who is willing to be an extremely useful friend."

"Stop, listen!" said Troy in a whisper.

A light pit-pat was audible upon the road just above them.

"By George—'tis she," he continued. "I must go on and meet her."

"She— who?"

"Bathsheba."

"Bathsheba—out alone at this time o' night!" said Boldwood in amazement, and starting up. "Why must you meet her?"

"She was expecting me to-night—and I must now speak to her, and wish her **good-bye**, according to your wish."

"I don't see the necessity of speaking."

Thesaurus

displaced: (*adj*) disjointed, homeless, gone, extendant, disordered, deranged.

elastic: (*adj*) flexible, springy, soft, pliable, resilient, limber, pliant, yielding, ductile, buoyant; (*n*) rubber band. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rigid, stiff, inflexible, inelastic, unadaptable, intolerant, firm, hard, unyielding.

good-bye: (*n*) bye, farewell, goodbye, goodby, vale, adios, cheerio.

inflamed: (*adj*) impassioned, excited,

angry, hot, flaming, ablaze, irritated, passionate, painful, burning; (*n*) red.

injure: (*n, v*) damage, harm, impair; (*v*) contuse, disfigure, maim, bruise, blemish, wound, insult; (*adj, v*) abuse. ANTONYMS: (*v*) heal, enable, repair, protect, help.

packet: (*n*) bundle, bale, container, parcel, pack, wad, carton, mail boat, wrap, deck, envelope.

shrewdness: (*n*) craftiness, perspicacity, astuteness, gumption,

ingenuity, foxiness, craft, cunning, cleverness, sharpness, sagacity.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) stupidity, ingenuousness, ineptness.

weighty: (*adj*) heavy, ponderous, grievous, powerful, profound; (*adj, v*) grave, serious, momentous, significant, solemn, influential. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) superficial, light, unimportant, trivial, weightless, unsubstantial, thin, solvable, small, facile, easy.

"It can do no harm—and she'll be **wandering** about looking for me if I don't. You shall hear all I say to her. It will help you in your love-making when I am gone."

"Your tone is mocking."

"Oh no. And remember this, if she does not know what has become of me, she will think more about me than if I tell her flatly I have come to give her up."

"Will you **confine** your words to that one point?—Shall I hear every word you say?"

"Every word. Now sit still there, and hold my carpet bag for me, and mark what you hear."

The light footstep came closer, **halting** occasionally, as if the walker listened for a sound. Troy whistled a double note in a soft, fluty tone.

"Come to that, is it!" murmured Boldwood, **uneasily**.

"You promised silence," said Troy.

"I promise again."

Troy stepped forward.

"Frank, dearest, is that you?" The tones were Bathsheba's.

"O God!" said Boldwood.

"Yes," said Troy to her.

"How late you are," she continued, tenderly. "Did you come by the **carrier**? I listened and heard his **wheels entering** the village, but it was some time ago, and I had almost given you up, Frank."

"I was sure to come," said Frank. "You knew I should, did you not?"

"Well, I thought you would," she said, playfully; "and, Frank, it is so lucky! There's not a soul in my house but me to-night. I've packed them all off so nobody on earth will know of your visit to your lady's **bower**. Liddy wanted to go to her grandfather's to tell him about her holiday, and I said she might stay with them till to-morrow—when you'll be gone again."

Thesaurus

bower: (*n*) arbour, alcove, pergola, hermitage, grotto, framing, framework, summer house; (*v*) inclose, embower, enclose.
carrier: (*n*) carrier wave, bearer, messenger, carter, postman, common carrier, vehicle, courier, mailman, porter, charged particle.
confine: (*n, v*) bound, border, limit; (*v*) bind, restrain, circumscribe, tie, incarcerate, hold; (*n*) boundary, bounds. ANTONYMS: (*v*) release,

free, liberate, broaden.
entering: (*n*) entry, entrance, admission, enrollment, penetration, ingress, registration, encroachment, entry; (*adj, n*) incoming; (*v*) go in.
halting: (*adj*) halt, hesitant, broken, crude, grotesque, barbarous; (*adj, v*) lame, crippled; (*adv*) haltingly; (*v*) drooping, flagging. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) easy, firm.
uneasily: (*adv*) apprehensively, restlessly, worriedly, nervously,

solicitously, unquietly, constrainedly, awkwardly, fretfully, unsettledly, fearfully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) calmly, confidently, unconcernedly, comfortably, fearlessly.
wandering: (*adj*) itinerant, nomadic, erratic, rambling, errant, migratory; (*adj, v*) stray, vagrant, vagabond, unsettled; (*n*) peregrination. ANTONYM: (*adj*) resident.
wheels: (*n*) vehicle, truck, car, brush, force.

“Capital,” said Troy. “But, dear me, I had better go back for my bag, because my slippers and brush and **comb** are in it; you run home whilst I **fetch** it, and I’ll promise to be in your parlour in ten minutes.”

“Yes.” She turned and tripped up the hill again.

During the progress of this dialogue there was a nervous **twitching** of Boldwood’s tightly closed lips, and his face became bathed in a clammy dew. He now started forward towards Troy. Troy turned to him and took up the bag.

“Shall I tell her I have come to give her up and cannot marry her?” said the soldier, **mockingly**.

“No, no; wait a minute. I want to say more to you—more to you!” said Boldwood, in a hoarse whisper.

“Now,” said Troy, “you see my dilemma. Perhaps I am a bad man—the victim of my impulses—led away to do what I ought to leave **undone**. I can’t, however, marry them both. And I have two reasons for choosing Fanny. First, I like her best upon the whole, and second, you make it worth my while.”

At the same instant Boldwood sprang upon him, and held him by the neck. Troy felt Boldwood’s grasp slowly **tightening**. The move was absolutely unexpected.

“A moment,” he gasped. “You are injuring her you love!”

“Well, what do you mean?” said the farmer.

“Give me breath,” said Troy.

Boldwood loosened his hand, saying, “By Heaven, I’ve a mind to kill you!”

“And **ruin** her.”

“Save her.”

“Oh, how can she be saved now, unless I marry her?”

Boldwood groaned. He reluctantly released the soldier, and flung him back against the hedge. “Devil, you **torture** me!” said he.

Thesaurus

comb: (*v*) brush, ransack, search, dress, eliminate, groom; (*adj*) weed; (*n*) crest, combing, caruncle, currycomb.

fetch: (*v*) carry, bring, bring in, convey, draw, elicit, deliver, catch, get, attract; (*adj, n*) feint.

mockingly: (*adv*) jeeringly, sneeringly, ironically, derisively, scornfully, sarcastically, satirically, mockly, scoffingly, sardonically, gibingly.

ruin: (*n*) devastation, desolation; (*adj,*

n) downfall; (*v*) break, consume, demolish, destroy; (*n, v*) doom, ravage, destruction, damage.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) conserve, enhance, save, restore, improve; (*n, v*) respect; (*n*) making, success, triumph, rise, preservation.

tightening: (*n*) clamping, thinning, tapering, alteration, modification, narrowing, reduction, adjustment. ANTONYM: (*n*) expansion.

torture: (*n, v*) pain, distress, agonize,

afflict; (*n*) agony, anguish, suffering, excruciation, grief; (*v*) rack, excruciate. ANTONYMS: (*n*) relief, alleviation, content, ecstasy, joy, pleasure; (*v*) relieve, alleviate.

twitching: (*n*) tic, fibrillation, cramp, fasciculation, spasm, contraction, vellication, spasmodic tic.

undone: (*adj*) ruined, unfinished, sunk, done for, finished, behindhand, decayed; (*adj, v*) doomed; (*v*) accursed, to be pitied, devoted.

Troy rebounded like a ball, and was about to make a dash at the farmer; but he checked himself, saying lightly –

“It is not worth while to measure my strength with you. Indeed it is a **barbarous** way of settling a **quarrel**. I shall shortly leave the army because of the same conviction. Now after that revelation of how the land lies with Bathsheba, ‘twould be a mistake to kill me, would it not?”

“ ‘Twould be a mistake to kill you,” repeated Boldwood, mechanically, with a **bowed** head.

“Better kill yourself.”

“Far better.”

“I’m glad you see it.”

“Troy, make her your wife, and don’t act **upon** what I arranged just now. The alternative is dreadful, but take Bathsheba; I give her up! She must love you indeed to sell soul and body to you so utterly as she has done. Wretched woman – deluded woman – you are, Bathsheba!”

“But about Fanny?”

“Bathsheba is a woman well to do,” continued Boldwood, in nervous anxiety, and, Troy, she will make a good wife; and, indeed, she is worth your **hastening** on your marriage with her!”

“But she has a will – not to say a temper, and I shall be a mere slave to her. I could do anything with poor Fanny Robin.”

“Troy,” said Boldwood, imploringly, “I’ll do anything for you, only don’t desert her; pray don’t desert her, Troy.”

“Which, poor Fanny?”

“No; Bathsheba Everdene. Love her best! Love her tenderly! How shall I get you to see how **advantageous** it will be to you to secure her at once?”

“I don’t wish to secure her in any new way.”

Boldwood’s arm moved spasmodically towards Troy’s person again. He **repressed** the instinct, and his form drooped as with pain.

Thesaurus

advantageous: (*adj*) expedient, useful, auspicious, helpful, gainful, serviceable, convenient, lucky, worthwhile, beneficial; (*adj, v*) profitable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) useless, disadvantageous, detrimental, unhelpful, unfortunate, inauspicious, worthless, unpleasant.

barbarous: (*adj*) barbaric, savage, gothic, brutal, heathen, truculent, rude, fell, ferocious, fierce, uncivilized. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) nice,

cultured, civilized, sophisticated, refined, humane.

bowed: (*adj*) arched, curved, inclined, crooked, arciform, arching, arced, bandy, arcuate, twisted, bended. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) straight, concave, plucked.

hastening: (*n*) quickening, speed, hurrying, speeding up, faster, fast, stepping up.

quarrel: (*adj, n, v*) dispute; (*n, v*) fight, feud, brawl, row, altercation, argue,

conflict, squabble; (*n*) dissension, difference. ANTONYMS: (*n*) agreement, reconciliation, acceptance, concord, consensus; (*v*) agree.

repressed: (*adj*) inhibited, suppressed, pent-up, forgotten, subconscious, inner, composed, reserved, unconscious.

upon: (*adv, prep*) above; (*prep*) up, onto, against, towards; (*adv*) on, on that occasion, then, before, by; (*n*) at.

Troy went on—

“I shall soon purchase my discharge, and then — —”

“But I wish you to **hasten** on this marriage! It will be better for you both. You love each other, and you must let me help you to do it.”

“How?”

“Why, by **settling** the five hundred on Bathsheba instead of Fanny, to enable you to marry at once. No; she wouldn’t have it of me. I’ll pay it down to you on the wedding-day.”

Troy paused in secret amazement at Boldwood’s wild infatuation. He carelessly said, “And am I to have anything now?”

“Yes, if you wish to. But I have not much additional money with me. I did not expect this; but all I have is yours.”

Boldwood, more like a **somnambulist** than a **wakeful** man, pulled out the large canvas bag he carried by way of a **purse**, and searched it.

“I have twenty-one pounds more with me,” he said. “Two notes and a **sovereign**. But before I leave you I must have a paper signed — —”

“Pay me the money, and we’ll go straight to her parlour, and make any arrangement you please to secure my compliance with your wishes. But she must know nothing of this cash business.”

“Nothing, nothing,” said Boldwood, **hastily**. “Here is the sum, and if you’ll come to my house we’ll write out the agreement for the remainder, and the terms also.”

“First we’ll call upon her.”

“But why? Come with me to-night, and go with me to-morrow to the surrogate’s.”

“But she must be consulted; at any rate informed.”

“Very well; go on.”

Thesaurus

hasten: (*adj, n, v*) speed, quicken; (*v*) expedite, advance, hurry, hie, dash, rush; (*n, v*) further, forward, dispatch. ANTONYMS: (*v*) linger, retard, amble.
hastily: (*adv*) hurriedly, rapidly, quickly, rashly, promptly, suddenly, thoughtlessly, impetuously, swiftly, imprudently, speedily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) carefully, unhurriedly, industriously, sensibly, prudently, late, calmly, thoroughly, patiently,

gradually, cautiously.
purse: (*n*) bag, pouch, money, handbag, sac, currency, pocketbook, pelf; (*v*) wrinkle, pucker, crease.
settling: (*n*) settlement, subsidence, defecation, dregs, clearing, sinking, dreg, remission, cave in; (*adj*) determining, definitive.
somnambulist: (*n*) sleepwalker, somnambulator, somnambule, slumberer, sleeper, refugee, fugitive, emigrant, hypnotate.

sovereign: (*n*) ruler, king, lord, emperor; (*adj*) independent, autonomous, imperial, royal, free, regal; (*adj, n*) prince. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dependent, ineffective, useless.
wakeful: (*adj*) vigilant, sleepless, awake, observant, restless, light, wary, psychologically light, lightheaded, tripping; (*v*) wistful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unaware, asleep, inattentive, relaxed.

They went up the hill to Bathsheba's house. When they stood at the entrance, Troy said, "Wait here a moment." Opening the door, he glided inside, leaving the door ajar.

Boldwood waited. In two minutes a light appeared in the passage. Boldwood then saw that the chain had been **fastened** across the door. Troy appeared inside, carrying a bedroom **candlestick**.

"What, did you think I should break in?" said Boldwood, **contemptuously**.

"Oh, no, it is merely my humour to secure things. Will you read this a moment? I'll hold the light."

Troy handed a folded newspaper through the **slit** between door and doorpost, and put the candle close. "That's the paragraph," he said, placing his finger on a line.

Boldwood looked and read —

"MARRIAGES

"On the 17th inst., at St. Ambrose's Church, Bath, by the Rev. G. **Mincing**, B.A., Francis Troy, only son of the late Edward Troy, Esq., M.D., of Weatherbury, and sergeant with Dragoon Guards, to Bathsheba, only surviving daughter of the late Mr. John Everdene, of Casterbridge."

"This may be called Fort meeting Feeble, hey, Boldwood?" said Troy. A low gurgle of **derisive** laughter followed the words.

The paper fell from Boldwood's hands. Troy continued —

"Fifty pounds to marry Fanny. Good. Twenty-one pounds not to marry Fanny, but Bathsheba. Good. Finale: already Bathsheba's husband. Now, Boldwood, yours is the ridiculous fate which always attends interference between a man and his wife. And another word. Bad as I am, I am not such a **villain** as to make the marriage or misery of any woman a matter of **huckster** and sale. Fanny has long ago left me. I don't know where she is. I have searched everywhere. Another word yet. You say you love Bathsheba; yet on the

Thesaurus

candlestick: (*n*) candelabra, sconce, chandelier, candle holder, girandole, candleholder, holder, electrolier, gaselier, girandola, luster.

contemptuously: (*adv*) scornfully, sneeringly, insultingly, disparagingly, superciliously, derisively, condescendingly, disrespectfully, haughtily, contumeliously, sardonically. ANTONYM: (*adv*) approvingly.

derisive: (*adj*) ironic, sarcastic,

derisory, contemptuous, cynical, mordant, sardonic, jeering, scornful, quizzical, satirical. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) complimentary, approving, flattering, praising, sympathetic.

fastened: (*adj*) tied, fast, buttoned, closed, tight, secure, pinned, binding, empight, steady, firm. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unfastened, unbuttoned.

huckster: (*v*) chaffer, higgler, peddle, hawk, haggle, vend, dicker; (*n*) costermonger, chapman, higgler,

vendor.

mincing: (*adj*) mince, prim, mannered, twee, pretentious, foppish, affected, la-di-da, simpering, nice, sentimental.

slit: (*n, v*) score, rip, split, breach, slash, crack, scratch; (*n*) crevice, gap; (*adj, n*) cleft; (*v*) slice.

villain: (*n*) rascal, scoundrel, rogue, knave, miscreant, criminal, bandit, crook, reprobate, varlet, rapsallion. ANTONYMS: (*n*) heroine, hero.

merest apparent evidence you **instantly** believe in her dishonour. A fig for such love! Now that I've taught you a lesson, take your money back again."

"I will not; I will not!" said Boldwood, in a hiss.

"Anyhow I won't have it," said Troy, contemptuously. He **wrapped** the packet of gold in the notes, and threw the whole into the road.

Boldwood shook his **clenched fist** at him. "You **juggler** of Satan! You black **hound**! But I'll **punish** you yet; mark me, I'll punish you yet!"

Another peal of **laughter**. Troy then closed the door, and locked himself in.

Throughout the whole of that night Boldwood's dark form might have been seen walking about hills and **downs** of Weatherbury like an unhappy Shade in the Mournful Fields by Acheron.

Thesaurus

clenched: (*adj*) tight, clinched.

downs: (*n*) weary waste, heath, pampas, wold, wild, waste, veldt, steppe, savanna, prairie.

fist: (*n, v*) hand; (*n*) duke, clenched fist, feist, manus, grip, index; (*v*) finger, paw, neif, neaf.

hound: (*v*) bloodhound, chase, hunt, follow, badger, course, bait, pursue; (*n*) greyhound, blackguard, cad. ANTONYM: (*v*) soothe.

instantly: (*adv, n*) directly; (*adj, adv*)

immediately, at once; (*adv*) instantaneously, promptly, forthwith, now, readily, quickly, momentarily, momentarily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) later, slowly, gradually.

juggler: (*n*) performer, magician, cheat, conjurer, prestidigitator, deceiver, trickster, jockey, prestigiator, conveyer.

laughter: (*n*) amusement, fun, guffaw, merriment, chortle, chuckle, mirth, hilarity, giggle, derision, happiness.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) sadness, gloom, despair, boredom, misery, despondency.

punish: (*v*) amerce, discipline, castigate, chasten, chastise, penalize, strike, avenge, pay, beat, execute. ANTONYMS: (*v*) excuse, exonerate, pardon, reward, commend.

wrapped: (*prep*) covered; (*adj*) clothed, draped, rapt, intent, absorbed, engrossed, mantled, packed, immersed; (*adj, prep*) cloaked.

CHAPTER XXXV

AT AN UPPER WINDOW

It was very early the next morning—a time of sun and dew. The confused **beginnings** of many birds' songs spread into the healthy air, and the wan blue of the heaven was here and there **coated** with thin webs of **incorporeal** cloud which were of no effect in **obscuring** day. All the lights in the scene were yellow as to colour, and all the **shadows** were attenuated as to form. The creeping plants about the old manor-house were bowed with rows of heavy water **drops**, which had upon objects behind them the effect of minute lenses of high **magnifying** power.

Just before the clock struck five Gabriel Oak and Coggan passed the village cross, and went on together to the fields. They were yet barely in view of their mistress's house, when Oak fancied he saw the opening of a casement in one of the upper windows. The two men were at this moment **partially screened** by an elder bush, now beginning to be **enriched** with black bunches of fruit, and they paused before **emerging** from its shade.

A handsome man leaned idly from the **lattice**. He looked east and then west, in the manner of one who makes a first morning survey. The man was Sergeant

Thesaurus

beginnings: (*n*) origin, root, early stages, early period, first phase.

coated: (*adj*) clad, bloomed, caked, laminated, clothed.

drops: (*n*) tear.

emerging: (*adj*) nascent, rising, acclivitous, promising, embryonic, budding; (*n*) emanation.

enriched: (*adj*) educated.

incorporeal: (*adj*) immaterial, spiritual, disembodied, insubstantial, intangible, bodiless, ethereal,

incorporeal, impalpable, metaphysical, incorporate. ANTONYM: (*adj*) tangible.

lattice: (*n*) grill, grille, grid, net, fretwork, network, gridiron, wicket, web, netting; (*v*) trellis.

magnifying: (*adj*) cumulative.

obscuring: (*adj*) blinding; (*n*) confusion.

partially: (*adv*) incompletely, in part, unfairly, part, halfway, sectionally, imperfectly, unjustly, prejudicedly,

discriminatorily; (*adj, adv*) half.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) wholly, totally, wholeheartedly, mainly, fairly; (*adj*) fully.

screened: (*adj*) covered, shielded, sheltered, concealed, isolated, select, invisible, shady, hazy, secluded, not exposed.

shadows: (*n*) dark, darkness, night, dimness, dusk, fogginess, mistiness, gloom, cloudiness. ANTONYM: (*n*) brightness.

Troy. His red jacket was loosely thrown on, but not buttoned, and he had altogether the relaxed bearing of a soldier taking his ease.

Coggan spoke first, looking quietly at the window.

"She has married him!" he said.

Gabriel had previously beheld the sight, and he now stood with his back turned, making no reply.

"I fancied we should know something to-day," continued Coggan. "I heard wheels pass my door just after dark—you were out somewhere." He glanced round upon Gabriel. "Good heavens above us, Oak, how white your face is; you look like a corpse!"

"Do I?" said Oak, with a faint smile.

"Lean on the gate: I'll wait a bit."

"All right, all right."

They stood by the gate awhile, Gabriel listlessly **staring** at the ground. His mind **sped** into the future, and saw there enacted in years of leisure the scenes of **repentance** that would **ensue** from this work of haste. That they were married he had instantly decided. Why had it been so mysteriously managed? It had become known that she had had a fearful journey to Bath, owing to her miscalculating the distance: that the horse had broken down, and that she had been more than two days getting there. It was not Bathsheba's way to do things furtively. With all her faults, she was **candour** itself. Could she have been entrapped? The union was not only an **unutterable** grief to him: it amazed him, notwithstanding that he had passed the preceding week in a suspicion that such might be the issue of Troy's meeting her away from home. Her quiet return with Liddy had to some extent dispersed the dread. Just as that **imperceptible** motion which appears like stillness is infinitely divided in its properties from stillness itself, so had his hope **undistinguishable** from despair differed from despair indeed.

In a few minutes they moved on again towards the house. The sergeant still looked from the window.

Thesaurus

candour: (*n*) candidness, frankness, forthrightness, fairness, rectitude, purity, straightforwardness, equity, truth, sincerity, simplicity.
ensue: (*v*) come, arise, happen, result, succeed, occur, transpire, turn out, befall, come after, stem.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) forerun, preface, antecede, dwindle, recede.
imperceptible: (*adj*) invisible, intangible, insensible, faint, evanescent, inaudible, negligible,

indiscernible, unseen, unnoticeable, gentle. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) obvious, overwhelming, clear, visible, perceptible, heavy, noticeable, definite, considerable, conspicuous, strong.
repentance: (*n*) contrition, penance, remorse, regret, compunction, sorrow, guilt, contriteness, grief, attrition, atonement. ANTONYMS: (*n*) shamelessness, brazenness.
sped: (*v*) done for.

staring: (*adj*) conspicuous, garish, agaze, vivid, noisy, showy, fixed, opened, glassy; (*adv*) staringly.
undistinguishable: (*adj*) exactly alike, identical, undistinguished.
 ANTONYM: (*adj*) distinguishable.
unutterable: (*adj*) indescribable, unspeakable, inexpressible, unpronounceable, indefinable, untellable, unnameable, unapproachable, beyond description, incommunicable, terrible.

"Morning, comrades!" he shouted, in a **cheery** voice, when they came up.

Coggan replied to the **greeting**. "Bain't ye going to answer the man?" he then said to Gabriel. "I'd say good morning—you needn't spend a hapenny of meaning upon it, and yet keep the man civil."

Gabriel soon decided too that, since the deed was done, to put the best face upon the matter would be the greatest kindness to her he loved.

"Good morning, Sergeant Troy," he returned, in a ghastly voice.

"A **rambling**, gloomy house this," said Troy, smiling.

"Why—they may not be married!" suggested Coggan. "Perhaps she's not there."

Gabriel shook his head. The soldier turned a little towards the east, and the sun kindled his scarlet coat to an orange glow.

"But it is a nice old house," responded Gabriel.

"Yes—I suppose so; but I feel like new wine in an old **bottle** here. My notion is that sash-windows should be put throughout, and these old **wainscoted** walls brightened up a bit; or the oak cleared quite away, and the walls papered."

"It would be a pity, I think."

"Well, no. A philosopher once said in my hearing that the old builders, who worked when art was a living thing, had no respect for the work of builders who went before them, but pulled down and altered as they thought fit; and why shouldn't we? 'Creation and preservation don't do well together,' says he, 'and a million of antiquarians can't **invent** a style.' My mind exactly. I am for making this place more modern, that we may be cheerful whilst we can."

The military man turned and surveyed the interior of the room, to assist his ideas of improvement in this direction. Gabriel and Coggan began to move on.

"Oh, Coggan," said Troy, as if inspired by a **recollection** "do you know if **insanity** has ever appeared in Mr. Boldwood's family?"

Jan reflected for a moment.

Thesaurus

bottle: (*n*) container, jug, flask, cruet, vial, pot, phial, jar, decanter, carboy; (*n, v*) can.

cheery: (*adj*) bright, joyful, jovial, buoyant, sunny, gay, genial, glad, upbeat, vivacious, blithe.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sad, depressing, miserable, funereal, unwelcoming, unfriendly, serious, dull, downbeat, down, troubled.

greeting: (*n*) welcome, salutation, address, greet, compliments,

acknowledgment, accost, hello, hullo, nod; (*v*) salute. ANTONYM: (*n*) goodbye.

insanity: (*adj, n*) craziness, derangement, frenzy, aberration; (*n*) delirium, dementia, mania, folly, lunacy, idiocy; (*adj*) madness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) sanity, sense.

invent: (*v*) devise, form, create, excogitate, concoct, imagine, contrive; (*n, v*) forge, fabricate, design, coin.

rambling: (*adj*) disjointed, incoherent, desultory, discursive, erratic, excursive, meandering, diffuse, loose, errant; (*adj, n*) wandering.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) coherent, abrupt, conclusive, pithy, taciturn, compact.

recollection: (*n, v*) mind; (*n*) reminiscence, recall, anamnesis, remembrance, recognition, memento, memorial, commemoration, memoir, retrospect.

wainscoted: (*adj*) decorated.

"I once heard that an uncle of his was queer in his head, but I don't know the rights o't," he said.

"It is of no importance," said Troy, lightly. "Well, I shall be down in the fields with you some time this week; but I have a few matters to attend to first. So good-day to you. We shall, of course, keep on just as friendly terms as usual. I'm not a proud man: nobody is ever able to say that of Sergeant Troy. However, what is must be, and here's half-a-crown to drink my health, men."

Troy threw the coin dexterously across the front plot and over the fence towards Gabriel, who shunned it in its fall, his face turning to an angry red. Coggan twirled his eye, edged forward, and caught the money in its **ricochet** upon the road.

"Very well—you keep it, Coggan," said Gabriel with **disdain** and almost fiercely. "As for me, I'll do with-out gifts from him!"

"Don't show it too much," said Coggan, musingly. "For if he's married to her, mark my words, he'll buy his discharge and be our master here. Therefore 'tis well to say 'Friend' **outwardly**, though you say 'Troublehouse' within."

"Well—perhaps it is best to be silent; but I can't go further than that. I can't **flatter**, and if my place here is only to be kept by smoothing him down, my place must be lost."

A **horseman**, whom they had for some time seen in the distance, now appeared close beside them.

"There's Mr. Boldwood," said Oak. "I wonder what Troy meant by his question."

Coggan and Oak nodded **respectfully** to the farmer, just checked their paces to discover if they were wanted, and finding they were not stood back to let him pass on.

The only signs of the terrible sorrow Boldwood had been combating through the night, and was combating now, were the want of colour in his well-defined face, the enlarged appearance of the veins in his forehead and temples, and the sharper lines about his mouth. The horse bore him away, and the very step of

Thesaurus

disdain: (*n, v*) despise, contemn, slight, ridicule; (*n*) contempt, derision, arrogance, haughtiness, pride; (*v*) scoff, disparage.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) humility, admiration, reverence, worship, approval, regard; (*v*) approve, admire, praise, accept, participate.
flatter: (*v*) fawn, adulate, wheedle, cajole, soap, kowtow, blandish, grovel, butter up; (*n, v*) court; (*n*) caress. **ANTONYMS:** (*v*) insult,

disparage, criticize, discourage.
horseman: (*n*) cavalier, rider, jockey, horse fancier, horseback rider, trooper, trainer, knight, cavalryman, animal fancier, postilion.
outwardly: (*adv*) exteriorly, superficially, apparently, outside, seemingly, without, ostensibly, evidently, extrinsically, outerly, outsidely. **ANTONYMS:** (*adv*) internally, underneath.
respectfully: (*adv*) reverentially,

reverently, politely, courteously, civilly, attentively, graciously, submissively, obsequiously, admiringly, regardfully.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) impudently, contemptuously, disdainfully, rudely, insolently, audaciously, sneeringly, nastily, irreverently, disobediently, arrogantly.
ricochet: (*n, v*) rebound, boom; (*v*) recoil, bound, jump, kick, glance, reverberate, skip, leap; (*n*) carom.

the animal seemed significant of dogged despair. Gabriel, for a minute, rose above his own grief in **noticing** Boldwood's. He saw the square figure sitting erect upon the horse, the head turned to neither side, the elbows steady by the hips, the **brim** of the hat level and **undisturbed** in its **onward** glide, until the keen **edges** of Boldwood's shape sank by **degrees** over the hill. To one who knew the man and his story there was something more striking in this **immobility** than in a collapse. The clash of **discord** between mood and matter here was forced painfully home to the heart; and, as in laughter there are more dreadful phases than in tears, so was there in the steadiness of this **agonized** man an expression deeper than a cry.

Thesaurus

agonized: (*adj*) distressed, painful, woeful, tormented, suffering, miserable, hurt.

brim: (*n*) rim, periphery, verge, edge, lip, hem, rand, margin, perimeter, brink, limit.

degrees: (*n*) degree, temperature, compass rose, cardinal points.

discord: (*n, v*) conflict, clash; (*n*) disagreement, variance, division, difference, dissension, dissonance, strife, split, contention. ANTONYMS:

(*n*) agreement, harmony, unity, accord, concordance, consent, silence, concord; (*v*) match.

edges: (*n*) boundaries.

immobility: (*adj, n*) fixity; (*n*) fixedness, stillness, stationariness, motionlessness, immovability, immovableness; (*adj*) vitality, stiffness, stabiliment, solidity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) bustle, movement.

noticing: (*n*) observation, look; (*adj*) conscious.

onward: (*adv*) ahead, forwards, before, forth, onwards, along, in advance, frontward, forrader; (*adv, prep*) on; (*adj*) progressive. ANTONYM: (*adv*) backward.

undisturbed: (*adj*) peaceful, quiet, tranquil, serene, placid, still, easy, smooth, uninterrupted, untroubled, composed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) tense, anxious, agitated, bothered, disordered, disturbed, noisy, scared.

CHAPTER XXXVI

WEALTH IN JEOPARDY—THE REVEL

One night, at the end of August, when Bathsheba's experiences as a married woman were still new, and when the weather was yet dry and **sultry**, a man stood motionless in the stockyard of Weatherbury Upper Farm, looking at the moon and sky.

The night had a sinister aspect. A heated breeze from the south slowly fanned the summits of lofty objects, and in the sky dashes of buoyant cloud were sailing in a course at right angles to that of another **stratum**, neither of them in the direction of the breeze below. The moon, as seen through these films, had a lurid metallic look. The fields were **sallow** with the **impure** light, and all were tinged in **monochrome**, as if beheld through stained glass. The same evening the sheep had trailed homeward head to tail, the behaviour of the rooks had been confused, and the horses had moved with **timidity** and caution.

Thunder was imminent, and, taking some secondary **appearances** into consideration, it was likely to be followed by one of the **lengthened rains** which mark the close of dry weather for the season. Before twelve hours had passed a harvest atmosphere would be a bygone thing.

Thesaurus

appearances: (*n*) show, semblance, outlook, indicia.

impure: (*adj*) defiled, dirty, unclean, squalid, sordid, filthy, bastard, foul, immoral, profane, contaminated.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unmixed, clean.

lengthened: (*adj*) elongated, prolonged, long, protracted, expanded, elongate, longer, lingering, extensive, stretched out, lengthy.

monochrome: (*adj*) monochromatic,

monochromous, colorful, coloured, constant; (*n*) painting, photo, camaieu, cameo, exposure; (*v*) polychrome.

rains: (*n*) wet.

sallow: (*adj*) pasty, pallid, bloodless, sickly, wan, ashen, fair, white, tawny, sandy; (*n*) osier. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dark, glowing.

stratum: (*n*) layer, bed, level, seam, floor, ply, stage, story, horizon, class, plane.

sultry: (*adj*) hot, humid, muggy, oppressive, stifling, sticky, ardent, sensual, stuffy, sweltering, torrid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) fresh, cool, cold, temperate, dry.

timidity: (*n*) shyness, fear, bashfulness, nervousness, reserve, cowardice, fearfulness, timidness, modesty, humility, coyness.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) confidence, boastfulness, swagger, brashness, security.

Oak gazed with misgiving at eight naked and unprotected ricks, massive and heavy with the rich produce of one-half the farm for that year. He went on to the barn.

This was the night which had been selected by Sergeant Troy—ruling now in the room of his wife—for giving the harvest supper and dance. As Oak approached the building the sound of violins and a **tambourine**, and the regular jiggling of many feet, grew more distinct. He came close to the large doors, one of which stood slightly **ajar**, and looked in.

The central space, together with the **recess** at one end, was emptied of all incumbrances, and this area, covering about two-thirds of the whole, was **appropriated** for the gathering, the remaining end, which was piled to the ceiling with oats, being screened off with sail-cloth. Tufts and garlands of green foliage decorated the walls, beams, and extemporized chandeliers, and immediately opposite to Oak a **rostrum** had been erected, bearing a table and chairs. Here sat three **fiddlers**, and beside them stood a frantic man with his hair on end, perspiration streaming down his cheeks, and a tambourine **quivering** in his hand.

The dance ended, and on the black oak floor in the midst a new row of couples formed for another.

“Now, ma’am, and no offence I hope, I ask what dance you would like next?” said the first violin.

“Really, it makes no difference,” said the clear voice of Bathsheba, who stood at the inner end of the building, observing the scene from behind a table covered with cups and **viands**. Troy was lolling beside her.

“Then,” said the fiddler, “I’ll venture to name that the right and proper thing is “The Soldier’s Joy” — there being a gallant soldier married into the farm—hey, my sonnies, and gentlemen all?”

“It shall be ‘The Soldier’s Joy,’ ” exclaimed a chorus.

“Thanks for the compliment,” said the sergeant **gaily**, taking Bathsheba by the hand and leading her to the top of the dance. “For though I have purchased

Thesaurus

ajar: (*v*) dissentient, unclosed, unstopped, wide open, out of tune; (*adj*) open, gaping, partly open, not closed.

appropriated: (*adj*) taken, destined, taken over, confiscate, confiscated, condemned, seized, reserved.

fiddler: (*n*) Fiddler’s money, trumpeter, fifer, instrumentalist, musician, player, piper, violin player, twiddler, tinkerer, drummer.

gaily: (*adv, v*) happily; (*adv*) gladly,

joyfully, joyfully, cheerfully, mirthfully, joyously, gleefully, sunnily, blithely, lively.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) sadly, anxiously, dully, despondently.

quivering: (*adj, n*) trembling, tremor, quaking, trepidation; (*n*) palpitation, quiver, vibration; (*adj*) flutter, quavering, shivering, tremulous.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) steady.

recess: (*n*) niche, pause, intermission, holiday, nook, vacation, hollow,

alcove, interval, interruption; (*n, v*) break. ANTONYM: (*n*) continuation.

rostrum: (*n*) podium, pulpit, snout, platform, dais, beak, bill, bow, hustings, stump, reading desk.

tambourine: (*n*) drum, tympan, timbrel, tamburin, tambourin, membranophone.

viands: (*n*) provender, victuals, provisions, food, sustenance, commissariat, larder, cates, diet, nourishment, edible.

my discharge from Her Most Gracious Majesty's regiment of cavalry the 11th Dragoon Guards, to attend to the new duties awaiting me here, I shall continue a soldier in spirit and feeling as long as I live."

So the dance began. As to the merits of "The Soldier's Joy," there cannot be, and never were, two opinions. It has been observed in the musical circles of Weatherbury and its vicinity that this melody, at the end of three-quarters of an hour of **thunderous footing**, still possesses more **stimulative** properties for the heel and toe than the majority of other dances at their first opening. "The Soldier's Joy" has, too, an additional charm, in being so **admirably** adapted to the tambourine aforesaid — no mean instrument in the hands of a **performer** who understands the proper convulsions, spasms, St. Vitus's dances, and fearful frenzies necessary when exhibiting its tones in their highest perfection.

The **immortal** tune ended, a fine DD rolling forth from the bass-viol with the **sonorousness** of a **cannonade**, and Gabriel delayed his entry no longer. He avoided Bathsheba, and got as near as possible to the platform, where Sergeant Troy was now seated, drinking brandy-and-water, though the others drank without exception cider and ale. Gabriel could not easily thrust himself within speaking distance of the sergeant, and he sent a message, asking him to come down for a moment. The sergeant said he could not attend.

"Will you tell him, then," said Gabriel, "that I only stepped ath'art to say that a heavy rain is sure to fall soon, and that something should be done to protect the ricks?"

"Mr. Troy says it will not rain," returned the messenger, "and he cannot stop to talk to you about such fidgets."

In juxtaposition with Troy, Oak had a melancholy tendency to look like a candle beside gas, and ill at ease, he went out again, thinking he would go home; for, under the circumstances, he had no heart for the scene in the barn. At the door he paused for a moment: Troy was speaking.

"Friends, it is not only the harvest home that we are **celebrating** to-night; but this is also a Wedding Feast. A short time ago I had the happiness to lead to the altar this lady, your mistress, and not until now have we been able to give any

Thesaurus

admirably: (*adv*) superbly, perfectly, excellently, admirable, marvellously, heroically, bravely, brilliantly, nicely, creditably, ably. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) badly, inadequately, dishonorably, execrably, incompetently, poorly.
cannonade: (*v*) bombard, bomb, roll, assail; (*n*) barrage, fire, storm, thunder, siege, obsession, boom.
celebrating: (*adj*) jubilant, complimentary.
footing: (*n*) foothold, base, bottom,

foundation, status, rank, foot, pedestal, situation, relation, root. ANTONYM: (*n*) top.
immortal: (*adj*) eternal, enduring, undying, endless, monumental; (*adj, v*) deathless, imperishable, celebrated; (*n*) deity, God, divinity. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) obscure, earthly, forgettable, perishable, temporary.
performer: (*n*) musician, doer, artiste, comedian, player, conjurer, juggler, magician, executant, thespian, agent.

sonorousness: (*n*) ringing, reverberance, resonance, plangency, sound, vibrancy, rapport, quality, ring.
stimulative: (*adj*) irritant, excitant, irritative, excitative, stimulating, stimulant, provocative, irritating, excitatory, bracing, moving.
thunderous: (*adj*) earsplitting, deafening, loud, booming, roaring, terrific, shrill, boisterous, unpropitious, turbulent, thriving.

public flourish to the event in Weatherbury. That it may be thoroughly well done, and that every man may go happy to bed, I have ordered to be brought here some bottles of brandy and kettles of hot water. A treble-strong **goblet** will be handed round to each guest."

Bathsheba put her hand upon his arm, and, with **upturned** pale face, said imploringly, "No—don't give it to them—pray don't, Frank! It will only do them harm: they have had enough of everything."

"True—we don't wish for no more, thank ye," said one or two.

"Pooh!" said the sergeant contemptuously, and raised his voice as if lighted up by a new idea. "Friends," he said, "we'll send the women-folk home! 'Tis time they were in bed. Then we cockbirds will have a jolly **carouse** to ourselves! If any of the men show the white feather, let them look elsewhere for a winter's work."

Bathsheba indignantly left the barn, followed by all the women and children. The musicians, not looking upon themselves as "company," slipped quietly away to their spring waggon and put in the horse. Thus Troy and the men on the farm were left sole occupants of the place. Oak, not to appear unnecessarily disagreeable, stayed a little while; then he, too, arose and quietly took his departure, followed by a friendly oath from the sergeant for not staying to a second round of **grog**.

Gabriel proceeded towards his home. In approaching the door, his toe kicked something which felt and sounded soft, **leathery**, and distended, like a boxing-glove. It was a large **toad** humbly travelling across the path. Oak took it up, thinking it might be better to kill the creature to save it from pain; but finding it **uninjured**, he placed it again among the grass. He knew what this direct message from the Great Mother meant. And soon came another.

When he struck a light indoors there appeared upon the table a thin glistening **streak**, as if a brush of varnish had been lightly dragged across it. Oak's eyes followed the **serpentine** sheen to the other side, where it led up to a huge brown garden-slug, which had come indoors to-night for reasons of its

Thesaurus

carouse: (*n, v*) carousal, wassail; (*adj, n, v*) booze; (*adj, v*) bouse; (*v*) riot, drink, roister; (*n*) bender, revelry, racket; (*adj*) tippie. ANTONYM: (*v*) lament.
goblet: (*n*) bowl, chalice, cup, mug, grail, beaker, basin, tumbler, rummer, flask; (*v*) glass.
grog: (*n*) liquor, grog grain, toddy, bishop, rumbo; (*v*) blue ruin, port wine, purl, wassail, negus.
leathery: (*adj*) stringy, coriaceous,

leatherlike, gristly cartilaginous, leathered, tough as whiteleather, hard, stiff, gristly, gnarled, rugged.
serpentine: (*adj, v*) snaky; (*adj*) insidious, crooked, snakelike, tortuous, winding, sinuous, curved, cunning; (*v*) circling, meander.
streak: (*n, v*) ray, dash, mark, flash; (*adj, n*) stripe; (*n*) band, beam, run, bar, groove, gleam.
toad: (*n*) batrachian, anuran, salientian, crapaud, sneak, sheep

frog, robber frog, spadefoot, spadefoot toad; (*v*) toady; (*adj*) satyr.
uninjured: (*adj*) whole, unhurt, intact, unharmed, unblemished, sound, entire; (*adj, n*) unscathed; (*adj, v*) unbroken; (*n, v*) unmarred; (*n*) untainted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) hurt, injured.
upturned: (*adj*) retrouse, overturned, upside-down, broken, disordered, disquieted, distressed, disturbed, confused, topsy-turvy, shapely.

own. It was Nature's second way of hinting to him that he was to prepare for foul weather.

Oak sat down meditating for nearly an hour. During this time two black **spiders**, of the kind common in thatched houses, promenaded the ceiling, ultimately dropping to the floor. This reminded him that if there was one class of manifestation on this matter that he thoroughly understood, it was the instincts of sheep. He left the room, ran across two or three fields towards the flock, got upon a hedge, and looked over among them.

They were crowded close together on the other side around some **furze** bushes, and the first peculiarity **observable** was that, on the sudden appearance of Oak's head over the fence, they did not stir or run away. They had now a terror of something greater than their terror of man. But this was not the most **noteworthy** feature: they were all grouped in such a way that their tails, without a single exception, were towards that half of the horizon from which the storm threatened. There was an inner circle closely **huddled**, and outside these they radiated wider apart, the pattern formed by the flock as a whole not being unlike a vandyked lace collar, to which the **clump** of furze-bushes stood in the position of a wearer's neck.

This was enough to **re-establish** him in his original opinion. He knew now that he was right, and that Troy was wrong. Every voice in nature was unanimous in bespeaking change. But two distinct translations attached to these dumb expressions. Apparently there was to be a thunder-storm, and afterwards a cold continuous rain. The creeping things seemed to know all about the later rain, but little of the interpolated thunder-storm; whilst the sheep knew all about the thunder-storm and nothing of the later rain.

This complication of weathers being uncommon, was all the more to be feared. Oak returned to the stack-yard. All was silent here, and the **conical** tips of the ricks jutted **darkly** into the sky. There were five wheat-ricks in this yard, and three stacks of barley. The wheat when threshed would average about thirty quarters to each stack; the barley, at least forty. Their value to Bathsheba, and

Thesaurus

clump: (*n, v*) cluster, bundle; (*n*) lump, group, clot, knot, tuft, chunk, clod, ball; (*v*) plod.

conical: (*adj*) pyramidal, tapering, copped, conelike, coniform, taper, cone, tapered, copped, pointed.

darkly: (*adv*) murkily, dimly, obscurely, duskily, somberly, shadily, mistily, secretly, dismally, heavily, overcastly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) openly.

furze: (*n*) gorse, Irish gorse, Ulex

europaeus, Needle furze, shrub, bush, bramble, dyeweed.

huddled: (*adj*) crouched, crouching, hunkered down, hunkered.

noteworthy: (*adj*) important, notable, eminent, remarkable, significant, considerable, distinguished, famous, extraordinary, particular, outstanding. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) insignificant, unexceptional, ordinary, general, dubious.

observable: (*adj, adv*) noticeable,

perceptible; (*adj*) discernible, apparent, appreciable, visible, evident, noteworthy, notable, detectable, remarkable.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) hidden, imperceptible, invisible.

re-establish: (*v*) restore, reconstruct, renew, regenerate, reestablish, return.

spiders: (*n*) horseshoe crabs, Araneida, order Araneae, order Araneida, scorpions, Araneae.

indeed to anybody, Oak mentally estimated by the following simple calculation:—

$$5 \times 30 = 150 \text{ quarters} = 500l.$$

$$3 \times 40 = 120 \text{ quarters} = 250l.$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{-----} \\ \text{Total} = 750l. \end{array}$$

Seven hundred and fifty pounds in the divinest form that money can wear—that of necessary food for man and beast: should the risk be run of **deteriorating** this bulk of corn to less than half its value, because of the instability of a woman? “Never, if I can prevent it!” said Gabriel.

Such was the argument that Oak set outwardly before him. But man, even to himself, is a **palimpsest**, having an **ostensible** writing, and another beneath the lines. It is possible that there was this golden legend under the **utilitarian** one: “I will help to my last effort the woman I have loved so dearly.”

He went back to the barn to endeavour to obtain assistance for covering the ricks that very night. All was silent within, and he would have passed on in the belief that the party had broken up, had not a dim light, yellow as **safron** by contrast with the **greenish whiteness** outside, streamed through a knot-hole in the folding doors.

Gabriel looked in. An unusual picture met his eye.

The candles suspended among the evergreens had burnt down to their sockets, and in some cases the leaves tied about them were scorched. Many of the lights had quite gone out, others smoked and **stank**, **grease** dropping from them upon the floor. Here, under the table, and leaning against forms and chairs in every conceivable attitude except the perpendicular, were the wretched persons of all the work-folk, the hair of their heads at such low levels being suggestive of mops and brooms. In the midst of these shone red and distinct the figure of Sergeant Troy, leaning back in a chair. Coggan was on his back, with his mouth open, huzzing forth snores, as were several others; the united

Thesaurus

deteriorating: (*adj*) retrograde, regressing, shabby, retrogressive, regressive, decadent, failing, crumbly, decaying; (*n*) fading; (*v*) worsen. ANTONYM: (*adj*) burgeoning.

grease: (*n, v*) oil, lubricating oil; (*n*) bribe, butter, ointment, soil, stain; (*v*) boodle, anoint, graft, lubricate.

greenish: (*adj*) green, virescent, viridescent, fleecy, envious, covetous, chromatic, porraceous.

ostensible: (*adj*) seeming, alleged, specious, superficial, nominal, manifest, outward, pretended, unreal, supposed, colorable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) real, actual, genuine.

palimpsest: (*n*) manuscript, tabula rasa.

safron: (*n*) yellow, crocus sativus, orange yellow, yellowness, seasoner, seasoning, flavouring, flavourer, saffron crocus, flavorer; (*adj*) topaz.

stank: (*n*) mine dam.

utilitarian: (*adj*) functional, practical, pragmatic, philanthropic, utile, serviceable, humanitarian, helpful, convenient; (*n*) Benthamite, philanthropist. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) surrender, relinquish, soulful, luxury, decorative, useless.

whiteness: (*n*) paleness, ivory, chalk, pearl, bone, bleach, alabaster, frostiness, hoariness, pallor, innocence. ANTONYM: (*n*) black.

breathings of the horizontal **assemblage** forming a subdued roar like London from a distance. Joseph Poorgress was curled round in the fashion of a hedgehog, apparently in **attempts** to present the least possible portion of his surface to the air; and behind him was dimly visible an unimportant **remnant** of William Smallbury. The glasses and cups still stood upon the table, a water-jug being overturned, from which a small **rill**, after tracing its course with marvellous precision down the centre of the long table, fell into the neck of the unconscious Mark Clark, in a steady, **monotonous drip**, like the **dripping** of a **stalactite** in a cave.

Gabriel glanced hopelessly at the group, which, with one or two exceptions, composed all the **able-bodied** men upon the farm. He saw at once that if the ricks were to be saved that night, or even the next morning, he must save them with his own hands.

A faint “ting-ting” resounded from under Coggan’s waistcoat. It was Coggan’s watch striking the hour of two.

Oak went to the **recumbent** form of Matthew Moon, who usually undertook the rough thatching of the home-stead, and shook him. The shaking was without effect.

Gabriel shouted in his ear, “where’s your thatching-beetle and rick-stick and spars?”

“Under the staddles,” said Moon, mechanically, with the unconscious promptness of a medium.

Gabriel let go his head, and it dropped upon the floor like a bowl. He then went to Susan Tall’s husband.

“Where’s the key of the granary?”

No answer. The question was repeated, with the same result. To be shouted to at night was evidently less of a novelty to Susan Tall’s husband than to Matthew Moon. Oak flung down Tall’s head into the corner again and turned away.

Thesaurus

able-bodied: (*adj*) strong, stout, hale, muscular, healthy, athletic, burly, well, hardy, fit, brawny.

assemblage: (*n*) meeting, collection, congregation, set, multitude, crew, confluence, gathering, gang, convention, convocation.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) dispersal, scattering.

attempts: (*adj*) trying.

drip: (*n, v*) drop, trickle, leak, escape; (*n*) leakage; (*v*) distill, weep, seep,

trill, fall, percolate. ANTONYMS: (*v*) flow, pour, surge, flood.

dripping: (*adj*) wet, damp, drenched, sodden, soaked, soggy; (*adj, adv*) sopping, soaking; (*adj, v*) reeking; (*n*) dribble, a drop. ANTONYM: (*adj*) lacking.

monotonous: (*adj*) dull, flat, boring, dreary, tedious, insipid, monotone, monotonic; (*adj, v*) dry, uninteresting, stupid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) exciting, varied, stimulating, lively, exotic,

enthraling, brilliant, flexible.

recumbent: (*adj*) prostrate, accumbent, lying, reclining, flat, procumbent, lying down, horizontal, prone, incumbent, idle.

remnant: (*n*) end, relic, remains, residue, fragment, leftover, survival, trace, oddment, balance, stub.

rill: (*n*) channel, streamlet, creek, rivulet, run, runnel, stream, bourn, beck, arroyo, watercourse.

stalactite: (*n*) drip stone, cylinder.

To be just, the men were not greatly to blame for this painful and **demoralizing** termination to the evening's entertainment. Sergeant Troy had so **strenuously** insisted, glass in hand, that drinking should be the bond of their union, that those who wished to refuse hardly liked to be so unmannerly under the circumstances. Having from their youth up been entirely unaccustomed to any liquor stronger than cider or mild ale, it was no wonder that they had succumbed, one and all, with extraordinary uniformity, after the lapse of about an hour.

Gabriel was greatly depressed. This **debauch** boded ill for that wilful and fascinating mistress whom the faithful man even now felt within him as the embodiment of all that was sweet and bright and hopeless.

He put out the **expiring** lights, that the barn might not be endangered, closed the door upon the men in their deep and oblivious sleep, and went again into the lone night. A hot breeze, as if breathed from the parted lips of some dragon about to swallow the globe, fanned him from the south, while directly opposite in the north rose a grim **misshapen** body of cloud, in the very teeth of the wind. So **unnaturally** did it rise that one could fancy it to be lifted by machinery from below. Meanwhile the faint cloudlets had flown back into the south-east corner of the sky, as if in terror of the large cloud, like a young brood gazed in upon by some monster.

Going on to the village, Oak flung a small stone against the window of Laban Tall's bedroom, expecting Susan to open it; but nobody stirred. He went round to the back door, which had been left **unfastened** for Laban's entry, and passed in to the foot of the stair-case.

"Mrs. Tall, I've come for the key of the granary, to get at the rick-cloths," said Oak, in a stentorian voice.

"Is that you?" said Mrs. Susan Tall, half awake.

"Yes," said Gabriel.

"Come along to bed, do, you drawlatching rogue—keeping a body awake like this!"

Thesaurus

debauch: (*v*) corrupt, debase, deprave, demoralize, vitiate, violate, whore, pollute; (*n*) Saturnalia, orgy; (*n, v*) riot. ANTONYMS: (*v*) upgrade, praise, laud, elevate, honor.
demoralizing: (*adj*) disheartening, discouraging, overwhelming, scary, shocking, uncomfoting, intimidating, unsettling, distressing, upsetting, unhealthy. ANTONYM: (*adj*) comfortable.
expiring: (*adj*) moribund, failing.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) well.
misshapen: (*adj*) deformed, malformed, shapeless, crooked, ugly, contorted, monstrous, unshapely, grotesque, deformity, perverted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) straight, attractive.
strenuously: (*adv*) energetically, zealously, arduously, severely, forcefully, earnestly, laboriously, busily, toilsomely, forwardly, hardly.
unfastened: (*adj*) open, movable,

loose, unbuttoned, overt, opened, opened out, slack, undecided, undetermined, assailable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) buttoned, fixed, shut, tied.
unnaturally: (*adv*) falsely, unusually, contrivedly, affectedly, extraordinarily, monstrously, manneredly, by artificial means, abnormally, peculiarly, cruelly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) normally.

"It isn't Laban—'tis Gabriel Oak. I want the key of the granary."

"Gabriel! What in the name of fortune did you pretend to be Laban for?"

"I didn't. I thought you meant— —"

"Yes you did! what do you want here?"

"The key of the granary."

"Take it then. 'Tis on the **naïl**. People coming disturbing women at this time of night ought— —"

Gabriel took the key, without waiting to hear the conclusion of the **tirade**. Ten minutes later his lonely figure might have been seen dragging four large water-proof coverings across the yard, and soon two of these heaps of treasure in grain were covered snug—two cloths to each. Two hundred pounds were secured. Three wheat-stacks remained open, and there were no more cloths. Oak looked under the staddles and found a **fork**. He mounted the third pile of wealth and began operating, adopting the plan of sloping the upper sheaves one over the other; and, in addition, filling the interstices with the material of some untied sheaves.

So far all was well. By this hurried **contrivance** Bathsheba's property in wheat was safe for at any rate a week or two, provided always that there was not much wind.

Next came the barley. This it was only possible to protect by systematic thatching. Time went on, and the moon vanished not to **reappear**. It was the farewell of the ambassador previous to war. The night had a **haggard** look, like a sick thing; and there came finally an utter **expiration** of air from the whole heaven in the form of a slow breeze, which might have been likened to a death. And now nothing was heard in the yard but the dull thuds of the **beetle** which drove in the spars, and the rustle of thatch in the intervals.

Thesaurus

beetle: (*v*) project, jut, bulge; (*adj*) beetling, impend, bestrive, mount, ride, protrusive; (*n*) mallet; (*adj, v*) hang over.
contrivance: (*n*) device, appliance, gadget, artifice, plot, dodge, resource, plan, contraption, machine, apparatus.
expiration: (*n*) ending, end, conclusion, finish, close, exhalation, termination, exit, death, lapse, expiry. ANTONYM: (*n*) beginning.

fork: (*n*) crotch, bifurcation, turn, branching; (*n, v*) branch, bend; (*v*) diverge, split, branch off, separate, divide. ANTONYM: (*v*) converge.
haggard: (*adj*) emaciated, gaunt, cadaverous, careworn, tired, worn, lean, thin, wasted, pinched, squalid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) relaxed, carefree, healthy.
nail: (*n, v*) arrest, capture; (*v*) catch, collar, apprehend, hook, strike, hit, fasten, nab; (*adj, n*) pin. ANTONYMS:

(*v*) unfasten, detach.
reappear: (*v*) recur, come back, appear, repeat, be restored, get back, happen again, haunt, persist, revert, resume. ANTONYM: (*v*) disappear.
tirade: (*n*) diatribe, invective, sermon, speech, recitation, Philippic, oration, delivery, broadside, lecture, say. ANTONYM: (*n*) calm, harmony, praise.

CHAPTER XXXVII

THE STORM—THE TWO TOGETHER

A light flapped over the scene, as if reflected from **phosphorescent** wings crossing the sky, and a rumble filled the air. It was the first move of the approaching storm.

The second peal was noisy, with comparatively little visible **lightning**. Gabriel saw a candle shining in Bathsheba's bedroom, and soon a shadow swept to and fro upon the blind.

Then there came a third flash. Manoeuvres of a most extraordinary kind were going on in the vast firmamental hollows overhead. The lightning now was the colour of silver, and gleamed in the **heavens** like a **mailed** army. Rumbles became rattles. Gabriel from his elevated position could see over the landscape at least half-a-dozen miles in front. Every hedge, bush, and tree was distinct as in a line **engraving**. In a paddock in the same direction was a herd of heifers, and the forms of these were visible at this moment in the act of **galloping** about in the wildest and maddest confusion, flinging their heels and tails high into the air, their heads to earth. A **poplar** in the immediate fore-ground was like an ink **stroke** on **burnished** tin. Then the picture **vanished**, leaving the darkness so intense that Gabriel worked entirely by feeling with his hands.

Thesaurus

burnished: (*adj*) polished, bright, shiny, lustrous, shimmering, sparkly, glittery, shining; (*adj, v*) sunny; (*v*) meridian, orient.

engraving: (*n*) print, sculpture, plate, picture, carving, copperplate, aquatint, printmaking, engravement, cutting, chasing.

galloping: (*v*) flying.

heavens: (*n*) firmament, heaven, sky, welkin, sphere, atmosphere, celestial sphere, space, skies, area, vault of

heaven.

lightning: (*n*) levin, electricity, thunderbolt, Leven, ignis fatuus, heat lightning, forked lightning, fether, dart, chain lightning; (*adj*) wind.

mailed: (*adj*) armored.

phosphorescent: (*adj*) bright, light, glowing, fluorescent, phosphoreous; (*v*) meteoric, in a blaze, ablaze, blazing, rutilant, relucant.

poplar: (*n*) poplar tree, abele, cottonwood, hackmatack, wood,

white poplar, angiospermous tree, gray poplar, flowering tree, black poplar, balsam poplar.

stroke: (*adj, n*) blow; (*n, v*) touch, caress, mark, buffet, lick, pat; (*n*) beat, hit, knock, bang.

vanished: (*adj, v*) extinct, lost; (*adj*) disappeared, departed, missing, died out, absent, dead, wiped out, bygone; (*v*) exhausted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) found, living.

He had stuck his ricking-rod, or **poniard**, as it was indifferently called—a long iron **lance**, polished by handling—into the stack, used to support the sheaves instead of the support called a groom used on houses. A blue light appeared in the **zenith**, and in some indescribable manner flickered down near the top of the rod. It was the fourth of the larger flashes. A moment later and there was a smack—smart, clear, and short, Gabriel felt his position to be anything but a safe one, and he resolved to descend.

Not a drop of rain had fallen as yet. He wiped his weary brow, and looked again at the black forms of the unprotected stacks. Was his life so valuable to him after all? What were his prospects that he should be so **chary** of running risk, when important and urgent labour could not be carried on without such risk? He resolved to stick to the stack. However, he took a precaution. Under the staddles was a long tethering chain, used to prevent the escape of **errant** horses. This he carried up the ladder, and sticking his rod through the **clog** at one end, allowed the other end of the chain to trail upon the ground. The spike attached to it he drove in. Under the shadow of this extemporized lightning conductor he felt himself comparatively safe.

Before Oak had laid his hands upon his tools again out leapt the fifth flash, with the spring of a serpent and the shout of a **fiend**. It was green as an **emerald**, and the reverberation was stunning. What was this the light revealed to him? In the open ground before him, as he looked over the ridge of the rick, was a dark and apparently female form. Could it be that of the only venturesome woman in the parish—Bathsheba? The form moved on a step: then he could see no more.

“Is that you, ma’am?” said Gabriel to the darkness.

“Who is there?” said the voice of Bathsheba.

“Gabriel. I am on the rick, thatching.”

“Oh, Gabriel!—and are you? I have come about them. The weather awoke me, and I thought of the corn. I am so distressed about it—can we save it anyhow? I cannot find my husband. Is he with you?”

“He is not here.”

Thesaurus

chary: (*adj*) careful, cagey, cagy, guarded, frugal, wary, reluctant, safe, stingy, watchful, illiberal.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) careless, rash, imprudent, reckless, heedless, trusting, forgetful, unwary, eager.
clog: (*n, v*) block, bar, glut; (*v*) choke, obstruct, foul, hinder, encumber, back up; (*n*) obstruction, patten.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) free, clear, open, unblock.
emerald: (*adj*) green, verdigris, verd

antique, malachite, verdant, brilliant; (*n*) beryl, gem, viridity, greenness, chalcedony.
errant: (*adj*) devious, vagabond, erring, erroneous, perverse, fallible, mistaken, migrant, fugitive; (*adj, n*) notorious; (*adv*) adrift. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) reliable, right, pure, inerrant, correct, trustworthy, righteous.
fiend: (*n*) monster, devil, fanatic, brute, deuce, incubus, goblin, ogre, enthusiast, daemon, addict.

ANTONYM: (*n*) angel.
lance: (*n*) pike, javelin, shaft, lancet, assegai, fishgig, fizegig; (*v*) dart, impale, open, gore.
poniard: (*n*) dagger, bodkin, dirk, cutlass, stiletto, stylet, bilbo, Toledo, tuck, brand; (*v*) stab.
zenith: (*n*) apex, peak, top, height, acme, pinnacle, summit, climax, vertex, culmination, prime.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) base, bottom, trough.

“Do you know where he is?”

“Asleep in the barn.”

“He promised that the stacks should be seen to, and now they are all neglected! Can I do anything to help? Liddy is afraid to come out. Fancy finding you here at such an hour! Surely I can do something?”

“You can bring up some reed-sheaves to me, one by one, ma’am; if you are not afraid to come up the ladder in the dark,” said Gabriel. “Every moment is precious now, and that would save a good deal of time. It is not very dark when the lightning has been gone a bit.”

“I’ll do anything!” she said, **resolutely**. She instantly took a sheaf upon her shoulder, clambered up close to his heels, placed it behind the rod, and descended for another. At her third ascent the **rick** suddenly brightened with the brazen glare of shining majolica—every knot in every straw was visible. On the slope in front of him appeared two human shapes, black as jet. The rick lost its sheen—the shapes vanished. Gabriel turned his head. It had been the sixth flash which had come from the east behind him, and the two dark forms on the slope had been the shadows of himself and Bathsheba.

Then came the peal. It hardly was **credible** that such a heavenly light could be the parent of such a diabolical sound.

“How terrible!” she exclaimed, and **clutched** him by the sleeve. Gabriel turned, and steadied her on her aerial **perch** by holding her arm. At the same moment, while he was still reversed in his attitude, there was more light, and he saw, as it were, a copy of the tall poplar tree on the hill drawn in black on the wall of the barn. It was the shadow of that tree, thrown across by a secondary flash in the west.

The next **flare** came. Bathsheba was on the ground now, **shouldering** another sheaf, and she bore its **dazzle** without flinching—thunder and all—and again ascended with the load. There was then a silence everywhere for four or five minutes, and the **crunch** of the spars, as Gabriel hastily drove them in, could

Thesaurus

clutched: (*adj*) tense, worried, anxious, neurotic.

credible: (*adj*) convincing, likely, plausible, reasonable, faithful, specious, conceivable, persuasive, possible, probable; (*adj, n*) authentic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unbelievable, incredible, unconvincing, unlikely, impossible, doubtful, inaccurate, unrealistic.

crunch: (*v*) munch, scrunch, chew, crunch, champ, bite, grind, shatter,

crunch; (*n, v*) crackle, squeeze.

ANTONYM: (*v*) smooth.

dazzle: (*v*) bedazzle, blind, captivate; (*n, v*) sparkle, shine, flash, glare, awe; (*adj*) dazzling, confuse; (*n*) brightness. ANTONYMS: (*v*) bore; (*n*) dullness.

flare: (*n, v*) blaze, flame, burst, glare; (*v*) burn, glint, blaze up, burn up; (*n*) fire; (*adj*) detonate, explode.

perch: (*adj, n, v*) roost; (*v*) light, settle, sit, alight, squat, land; (*adj, v*) lodge, abide, dwell; (*n*) pole.

resolutely: (*adv*) determinedly, decidedly, steadfastly, decisively, unflinching, boldly, steadily, stubbornly, definitely, resolvedly, unwaveringly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) irresolutely, indecisively, uncertainly, feebly, hesitantly, aimlessly.

rick: (*n*) haycock, heap, hayrick, haystack, accumulation, hoard, shock; (*v*) stack, sprain, wrench; (*n, v*) wrick.

shouldering: (*n*) assumption.

again be distinctly heard. He thought the crisis of the storm had passed. But there came a burst of light.

“Hold on!” said Gabriel, taking the sheaf from her shoulder, and grasping her arm again.

Heaven opened then, indeed. The flash was almost too novel for its **inexpressibly** dangerous nature to be at once realized, and they could only comprehend the magnificence of its beauty. It sprang from east, west, north, south, and was a perfect dance of death. The forms of skeletons appeared in the air, shaped with blue fire for bones—dancing, leaping, striding, racing around, and mingling altogether in unparalleled confusion. With these were **intertwined** undulating snakes of green, and behind these was a broad mass of lesser light. Simultaneously came from every part of the tumbling sky what may be called a shout; since, though no shout ever came near it, it was more of the nature of a shout than of anything else earthly. In the meantime one of the **grisly** forms had alighted upon the point of Gabriel’s rod, to run invisibly down it, down the chain, and into the earth. Gabriel was almost blinded, and he could feel Bathsheba’s warm arm tremble in his hand—a sensation novel and thrilling enough; but love, life, everything human, seemed small and trifling in such close juxtaposition with an **infuriated** universe.

Oak had hardly time to gather up these impressions into a thought, and to see how strangely the red feather of her hat shone in this light, when the tall tree on the hill before mentioned seemed on fire to a white heat, and a new one among these terrible voices mingled with the last crash of those preceding. It was a **stupefying** blast, harsh and **pitiless**, and it fell upon their ears in a dead, flat blow, without that reverberation which lends the tones of a drum to more distant thunder. By the lustre reflected from every part of the earth and from the wide domical scoop above it, he saw that the tree was sliced down the whole length of its tall, straight stem, a huge **riband** of bark being apparently flung off. The other portion remained erect, and revealed the bared surface as a strip of white down the front. The lightning had struck the tree. A **sulphurous** smell filled the air; then all was silent, and black as a cave in Hinnom.

Thesaurus

grisly: (*adj*) grim, gruesome, forbidding, frightful, macabre, fearful, formidable, eerie, terrific, redoubtable, horrendous.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) pleasant.

inexpressibly: (*adv*) unspeakably, indescribably, beyond words.

infuriated: (*adj, v*) enraged; (*adj*) furious, incensed, angered, mad, exasperated, provoked, boiling, livid, wrathful, annoyed. ANTONYM: (*adj*) pleased.

intertwined: (*prep*) clasped together, interlocked, interfolded; (*adj*) related, matted, inseparable, disheveled, tangled, entangled.

pitiless: (*adj*) merciless, brutal, harsh, cruel, ruthless, implacable, remorseless, inexorable, inhuman, heartless, hard. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) merciful, charitable, soft, compassionate, warmhearted, sympathetic, flexible, caring, tolerant.

riband: (*n*) ribbon, fascia, band,

ribband, spill, slip, shred, strip, wreath, medal, list.

stupefying: (*adj*) astounding, amazing, staggering, narcotic, miraculous, stupefyingly, inconceivable, stumbling, shocking, incredible, torpedinous.

sulphurous: (*adj*) stifling, acerb, hot, sulphureous, infernal, brimstony, virulent, caustic, containing acid, sultry, burning hot.

"We had a narrow escape!" said Gabriel, hurriedly. "You had better go down."

Bathsheba said nothing; but he could distinctly hear her **rhythmical** pants, and the recurrent rustle of the sheaf beside her in response to her frightened pulsations. She descended the ladder, and, on second thoughts, he followed her. The darkness was now **impenetrable** by the sharpest vision. They both stood still at the bottom, side by side. Bathsheba appeared to think only of the weather—Oak thought only of her just then. At last he said—

"The storm seems to have passed now, at any rate."

"I think so too," said Bathsheba. "Though there are multitudes of gleams, look!"

The sky was now filled with an **incessant** light, frequent repetition melting into complete continuity, as an **unbroken** sound results from the successive strokes on a gong.

"Nothing serious," said he. "I cannot understand no rain falling. But Heaven be praised, it is all the better for us. I am now going up again."

"Gabriel, you are kinder than I deserve! I will stay and help you yet. Oh, why are not some of the others here!"

"They would have been here if they could," said Oak, in a hesitating way.

"O, I know it all—all," she said, adding slowly: "They are all asleep in the barn, in a drunken sleep, and my husband among them. That's it, is it not? Don't think I am a timid woman and can't endure things."

"I am not certain," said Gabriel. "I will go and see."

He crossed to the barn, leaving her there alone. He looked through the chinks of the door. All was in total darkness, as he had left it, and there still arose, as at the former time, the steady buzz of many snores.

He felt a **zephyr curling** about his cheek, and turned. It was Bathsheba's breath—she had followed him, and was looking into the same chink.

Thesaurus

curling: (*adj*) curled, curly, moving, curled up; (*adv*) curlingly; (*n*) croquet, pallone, polo, tipcat, golf, curling edge.

impenetrable: (*adj*) impassable, thick, incomprehensible, hard, mysterious, unfathomable, unintelligible, impervious, opaque, heavy, obscure. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) penetrable, readable, straightforward, apparent, simple, sparse, vulnerable, accessible, transparent, understandable, open.

incessant: (*adj*) endless, continual, everlasting, eternal, constant, continuous, perpetual, unremitting, interminable, persistent; (*adj, v*) frequent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) intermittent, occasional, sporadic, broken, finite.

rhythmical: (*n*) measured, rhythmic; (*adj*) numerous, cyclical, recurrent, cadenced, periodic, serial, diatonic, poetic, numerous. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unrhythmical.

unbroken: (*adj*) continuous, entire, complete, continual, constant, intact, incessant, endless, whole, undivided, solid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) intermittent, temporary, plowed, discontinuous, disturbed, sporadic, partial.

zephyr: (*n*) wind, air, breath, gentle wind, whiff, puff, gentle breeze, aviation; (*v*) Boreas, Eolus, cave of Eolus.

He endeavoured to put off the immediate and painful subject of their thoughts by remarking gently, "If you'll come back again, miss—ma'am, and hand up a few more; it would save much time."

Then Oak went back again, ascended to the top, stepped off the ladder for greater expedition, and went on thatching. She followed, but without a sheaf.

"Gabriel," she said, in a strange and impressive voice.

Oak looked up at her. She had not spoken since he left the barn. The soft and **continual shimmer** of the dying lightning showed a marble face high against the black sky of the opposite quarter. Bathsheba was sitting almost on the **apex** of the stack, her feet gathered up beneath her, and resting on the top round of the ladder.

"Yes, mistress," he said.

"I suppose you thought that when I galloped away to Bath that night it was on purpose to be married?"

"I did at last—not at first," he answered, somewhat surprised at the **abruptness** with which this new subject was **broached**.

"And others thought so, too?"

"Yes."

"And you blamed me for it?"

"Well—a little."

"I thought so. Now, I care a little for your good opinion, and I want to explain something—I have longed to do it ever since I returned, and you looked so **gravely** at me. For if I were to die—and I may die soon—it would be dreadful that you should always think **mistakenly** of me. Now, listen."

Gabriel ceased his rustling.

"I went to Bath that night in the full intention of breaking off my engagement to Mr. Troy. It was owing to circumstances which occurred after I got there that—that we were married. Now, do you see the matter in a new light?"

"I do—somewhat."

Thesaurus

abruptness: (*n*) gradient, shortness, slope, brusqueness, curtness, steepness, haste, hurriedness, rudeness, brevity, hastiness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) gradualness, courtesy, friendliness, gentleness, pleasantness.

apex: (*n*) top, peak, vertex, crown, acme, apices, extremity, height, summit, pinnacle, point. ANTONYMS: (*n*) base, nadir, trough, bottom, abyss, depth.

broached: (*adv*) astir, afoot.
continual: (*adj, adv*) constant; (*adj*) ceaseless, incessant, endless, continuous, frequent, everlasting, uninterrupted, perpetual, unrelenting, perennial. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sporadic, temporary, occasional, finite, inconstant, infrequent, ending, ceasing, halting, rare, acute.
gravely: (*adv*) seriously, soberly, severely, solemnly, badly, staidly, momentarily, heavily, earnestly,

weightily, grievously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) lightheartedly, mildly, slightly; (*adj*) soft.

mistakenly: (*adv*) incorrectly, wrongly, falsely, wrong, inaccurately, untruly, fallaciously, misguidedly, faultily, amiss, foolishly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) rightly, accurately, deliberately.

shimmer: (*n, v*) shine, flash, gleam, sparkle, glitter, glimmer, beam, luster, sheen; (*v*) flicker, twinkle.

"I must, I suppose, say more, now that I have begun. And perhaps it's no harm, for you are certainly under no **delusion** that I ever loved you, or that I can have any object in speaking, more than that object I have mentioned. Well, I was alone in a strange city, and the horse was lame. And at last I didn't know what to do. I saw, when it was too late, that scandal might **seize** hold of me for meeting him alone in that way. But I was coming away, when he suddenly said he had that day seen a woman more beautiful than I, and that his **constancy** could not be counted on unless I at once became his.... And I was grieved and troubled— —" She cleared her voice, and waited a moment, as if to gather breath. "And then, between jealousy and distraction, I married him!" she whispered with desperate impetuosity.

Gabriel made no reply.

"He was not to blame, for it was perfectly true about—about his seeing somebody else," she quickly added. "And now I don't wish for a single remark from you upon the subject—indeed, I forbid it. I only wanted you to know that **misunderstood** bit of my history before a time comes when you could never know it.—You want some more sheaves?"

She went down the ladder, and the work proceeded. Gabriel soon perceived a **languor** in the movements of his mistress up and down, and he said to her, gently as a mother—

"I think you had better go indoors now, you are **tired**. I can finish the rest alone. If the wind does not change the rain is likely to keep off."

"If I am useless I will go," said Bathsheba, in a **flagging** cadence. "But O, if your life should be lost!"

"You are not useless; but I would rather not tire you longer. You have done well."

"And you better!" she said, gratefully. "Thank you for your devotion, a thousand times, Gabriel! Goodnight—I know you are doing your very best for me."

Thesaurus

constancy: (*n*) allegiance, devotion, resolution, fidelity, loyalty, steadfastness, faithfulness, steadiness, firmness, perseverance, unchangeableness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) inconstancy, inconsistency, changefulness, instability, disloyalty, unfaithfulness, unreliability, dishonesty.

delusion: (*n*) hallucination, deception, cheat, chimera, misunderstanding, mirage, trick, fallacy, error,

aberration, falsehood. ANTONYMS: (*n*) comprehension, fact, truth.

flagging: (*adj*) tired, fading, lazy, slack, failing, remiss, pendulous; (*v*) lame, halting, enervate; (*n*) pavement. ANTONYM: (*adj*) prompt.

languor: (*adj, n*) inactivity, inertia, feebleness; (*n*) lethargy, fatigue, infirmity, lassitude, weakness, indifference, ennui; (*adj*) atony. ANTONYM: (*n*) energy.

misunderstood: (*adj*) mistreated,

confused.

seize: (*v*) catch, capture, grab, arrest, clutch, get, apprehend, receive, annex, clasp; (*n, v*) grapple.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) balk, relinquish, restore, surrender, give, remove.

tire: (*n, v*) bore, jade; (*adj, n, v*) fatigue; (*v*) exhaust, harass, fag, weary, wear, pall, prostrate; (*n*) tyre. ANTONYMS: (*v*) interest, invigorate, energize.

She **diminished** in the gloom, and vanished, and he heard the latch of the gate fall as she **passed** through. He worked in a reverie now, musing upon her story, and upon the **contradictoriness** of that **feminine** heart which had caused her to speak more **warmly** to him to-night than she ever had done whilst **unmarried** and free to speak as warmly as she chose.

He was disturbed in his meditation by a **grating** noise from the coach-house. It was the **vane** on the roof turning round, and this change in the wind was the signal for a disastrous rain.

Thesaurus

contradictoriness: (*n*) inconsistency, oppositeness, repugnance, incompatibility.

diminished: (*adj*) abated, weakened, lessened, atrophied, belittled, attenuate, reduced, lower, attenuated, cut, short.

feminine: (*adj*) effeminate, womanly, maidenly, delicate, not male, pistillate, wifely, mild; (*n*) girl, lady, gender. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) male, unwomanly, neuter.

grating: (*adj*) hoarse, strident, harsh, discordant, gravelly, raspy, gruff, raucous; (*n, v*) lattice; (*n*) grate, grid.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pleasing, soothing, smooth, harmonious.

passed: (*adj*) accepted, approved, legal, gone.

unmarried: (*adj*) unwedded, sole, alone, unattached, individual, separate, celibate, widowed, bachelor, maiden, lone. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) married, marital,

attached, wed, involved.

vane: (*adj*) weathercock; (*n*) weather vane, fan blade, cairn, staff, fan, post, beacon, hand, pointer, impeller.

warmly: (*adv*) cordially, ardently, hotly, genially, affectionately, vigorously, fervently, zealously, eagerly, strongly, pleasantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) coolly, inhospitably, sourly, disagreeably, indifferently, frostily, roughly, rudely, apathetically.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

RAIN—
ONE SOLITARY MEETS ANOTHER

It was now five o'clock, and the dawn was promising to break in hues of drab and ash.

The air changed its temperature and stirred itself more vigorously. Cool breezes coursed in transparent **eddies** round Oak's face. The wind **shifted** yet a point or two and blew stronger. In ten minutes every wind of heaven seemed to be **roaming** at large. Some of the thatching on the wheat-stacks was now whirled **fantastically aloft**, and had to be replaced and weighted with some rails that lay near at hand. This done, Oak slaved away again at the barley. A huge drop of rain smote his face, the wind **sarled** round every corner, the trees rocked to the **bases** of their **trunks**, and the twigs clashed in strife. Driving in spars at any point and on any system, inch by inch he covered more and more safely from ruin this **distracting impersonation** of seven hundred pounds. The rain came on in earnest, and Oak soon felt the water to be tracking cold and clammy routes down his back. Ultimately he was reduced well-nigh to a homogeneous sop, and the dyes of his clothes trickled down and stood in a pool at the foot of the ladder. The rain stretched obliquely through the dull atmosphere in liquid spines,

Thesaurus

aloft: (*adj, adv*) overhead; (*adv*) up, on high, over, aloof, upwards, uphill, above ground; (*prep*) upon; (*adj*) eminent, lofty.

bases: (*n*) basis, foundation.

distracting: (*adj*) unsettling, vociferous, unruly, troublesome, troublemaking, misleading, embarrassing, divulsive, disruptive; (*v*) riveting, exciting.

eddies: (*n*) turbulence.

fantastically: (*adv*) wonderfully,

fabulously, tremendously, marvelously, extraordinarily, strangely, queerly, magnificently, grotesquely, whimsically, peculiarly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) plausibly, abysmally.

impersonation: (*n*) embodiment, personification, mimicry, personation, masquerade, caricature, charade, apery, imposture, performing; (*v*) simulation.

roaming: (*adj*) wandering, roving,

errant, itinerant, Peripatetic, traveling, vagabond, astray; (*n*) ramble, journey, ubiquity.

shifted: (*adj*) disordered, gone.

sarled: (*adj*) tangled, gnarly, knobbed, complex, twisted, snarly, gnarled, matted, untidy, knotty.

trunks: (*n*) short pants, pants, luggage, Jockey shorts, Jamaica shorts, Bermuda shorts, bathing trunks, bathing suit, costume, drawers, swimming trunks.

unbroken in continuity between their beginnings in the clouds and their points in him.

Oak suddenly remembered that eight months before this time he had been fighting against fire in the same spot as desperately as he was fighting against water now—and for a **futile** love of the same woman. As for her— —But Oak was generous and true, and dismissed his reflections.

It was about seven o'clock in the dark leaden morning when Gabriel came down from the last stack, and thankfully exclaimed, "It is done!" He was drenched, weary, and sad, and yet not so sad as drenched and weary, for he was cheered by a sense of success in a good cause.

Faint sounds came from the barn, and he looked that way. Figures stepped **singly** and in pairs through the doors—all walking awkwardly, and abashed, save the foremost, who wore a red jacket, and advanced with his hands in his pockets, whistling. The others shambled after with a **conscience**-stricken air: the whole **procession** was not unlike Flaxman's group of the suitors **tottering** on towards the **infernal** regions under the conduct of Mercury. The gnarled shapes passed into the village, Troy, their leader, entering the farmhouse. Not a single one of them had turned his face to the ricks, or apparently bestowed one thought upon their condition.

Soon Oak too went homeward, by a different route from theirs. In front of him against the wet **glazed** surface of the lane he saw a person walking yet more slowly than himself under an umbrella. The man turned and plainly started; he was Boldwood.

"How are you this morning, sir?" said Oak.

"Yes, it is a wet day. — Oh, I am well, very well, I thank you; quite well."

"I am glad to hear it, sir."

Boldwood seemed to awake to the present by degrees. "You look tired and ill, Oak," he said then, **desultorily** regarding his companion.

"I am tired. You look strangely altered, sir."

"I? Not a bit of it: I am well enough. What put that into your head?"

Thesaurus

conscience-stricken: (*adj*) remorseful, bad, contrite, penitent, sorry, guilty.

desultorily: (*adv*) disconnectedly, ramblingly, irregularly, immethodically, erratically, indiscriminately, spasmodically, discursively, fitfully, purposelessly, capriciously.

futile: (*adj*) useless, empty, ineffective, frivolous, idle, abortive, bootless, hopeless, meaningless, vain, hollow.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) successful, useful,

fruitful, meaningful, worthwhile, promising, productive, effective.

glazed: (*adj*) glossy, glassed, glazen, vitreous, vitrified, icy, lustrous, shiny, empty, slippery, glasslike. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unglazed, alert, dull.

infernal: (*adj*) devilish, fiendish, diabolical, demonic, damned, cursed, blasted, unholy, wicked; (*adj, v*) diabolic, satanic.

procession: (*n*) march, convoy,

cortege, cavalcade, file, string, pageant, series, sequence, progress, column.

singly: (*adv*) one by one, separately, independently, severally, solely, respectively; (*adj, adv*) alone, only, merely; (*adj*) single, particularly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) multiply.

tottering: (*adj*) unsteady, ramshackle, easily shaken, tottery, sick, rocky, broken, trembling, cracked; (*v*) drooping; (*n*) convulsion.

"I thought you didn't look quite so **topping** as you used to, that was all."

"Indeed, then you are mistaken," said Boldwood, shortly. "Nothing hurts me. My constitution is an iron one."

"I've been working hard to get our ricks covered, and was barely in time. Never had such a struggle in my life.... Yours of course are safe, sir."

"Oh yes," Boldwood added, after an interval of silence: "What did you ask, Oak?"

"Your ricks are all covered before this time?"

"No."

"At any rate, the large ones upon the stone staddles?"

"They are not."

"Them under the hedge?"

"No. I forgot to tell the thatcher to set about it."

"Nor the little one by the **stile**?"

"Nor the little one by the stile. I **overlooked** the ricks this year."

"Then not a **tenth** of your corn will come to measure, sir."

"Possibly not."

"Overlooked them," repeated Gabriel slowly to himself. It is difficult to describe the intensely dramatic effect that announcement had upon Oak at such a moment. All the night he had been feeling that the neglect he was labouring to repair was abnormal and isolated—the only instance of the kind within the circuit of the county. Yet at this very time, within the same parish, a greater waste had been going on, uncomplained of and **disregarded**. A few months earlier Boldwood's **forgetting** his **husbandry** would have been as **preposterous** an idea as a **sailor** forgetting he was in a ship. Oak was just thinking that whatever he himself might have suffered from Bathsheba's marriage, here was a man who had suffered more, when Boldwood spoke in a changed voice—that of one who yearned to make a confidence and relieve his heart by an **outpouring**.

Thesaurus

disregarded: (*adj*) unnoticed, neglected, unseen, written off, wretched, unvalued, unheeded, overlooked, lost, irrecoverable; (*v*) unregarded.

forgetting: (*v*) forget; (*adj*) oblivious; (*n*) disregard.

husbandry: (*n*) cultivation, farming, economy, frugality, culture, conservation, thrift, tillage, dairying, horticulture, gardening.

outpouring: (*n*) outpour, effusion,

flow, outflow, gush, jet, barrage, leakage, outburst, effluence, overflow.

overlooked: (*adj*) ignored, neglected, unobserved, unnoted, unmarked.

preposterous: (*adj*) absurd, irrational, ludicrous, nonsensical, foolish, ridiculous, laughable, derisory, monstrous, inconsistent; (*adj, v*) extravagant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sensible, reasonable, impressive, plausible.

sailor: (*n*) seaman, seafarer, tar, bluejacket, gob, boatman, navigator, navy man, lascar, Panama, leghorn.

stile: (*n*) bar, flight of stairs, upright, vertical, step, barrier, montant.

tenth: (*adj, n*) tithe; (*adj*) denary, decimal, decuple, tenfold; (*n*) ten percent, tenth part, simple fraction, common fraction, disme.

topping: (*n*) frosting, icing, filling, precutting, meringue; (*adj*) proud, best possible.

“Oak, you know as well as I that things have gone wrong with me lately. I may as well own it. I was going to get a little settled in life; but in some way my plan has come to nothing.”

“I thought my mistress would have married you,” said Gabriel, not knowing enough of the full depths of Boldwood’s love to keep silence on the farmer’s account, and determined not to evade discipline by doing so on his own. “However, it is so sometimes, and nothing happens that we expect,” he added, with the **repose** of a man whom misfortune had **inured** rather than subdued.

“I daresay I am a joke about the parish,” said Boldwood, as if the subject came **irresistibly** to his tongue, and with a miserable **lightness** meant to express his indifference.

“Oh no—I don’t think that.”

“—But the real truth of the matter is that there was not, as some fancy, any jilting on—her part. No engagement ever existed between me and Miss Everdene. People say so, but it is untrue: she never promised me!” Boldwood stood still now and turned his wild face to Oak. “Oh, Gabriel,” he continued, “I am weak and foolish, and I don’t know what, and I can’t **fend** off my miserable grief! ... I had some faint belief in the mercy of God till I lost that woman. Yes, He prepared a **gourd** to shade me, and like the prophet I thanked Him and was glad. But the next day He prepared a worm to **smite** the gourd and **with**er it; and I feel it is better to die than to live!”

A silence followed. Boldwood aroused himself from the momentary mood of confidence into which he had drifted, and walked on again, resuming his usual reserve.

“No, Gabriel,” he resumed, with a carelessness which was like the smile on the countenance of a skull: “it was made more of by other people than ever it was by us. I do feel a little regret occasionally, but no woman ever had power over me for any length of time. Well, good morning; I can trust you not to mention to others what has passed between us two here.”

Thesaurus

fend: (*v*) repel, resist, dispel, guard, counteract, obstruct, ward off, protect, safeguard, fend off; (*n*) fen.
gourd: (*n*) bottle gourd, pumpkin, melon, Lagenaria, gourd, vine, noddle, exploding cucumber, fruit, flask, calabash tree.
inured: (*adj*) accustomed, callous, enured, habituated, casehardened, confirmed, emotionally hardened, broken in, given, tough, trained.
irresistibly: (*adv*) charmingly,

necessarily, overwhelmingly, charismatically, fiercely, temptingly, overpoweringly, appealingly, beguilingly.
lightness: (*n*) brightness, buoyancy, frivolity, flightiness, delicacy, airiness, agility, levity, light, nimbleness, flippancy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) darkness, gravity, weight, harshness, seriousness.
repose: (*n, v*) recline, peace, lie, calm; (*n*) composure, ease, quiet, leisure,

recreation, relaxation; (*v*) lay. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) work; (*n*) activity, panic, agitation.
smite: (*v*) strike, hit, buffet, bang, clout, knock, smash, thrash, thump, batter, affect.
wither: (*v*) shrink, wilt, contract, shrivel, languish, droop, dry, waste, wane, atrophy, decay. ANTONYMS: (*v*) swell, strengthen, grow, blossom, flourish.

CHAPTER XXXIX

COMING HOME—A CRY

On the turnpike road, between Casterbridge and Weatherbury, and about three miles from the former place, is Yalbury Hill, one of those steep long ascents which **pervade** the highways of this undulating part of South Wessex. In returning from market it is usual for the farmers and other gigo-gentry to **alight** at the bottom and walk up.

One Saturday evening in the month of October Bathsheba's vehicle was duly creeping up this **incline**. She was sitting listlessly in the second seat of the gig, whilst walking beside her in farmer's marketing suit of unusually fashionable cut was an erect, **well-made** young man. Though on foot, he held the reins and whip, and occasionally aimed light cuts at the horse's ear with the end of the **lash**, as a recreation. This man was her husband, formerly Sergeant Troy, who, having bought his discharge with Bathsheba's money, was gradually transforming himself into a farmer of a **spirited** and very modern school. People of **unalterable** ideas still insisted upon calling him "Sergeant" when they met him, which was in some degree owing to his having still retained the well-shaped moustache of his military days, and the **soldierly** bearing inseparable from his form and training.

Thesaurus

alight: (*v*) light, land, perch, dismount, get down, settle, get off, descend; (*adj*) ablaze, burning, blazing.

ANTONYM: (*v*) mount.

incline: (*v*) cant, dispose, bend; (*n, v*) slope, bias, dip, tilt; (*n*) ascent, gradient, grade, inclination.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) indispose, level; (*n*) hollow, descent.

lash: (*n, v*) beat, chastise, scourge, goad; (*v*) flog, bind, batter; (*adj, v*) strap, tie, lace; (*n*) hit. ANTONYMS:

(*v*) unlash, untie.

pervade: (*adj, v*) fill; (*v*) infiltrate, penetrate, diffuse, imbue, percolate, occupy, impregnate, saturate, pass through, charge.

soldierly: (*adj*) soldierlike, military, courageous, valiant, warlike, manful, hostile, warriorlike.

spirited: (*adj*) animated, frisky, energetic, racy, bold, gritty, quick, enthusiastic, dashing, peppery, brave. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) spiritless, lifeless,

feeble, cowardly, apathetic, lethargic, spineless, dull, solemn, sluggish, lackluster.

unalterable: (*adj*) constant, unalterable, immutable, permanent, invariable, firm, changeless, rigid, stable, irrevocable, unchangeable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) alterable, impermanent, temporary, fluid, flexible.

well-made: (*adj*) strong, fine, sturdy, buxom, dainty.

“Yes, if it hadn’t been for that **wretched** rain I should have cleared two hundred as easy as looking, my love,” he was saying. “Don’t you see, it altered all the chances? To speak like a book I once read, wet weather is the narrative, and fine days are the episodes, of our country’s history; now, isn’t that true?”

“But the time of year is come for **changeable** weather.”

“Well, yes. The fact is, these autumn **races** are the ruin of everybody. Never did I see such a day as ‘twas! ‘Tis a wild open place, just out of Budmouth, and a drab sea rolled in towards us like liquid misery. Wind and rain—good Lord! Dark? Why, ‘twas as black as my hat before the last race was run. ‘Twas five o’clock, and you couldn’t see the horses till they were almost in, leave alone colours. The ground was as heavy as lead, and all judgment from a fellow’s experience went for nothing. Horses, riders, people, were all blown about like ships at sea. Three booths were blown over, and the wretched folk inside crawled out upon their hands and knees; and in the next field were as many as a dozen hats at one time. Ay, Pimpernel regularly stuck fast, when about sixty yards off, and when I saw Policy stepping on, it did knock my heart against the **lining** of my ribs, I **assure** you, my love!”

“And you mean, Frank,” said Bathsheba, sadly—her voice was painfully lowered from the fulness and **vivacity** of the previous summer—“that you have lost more than a hundred pounds in a month by this dreadful horse-racing? O, Frank, it is cruel; it is foolish of you to take away my money so. We shall have to leave the farm; that will be the end of it!”

“Humbug about cruel. Now, there ‘tis again—turn on the **waterworks**; that’s just like you.”

“But you’ll promise me not to go to Budmouth second meeting, won’t you?” she implored. Bathsheba was at the full depth for tears, but she maintained a dry eye.

“I don’t see why I should; in fact, if it turns out to be a fine day, I was thinking of taking you.”

Thesaurus

assure: (*n, v*) certify, warrant, vouch; (*v*) secure, persuade, satisfy, reassure, affirm, promise, ascertain; (*adj, v*) ensure. ANTONYMS: (*v*) alarm, disclaim, deny, disbelieve, undermine.

changeable: (*adj*) inconsistent, erratic, capricious, irregular, mobile, mutable, slippery, uncertain, unsettled, unstable, mercurial. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) fixed, stable, unchangeable, consistent,

predictable, regular, dependable, immutable, certain, invariable, lasting.

lining: (*n*) liner, backing, bushing, insulation, covering, coating, bearing lining, babbitting, inside, protection, cladding.

races: (*n*) racing, athletics.

vivacity: (*adj, n*) life, liveliness; (*n*) energy, vitality, enthusiasm, dash, spirit, vigor, happiness, sparkle, effervescence. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

apathy, dullness, sluggishness.

waterworks: (*n*) aqueduct, tears, public utility, utility, tear, water supply.

wretched: (*adj*) unfortunate, pitiful, sad, pitiable, woeful, pathetic, piteous, lamentable; (*adj, v*) poor, unhappy, forlorn. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) fine, strong, fortunate, overjoyed, nice, admirable, good, cheery, joyous, lucky, comfortable.

“Never, never! I’ll go a hundred miles the other way first. I hate the sound of the very word!”

“But the question of going to see the race or staying at home has very little to do with the matter. Bets are all booked safely enough before the race begins, you may depend. Whether it is a bad race for me or a good one, will have very little to do with our going there next Monday.”

“But you don’t mean to say that you have risked anything on this one too!” she exclaimed, with an agonized look.

“There now, don’t you be a little fool. Wait till you are told. Why, Bathsheba, you have lost all the **pluck** and **sauciness** you formerly had, and upon my life if I had known what a **chicken**-hearted creature you were under all your **boldness**, I’d never have—I know what.”

A flash of indignation might have been seen in Bathsheba’s dark eyes as she looked resolutely ahead after this reply. They moved on without further speech, some early-withered leaves from the trees which **hooded** the road at this spot occasionally spinning downward across their path to the earth.

A woman appeared on the brow of the hill. The ridge was in a cutting, so that she was very near the husband and wife before she became visible. Troy had turned towards the gig to **remount**, and whilst putting his foot on the step the woman passed behind him.

Though the **overshadowing** trees and the approach of **eventide** enveloped them in gloom, Bathsheba could see plainly enough to discern the extreme poverty of the woman’s garb, and the sadness of her face.

“Please, sir, do you know at what time Casterbridge Union-house closes at night?”

The woman said these words to Troy over his shoulder.

Troy started **visibly** at the sound of the voice; yet he seemed to recover presence of mind sufficient to prevent himself from giving way to his impulse to suddenly turn and face her. He said, slowly—

“I don’t know.”

Thesaurus

boldness: (*n*) prowess, face, daring, valor, nerve, assurance, heroism, audaciousness, spirit, cheek, valour.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) cowardice, shyness, timidity, meekness, reticence.
chicken-hearted: (*adj*) chicken, white-livered, yellow, pusillanimous, cowardly, frightened.
eventide: (*n*) eve, dusk, night, twilight, nightfall, eleventh hour, sunset, daytime, daylight, day, curfew.
hooded: (*v*) cucullate, encuirassed,

dermatoid, squamiferous, tectiform; (*adj*) covered, capistrated, cucullated, draped, enclosed, kerchieft.
overshadowing: (*adj*) consuming, major, overwhelming, uncontrollable, unbearable, intense.
pluck: (*adj, n*) nerve; (*v*) cull, jerk, gather, pick, fleece, grab; (*n*) grit, courage, boldness; (*n, v*) pull.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) cowardice, gutlessness; (*v*) undercharge.
remount: (*v*) climb on, get on, hop on,

jump on, mount up.
sauciness: (*n*) pertness, impudence, insolence, gall, cheek, flippancy, perkiness, archness, cheekiness, effrontery, sauce.
visibly: (*adv*) apparently, noticeably, manifestly, obviously, plainly, perceptibly, appreciably, clearly, discernibly, overtly, conspicuously.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) imperceptibly, invisibly, secretly, ambiguously.

The woman, on hearing him speak, quickly looked up, examined the side of his face, and recognized the soldier under the yeoman's garb. Her face was drawn into an expression which had gladness and **agony** both among its elements. She uttered an **hysterical** cry, and fell down.

"Oh, poor thing!" exclaimed Bathsheba, instantly **preparing** to alight.

"Stay where you are, and attend to the horse!" said Troy, **peremptorily** throwing her the **reins** and the **whip**. "Walk the horse to the top: I'll see to the woman."

"But I — —"

"Do you hear? Clk — Poppet!"

The horse, gig, and Bathsheba moved on.

"How on earth did you come here? I thought you were miles away, or dead! Why didn't you write to me?" said Troy to the woman, in a strangely gentle, yet hurried voice, as he lifted her up.

"I feared to."

"Have you any money?"

"None."

"Good Heaven—I wish I had more to give you! Here's—wretched—the merest trifle. It is every **farthing** I have left. I have none but what my wife gives me, you know, and I can't ask her now."

The woman made no answer.

"I have only another moment," continued Troy; "and now listen. Where are you going to-night? Casterbridge Union?"

"Yes; I thought to go there."

"You shan't go there; yet, wait. Yes, perhaps for to-night; I can do nothing better—worse luck! Sleep there to-night, and stay there to-morrow. Monday is the first free day I have; and on Monday morning, at ten exactly, meet me on Grey's Bridge just out of the town. I'll bring all the money I can **muster**. You

Thesaurus

agony: (*n*) torture, suffering, torment, distress, misery, passion, pain, grief, pang, sorrow, throe. ANTONYMS: (*n*) pleasure, joy, euphoria, bliss, happiness, ecstasy, peace, content.
farthing: (*n*) craps, faro, ante, chuck, doit, small change; (*adj*) bulrush, pinch of snuff, peppercorn, old son, jot.
hysterical: (*adj, n*) feverish; (*adj*) wild, violent, eccentric, frenzied, emotional, fitful, febrile, erratic; (*n*)

fanatical, hysterics. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) relaxed, composed, restrained.
muster: (*v*) assemble, gather, congregate, collect, convene, rally, marshal, accumulate; (*n*) levy, gathering; (*n, v*) draft. ANTONYM: (*v*) demobilize.
peremptorily: (*adv*) absolutely, positively, imperatively, flatly, dogmatically, magisterially, commandingly, imperiously, authoritatively, decidedly, decisively.

preparing: (*n*) preparation, manufacturing; (*v*) brewing, prepare; (*adj*) preliminary, forthcoming, coming.
reins: (*n*) bridle, Reins of a vault, reins of government, wheel, gearshift, joystick, pedals, potency, power, powerfulness.
whip: (*n, v*) lash, strap, goad; (*v*) flog, flagellate, beat, punish, thrash, trounce, stir, wallop. ANTONYMS: (*v*) lose, return.

shan't want—I'll see that, Fanny; then I'll get you a lodging somewhere. Good-bye till then. I am a brute—but good-bye!"

After advancing the distance which completed the ascent of the hill, Bathsheba turned her head. The woman was upon her feet, and Bathsheba saw her withdrawing from Troy, and going **feebly** down the hill by the third milestone from Casterbridge. Troy then came on towards his wife, stepped into the gig, took the reins from her hand, and without making any observation whipped the horse into a trot. He was rather agitated.

"Do you know who that woman was?" said Bathsheba, looking **searchingly** into his face.

"I do," he said, looking **boldly** back into hers.

"I thought you did," said she, with angry hauteur, and still regarding him. "Who is she?"

He suddenly seemed to think that **frankness** would benefit neither of the women.

"Nothing to either of us," he said. "I know her by sight."

"What is her name?"

"How should I know her name?"

"I think you do."

"Think if you will, and be — —" The sentence was completed by a smart cut of the whip round Poppet's **flank**, which caused the animal to start forward at a wild pace. No more was said.

Thesaurus

boldly: (*adj, adv*) courageously, valiantly, heroically; (*adv*) fearlessly, daringly, bravely, intrepidly, impudently, audaciously, shamelessly, brashly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) discreetly, modestly, nervously, hesitantly, shyly, fearfully, meekly, submissively, secretly, respectfully, diffidently.
feebly: (*adv*) faintly, unenthusiastically, dimly, hopelessly, unproductively, unpersuasively,

unconvincingly, uncertainly, reluctantly, powerlessly, insipidly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) robustly, confidently, domineeringly, vehemently, stubbornly, strongly, effectively, convincingly, competently, admirably, wholeheartedly.

flank: (*n*) side, aspect, wing, abdomen, facet, subfigure, formation; (*v*) border, skirt; (*adj*) cover, ward.

frankness: (*n*) honesty, truth,

forthrightness, candidness, freedom, sincerity, candour, plainness, bluntness, outspokenness, ingenuousness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) cunning, tact, delicacy, deceit, conformity, reticence, indirectness, evasiveness.

searchingly: (*adv*) closely, piercingly, cuttingly, inquisitively, penetratingly, trenchantly, acutely, exhaustively, curiously, inquiringly, exploratorily.

CHAPTER XL

ON CASTERBRIDGE HIGHWAY

For a considerable time the woman walked on. Her steps became feebler, and she **strained** her eyes to look afar upon the naked road, now indistinct amid the penumbræ of night. At length her onward walk dwindled to the merest **totter**, and she opened a gate within which was a **haystack**. Underneath this she sat down and **presently** slept.

When the woman **awoke** it was to find herself in the depths of a moonless and starless night. A heavy unbroken **crust** of cloud stretched across the sky, shutting out every speck of heaven; and a distant **halo** which hung over the town of Casterbridge was visible against the black concave, the **luminosity** appearing the brighter by its great contrast with the circumscribing darkness. Towards this weak, soft glow the woman turned her eyes.

"If I could only get there!" she said. "Meet him the day after to-morrow: God help me! Perhaps I shall be in my grave before then."

A manor-house clock from the far depths of shadow struck the hour, one, in a small, attenuated tone. After **midnight** the voice of a clock seems to lose in **breadth** as much as in length, and to diminish its sonorousness to a thin **falsetto**.

Thesaurus

awoke: (*adj*) awakened.

breadth: (*n*) width, spread, amplitude, wideness, size, length, latitude, extent, area, broadness, stretch.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) length, longitude, emptiness, thinness.

crust: (*n*) skin, peel, bark, cheekiness, gall, impertinence, covering, shell, cortex, coating, encrustation.

falsetto: (*adj*) alto, penny trumpet, voce di testa, soprano, tenor.

halo: (*n*) halation, aura, glory, ring,

circle, corona, nimbus, hoop, aureola, band, anchor ring.

haystack: (*n*) rick, haycock, stack, crick, cock, standing wave.

luminosity: (*n*) brightness, light, illumination, glow, luminance, brilliance, radiance, brilliancy, luminescence, gleam, shine.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) dullness, darkness.

midnight: (*n*) dark, noon, hour.

presently: (*adv*) instantly, directly,

currently, before long, shortly, soon,

now, at present, readily, just, actually. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) later, now, formerly.

strained: (*adj*) tense, labored, intense, constrained, laboured, unnatural, nervous, affected, taut, artificial, tight. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) natural, calm.

totter: (*v*) stumble, shake, falter, lurch, rock, teeter, waver, waddle, toddle, stagger, shamble.

Afterwards a light—two lights—arose from the remote shade, and grew larger. A carriage rolled along the toad, and passed the gate. It probably contained some late diners-out. The beams from one lamp shone for a moment upon the **crouching** woman, and threw her face into vivid relief. The face was young in the **groundwork**, old in the finish; the general contours were flexuous and **childlike**, but the finer lineaments had begun to be sharp and thin.

The pedestrian stood up, apparently with revived determination, and looked around. The road appeared to be familiar to her, and she carefully scanned the fence as she slowly walked along. Presently there became visible a dim white shape; it was another milestone. She drew her fingers across its face to feel the marks.

“Two more!” she said.

She **leant** against the stone as a means of rest for a short interval, then bestirred herself, and again **pursued** her way. For a slight distance she bore up **bravely**, afterwards flagging as before. This was beside a lone copsewood, wherein heaps of white chips **strewn** upon the **leafy** ground showed that woodmen had been faggoting and making hurdles during the day. Now there was not a rustle, not a breeze, not the faintest clash of twigs to keep her company. The woman looked over the gate, opened it, and went in. Close to the entrance stood a row of faggots, bound and un-bound, together with stakes of all sizes.

For a few seconds the **wayfarer** stood with that tense stillness which signifies itself to be not the end but merely the suspension, of a previous motion. Her attitude was that of a person who listens, either to the external world of sound, or to the imagined discourse of thought. A close criticism might have detected signs proving that she was intent on the latter alternative. Moreover, as was shown by what followed, she was oddly exercising the faculty of invention upon the speciality of the clever Jacquet Droz, the designer of automatic substitutes for human limbs.

By the aid of the Casterbridge aurora, and by feeling with her hands, the woman selected two sticks from the heaps. These sticks were nearly straight to

Thesaurus

bravely: (*adv*) courageously, fearlessly, valiantly, boldly, intrepidly, dauntlessly, gallantly, audaciously, undauntedly, heroically, doughtily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) timidly, fearfully, execrably, nervously.

childlike: (*adj*) ingenuous, simple, babyish, young, innocent, pure, unsophisticated, juvenile, immature, childly, childish. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) old, untrusting, experienced, cunning, complicated, jaded,

worldly.

crouching: (*adj*) sneaking, huddled, obsequious, squat, hunkered, cowering, hunkered down; (*v*) submissive, resigned.

groundwork: (*n*) bottom, basis, base, foundation, bed, ground, footing, bedrock, fundament, background, substructure.

leafy: (*adj*) green, verdant, lush, foliose, foliate, leafed, luxuriant, foliaceous, leaved, bowery,

flourishing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) leafless, urban, withering.

leant: (*adj*) inclined.

pursued: (*n*) hunted person.

strewn: (*adj*) spread, distributed, disordered, strewed, confused, covered, diffuse, disconnected, disjointed, circulated, dispersed.

wayfarer: (*n*) traveler, passenger, pilgrim, itinerant, wanderer, traveller, walker, journeyer, rambler, voyager, vagrant.

the height of three or four feet, where each **branched** into a fork like the letter Y. She sat down, **snapped** off the small upper twigs, and carried the remainder with her into the road. She placed one of these forks under each arm as a crutch, tested them, **timidly** threw her whole weight upon them—so little that it was—and swung herself forward. The girl had made for herself a material aid.

The crutches answered well. The pat of her feet, and the tap of her sticks upon the highway, were all the sounds that came from the traveller now. She had passed the last milestone by a good long distance, and began to look wistfully towards the bank as if calculating upon another milestone soon. The crutches, though so very useful, had their limits of power. Mechanism only transfers labour, being powerless to **supersede** it, and the original amount of exertion was not cleared away; it was thrown into the body and arms. She was exhausted, and each swing forward became fainter. At last she swayed sideways, and fell.

Here she lay, a **shapeless** heap, for ten minutes and more. The morning wind began to boom dully over the flats, and to move **afresh** dead leaves which had lain still since yesterday. The woman desperately turned round upon her knees, and next rose to her feet. Steadying herself by the help of one crutch, she essayed a step, then another, then a third, using the crutches now as walking-sticks only. Thus she progressed till descending Mellstock Hill another milestone appeared, and soon the beginning of an iron-railed fence came into view. She staggered across to the first post, clung to it, and looked around.

The Casterbridge lights were now individually visible, It was getting towards morning, and vehicles might be hoped for, if not expected soon. She listened. There was not a sound of life save that **acme** and **sublimation** of all dismal sounds, the bark of a fox, its three hollow notes being rendered at intervals of a minute with the precision of a funeral bell.

“Less than a mile!” the woman murmured. “No; more,” she added, after a pause. “The mile is to the county hall, and my resting-place is on the other side Casterbridge. A little over a mile, and there I am!” After an interval she again spoke. “Five or six steps to a yard—six perhaps. I have to go seventeen hundred

Thesaurus

acme: (*n*) crown, peak, pinnacle, top, apex, height, summit, vertex, climax, zenith, crest. ANTONYMS: (*n*) bottom, lowest, valley, base, pit, trough.

afresh: (*adv*) again, newly, over again, new, once again, freshly, once more, often; (*adj*) the other day, just now, only yesterday.

branched: (*adj*) bifurcate, branching, ramous, ramose, divided, biramous, branchy, prongy, bearing branches,

split, pronged.

shapeless: (*adj*) amorphous, misshapen, unformed, unstructured, nebulous, inchoate, unshapely, indistinct, uncrystallized, embryonic, vague. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) distinct, defined, tailored.

snapped: (*adj*) torn.

sublimation: (*n*) exaltation, transmutation, transformation, purification, elevation, paragon, alteration, change, condensation,

modification, shift.

supersede: (*n, v*) supplant, displace; (*v*) substitute, replace, succeed, commute, annul, deputize, cut out, overrule; (*n*) remove.

timidly: (*adv*) fearfully, timorously, cautiously, shyly, diffidently, anxiously, nervously, shily, gingerly, modestly, apprehensively.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) confidently, bravely, daringly, brashly, fearlessly, decisively, brazenly.

yards. A hundred times six, six hundred. Seventeen times that. O pity me, Lord!"

Holding to the rails, she advanced, thrusting one hand forward upon the rail, then the other, then leaning over it whilst she dragged her feet on beneath.

This woman was not given to **soliloquy**; but extremity of feeling lessens the **individuality** of the weak, as it **increases** that of the strong. She said again in the same tone, "I'll believe that the end lies five posts forward, and no further, and so get strength to pass them."

This was a practical application of the principle that a half-feigned and fictitious faith is better than no faith at all.

She passed five posts and held on to the fifth.

"I'll pass five more by believing my longed-for spot is at the next fifth. I can do it."

She passed five more.

"It lies only five further."

She passed five more.

"But it is five further."

She passed them.

"That stone bridge is the end of my journey," she said, when the bridge over the Froom was in view.

She crawled to the bridge. During the effort each breath of the woman went into the air as if never to return again.

"Now for the truth of the matter," she said, sitting down. "The truth is, that I have less than half a mile." Self-beguilement with what she had known all the time to be false had given her strength to come over half a mile that she would have been powerless to face in the lump. The **artifice** showed that the woman, by some mysterious intuition, had grasped the **paradoxical** truth that **blindness** may operate more vigorously than **prescience**, and the **short-sighted** effect more

Thesaurus

artifice: (*n, v*) art; (*n*) ruse, deception, contrivance, artfulness, dodge, science, trickery, wile, proficiency, maneuver. ANTONYMS: (*n*) truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, naivete, inability, artlessness, incapacity, straightforwardness.
blindness: (*n*) cecity, sightlessness, ablepsy, ignorance, prestriction, excecation, cataract, fog, anopia; (*adj, n*) darkness; (*adj*) anopsy.
increases: (*adj*) increasing; (*n*)

augmentation, addition.
individuality: (*n*) character, individualism, personality, originality, distinctiveness, identity, peculiarity, selfhood, ego, disposition, independence. ANTONYMS: (*n*) commonality, sameness, conformity.
paradoxical: (*adj*) contradictory, conflicting, ambiguous, illegible, contrary, strange, inconsistent, questionable, ironic; (*v*) enigmatic,

problematical.
prescience: (*n*) forecast, precognition, anticipation, prevision, foreknowledge, forethought, vision, presentiment, prediction, hunch, insight.
short-sighted: (*adj*) shortsighted, unwise, stupid, narrow-minded, crazy, ill-advised, half-baked, foolish, improvident.
soliloquy: (*n*) language, oral communication, apostrophe.

than the far-seeing; that limitation, and not **comprehensiveness**, is needed for striking a blow.

The half-mile stood now before the sick and weary woman like a stolid Juggernaut. It was an impassive King of her world. The road here ran across Durnover Moor, open to the road on either side. She surveyed the wide space, the lights, herself, sighed, and lay down against a guard-stone of the bridge.

Never was ingenuity exercised so sorely as the traveller here exercised hers. Every conceivable aid, method, **stratagem**, mechanism, by which these last desperate eight hundred yards could be overpassed by a human being unperceived, was revolved in her busy brain, and dismissed as impracticable. She thought of sticks, wheels, crawling—she even thought of rolling. But the exertion demanded by either of these latter two was greater than to walk erect. The faculty of contrivance was worn out, Hopelessness had come at last.

“No further!” she whispered, and closed her eyes.

From the **stripe** of shadow on the opposite side of the bridge a portion of shade seemed to **detach** itself and move into isolation upon the pale white of the road. It glided noiselessly towards the recumbent woman.

She became conscious of something touching her hand; it was softness and it was warmth. She opened her eye’s, and the substance touched her face. A dog was licking her cheek.

He was a huge, heavy, and quiet creature, standing darkly against the low horizon, and at least two feet higher than the present position of her eyes. Whether Newfoundland, mastiff, **bloodhound**, or what not, it was impossible to say. He seemed to be of too strange and mysterious a nature to belong to any variety among those of popular **nomenclature**. Being thus **assignable** to no breed, he was the ideal embodiment of **canine** greatness—a generalization from what was common to all. Night, in its sad, solemn, and benevolent aspect, apart from its stealthy and cruel side, was **personified** in this form. Darkness endows the small and ordinary ones among mankind with **poetical** power, and even the suffering woman threw her idea into figure.

Thesaurus

assignable: (*adj*) negotiable, alienable, conveyable, allocatable, movable, referable, exchangeable, transferrable, ascribable, convertible.
bloodhound: (*n*) sleuthhound, hound, sleuth, blood hound.
canine: (*n*) canine tooth, canid, dogtooth, eyetooth, cuspid, fang; (*adj*) laniary, bovine, animal, feline, fishy.
comprehensiveness: (*n*) completeness, fullness, entirety, detail, intelligence, scope, range, flavor, wholeness,

unity, totality. ANTONYM: (*n*) narrowness.
detach: (*v*) disengage, part, break off, unhook, remove, disentangle, cut off, disconnect, separate, dissociate; (*n, v*) detail. ANTONYMS: (*v*) fasten, add, associate, connect, unite, couple, link.
nomenclature: (*n*) language, classification, appellation, denomination, linguistic communication, linguistic process, locution, lyric, markup language; (*v*)

name.
personified: (*adj*) embodied.
poetical: (*adj*) imaginative, rhetorical, poetic, figurative, inventive.
stratagem: (*n*) scheme, ruse, plan, trick, dodge, ploy; (*n, v*) contrivance, maneuver, deceit, intrigue; (*adj, n*) artifice.
stripe: (*n*) strip, line, band, bar, stria, striation, chevron, mark, stroke, ribbon, scratch.

In her **reclining** position she looked up to him just as in earlier times she had, when standing, looked up to a man. The animal, who was as homeless as she, respectfully withdrew a step or two when the woman moved, and, seeing that she did not **repulse** him, he licked her hand again.

A thought moved within her like lightning. "Perhaps I can make use of him—I might do it then!"

She pointed in the direction of Casterbridge, and the dog seemed to **misunderstand**: he trotted on. Then, finding she could not follow, he came back and whined.

The ultimate and saddest singularity of woman's effort and invention was reached when, with a quickened breathing, she rose to a stooping posture, and, resting her two little arms upon the shoulders of the dog, leant firmly thereon, and murmured stimulating words. Whilst she sorrowed in her heart she cheered with her voice, and what was stranger than that the strong should need encouragement from the weak was that **cheerfulness** should be so well stimulated by such utter **dejection**. Her friend moved forward slowly, and she with small mincing steps moved forward beside him, half her weight being thrown upon the animal. Sometimes she sank as she had sunk from walking erect, from the crutches, from the rails. The dog, who now thoroughly understood her desire and her incapacity, was frantic in his distress on these occasions; he would tug at her dress and run forward. She always **called** him back, and it was now to be observed that the woman listened for human sounds only to avoid them. It was evident that she had an object in keeping her presence on the road and her forlorn state unknown.

Their progress was necessarily very slow. They reached the bottom of the town, and the Casterbridge lamps lay before them like fallen Pleiads as they turned to the left into the dense shade of a deserted avenue of chestnuts, and so skirted the borough. Thus the town was passed, and the goal was reached.

On this much-desired spot outside the town rose a picturesque building. Originally it had been a mere case to hold people. The shell had been so thin, so devoid of **excrecence**, and so closely drawn over the accommodation granted,

Thesaurus

called: (*adj*) named, titled, chosen, known as; (*v*) nempt, cycled.
cheerfulness: (*n*) glee, happiness, exhilaration, hilarity, mirth, merriment, gladness, cheer, good spirits, pleasure, joviality.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) sadness, grimness, seriousness, misery, resentment, uncheerfulness, solemnity, lethargy, bleakness, gravity, gloominess.
dejection: (*n*) discouragement, depression, sadness, despair, sorrow,

woe, grief, melancholy, blues, desolation, despondency.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) cheerfulness, ecstasy, encouragement, hopefulness, joy, cheer.
excrecence: (*n*) outgrowth, bump, protuberance, growth, jut, wart, nub, protrusion, hump, caput, process.
misunderstand: (*v*) misinterpret, misconstrue, mistake, misread, misjudge, miscomprehend, miscalculate, confuse, misapply; (*n*,

v) misconceive; (*n*) misunderstanding. ANTONYMS: (*v*) grasp, appreciate, interpret.
reclining: (*adj, v*) leaning; (*adj*) recumbent, decumbent, accumbent, lying, lying down, obligatory, idle, prone, prostrate; (*n*) relaxation.
repulse: (*n, v*) rebuff, defeat; (*v*) repel, nauseate, disgust, drive back, revolt, reject, refuse, beat back; (*n*) refusal. ANTONYMS: (*v*) attract, accept, delight, yield, please; (*n, v*) welcome.

that the grim character of what was beneath showed through it, as the shape of a body is visible under a winding-sheet.

Then Nature, as if **offended**, lent a hand. Masses of ivy grew up, completely covering the walls, till the place looked like an abbey; and it was discovered that the view from the front, over the Casterbridge chimneys, was one of the most magnificent in the county. A neighbouring earl once said that he would give up a year's **rental** to have at his own door the view enjoyed by the inmates from theirs—and very probably the inmates would have given up the view for his year's rental.

This stone **edifice** consisted of a central mass and two wings, whereon stood as sentinels a few slim chimneys, now gurgling **sorrowfully** to the slow wind. In the wall was a gate, and by the gate a bellpull formed of a hanging wire. The woman raised herself as high as possible upon her knees, and could just reach the handle. She moved it and fell forwards in a bowed attitude, her face upon her bosom.

It was getting on towards six o'clock, and sounds of movement were to be heard inside the building which was the haven of rest to this **wearied** soul. A little door by the large one was opened, and a man appeared inside. He discerned the panting heap of clothes, went back for a light, and came again. He entered a second time, and returned with two women.

These lifted the prostrate figure and assisted her in through the doorway. The man then closed the door.

How did she get here?" said one of the women.

"The Lord knows," said the other.

"There is a dog outside," murmured the overcome traveller. "Where is he gone? He helped me."

"I **stoned** him away," said the man.

The little procession then moved forward—the man in front bearing the light, the two **bonny** women next, supporting between them the small and **supple** one. Thus they entered the house and disappeared.

Thesaurus

bonny: (*adj*) osseous, gaunt, lean, thin, emaciated, scrawny, skinny, angular, lanky, meager, boney. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) plump, boneless, fat, stout.

edifice: (*n*) building, structure, house, hall, fabric, aviary, bagnio, bathhouse, abattoir, bawdyhouse, clubhouse.

offended: (*adj*) angry, affronted, aggrieved, pained, wronged, annoyed, insulted, shocked, vexed, resentful, injured. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

indifferent, proud, unconcerned.

rental: (*n*) hire, lease, letting, renting, transaction, tenancy, belongings, flat, material possession, suite, dealing.

sorrowfully: (*adv*) dolefully, mournfully, gloomily, woefully, unhappily, sorrowfully, ruefully, dejectedly, grievously, forlornly, contritely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) happily, unrepentantly, joyfully, cheerfully.

stoned: (*adj*) intoxicated, drugged,

tight, zonked, drunken, inebriate, inebriated, ecstatic, rabid, high, unconscious.

supple: (*adj, v*) flexible, pliable, limber, pliant; (*adj*) lithe, soft, plastic, graceful, lithesome, lissom, lissome. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rigid, inflexible, stocky, clumsy, hard, rough, slow, tight, unyielding.

wearied: (*adj*) jaded, tired, spent, fatigued, weary, prostrate, limp, haggard, shattered, worn, fatigued.

CHAPTER XLI

SUSPICION—FANNY IS SENT FOR

Bathsheba said very little to her husband all that evening of their return from market, and he was not disposed to say much to her. He exhibited the **unpleasant** combination of a **restless** condition with a silent **tongue**. The next day, which was Sunday, passed nearly in the same manner as regarded their **taciturnity**, Bathsheba going to church both morning and afternoon. This was the day before the Budmouth races. In the evening Troy said, suddenly —

“Bathsheba, could you let me have twenty pounds?”

Her countenance instantly sank. “Twenty pounds?” she said.

“The fact is, I want it badly.” The **anxiety** upon Troy’s face was unusual and very marked. It was a **culmination** of the mood he had been in all the day.

“Ah! for those races to-morrow.”

Troy for the moment made no reply. Her mistake had its advantages to a man who shrank from having his mind inspected as he did now. “Well, suppose I do want it for races?” he said, at last.

“Oh, Frank!” Bathsheba replied, and there was such a volume of entreaty in the words. “Only such a few weeks ago you said that I was far sweeter than all

Thesaurus

anxiety: (*n*) disquiet, trouble, fear, care, alarm, anxiousness, uneasiness, worry, anguish, concern; (*adj, n*) solicitude. ANTONYMS: (*n*) calm, bravery, confidence, reassurance, security, relaxation, indifference, serenity, tranquility, peace, satisfaction.

culmination: (*n*) apex, crest, climax, peak, top, zenith, pinnacle, apogee, completion, vertex, consummation. ANTONYMS: (*n*) commencement,

opening, prelude, trough, nadir.
restless: (*adj*) fidgety, uneasy, impatient, restive, agitated, fretful, turbulent, feverish; (*adj, n*) nervous, apprehensive; (*adj, v*) unquiet.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) relaxed, peaceful, lethargic, unbroken, still, contented.
taciturnity: (*n*) reserve, silence, uncommunicativeness, military reserve, modesty, secrecy, oblivion, substitute, pauciloquy, quietness, muteness.

tongue: (*n*) lingua, speech, idiom, dialect, clapper, glossa, natural language, striker, talk; (*v*) lick; (*adj*) flowing.
unpleasant: (*adj, n*) harsh; (*adj*) disagreeable, obnoxious, ugly, nasty, sour, awkward, repulsive, forbidding, bad, hard. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) delightful, agreeable, wonderful, nice, enjoyable, attractive, comfortable, charming, inoffensive, amicable, cordial.

your other pleasures put together, and that you would give them all up for me; and now, won't you give up this one, which is more a worry than a pleasure? Do, Frank. Come, let me **fascinate** you by all I can do—by pretty words and pretty looks, and everything I can think of—to stay at home. Say yes to your wife—say yes!”

The tenderest and softest phases of Bathsheba's nature were prominent now—advanced impulsively for his acceptance, without any of the disguises and defences which the **wariness** of her character when she was cool too frequently threw over them. Few men could have resisted the arch yet dignified entreaty of the beautiful face, thrown a little back and sideways in the well known attitude that expresses more than the words it accompanies, and which seems to have been designed for these special occasions. Had the woman not been his wife, Troy would have succumbed instantly; as it was, he thought he would not **deceive** her longer.

“The money is not wanted for **racing** debts at all,” he said.

“What is it for?” she asked. “You worry me a great deal by these mysterious responsibilities, Frank.”

Troy hesitated. He did not now love her enough to allow himself to be carried too far by her ways. Yet it was necessary to be civil. “You wrong me by such a suspicious manner,” he said. “Such strait-waistcoating as you treat me to is not becoming in you at so early a date.”

“I think that I have a right to **grumble** a little if I pay,” she said, with features between a smile and a **pout**.

“Exactly; and, the former being done, suppose we proceed to the latter. Bathsheba, fun is all very well, but don't go too far, or you may have cause to regret something.”

She **reddened**. “I do that already,” she said, quickly.

“What do you regret?”

“That my romance has come to an end.”

“All romances end at marriage.”

Thesaurus

deceive: (*v*) cheat, circumvent, bamboozle, pretend, hoax, fool, cozen, trick, beguile; (*n, v*) dupe; (*n*) fraud. ANTONYMS: (*v*) guide, inform, undeceive, protect.
fascinate: (*adj, n, v*) charm; (*n, v*) allure, enchant, entice; (*adj, v*) attract; (*v*) bewitch, enthrall, enrapture, enthrall, entrance, capture. ANTONYMS: (*v*) bore, tire, repel, disenchant, disinterest, appall.
grumble: (*n, v*) mutter, gripe, growl,

moan, rumble, mumble, groan, roar; (*v*) complain, grouch; (*n*) complaint. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) praise; (*v*) compliment, rejoice.
pout: (*v*) brood, sulk; (*adj, v*) frown, protrude; (*adj*) lower, glower, scowl, gloam, look downcast; (*n*) eelpout, hornpout.
racing: (*n*) overspeed, horse racing, boat racing, athletics, camel racing, greyhound racing; (*v*) contend; (*adj*) fast.

reddened: (*adj*) red, ablaze, aflame, flushed, crimson, inflamed, blazing, aroused, blemished, red as scarlet, spotty.
wariness: (*n*) cautiousness, circumspection, mistrust, suspicion, care, deliberation, discretion, watchfulness, precaution, alertness, distrust. ANTONYMS: (*n*) unwariness, carelessness, gullibility, trust, recklessness.

"I wish you wouldn't talk like that. You grieve me to my soul by being smart at my expense."

"You are dull enough at mine. I believe you hate me."

"Not you — only your faults. I do hate them."

" 'Twould be much more becoming if you set yourself to cure them. Come, let's strike a balance with the twenty pounds, and be friends."

She gave a sigh of resignation. "I have about that sum here for household expenses. If you must have it, take it."

"Very good. Thank you. I expect I shall have gone away before you are in to breakfast to-morrow."

"And must you go? Ah! there was a time, Frank, when it would have taken a good many promises to other people to drag you away from me. You used to call me darling, then. But it doesn't matter to you how my days are passed now."

"I must go, in spite of sentiment." Troy, as he spoke, looked at his watch, and, apparently **actuated** by *non lucendo* principles, opened the case at the back, **revealing**, **snugly** stowed within it, a small **coil** of hair.

Bathsheba's eyes had been **accidentally** lifted at that moment, and she saw the action and saw the hair. She **flushed** in pain and surprise, and some words escaped her before she had thought whether or not it was wise to utter them. "A woman's curl of hair!" she said. "Oh, Frank, whose is that?"

Troy had instantly closed his watch. He carelessly replied, as one who **cloaked** some feelings that the sight had **stirred**. "Why, yours, of course. Whose should it be? I had quite forgotten that I had it."

"What a dreadful fib, Frank!"

"I tell you I had forgotten it!" he said, loudly.

"I don't mean that — it was yellow hair."

"Nonsense."

Thesaurus

accidentally: (*adv*) incidentally, casually, fortuitously, by chance, coincidentally, adventitiously, unintentionally, contingently, haphazardly, occasionally, inadvertently. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) deliberately, knowingly, purposely, unfortunately, correctly.
actuated: (*adj*) motivated, actuate.
cloaked: (*adj*) veiled, covered, hidden, covert, disguised, concealed, furtive, hidden away, draped, clothed,

absorbed. ANTONYM: (*adj*) overt.
coil: (*n, v*) spiral, curl, roll, circle, loop, reel; (*v*) round, wind, involve; (*adj, v*) twist; (*adj*) coiling. ANTONYMS: (*v*) uncoil, untwist, unwind, straighten.
flushed: (*adj, n*) red, sanguine; (*adj*) feverish, glowing, aroused, aflame, burning, exultant, exulting; (*n*) flush, elated. ANTONYM: (*adj*) cool.
revealing: (*adj*) telling, telltale, significant, powerfully persuasive; (*n*) discovery, exposure, revelation,

rattling, uncovering, reveal, apocalypse. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) confusing, secretive, concealing; (*n*) concealment.
snugly: (*adv*) cozily, cosily, comfortably, closely, tightly, pleasantly, compactly, neatly, conveniently, homely, trimly.
stirred: (*adj*) excited, agitated, moved, affected, aroused, emotional, aflame, Stirn, horny, susceptible, stirred up.

"That's insulting me. I know it was yellow. Now whose was it? I want to know."

"Very well I'll tell you, so make no more ado. It is the hair of a young woman I was going to marry before I knew you."

"You ought to tell me her name, then."

"I cannot do that."

"Is she married yet?"

"No."

"Is she alive?"

"Yes."

"Is she pretty?"

"Yes."

"It is wonderful how she can be, poor thing, under such an awful affliction!"

"Affliction—what affliction?" he inquired, quickly.

"Having hair of that **dreadful** colour."

"Oh—ho—I like that!" said Troy, **recovering** himself. "Why, her hair has been admired by everybody who has seen her since she has worn it loose, which has not been long. It is beautiful hair. People used to turn their heads to look at it, poor girl!"

"Pooh! that's nothing—that's nothing!" she exclaimed, in incipient accents of **pique**. "If I cared for your love as much as I used to I could say people had turned to look at mine."

"Bathsheba, don't be so **fitful** and **jealous**. You knew what married life would be like, and shouldn't have entered it if you feared these contingencies."

Troy had by this time driven her to **bitterness**: her heart was big in her **throat**, and the ducts to her eyes were painfully full. Ashamed as she was to show emotion, at last she burst out:—

Thesaurus

bitterness: (*n*) acerbity, animosity, gall, malice, resentment, enmity, acidity, acidify, bitter, rancor, sharpness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) joy, happiness, harmony, kindness, blandness, friendliness, goodwill, idealism, affection.
dreadful: (*adj*) bad, awful, alarming, atrocious, fearful, terrible, abominable, appalling, direful, grisly; (*adj, v*) dread. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wonderful, great, lovely, fantastic,

marvelous, admirable, successful, nice, joyous, honorable, fair.
fitful: (*adj*) erratic, fickle, changeable, spasmodic, uncertain, intermittent, irregular, variable, sporadic, desultory, flickering. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) regular, unbroken.
jealous: (*adj*) distrustful, envious, covetous, suspicious, jealousy, resentful, invidious, green, grudging, jaundiced, attentive. ANTONYM: (*adj*) trusting.

pique: (*v*) nettle, insult, outrage, irritate, fret; (*n*) grudge, annoyance, umbrage, irritation; (*n, v*) anger, spite.
recovering: (*v*) recover, regain, restore; (*adj*) better; (*n*) rehabilitation, recovery, rescue, relaxation; (*adv*) getting better, on the road to recovery, improving.
throat: (*n*) orifice, pharynx, gorge, mouth, muzzle, nozzle, sucker, shaft, quarl, throat depth, nostril.

"This is all I get for **loving** you so well! Ah! when I married you your life was dearer to me than my own. I would have died for you—how truly I can say that I would have died for you! And now you sneer at my **foolishness** in marrying you. O! is it kind to me to throw my mistake in my face? Whatever opinion you may have of my wisdom, you should not tell me of it so **mercilessly**, now that I am in your power."

"I can't help how things fall out," said Troy; "upon my heart, women will be the death of me!"

"Well you shouldn't keep people's hair. You'll burn it, won't you, Frank?"

Frank went on as if he had not heard her. "There are considerations even before my consideration for you; reparations to be made—ties you know nothing of. If you **repent** of marrying, so do I."

Trembling now, she put her hand upon his arm, saying, in mingled tones of wretchedness and **coaxing**, "I only repent it if you don't love me better than any woman in the world! I don't otherwise, Frank. You don't repent because you already love somebody better than you love me, do you?"

"I don't know. Why do you say that?"

"You won't burn that curl. You like the woman who owns that pretty hair—yes; it is pretty—more beautiful than my miserable black mane! Well, it is no use; I can't help being ugly. You must like her best, if you will!"

"Until to-day, when I took it from a **drawer**, I have never looked upon that bit of hair for several months—that I am ready to swear."

"But just now you said 'ties'; and then—that woman we met?"

" 'Twas the meeting with her that reminded me of the hair."

"Is it hers, then?"

"Yes. There, now that you have wormed it out of me, I hope you are content."

"And what are the ties?"

"Oh! that meant nothing—a **mere** jest."

Thesaurus

coaxing: (*n*) blarney, flattery, sweet talk, temptation, enticement, soft soap; (*adv*) coaxingly; (*adj*) ingratiatory, persuasive, oily.

drawer: (*n*) draftsman, drawers, till, designer, box car, cartoonist, commode, engraver, chest, case, locker.

foolishness: (*n*) folly, fatuity, craziness, nonsense, stupidity, indiscretion, ineptitude, mistake, fatuousness, irrationality; (*adj, n*)

silliness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) prudence, sense, sensibleness, understanding, forethought, responsibility.

loving: (*adj*) fond, devoted, amorous, kind, friendly, ardent, attached, admiring, gentle, fatherly; (*adj, v*) tender. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cold, uncaring, malicious, cruel, unloving, rough, paternal, indifferent, distant, disapproving, callous.

mercilessly: (*adv*) remorselessly, heartlessly, unmercifully, ruthlessly,

unfeelingly, cruelly, relentlessly, brutally, callously, unrelentingly, unkindly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) humanely, mercifully.

mere: (*adj, n*) entire; (*adj*) bare, simple, pure; (*n*) loch, tarn, boundary, absolute; (*n, v*) downright; (*adv*) merely; (*adj, v*) clear.

repent: (*v*) deplore, bewail, rue, mourn, lament, atone, sorry, bemoan, feel remorse, grieve, be sorry.

“A mere jest!” she said, in mournful astonishment. “Can you jest when I am so wretchedly in earnest? Tell me the truth, Frank. I am not a fool, you know, although I am a woman, and have my woman’s moments. Come! treat me fairly,” she said, looking honestly and **fearlessly** into his face. “I don’t want much; bare justice—that’s all! Ah! once I felt I could be content with nothing less than the highest homage from the husband I should choose. Now, anything short of cruelty will content me. Yes! the independent and spirited Bathsheba is come to this!”

“For Heaven’s sake don’t be so desperate!” Troy said, **snappishly**, rising as he did so, and leaving the room.

Directly he had gone, Bathsheba burst into great sobs—dry-eyed sobs, which cut as they came, without any softening by tears. But she determined to **repress** all evidences of feeling. She was conquered; but she would never own it as long as she lived. Her pride was indeed brought low by despairing discoveries of her **spoliation** by marriage with a less pure nature than her own. She **chafed** to and fro in **rebelliousness**, like a caged leopard; her whole soul was in arms, and the blood fired her face. Until she had met Troy, Bathsheba had been proud of her position as a woman; it had been a glory to her to know that her lips had been touched by no man’s on earth—that her waist had never been encircled by a lover’s arm. She hated herself now. In those earlier days she had always nourished a secret contempt for girls who were the slaves of the first goodlooking young fellow who should choose to salute them. She had never taken kindly to the idea of marriage in the abstract as did the majority of women she saw about her. In the turmoil of her anxiety for her lover she had agreed to marry him; but the perception that had accompanied her happiest hours on this account was rather that of **self-sacrifice** than of promotion and honour. Although she scarcely knew the divinity’s name, Diana was the goddess whom Bathsheba instinctively adored. That she had never, by look, word, or sign, encouraged a man to approach her—that she had felt herself sufficient to herself, and had in the independence of her **girlish** heart fancied there was a certain degradation in renouncing the simplicity of a maiden existence to become the

Thesaurus

chafed: (*adj*) uncomfortable, sore, painful, galled, angry; (*v*) fretted, agitated.

fearlessly: (*adj, adv*) daringly, boldly, heroically, courageously, valiantly; (*adv*) dauntlessly, bravely, gallantly, undauntedly, audaciously, unflinchingly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) nervously, cautiously, timidly.

girlish: (*adj*) boyish, childish, kittenish, juvenile, adolescent, innocent, schoolgirlish, babyish, immature,

youthful, female.

rebelliousness: (*n*) defiance, disobedience, noncompliance, contumacy, willfulness, unruliness, obstreperousness, naughtiness, intractableness, intractability, insolence. ANTONYMS: (*n*) obedience, compliance, loyalty.

repress: (*v*) inhibit, crush, quash, control, suppress, put down, bridle, keep down, subdue, restrain, reduce. ANTONYMS: (*v*) declare, liberate,

incite.

self-sacrifice: (*n*) martyrdom, renunciation.

snappishly: (*adv*) abruptly, brusquely, petulantly, snappily, grumpily, fretfully, waspishly, testily, shortly, fractiously, crustily. ANTONYM: (*adv*) verbosely.

spoliation: (*n*) despoliation, despoilment, plunder, spoil, robbery, pillage, rapine, rape, pillaging, devastation, disservice.

humbler half of an indifferent **matrimonial** whole—were facts now bitterly remembered. Oh, if she had never stooped to folly of this kind, respectable as it was, and could only stand again, as she had stood on the hill at Norcombe, and dare Troy or any other man to **pollute** a hair of her head by his interference!

The next morning she rose earlier than usual, and had the horse saddled for her ride round the farm in the customary way. When she came in at half-past eight—their usual hour for breakfasting—she was informed that her husband had risen, taken his breakfast, and driven off to Casterbridge with the gig and Poppet.

After breakfast she was cool and collected—quite herself in fact—and she rambled to the gate, intending to walk to another quarter of the farm, which she still personally superintended as well as her duties in the house would permit, continually, however, finding herself preceded in **forethought** by Gabriel Oak, for whom she began to entertain the genuine friendship of a sister. Of course, she sometimes thought of him in the light of an old lover, and had momentary imaginings of what life with him as a husband would have been like; also of life with Boldwood under the same conditions. But Bathsheba, though she could feel, was not much given to futile **dreaming**, and her **musings** under this head were short and entirely confined to the times when Troy's neglect was more than **ordinarily** evident.

She saw coming up the road a man like Mr. Boldwood. It was Mr. Boldwood. Bathsheba blushed painfully, and watched. The farmer stopped when still a long way off, and held up his hand to Gabriel Oak, who was in a **footpath** across the field. The two men then approached each other and seemed to engage in earnest conversation.

Thus they continued for a long time. Joseph Poorgrass now passed near them, **wheeling** a barrow of apples up the hill to Bathsheba's residence. Boldwood and Gabriel called to him, spoke to him for a few minutes, and then all three parted, Joseph immediately coming up the hill with his barrow.

Thesaurus

dreaming: (*n*) reverie, ambition, nightmare, conception, castle in the air; (*adj*) absent-minded, asleep, visionary, vacant, wistful, rapt.

footpath: (*n*) track, walk, path, trail, sidewalk, footway, walkway, trottoir, way, lane, pavement.

forethought: (*n*) caution, care, forecast, anticipation, deliberation, premeditation, precaution, counsel, circumspection, consideration, discretion. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

hindsight, unpreparedness, neglect, impulsiveness, carelessness.

matrimonial: (*adj*) marital, conjugal, married, bridal, nuptial, spousal, wedded, marriage, wedding, hymeneal, household. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unmarried, divorced, public.

musings: (*n*) contemplation, cogitation, consideration.

ordinarily: (*adv*) generally, usually, regularly, normally, frequently, customarily, habitually, routinely,

middlingly, plainly, familiarly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unusually, rarely, strangely, exceptionally.

pollute: (*adj, v*) defile, taint, debase, infect, poison, maculate, desecrate; (*adj, n, v*) corrupt; (*v*) foul, dirty, befoul. ANTONYMS: (*v*) clean, purify, respect.

wheeling: (*adj*) rotating, revolving, moving; (*n*) rolling, city, metropolis, peal, propulsion, roll, transmission service, urban center.

Bathsheba, who had seen this **pantomime** with some surprise, experienced great relief when Boldwood turned back again. "Well, what's the message, Joseph?" she said.

He set down his **barrow**, and, putting upon himself the refined aspect that a conversation with a lady required, spoke to Bathsheba over the gate.

"You'll never see Fanny Robin no more – use nor principal – ma'am."

"Why?"

"Because she's dead in the Union."

"Fanny dead – never!"

"Yes, ma'am."

"What did she die from?"

"I don't know for certain; but I should be inclined to think it was from general neshness of constitution. She was such a **limber** maid that 'a could stand no **hardship**, even when I knowed her, and 'a went like a candle-snoff, so 'tis said. She was took bad in the morning, and, being quite **feeble** and worn out, she died in the evening. She belongs by law to our parish; and Mr. Boldwood is going to send a waggon at three this afternoon to fetch her home here and **bury** her."

"Indeed I shall not let Mr. Boldwood do any such thing – I shall do it! Fanny was my uncle's **servant**, and, although I only knew her for a couple of days, she belongs to me. How very, very sad this is! – the idea of Fanny being in a workhouse." Bathsheba had begun to know what suffering was, and she spoke with real feeling.... "Send across to Mr. Boldwood's, and say that Mrs. Troy will take upon herself the duty of fetching an old servant of the family.... We ought not to put her in a waggon; we'll get a hearse."

"There will hardly be time, ma'am, will there?"

"Perhaps not," she said, musingly. "When did you say we must be at the door – three o'clock?"

"Three o'clock this afternoon, ma'am, so to speak it."

Thesaurus

barrow: (*n*) tumulus, wheelbarrow, barrowful, cart, containerful, swine, handbarrow; (*adj*) knoll, hummock, hillock, mole.
bury: (*v*) inter, overwhelm, lay to rest, hide, mask, secrete, conceal, cloak, entomb, suppress; (*n*) burial.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) exhume, unearth, uncover, dig, disclose, distract, expose, ignore, reveal, air, remember.
feeble: (*adj*) delicate, decrepit, ailing, helpless, powerless, poor, mild, lax,

thin; (*adj, v*) faint, debilitated.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) strong, vigorous, hearty, tough, effective, powerful, unrelenting, robust, potent, persuasive, able.
hardship: (*n*) adversity, calamity, affliction, trouble, difficulty, disaster, deprivation, asperity, destitution; (*n, v*) grievance, burden. ANTONYMS: (*n*) privilege, ease, prosperity, wealth, luxury, advantage, opportunity.
limber: (*adj, v*) flexible, pliable; (*adj*)

supple, lithe, agile, flexile, elastic, ductile, svelte, willowy, lissome.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stiff, inflexible.
pantomime: (*n, v*) gesture; (*n*) dumb show, mummary, acting, playacting, performing, playing, pantomimist; (*v*) mimic, roleplay, playact.
servant: (*n*) manservant, domestic, lackey, maid, employee, flunkey, retainer, boy, footman, flunkey, menial. ANTONYMS: (*n*) master, mistress.

"Very well—you go with it. A pretty waggon is better than an ugly **hearse**, after all. Joseph, have the new spring waggon with the blue body and red wheels, and wash it very clean. And, Joseph—"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Carry with you some evergreens and flowers to put upon her coffin—indeed, gather a great many, and completely bury her in them. Get some boughs of laurustinus, and **variegated** box, and yew, and boy's-love; ay, and some hunches of **chrysanthemum**. And let old Pleasant draw her, because she knew him so well."

"I will, ma'am. I ought to have said that the Union, in the form of four labouring men, will meet me when I gets to our churchyard gate, and take her and bury her according to the **rites** of the Board of Guardians, as by law ordained."

"Dear me—Casterbridge Union—and is Fanny come to this?" said Bathsheba, musing. "I wish I had known of it sooner. I thought she was far away. How long has she lived there?"

"On'y been there a day or two."

"Oh!—then she has not been staying there as a regular inmate?"

"No. She first went to live in a garrison-town t'other side o' Wessex, and since then she's been picking up a living at seampstering in Melchester for several months, at the house of a very **respectable** widow-woman who takes in work of that sort. She only got **handy** the Union-house on Sunday morning 'a b'lieve, and 'tis supposed here and there that she had traipsed every step of the way from Melchester. Why she left her place, I can't say, for I don't know; and as to a lie, why, I wouldn't tell it. That's the short of the story, ma'am."

"Ah-h!"

No gem ever flashed from a **rosy** ray to a white one more rapidly than changed the young wife's countenance whilst this word came from her in a long-drawn breath. "Did she walk along our turnpike-road?" she said, in a suddenly restless and eager voice.

Thesaurus

chrysanthemum: (*n*) flower, bloom, blossom.

gate: (*n*) door, mouth, entry, doorway, port, exit, goal, barrier, approach, inlet, threshold.

handy: (*adj*) convenient, adroit, apt, expert, clever, deft, dexterous, good, accessible; (*adj, n*) available; (*adj, n, v*) ready. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clumsy, fixed, inept, unwieldy, inconvenient, faraway, far, difficult, distant, cumbersome, worthless.

hearse: (*n*) catafalque, coffin, entomb, urn, shell, sarcophagus, pall, cinerary urn, auto, car, automobile.

respectable: (*adj*) considerable, decorous, fair, estimable, decent, honorable, good, proper, creditable, passable, honest. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bad, small, sordid, scruffy, inadequate, unrespectable, paltry, discourteous, inappropriate, sinful, unacceptable.

rites: (*n*) money, finances, wake,

religion.

rosy: (*adj*) hopeful, blooming, optimistic, auspicious, promising, bright, roseate, ruddy, fortunate, flushed, pink. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) gloomy, depressing, hopeless, unpromising.

variegated: (*adj*) mottled, dappled, varicolored, varicoloured, various, piebald, speckled, assorted, different, multicolored, pied. ANTONYM: (*adj*) uniform.

"I believe she did.... Ma'am, shall I call Liddy? You bain't well, ma'am, surely? You look like a lily – so pale and fainty!"

"No; don't call her; it is nothing. When did she pass Weatherbury?"

"Last Saturday night."

"That will do, Joseph; now you may go."

"Certainly, ma'am."

"Joseph, come hither a moment. What was the colour of Fanny Robin's hair?"

"Really, mistress, now that 'tis put to me so judge-and-jury like, I can't call to mind, if ye'll believe me!"

"Never mind; go on and do what I told you. Stop – well no, go on."

She turned herself away from him, that he might no longer notice the mood which had set its sign so visibly upon her, and went **indoors** with a distressing sense of faintness and a **beating brow**. About an hour after, she heard the noise of the waggon and went out, still with a painful consciousness of her **bewildered** and **troubled** look. Joseph, dressed in his best suit of clothes, was putting in the horse to start. The shrubs and flowers were all **piled** in the waggon, as she had directed; Bathsheba hardly saw them now.

"Whose sweetheart did you say, Joseph?"

"I don't know, ma'am."

"Are you quite sure?"

"Yes, ma'am, quite sure."

"Sure of what?"

"I'm sure that all I know is that she arrived in the morning and died in the evening without further **parley**. What Oak and Mr. Boldwood told me was only these few words. 'Little Fanny Robin is dead, Joseph,' Gabriel said, looking in my face in his steady old way. I was very sorry, and I said, 'Ah! – and how did she come to die?' 'Well, she's dead in Casterbridge Union,' he said, 'and perhaps 'tisn't much matter about how she came to die. She reached the Union early

Thesaurus

beating: (*n*) reverse, defeat, whipping, thrashing, battery, flogging, pounding, pulsation, pulse, rout; (*adj*) pulsing. ANTONYMS: (*n*) victory, win.

bewildered: (*adj*) bemused, confused, confounded, perplexed, befuddled, puzzled, dumbfounded, taken aback, addled, disoriented; (*adj, v*) lost. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unimpressed, clear, oriented, precise, understanding, alert.

brow: (*n*) peak, brink, brows, height, summit, forehead, eyebrow, edge, crown, brim, border. ANTONYM: (*n*) trough.

indoors: (*adv*) at home, inwards, within, inwardly, internally, deep down, at heart, at bottom, in reality, arrived, here. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) out, outdoors.

parley: (*v*) negotiate, converse, confer, consult; (*n, v*) talk, treat; (*n*) conversation, interview, colloquy,

meeting, consultation.

piled: (*adj*) heaped, dense, aggregate, collective, concentrated, cumulous.

troubled: (*adj, v*) concerned, solicitous; (*adj*) distressed, anxious, worried, uneasy, uncomfortable, disconcerted, upset, apprehensive, restless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unconcerned, composed, calm, easy, relaxed, tranquil, assured, carefree, brave, stable, unaffected.

Sunday morning, and died in the afternoon—that's clear enough.' Then I asked what she'd been doing lately, and Mr. Boldwood turned round to me then, and left off **spitting a thistle** with the end of his stick. He told me about her having lived by seampstering in Melchester, as I mentioned to you, and that she walked therefrom at the end of last week, passing near here Saturday night in the dusk. They then said I had better just name a **hint** of her death to you, and away they went. Her death might have been brought on by bidding in the night wind, you know, ma'am; for people used to say she'd go off in a decline: she used to **cough** a good deal in winter time. However, 'tisn't much **odds** to us about that now, for 'tis all over."

"Have you heard a different story at all?" She looked at him so **intently** that Joseph's eyes quailed.

"Not a word, mistress, I assure 'ee!" he said. "Hardly anybody in the parish knows the news yet."

"I wonder why Gabriel didn't bring the message to me himself. He mostly makes a point of seeing me upon the most trifling errand." These words were merely murmured, and she was looking upon the ground.

"Perhaps he was busy, ma'am," Joseph suggested. "And sometimes he seems to suffer from things upon his mind, connected with the time when he was better off than 'a is now. 'A's rather a curious item, but a very understanding shepherd, and learned in books."

"Did anything seem upon his mind whilst he was speaking to you about this?"

"I cannot but say that there did, ma'am. He was terrible down, and so was Farmer Boldwood."

"Thank you, Joseph. That will do. Go on now, or you'll be late."

Bathsheba, still unhappy, went indoors again. In the course of the afternoon she said to Liddy, who had been **informed** of the **occurrence**, "What was the colour of poor Fanny Robin's hair? Do you know? I cannot recollect—I only saw her for a day or two."

Thesaurus

cough: (*v*) clear the throat, to cough, spit up, cough up, expectorate; (*n*) expiration, exhalation, symptom, sneeze, breathing out.
hint: (*v*) suggest; (*adj, n*) trace; (*n*) suggestion, intimation, inkling, cue, allusion; (*n, v*) tip, touch, dash; (*adj, v*) intimate. ANTONYM: (*n*) overtone.
informed: (*adj*) cognizant, educated, conscious, knowledgeable, familiar, apprised, wise, conversant, experienced, sensible; (*adv*) abreast.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uninformed, unconcerned.
intently: (*adv*) fixedly, attentively, seriously, raptly, intensely, closely, steadily, eagerly, absorbedly, hard, steadfastly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) absently.
occurrence: (*n*) case, event, occasion, accident, instance, circumstance, happening, contingency, affair, fact; (*n, v*) incident.
odds: (*n*) likelihood, probability,

possibility, chance, advantage, likeliness, chances, disparity, prospect; (*v*) dissension; (*adj*) odd. ANTONYM: (*n*) unlikelihood.
spitting: (*n*) spiting, expectation, ejection, sizzle, projection, forcing out, expulsion, saliva.
thistle: (*adj*) porcupine, beard, hedgehog, feather, mote, chevaux de frise, dust, down, brier; (*n*) nodding thistle, carline thistle.

"It was light, ma'am; but she wore it rather short, and **packed** away under her cap, so that you would hardly notice it. But I have seen her let it down **when** she was going to bed, and it looked beautiful then. Real golden hair."

"Her young man was a **soldier**, was he not?"

"Yes. In the same **regiment** as Mr. Troy. He says he knew him very well."

"What, Mr. Troy says so? How came he to say that?"

"One day I just named it to him, and asked him if he knew Fanny's young man. He said, 'Oh yes, he knew the young man as well as he knew himself, and that there wasn't a man in the regiment he liked better.'"

"Ah! Said that, did he?"

"Yes; and he said there was a strong **likeness** between himself and the other young man, so that sometimes people mistook them — —"

"Liddy, for Heaven's **sake** stop your talking!" said Bathsheba, with the nervous **petulance** that comes from **worrying** perceptions.

Thesaurus

likeness: (*n*) resemblance, copy, effigy, image, affinity, similarity, correspondence, facsimile; (*adj*, *n*) figure, form, semblance.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) difference, diversity, dissimilarity, unlikeness, contrast.
packed: (*adj*) full, compact, filled, jammed, overcrowded, crammed, dense, thick, congested, teeming, cramped. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) deserted, loose, open.

petulance: (*n*) touchiness, testiness, tetchiness, crossness, cholera, fretfulness, peevishness, temper, acerbity; (*adj*) petulant, flippancy.
regiment: (*n*) corps, battalion, legion, host, brigade, division, multitude, cohort; (*v*) control, organize, regulate.
sake: (*n*, *v*) interest, reason, motive, ground; (*v*) advantage, cause; (*n*) object, account, design, purpose, saki.
soldier: (*n*) warrior, fighter, serviceman, champion, ranker,

military personnel, swordsman, trooper, cavalryman, guardsman, janissary.
when: (*adv*, *conj*) once, as soon as; (*adv*) then, because, than, since, after; (*conj*) although, while, if; (*prep*) during.
worrying: (*adj*) disturbing, disquieting, worrisome, troubling, troublesome, anxious, distressful, perturbing; (*v*) bothering, harassing; (*n*) harassment. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) soothing, relaxing, promising, slight.

CHAPTER XLII

JOSEPH AND HIS BURDEN

A wall **bounded** the site of Casterbridge Union-house, except along a portion of the end. Here a high **gable** stood prominent, and it was covered like the front with a mat of ivy. In this gable was no window, **chimney**, ornament, or protuberance of any kind. The single feature appertaining to it, beyond the **expanse** of dark green leaves, was a small door.

The situation of the door was peculiar. The sill was three or four feet above the ground, and for a moment one was at a loss for an explanation of this exceptional **altitude**, till ruts immediately beneath suggested that the door was used solely for the passage of articles and persons to and from the level of a vehicle standing on the outside. Upon the whole, the door seemed to **advertise** itself as a species of Traitor's Gate translated to another sphere. That entry and exit **hereby** was only at rare intervals became apparent on **noting** that tufts of grass were allowed to **flourish** undisturbed in the chinks of the sill.

As the clock over the South-street Alms-house pointed to five minutes to three, a blue spring waggon, picked out with red, and containing boughs and flowers, passed the end of the street, and up towards this side of the building. Whilst the **chimes** were yet stammering out a shattered form of "Malbrook,"

Thesaurus

advertise: (*v*) promote, publicize, broadcast, push, impart, plug, notice, promulgate, ballyhoo, bill, publish. ANTONYM: (*v*) hide.

altitude: (*n*) height, Alt, high, level, distance, pitch, tallness, stature, eminence, El, length. ANTONYMS: (*n*) depth, abyss, pit.

bounded: (*adj*) restricted, limited, delimited, encircled, enclosed, confined, leap, spring, bordered, circumscribed, constrained.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unbounded, unconfined, unlimited, free.

chimes: (*n*) bells, echo, refrain, repetend, ritornello, glockenspiel.

chimney: (*n*) fireplace, smokestack, shaft, flue, hearth, vent, lamp chimney, chimneys, nostril, throat, weasand.

expanse: (*n*) breadth, expansion, space, region, compass, extent, orbit, latitude, acreage, dilation, length. ANTONYM: (*n*) closeness.

flourish: (*n, v*) display; (*v*) thrive, prosper, boast, wave, brag, wield, boom, grow; (*adj, v*) bloom; (*adv, v*) shake. ANTONYMS: (*v*) decline, struggle, deteriorate, wilt, pine, fade, flounder, decrease, dwindle.

gable: (*n*) pediment, gable end, wall, gable wall, William Clark gable, bell gable, corbie gable, gavel, Clark gable.

hereby: (*adv*) thereby, whereby.

noting: (*adj*) conscious.

Joseph Poorgrass rang the bell, and received directions to back his waggon against the high door under the gable. The door then opened, and a plain elm coffin was slowly thrust forth, and laid by two men in **fustian** along the middle of the vehicle.

One of the men then stepped up beside it, took from his pocket a lump of chalk, and wrote upon the cover the name and a few other words in a large scrawling hand. (We believe that they do these things more tenderly now, and provide a plate.) He covered the whole with a black cloth, threadbare, but decent, the tailboard of the waggon was returned to its place, one of the men handed a certificate of registry to Poorgrass, and both entered the door, closing it behind them. Their connection with her, short as it had been, was over for ever.

Joseph then placed the flowers as **enjoined**, and the evergreens around the flowers, till it was difficult to divine what the waggon contained; he smacked his whip, and the rather pleasing funeral car crept down the hill, and along the road to Weatherbury.

The afternoon drew on apace, and, looking to the right towards the sea as he walked beside the horse, Poorgrass saw strange clouds and scrolls of mist rolling over the long ridges which **girt** the landscape in that quarter. They came in yet greater volumes, and **indolently** crept across the intervening valleys, and around the withered **papery** flags of the moor and river brinks. Then their dank spongy forms closed in upon the sky. It was a sudden overgrowth of atmospheric **fungi** which had their roots in the neighbouring sea, and by the time that horse, man, and corpse entered Yalbury Great Wood, these silent workings of an invisible hand had reached them, and they were completely enveloped, this being the first arrival of the autumn fogs, and the first fog of the series.

The air was as an eye suddenly struck blind. The waggon and its load rolled no longer on the horizontal division between clearness and **opacity**, but were **imbedded** in an elastic body of a monotonous pallor throughout. There was no perceptible motion in the air, not a visible drop of water fell upon a leaf of the beeches, birches, and firs composing the wood on either side. The trees stood in an attitude of **intentness**, as if they waited **longingly** for a wind to come and

Thesaurus

enjoined: (*adj*) lawful.

fungi: (*n*) bacteria, fungus, kingdom
fungi, Thallophyta, fungus kingdom.

fustian: (*adj, n*) rant, jargon; (*adj*)
bombastic, inflated, pompous,
grandiloquent, highfalutin, prose run
mad; (*n*) claptrap, blah, grandiosity.

girt: (*n, v*) girth, girdle; (*v*) gird,
begird, encircle, environ; (*n*) band,
belt, zone, cingle; (*adj*) braced.

imbedded: (*v*) embosomed, rooted,
mewed up, in the bosom of, posited,

situate; (*adj*) encysted.

indolently: (*adv*) lazily, sluggishly,
slackly, slowly, languidly, torpidly,
listlessly, lethargically, carelessly,
inertly, shiftlessly. ANTONYMS:
(*adv*) nimbly, vigorously,
dynamically.

intentness: (*adj, n*) earnestness, zeal;
(*adj*) ardor, empressment; (*n*)
concentration, absorption,
engrossment, intentiveness, earnest,
complete attention, handsel.

longingly: (*adv*) cravingly, piningly,
eagerly, contemplatively, wishfully,
nostalgically, melancholy, wistfully,
pensively, languishingly, reflectively.

opacity: (*n*) opaqueness, obscurity,
cloudiness, murkiness, indistinctness,
muddiness, fogginess, opaque, dark,
quality, dullness. ANTONYMS: (*n*)
clarity, transparency.

papery: (*adj*) chartaceous, thin,
papyraceous, thinner, sleazy, paper,
flimsy. ANTONYM: (*adj*) tough.

rock them. A **startling** quiet overhung all surrounding things—so completely, that the crunching of the waggon-wheels was as a great noise, and small rustles, which had never obtained a hearing except by night, were distinctly individualized.

Joseph Poorgrass looked round upon his sad burden as it loomed faintly through the **flowering** laurustinus, then at the unfathomable gloom amid the high trees on each hand, indistinct, shadowless, and spectrelike in their monochrome of grey. He felt anything but cheerful, and wished he had the company even of a child or dog. Stopping the horse, he listened. Not a footstep or wheel was audible anywhere around, and the dead silence was broken only by a heavy particle falling from a tree through the evergreens and alighting with a smart rap upon the coffin of poor Fanny. The fog had by this time **saturated** the trees, and this was the first dropping of water from the overbrimming leaves. The hollow echo of its fall reminded the waggoner painfully of the grim Leveller. Then hard by came down another drop, then two or three. Presently there was a continual tapping of these heavy drops upon the dead leaves, the road, and the travellers. The nearer boughs were **beaded** with the mist to the **greyness** of aged men, and the rusty-red leaves of the beeches were hung with similar drops, like diamonds on auburn hair.

At the roadside **hamlet** called Roy-Town, just beyond this wood, was the old inn Buck's Head. It was about a mile and a half from Weatherbury, and in the meridian times of stage-coach travelling had been the place where many coaches changed and kept their **relays** of horses. All the old **stabling** was now pulled down, and little remained besides the **habitable** inn itself, which, standing a little way back from the road, signified its existence to people far up and down the highway by a sign hanging from the horizontal bough of an elm on the opposite side of the way.

Travellers—for the variety *tourist* had hardly developed into a distinct species at this date—sometimes said in passing, when they cast their eyes up to the sign-bearing tree, that artists were fond of representing the **signboard** hanging thus, but that they themselves had never before noticed so perfect an instance in actual

Thesaurus

beaded: (*adj*) beady, bejeweled, bejewelled, bespangled, covered, decorated, jeweled, sequined, spangled, spangly, gemmed.
flowering: (*adj*) blooming, abloom, efflorescent, flourishing; (*n*) bloom, blossom, flower, anthesis, inflorescence, efflorescence, florescence.
greyness: (*n*) grey, grayness, gray, charcoal, achromatic color, achromatic colour, Asa gray, ash

gray, charcoal gray, lightness, ash grey.
habitable: (*adj*) livable, liveable.
hamlet: (*n*) dorp, community, kraal, settlement, campong, crossroads, city, place, colony, neighborhood; (*adv, n*) town.
relays: (*n*) race.
saturated: (*adj, v*) sodden; (*adj*) drenched, concentrated, sopping, soaked, full, soggy, soppy, wet through, pure; (*v*) impregnate.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) unsaturated.
signboard: (*n*) sign, billboard, poster, placard, shingle, hoarding, label, plate, tag, tablet, structure.
stabling: (*n*) accommodation, livestock housing, stalling.
startling: (*adj*) wonderful, shocking, surprising, striking, alarming, appalling, marvellous, dramatic, frightful, sensational, lurid.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unremarkable, soothing, comforting.

working order. It was near this tree that the waggon was standing into which Gabriel Oak crept on his first journey to Weatherbury; but, owing to the darkness, the sign and the inn had been unobserved.

The manners of the inn were of the old-established type. Indeed, in the minds of its frequenters they existed as unalterable formulae: E.G. —

Rap with the bottom of your pint for more **liquor**.

For tobacco, shout.

In calling for the girl in waiting, say, "Maid!"

Ditto for the **landlady**, "Old Soul!" etc., etc.

It was a relief to Joseph's heart when the friendly signboard came in view, and, stopping his horse immediately beneath it, he proceeded to fulfil an intention made a long time before. His spirits were **oozing** out of him quite. He turned the horse's head to the green bank, and entered the **hostel** for a mug of ale.

Going down into the kitchen of the inn, the floor of which was a step below the passage, which in its turn was a step below the road outside, what should Joseph see to **gladden** his eyes but two copper-coloured discs, in the form of the countenances of Mr. Jan Coggan and Mr. Mark Clark. These owners of the two most appreciative throats in the neighbourhood, within the pale of respectability, were now sitting face to face over a threelegged circular table, having an iron rim to keep **cups** and pots from being accidentally elbowed off; they might have been said to **resemble** the setting sun and the full moon shining *vis-à-vis* across the **globe**.

"Why, 'tis neighbour Poorgrass!" said Mark Clark. "I'm sure your face don't praise your mistress's table, Joseph."

"I've had a very pale companion for the last four miles," said Joseph, **indulging** in a **shudder toned** down by resignation. "And to speak the truth, 'twas beginning to tell upon me. I assure ye, I ha'n't seed the colour of victuals

Thesaurus

cups: (*n*) plates, dishes, dishware, tableware.

gladden: (*adj, v*) exhilarate, enliven, inspirit; (*v*) comfort, joy, encourage, animate, console, content, satisfy; (*adj*) elate. ANTONYM: (*v*) dishearten.

globe: (*n*) earth, world, orb, circle, eyeball, round, planet, bolus, fireball, bulb; (*adj, n*) sphere.

hostel: (*n, v*) lodge; (*n*) dormitory, small hotel, khan, youth hostel, hotel,

hostelry, caravansary, tavern, housing, hospice.

indulging: (*n*) pampering, excess, indulgence, orgy, folly, foolery, gratification.

landlady: (*n*) landlord, madam, proprietor, hostess, innkeeper, landholder, lady of the house.

liquor: (*n*) fluid, broth, alcohol, booze, brew, brandy, arrack, spirits, schnapps; (*n, v*) drink; (*adj, n*) liquid.

oozing: (*n*) ooze, leakage, exudation,

seepage, sweating, extravasation, distillation, flow, leak, discharge; (*adj*) seeping.

resemble: (*v*) seem, imitate, compare, correspond, to resemble, agree, look, simulate; (*adj*) look like; (*n*) resemblance; (*adv*) alike.

shudder: (*adj, n, v*) shake, quake, tremble; (*n, v*) quiver, twitch, thrill; (*n*) quivering, shivering, chill, frisson; (*v*) flutter.

toned: (*adj*) pastel.

or drink since breakfast time this morning, and that was no more than a dew-bit afield."

"Then drink, Joseph, and don't **restrain** yourself!" said Coggan, handing him a **hooped** mug three-quarters full.

Joseph drank for a **moderately** long time, then for a longer time, saying, as he lowered the jug, "'Tis pretty drinking—very pretty drinking, and is more than cheerful on my melancholy errand, so to speak it."

"True, drink is a pleasant delight," said Jan, as one who repeated a truism so familiar to his brain that he hardly noticed its passage over his tongue; and, lifting the cup, Coggan **tilted** his head gradually backwards, with closed eyes, that his **expectant** soul might not be diverted for one instant from its **bliss** by irrelevant surroundings.

"Well, I must be on again," said Poorgrass. "Not but that I should like another nip with ye; but the parish might lose confidence in me if I was seed here."

"Where be ye trading o't to to-day, then, Joseph?"

"Back to Weatherbury. I've got poor little Fanny Robin in my waggon outside, and I must be at the churchyard gates at a quarter to five with her."

"Ay—I've heard of it. And so she's nailed up in parish boards after all, and nobody to pay the bell shilling and the grave half-crown."

"The parish pays the grave half-crown, but not the bell shilling, because the bell's a luxury: but 'a can hardly do without the grave, poor body. However, I expect our mistress will pay all."

"A pretty maid as ever I see! But what's yer hurry, Joseph? The pore woman's dead, and you can't bring her to life, and you may as well sit down comfortable, and finish another with us."

"I don't mind taking just the least thimbleful ye can dream of more with ye, sonnies. But only a few minutes, because 'tis as 'tis."

Thesaurus

bliss: (*n*) happiness, joy, ecstasy, pleasure, paradise, blessedness, felicity, elation, beatitude, heaven, blessing. ANTONYMS: (*n*) misery, sorrow, agony, grief, anguish, sadness, suffering, gloom, hell, dissatisfaction.

expectant: (*adj*) hopeful, enceinte, anticipative, big, gravid, eager, heavy, confident, with child, watchful; (*adj, v*) pregnant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uninterested,

apathetic, indifferent.

hooped: (*adj*) with stripes, stripy, striped, girded.

moderately: (*adv*) abstemiously, quietly, modestly, pretty, temperately, soberly, slightly, calmly, mildly, reasonably, restrainedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) very, unreasonably, massively, immoderately, absolutely, excessively, completely, hugely, severely, wholly.

restrain: (*adj, v*) confine; (*v*) control, rein, hold, curb, bind, contain, prevent, limit, repress; (*n, v*) check. ANTONYMS: (*v*) encourage, promote, unleash, impel, release, intensify, increase, free, extend, express, support.

tilted: (*adj*) leaning, slanting, inclined, oblique, crooked, slanted, atilt, askew, sloping, at an angle, uneven. ANTONYM: (*adj*) upright.

"Of course, you'll have another drop. A man's twice the man afterwards. You feel so warm and glorious, and you **whop** and slap at your work without any trouble, and everything goes on like **sticks** a-breaking. Too much liquor is bad, and leads us to that horned man in the **smoky** house; but after all, many people haven't the gift of enjoying a wet, and since we be highly favoured with a power that way, we should make the most o't."

"True," said Mark Clark. " 'Tis a talent the Lord has **mercifully** bestowed upon us, and we ought not to neglect it. But, what with the parsons and clerks and schoolpeople and serious tea-parties, the merry old ways of good life have gone to the dogs – upon my carcase, they have!"

"Well, really, I must be onward again now," said Joseph.

"Now, now, Joseph; nonsense! The poor woman is dead, isn't she, and what's your hurry?"

"Well, I hope Providence won't be in a way with me for my doings," said Joseph, again sitting down. "I've been troubled with weak moments lately, 'tis true. I've been drinky once this month already, and I did not go to church a-Sunday, and I dropped a **curse** or two yesterday; so I don't want to go too far for my safety. Your next world is your next world, and not to be **squandered** offhand."

"I believe ye to be a chapelmember, Joseph. That I do."

"Oh, no, no! I don't go so far as that."

"For my part," said Coggan, "I'm **staunch** Church of England."

"Ay, and faith, so be I," said Mark Clark.

"I won't say much for myself; I don't wish to," Coggan continued, with that tendency to talk on principles which is characteristic of the barley-corn. "But I've never changed a single doctrine: I've stuck like a plaster to the old faith I was born in. Yes; there's this to be said for the Church, a man can belong to the Church and bide in his cheerful old inn, and never trouble or worry his mind about doctrines at all. But to be a meetinger, you must go to chapel in all winds and weathers, and make yerself as frantic as a **skit**. Not but that chapel members

Thesaurus

curse: (*n, v*) blight, plague; (*n*) anathema, blasphemy, malediction, denunciation; (*adj, v*) beshrew; (*v*) swear, ban, damn, vituperate. ANTONYMS: (*n*) blessing, benediction, making; (*v*) communicate.

mercifully: (*adv*) mildly, sympathetically, indulgently, humanely, benignly, clemently, benevolently, softly, leniently, kindly, benignantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*)

spitefully, severely, unfortunately.

skit: (*n*) parody, lampoon, burlesque, libel, personality, travesty, mockery, trollop, playacting, wench; (*v*) squib.

smoky: (*adj*) murky, hazy, fumid, vaporous, opaque, muddy, famish, burnt; (*v*) sooty, smutty, dusty. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clean, fresh, clear.

squandered: (*adj*) wasted, dissipated, emaciated, devastated, dissolute, diminished, desolated, desolate, cadaverous; (*v*) bewildered,

employed ineffectually.

staunch: (*adj*) faithful, loyal, constant, solid, resolute, devoted, stalwart, secure, sturdy; (*n, v*) stanch; (*adj, n*) hardy. ANTONYM: (*adj*) disloyal.

sticks: (*n*) backwoods, firewood, frontier, outskirts, suburb, town, wilderness, brushwood, high sticks; (*adj*) distant.

whop: (*n, v*) whap, bang, bat; (*n*) hit; (*v*) wham, whack, bash, bop, sock, bonk, strike.

be clever **chaps** enough in their way. They can lift up beautiful prayers out of their own heads, all about their families and shipwrecks in the newspaper."

"They can—they can," said Mark Clark, with **corroborative** feeling; "but we Churchmen, you see, must have it all printed **forehand**, or, dang it all, we should no more know what to say to a great **gaffer** like the Lord than **babes** unborn."

"Chapelfolk be more hand-in-glove with them above than we," said Joseph, thoughtfully.

"Yes," said Coggan. "We know very well that if anybody do go to heaven, they will. They've worked hard for it, and they **deserve** to have it, such as 'tis. I bain't such a fool as to pretend that we who stick to the Church have the same chance as they, because we know we have not. But I hate a feller who'll change his old ancient doctrines for the sake of getting to heaven. I'd as soon turn king's-evidence for the few pounds you get. Why, neighbours, when every one of my taties were **frosted**, our Parson Thirdly were the man who gave me a sack for seed, though he hardly had one for his own use, and no money to buy 'em. If it hadn't been for him, I shouldn't hae had a tatie to put in my garden. D'ye think I'd turn after that? No, I'll stick to my side; and if we be in the wrong, so be it: I'll fall with the fallen!"

"Well said—very well said," observed Joseph.—"However, folks, I must be moving now: upon my life I must. Pa'son Thirdly will be waiting at the church gates, and there's the woman a-biding outside in the waggon."

"Joseph Poorgrass, don't be so miserable! Pa'son Thirdly won't mind. He's a generous man; he's found me in tracts for years, and I've **consumed** a good many in the course of a long and shady life; but he's never been the man to cry out at the expense. Sit down."

The longer Joseph Poorgrass remained, the less his spirit was troubled by the duties which devolved upon him this afternoon. The minutes glided by **uncounted**, until the evening **shades** began perceptibly to **deepen**, and the eyes of the three were but sparkling points on the surface of darkness. Coggan's repeater struck six from his pocket in the usual still small tones.

Thesaurus

forehand: (*adj*) theretofore, erewhile, ere; (*adv*) beforehand.

babes: (*n*) babies, babe.

chaps: (*n*) chops, fauces, crack.

consumed: (*adj*) exhausted, finished, used up, worn, depleted, obsessed, possessed, lost, tired, immersed, gone.

corroborative: (*adj*) corroboratory, collateral, confirmative, confirming, affirmative, corroborant, substantiating, verifying, verifactory,

validatory, substantiative.

deepen: (*v*) intensify, amplify, develop, rise, redouble, heighten, strengthen, raise, magnify, increase, darken. ANTONYMS: (*v*) lower, contract, shorten, reduce, lessen, decrease, lighten, diminish.

deserve: (*v*) rate, warrant, gain, earn, to deserve, demand, justify, bear; (*n*, *v*) reward; (*n*) richly deserve, worth.

frosted: (*adj*) rimy, frozen, nacreous, opaque, iced, icy, white, pearly,

milky, frigid, crisp.

gaffer: (*n*) boss, foreman, chief, ganger, fellow, chap, blade, antique, beau, elf, put.

shades: (*n*) shade, sunglasses, dark glasses, shadow, glasses, blind, awning, roller blind, eyeglasses.

uncounted: (*adj*) countless, numberless, myriad, innumerable, multitudinous, unnumbered, innumerable, incalculable, many; (*adj*, *v*) untold; (*n*) legion.

At that moment **hasty** steps were heard in the entry, and the door opened to admit the figure of Gabriel Oak, followed by the maid of the inn bearing a candle. He stared sternly at the one lengthy and two round faces of the sitters, which confronted him with the expressions of a **fiddle** and a couple of warming-pans. Joseph Poorgrass blinked, and shrank several inches into the background.

“Upon my soul, I’m ashamed of you; ‘tis disgraceful, Joseph, disgraceful!” said Gabriel, indignantly. “Coggan, you call yourself a man, and don’t know better than this.”

Coggan looked up **indefinitely** at Oak, one or other of his eyes occasionally opening and closing of its own accord, as if it were not a member, but a **dozy** individual with a distinct personality.

“Don’t take on so, shepherd!” said Mark Clark, looking reproachfully at the candle, which appeared to possess special features of interest for his eyes.

“Nobody can hurt a dead woman,” at length said Coggan, with the precision of a machine. “All that could be done for her is done—she’s beyond us: and why should a man put himself in a **tearing** hurry for **lifeless** clay that can neither feel nor see, and don’t know what you do with her at all? If she’d been alive, I would have been the first to help her. If she now wanted victuals and drink, I’d pay for it, money down. But she’s dead, and no speed of ours will bring her to life. The woman’s past us—time spent upon her is thrown away: why should we hurry to do what’s not required? Drink, shepherd, and be friends, for to-morrow we may be like her.”

“We may,” added Mark Clark, emphatically, at once drinking himself, to run no further risk of losing his chance by the event alluded to, Jan meanwhile **merging** his additional thoughts of to-morrow in a song:—

To-mor-row, to-mor-row!
And while peace and plen-ty I find at my board,
With a heart free from sick-ness and sor-row,
With my friends will I share what to-day may af-ford,

Thesaurus

dozy: (*adj*) sleepy, soporific, dozing, somnolent, sluggish, lethargic, comatose, drowsing, cernuous; (*v*) torpescent, lethargical. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) observant, awake, alert.

fiddle: (*n, v*) con, cheat, trick; (*v*) tamper, play, diddle, meddle, tinker; (*n*) kit, swindle, fraud.

hasty: (*adj*) fast, abrupt, cursory, fleet, sudden, rash, impetuous, careless, speedy, hurried, quick. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) deliberate, considered, leisurely,

sensible, gradual, thorough, cautious, careful, roundabout, prudent, patient.

indefinitely: (*adv*) indistinctly, indeterminately, unclearly, uncertainly, undefinedly, unfixedly, loosely, imprecisely, undeterminedly, unsettledly, obscurely. ANTONYM: (*adv*) temporarily.

lifeless: (*adj*) inanimate, dull, insipid, defunct, inactive, flat, exanimate, dreary, tedious, inert, lackluster.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lively, stiff, alive, interesting, awake, moving, upright, bright, brilliant, firm, inspiring.

merging: (*n*) confluence, concourse, merger, meeting, conflux, unification, coming together, amalgamation, merge, integration; (*adj*) blending. ANTONYM: (*n*) segregation.

tearing: (*adj*) fierce, violent, vehement, furious, ripping, ferocious; (*n*) lachrymation, lacrimation, riving ahead, tear, lancination.

And let them spread the ta-ble to-mor-row.
To-mor-row', to-mor —

"Do hold thy horning, Jan!" said Oak; and turning upon Poorgrass, "as for you, Joseph, who do your wicked deeds in such **confoundedly** holy ways, you are as drunk as you can stand."

"No, Shepherd Oak, no! Listen to reason, shepherd. All that's the matter with me is the affliction called a **multiplying** eye, and that's how it is I look double to you—I mean, you look double to me."

"A multiplying eye is a very bad thing," said Mark Clark.

"It always comes on when I have been in a public-house a little time," said Joseph Poorgrass, meekly. "Yes; I see two of every sort, as if I were some holy man living in the times of King Noah and entering into the ark.... Y-y-y-yes," he added, becoming much affected by the picture of himself as a person thrown away, and **shedding** tears; "I feel too good for England: I ought to have lived in Genesis by rights, like the other men of sacrifice, and then I shouldn't have b-b-been called a d-d-drunkard in such a way!"

"I wish you'd show yourself a man of spirit, and not sit **whining** there!"

"Show myself a man of spirit? ... Ah, well! let me take the name of drunkard humbly—let me be a man of **contrite** knees—let it be! I know that I always do say "Please God" afore I do anything, from my getting up to my going down of the same, and I be willing to take as much disgrace as there is in that holy act. Hah, yes! ... But not a man of spirit? Have I ever allowed the toe of pride to be lifted against my hinder parts without **groaning manfully** that I question the right to do so? I inquire that query boldly?"

"We can't say that you have, Hero Poorgrass," admitted Jan.

"Never have I allowed such treatment to pass **unquestioned!** Yet the shepherd says in the face of that rich testimony that I be not a man of spirit! Well, let it pass by, and death is a kind friend!"

Thesaurus

confoundedly: (*adj*) tremendously, severely, desperately, with a vengeance; (*adv*) confusedly, accursedly, abashedly, bewilderedly, cursedly, puzzledly, extremely.
contrite: (*adj*) apologetic, sorry, remorseful, regretful, rueful, bad, ashamed, humble, sorrowful, dreary; (*adj, v*) repentant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unrepentant, indifferent, hurtful, mean, proud, unremorseful.
groaning: (*adj*) moaning, groaningly,

inarticulate.
manfully: (*adv*) gallantly, bravely, manlikely, virilely, mightily, masculinely, courageously, valiantly, doughtily, intrepidly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) unmanfully.
multiplying: (*adj*) cumulative; (*n*) generation, calculation.
shedding: (*n*) molting, abscission, fluffing, effusion, moulting, biological process, desquamation, sloughing, emission; (*adj, n*) peeling;

(*adj*) flaking.
unquestioned: (*adj*) undisputed, unquestionable, unanimous, clear-cut, accepted, axiomatic, proverbial; (*adj, v*) unchallenged; (*v*) uncontested, uncontradicted.
whining: (*adj*) whimpering, whiny, sniveling pitiful, Snively, tearful, whiney, singing, peevish; (*v*) fretful, lamenting; (*n*) sniveling.

Gabriel, seeing that neither of the three was in a fit state to take charge of the waggon for the remainder of the journey, made no reply, but, closing the door again upon them, went across to where the vehicle stood, now getting indistinct in the fog and gloom of this **mildewy** time. He pulled the horse's head from the large patch of **turf** it had eaten bare, readjusted the boughs over the coffin, and drove along through the **unwholesome** night.

It had gradually become rumoured in the village that the body to be brought and buried that day was all that was left of the unfortunate Fanny Robin who had followed the Eleventh from Casterbridge through Melchester and onwards. But, thanks to Boldwood's reticence and Oak's generosity, the lover she had followed had never been **individualized** as Troy. Gabriel hoped that the whole truth of the matter might not be published till at any rate the girl had been in her grave for a few days, when the **interposing** barriers of earth and time, and a sense that the events had been somewhat shut into **oblivion**, would **dead**en the **sting** that revelation and **invidious** remark would have for Bathsheba just now.

By the time that Gabriel reached the old manor-house, her residence, which lay in his way to the church, it was quite dark. A man came from the gate and said through the fog, which hung between them like blown flour –

“Is that Poorgrass with the corpse?”

Gabriel recognized the voice as that of the parson.

“The corpse is here, sir,” said Gabriel.

“I have just been to inquire of Mrs. Troy if she could tell me the reason of the delay. I am afraid it is too late now for the funeral to be performed with proper decency. Have you the registrar's certificate?”

“No,” said Gabriel. “I expect Poorgrass has that; and he's at the Buck's Head. I forgot to ask him for it.”

“Then that settles the matter. We'll put off the funeral till to-morrow morning. The body may be brought on to the church, or it may be left here at the farm and fetched by the bearers in the morning. They waited more than an hour, and have now gone home.”

Thesaurus

deaden: (*n, v*) dampen, blunt, benumb, stun, obtund; (*adj, n, v*) damp; (*v*) muffle, mute, cushion; (*adj, v*) quell; (*adj*) allay. ANTONYMS: (*v*) accentuate, amplify, enliven, heighten, strengthen, build, invigorate, increase.
individualized: (*adj*) detailed, personal, personalised, personalized.
interposing: (*adj*) meddling.
invidious: (*adj*) obnoxious, hateful, discriminatory, offensive,

outrageous, jealous, abominable, odious, loathsome, covetous; (*adj, v*) spiteful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pleasant, desirable.

mildewy: (*adj*) moldy, mouldy.

oblivion: (*n*) limbo, Lethe, void, absolution, forgiveness, obliviousness, silence, remission, pardon; (*n, v*) amnesty; (*adj*) nonbeing. ANTONYMS: (*n*) consciousness, fame.

sting: (*n, v*) bite, hurt, con, pain; (*v*)

prick, itch, irritate, prickle, goad, provoke, smart. ANTONYMS: (*v*) calm; (*n*) honesty.

turf: (*n*) sward, greensward, ground, grass, field, peat, lawn, green, divot, Corso, race course.

unwholesome: (*adj*) noxious, harmful, noisome, morbid, injurious, detrimental, sickly, insalubrious, corrupting, diseased, damaging. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) healthy, decent, wholesome, pleasant.

Gabriel had his reasons for thinking the latter a most objectionable plan, notwithstanding that Fanny had been an **inmate** of the farm-house for several years in the lifetime of Bathsheba's uncle. Visions of several unhappy **contingencies** which might arise from this delay flitted before him. But his will was not law, and he went indoors to inquire of his mistress what were her wishes on the subject. He found her in an unusual mood: her eyes as she looked up to him were suspicious and perplexed as with some **antecedent** thought. Troy had not yet returned. At first Bathsheba assented with a mien of indifference to his proposition that they should go on to the church at once with their burden; but immediately afterwards, following Gabriel to the gate, she swerved to the extreme of solicitousness on Fanny's account, and desired that the girl might be brought into the house. Oak argued upon the convenience of leaving her in the waggon, just as she lay now, with her flowers and green leaves about her, merely wheeling the vehicle into the coach-house till the morning, but to no purpose, "It is unkind and unchristian," she said, "to leave the poor thing in a coach-house all night."

"Very well, then," said the parson. "And I will arrange that the funeral shall take place early to-morrow. Perhaps Mrs. Troy is right in feeling that we cannot treat a dead fellow-creature too thoughtfully. We must remember that though she may have erred **grievously** in leaving her home, she is still our sister: and it is to be believed that God's uncovenanted mercies are extended towards her, and that she is a member of the flock of Christ."

The parson's words spread into the heavy air with a sad yet **unperturbed** cadence, and Gabriel shed an honest tear. Bathsheba seemed unmoved. Mr. Thirdly then left them, and Gabriel lighted a lantern. Fetching three other men to assist him, they bore the unconscious **truant** indoors, placing the coffin on two **benches** in the middle of a little sitting-room next the hall, as Bathsheba directed.

Every one except Gabriel Oak then left the room. He still **indecisively** lingered beside the body. He was deeply troubled at the wretchedly ironical aspect that circumstances were putting on with regard to Troy's wife, and at his

Thesaurus

antecedent: (*adj, n, v*) precedent; (*n*) precursor, forerunner, forebear, forefather, predecessor; (*adj*) anterior, past, former, preceding, prior. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) subsequent, after, following, later, posterior; (*n*) successor.

benches: (*n*) bleachers.

contingencies: (*n*) contingency reserve.

grievously: (*adv*) seriously, heavily, sorrowfully, gravely, severely,

mortally, mournfully, heinously, weightily; (*adj, adv*) painfully, bitterly.

indecisively: (*adv*) undecidedly, hesitantly, waveringly, vacillatingly, weakly, inconclusively, hesitatingly, undeterminedly, doubtfully, vaguely, tentatively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) firmly, precisely, admirably, intelligently, confidently.

inmate: (*n*) captive, convict, gaolbird, denizen, prisoner, con, patient,

jailbird, lodger, occupant, resident. ANTONYM: (*n*) outpatient.

truant: (*n*) deserter, hooky player, nonattender, fugitive, wrongdoer, idler, absentee, absenter, offender; (*v*) shirk; (*adj*) AWOL.

unperturbed: (*adj, v*) unruffled; (*adj*) calm, tranquil, placid, cool, unconcerned, composed, unflustered, untroubled, easy; (*v*) undisturbed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) agitated, anxious, perturbed.

own **powerlessness** to **counteract** them. In spite of his careful manoeuvring all this day, the very worst event that could in any way have happened in connection with the burial had happened now. Oak imagined a terrible discovery resulting from this afternoon's work that might cast over Bathsheba's life a shade which the **interposition** of many **lapsing** years might but indifferently **lighten**, and which nothing at all might altogether remove.

Suddenly, as in a last attempt to save Bathsheba from, at any rate, immediate anguish, he looked again, as he had looked before, at the chalk writing upon the coffinlid. The **scrawl** was this simple one, "*Fanny Robin and child.*" Gabriel took his handkerchief and carefully rubbed out the two latter words, leaving visible the **inscription** "*Fanny Robin*" only. He then left the room, and went out quietly by the front door.

Thesaurus

counteract: (*v*) antagonize, counterbalance, check, balance, cancel, hinder, neutralize, contradict, resist, compensate, contravene. ANTONYMS: (*v*) help, cooperate, assist, approve, coordinate, support, back, reinforce.

inscription: (*n*) epigraph, entry, dedication, autograph, epitaph, registration, lettering, writing, record, superscription, title.

interposition: (*adj, n*) mediation; (*adj*)

intercession; (*n*) intervention, interpolation, insertion, interruption, intermediation, interjection, location, locating, placement.

lapsing: (*n*) backsliding, lapse, atavism, relapse, relapsing, reversion, reverting, recidivism, failure.

lighten: (*v*) assuage, alleviate, light, illuminate, brighten, lessen, allay, clear, mitigate, relieve, illumine. ANTONYMS: (*v*) darken, intensify, increase, dye, depress, aggravate,

exacerbate.

powerlessness: (*n*) incapacity, impotence, weakness, impotency, impuissance, incapability, helplessness, defencelessness, defenselessness, incompetence, ineffectiveness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) strength, ability, capacity.

scrawl: (*n, v*) scabble, doodle, scratch; (*n*) squiggle, cacography, scrape, scratching, mark, dent, chicken feed; (*v*) write.

CHAPTER XLIII

FANNY'S REVENGE

"Do you want me any longer ma'am?" inquired Liddy, at a later hour the same evening, standing by the door with a **chamber** candlestick in her hand and addressing Bathsheba, who sat **cheerless** and alone in the large parlour **beside** the first fire of the season.

"No more to-night, Liddy."

"I'll sit up for master if you like, ma'am. I am not at all afraid of Fanny, if I may sit in my own room and have a candle. She was such a childlike, nesh young thing that her spirit couldn't appear to anybody if it tried, I'm quite sure."

"Oh no, no! You go to bed. I'll sit up for him myself till twelve o'clock, and if he has not **arrived** by that time, I shall give him up and go to bed too."

"It is half-past ten now."

"Oh! is it?"

"Why don't you sit upstairs, ma'am?"

"Why don't I?" said Bathsheba, desultorily. "It isn't worth while—there's a fire here, Liddy." She suddenly exclaimed in an **impulsive** and **excited whisper**, "Have you heard anything strange said of Fanny?" The words had no sooner

Thesaurus

arrived: (*adv*) here, at home; (*adj*) accepted.

beside: (*adv*) on, abreast, aside, closely, nearly; (*prep*) about; (*adv, prep*) besides; (*adj*) adjacent; (*n*) while, at; (*adj, prep*) near.

chamber: (*n*) hall, bedchamber, cavity, cell, council, compartment, assembly, apartment, ventricle, dormitory, cubicle.

cheerless: (*adj*) sad, dismal, dark, drab, dreary, gloomy, dull, murky,

dispiriting; (*adj, v*) disconsolate, joyless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bright, happy, uplifting, lighthearted, sunny, smart, cheery, warm.

excited: (*adj, v*) animated, ardent; (*adj*) ablaze, enthusiastic, emotional, frantic, warm, heated, delirious, fervent, passionate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cool, unexcited, bored, tranquil, easygoing, disappointed, despairing, comatose, apathetic, sedate, composed.

impulsive: (*adj*) capricious, hasty, driving, rash, instinctive, changeable, hotheaded, quick-tempered, impellent, headlong, passionate.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cautious, considered, predictable, unflappable, prepared, sensible, gradual, overdue, patient, placid, premeditated.

whisper: (*n, v*) murmur, hum, mumble, suggestion, hint, inkling; (*v*) breathe, hiss; (*n*) rustle, trace, breath. ANTONYM: (*n*) information.

escaped her than an expression of unutterable regret crossed her face, and she burst into tears.

“No—not a word!” said Liddy, looking at the weeping woman with astonishment. “What is it makes you cry so, ma’am; has anything hurt you?” She came to Bathsheba’s side with a face full of sympathy.

“No, Liddy—I don’t want you any more. I can hardly say why I have taken to crying lately: I never used to cry. Good-night.”

Liddy then left the parlour and closed the door.

Bathsheba was lonely and miserable now; not lonelier actually than she had been before her marriage; but her loneliness then was to that of the present time as the **solitude** of a mountain is to the solitude of a cave. And within the last day or two had come these **disquieting** thoughts about her husband’s past. Her **wayward** sentiment that evening concerning Fanny’s temporary resting-place had been the result of a strange **complication** of impulses in Bathsheba’s bosom. Perhaps it would be more accurately described as a determined rebellion against her prejudices, a **revulsion** from a lower instinct of **uncharitableness**, which would have **withheld** all sympathy from the dead woman, because in life she had preceded Bathsheba in the attentions of a man whom Bathsheba had by no means ceased from loving, though her love was sick to death just now with the gravity of a further misgiving.

In five or ten minutes there was another tap at the door. Liddy reappeared, and coming in a little way stood hesitating, until at length she said, “Maryann has just heard something very strange, but I know it isn’t true. And we shall be sure to know the rights of it in a day or two.”

“What is it?”

“Oh, nothing connected with you or us, ma’am. It is about Fanny. That same thing you have heard.”

“I have heard nothing.”

“I mean that a wicked story is got to Weatherbury within this last hour—that—” Liddy came close to her mistress and whispered the remainder of the

Thesaurus

complication: (*n*) difficulty, intricacy, tangle, labyrinth, confusion, problem, muddle, development, complicity, maze, mess. ANTONYMS: (*n*) solution, simplicity, answer, help, clarity.

disquieting: (*adj*) alarming, worrying, distressing, troublesome, disturbing, shocking, uncomfortable, discompose, restless, unsettling, uneasy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) reassuring, soothing, settling,

pacifying, calming, comforting.

escaped: (*adj*) at large, at liberty, loose, on the loose, runaway, easy, wild; (*n*) freer; (*v*) escaping.

revulsion: (*n*) horror, hatred, aversion, repulsion, repugnance, hate, distaste, dislike, detestation, abomination, abhorrence. ANTONYMS: (*n*) love, attraction, delight, liking, adoration.

solitude: (*n*) desolation, loneliness, seclusion, privacy, aloneness, isolation, retirement, lonesomeness,

retreat, desert, solitariness.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) companionship, closeness.

uncharitableness: (*n*) rancor.

wayward: (*adj*) contrary, disobedient, obstinate, stubborn, intractable, unruly, capricious; (*adj, n*) freakish, crotchety, wanton, fanciful.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) controllable, good, manageable, biddable.

withheld: (*adj*) hidden, uncommitted. ANTONYM: (*adj*) ongoing.

sentence slowly into her ear, **inclining** her head as she spoke in the direction of the room where Fanny lay.

Bathsheba trembled from head to foot.

“I don’t believe it!” she said, excitedly. “And there’s only one name written on the coffin-cover.”

“Nor I, ma’am. And a good many others don’t; for we should surely have been told more about it if it had been true – don’t you think so, ma’am?”

“We might or we might not.”

Bathsheba turned and looked into the fire, that Liddy might not see her face. Finding that her mistress was going to say no more, Liddy glided out, closed the door softly, and went to bed.

Bathsheba’s face, as she continued looking into the fire that evening, might have excited solicitousness on her account even among those who loved her least. The sadness of Fanny Robin’s fate did not make Bathsheba’s glorious, although she was the Esther to this poor Vashti, and their **fates** might be supposed to stand in some respects as contrasts to each other. When Liddy came into the room a second time the beautiful eyes which met hers had worn a **listless**, weary look. When she went out after telling the story they had expressed wretchedness in full activity. Her simple contrary nature, fed on old-fashioned principles, was troubled by that which would have troubled a woman of the world very little, both Fanny and her child, if she had one being dead.

Bathsheba had grounds for conjecturing a connection between her own history and the dimly suspected tragedy of Fanny’s end which Oak and Boldwood never for a moment **credited** her with possessing. The meeting with the lonely woman on the previous Saturday night had been unwitnessed and **unspoken** of. Oak may have had the best of intentions in **withholding** for as many days as possible the details of what had happened to Fanny; but had he known that Bathsheba’s perceptions had already been exercised in the matter, he would have done nothing to **lengthen** the minutes of **suspense** she was now

Thesaurus

credited: (*adj*) accredited, accepted.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) unofficial.

fates: (*adj*) book of fate, Parcae, sky; (*n*) fortune, the fates.

inclining: (*adj*) oblique, shelving; (*n*) leaning, tendency, disposition, movement, proclivity, sentiment, propensity, predilection, partiality.

lengthen: (*adj, v*) elongate; (*v*) enlarge, prolong, draw, draw out, increase, expand, stretch, protract, continue, drag out. ANTONYMS: (*v*) clip,

curtail.

listless: (*adj*) indifferent, dull, indolent, careless, languid, inert, inattentive, dispirited, slow, uninterested, spiritless.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lively, animated, energetic, strong, spirited.

suspense: (*n*) doubt, expectancy, anticipation, indecision, insecurity, unrest, expectation, irresolution, suspension, tension; (*adj, n*) hesitation. ANTONYM: (*n*)

knowledge.

unspoken: (*adj*) unsaid, mute, silent, understood, implicit, implied, inarticulate, unexpressed, tongueless, voiceless, dumb. ANTONYM: (*adj*) spoken.

withholding: (*n*) detention, reservation, withholding tax, confinement, custody, deduction, deprivation, estrangement, holding, keeping, maintenance. ANTONYM: (*n*) release.

undergoing, when the certainty which must terminate it would be the worst fact suspected after all.

She suddenly felt a longing desire to speak to some one stronger than herself, and so get strength to sustain her **surmised** position with dignity and her lurking doubts with **stoicism**. Where could she find such a friend? nowhere in the house. She was by far the coolest of the women under her roof. Patience and suspension of judgement for a few hours were what she wanted to learn, and there was nobody to teach her. Might she but go to Gabriel Oak!—but that could not be. What a way Oak had, she thought, of **enduring** things. Boldwood, who seemed so much deeper and higher and stronger in feeling than Gabriel, had not yet learnt, any more than she herself, the simple lesson which Oak showed a mastery of by every turn and look he gave—that among the multitude of interests by which he was surrounded, those which affected his personal well-being were not the most absorbing and important in his eyes. Oak meditatively looked upon the horizon of circumstances without any special regard to his own standpoint in the midst. That was how she would wish to be. But then Oak was not **racked** by **incertitude** upon the inmost matter of his bosom, as she was at this moment. Oak knew all about Fanny that he wished to know—she felt convinced of that. If she were to go to him now at once and say no more than these few words, “What is the truth of the story?” he would feel bound in honour to tell her. It would be an inexpressible relief. No further speech would need to be uttered. He knew her so well that no **eccentricity** of behaviour in her would alarm him.

She flung a cloak round her, went to the door and opened it. Every blade, every **twig** was still. The air was yet thick with moisture, though somewhat less dense than during the afternoon, and a steady **smack** of drops upon the fallen leaves under the boughs was almost musical in its soothing regularity. It seemed better to be out of the house than within it, and Bathsheba closed the door, and walked slowly down the lane till she came opposite to Gabriel’s cottage, where he now lived alone, having left Coggan’s house through being pinched for room. There was a light in one window only, and that was downstairs. The shutters

Thesaurus

eccentricity: (*n*) abnormality, idiosyncrasy, oddness, peculiarity, anomaly, crankiness, irregularity, quirk, strangeness, weirdness, curiousness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) usualness, normalcy, conventionality, concentricity, conformity.
enduring: (*adj*) durable, abiding, lasting, permanent, continuing, constant, hardy, immortal, eternal, stable; (*adv*) enduringly.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) impatient,

transient, fleeting, mortal, modern, insubstantial, inconstant, fickle, erratic, unstable.
incertitude: (*n*) uncertainty, dubiousness, dubiety, indecisiveness, suspense, misgiving, irresolution, indecision, disbelief, distrust, doubtfulness. ANTONYM: (*n*) certainty.
racked: (*adj*) assured, confident, miserable.
smack: (*adv, n, v*) slap, bang; (*n, v*)

savor, knock, kiss, hit, buss, wallop; (*n*) flavor, blow; (*adj, n*) dash.
stoicism: (*n*) indifference, unemotionality, apathy, emotionlessness, impassivity, self-control, phlegm, sluggishness; (*adj, n*) philosophy, equanimity; (*adj*) stuttee.
surmised: (*adj*) rude, conjectural, assumed.
twig: (*n*) sprig, bough, limb, shoot, offshoot, spray, branchlet, scion, stalk; (*n, v*) stick; (*v*) grasp.

were not closed, nor was any blind or curtain drawn over the window, neither robbery nor observation being a contingency which could do much injury to the **occupant** of the **domicile**. Yes, it was Gabriel himself who was sitting up: he was reading. From her standing-place in the road she could see him plainly, sitting quite still, his light curly head upon his hand, and only occasionally looking up to snuff the candle which stood beside him. At length he looked at the clock, seemed surprised at the lateness of the hour, closed his book, and arose. He was going to bed, she knew, and if she tapped it must be done at once.

Alas for her resolve! She felt she could not do it. Not for worlds now could she give a hint about her misery to him, much less ask him plainly for information on the cause of Fanny's death. She must suspect, and guess, and **chafe**, and bear it all alone.

Like a homeless **wanderer** she lingered by the bank, as if lulled and fascinated by the atmosphere of content which seemed to spread from that little dwelling, and was so sadly lacking in her own. Gabriel appeared in an upper room, placed his light in the window-bench, and then—knelt down to pray. The contrast of the picture with her **rebellious** and agitated existence at this same time was too much for her to bear to look upon longer. It was not for her to make a **truce** with trouble by any such means. She must tread her **giddy** distracting measure to its last note, as she had begun it. With a swollen heart she went again up the lane, and entered her own door.

More fevered now by a reaction from the first feelings which Oak's example had raised in her, she paused in the hall, looking at the door of the room wherein Fanny lay. She locked her fingers, threw back her head, and strained her hot hands rigidly across her forehead, saying, with a hysterical sob, "Would to God you would speak and tell me your secret, Fanny! ... Oh, I hope, hope it is not true that there are two of you! ... If I could only look in upon you for one little minute, I should know all!"

A few moments passed, and she added, slowly, "*And I will.*"

Thesaurus

chafe: (*v*) rub, irritate, provoke, nettle, annoy, gall, grate, abrade, anger, rile, graze. ANTONYMS: (*v*) cool, pacify, soothe, protect, relieve, appease, smooth.
domicile: (*n*) dwelling, abode, residence, home, house, address, lodging, place, habitat; (*v*) lodge; (*n, v*) sojourn.
giddy: (*adj, v*) flighty; (*adj*) dizzy, faint, silly, changeable, vertiginous, featherbrained, light, fickle,

capricious; (*adv*) careless.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) serious, dull.
occupant: (*n*) tenant, inhabitant, dweller, denizen, occupier, inmate, holder, citizen, householder, dalesman, coaster.
rebellious: (*adj*) insubordinate, mutinous, disaffected, defiant, disobedient, contrary, contumacious, insurgent, stubborn, unruly, malcontent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) docile, conventional, obedient,

conformist, content, conforming, cooperative, loyal, meek, submissive, obliging.
truce: (*n, v*) respite; (*n*) peace, breather, reprieve, ceasefire agreement, agreement, pact, accord; (*v*) rest, pause, lull. ANTONYMS: (*n*) disagreement, fight, war.
wanderer: (*n*) vagabond, roamer, tramp, nomad, drifter, traveler, wayfarer, stranger, hobo, traveller; (*n, v*) rambler.

Bathsheba in after times could never gauge the mood which carried her through the actions following this murmured resolution on this memorable evening of her life. She went to the lumber-closet for a screw-driver. At the end of a short though undefined time she found herself in the small room, quivering with emotion, a mist before her eyes, and an **excruciating pulsation** in her brain, standing beside the uncovered coffin of the girl whose **conjectured** end had so entirely engrossed her, and saying to herself in a husky voice as she gazed within—

“It was best to know the worst, and I know it now!”

She was conscious of having brought about this situation by a series of actions done as by one in an extravagant dream; of following that idea as to **method**, which had burst upon her in the hall with glaring **obviousness**, by gliding to the top of the stairs, assuring herself by listening to the heavy breathing of her maids that they were asleep, gliding down again, turning the handle of the door within which the young girl lay, and deliberately setting herself to do what, if she had anticipated any such undertaking at night and alone, would have horrified her, but which, when done, was not so dreadful as was the conclusive proof of her husband’s conduct which came with knowing beyond doubt the last chapter of Fanny’s story.

Bathsheba’s head sank upon her bosom, and the breath which had been **bated** in suspense, curiosity, and interest, was exhaled now in the form of a whispered wail: “Oh-h-h!” she said, and the silent room added length to her moan.

Her tears fell fast beside the unconscious pair in the coffin: tears of a complicated origin, of a nature indescribable, almost **indefinable** except as other than those of simple sorrow. Assuredly their **wonted** fires must have lived in Fanny’s ashes when events were so shaped as to chariot her hither in this natural, unobtrusive, yet effectual manner. The one feat alone—that of dying—by which a mean condition could be resolved into a grand one, Fanny had **achieved**. And to that had destiny subjoined this rencounter to-night, which had, in Bathsheba’s wild imagining, turned her companion’s failure to success,

Thesaurus

achieved: (*adj*) finished, fulfilled.
bated: (*adj*) weak, faint, decreased.
conjectured: (*adj*) supposed, opinionative.
excruciating: (*adj*) agonizing, harrowing, painful, sharp, intolerable, acute, violent, insupportable, intense, torturing; (*v*) cutting. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bearable, painless, pleasant, pleasing, soothing, wonderful, dull.
indefinable: (*adj*) ineffable,

unspeakable, vague, indeterminate, undefinable, inexpressible, elusive, indefinite, undefined, nondescript, equivocal. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) concrete, precise.
method: (*n*) course, fashion, form, system, order, approach, arrangement, way, manner, formula; (*adj, n*) plan. ANTONYMS: (*n*) chaos, disorderliness.
obviousness: (*n*) blatancy, apparenacy, noticeability, noticeableness, clarity,

conspicuousness, unavoidability, unoriginality, triteness, simplicity, predomination. ANTONYM: (*n*) originality.
pulsation: (*n*) pulse, beat, pounding, impulse, heartbeat, throb, tremor, pulsing, palpitation, throbbing, beating.
wonted: (*adj, n*) habitual, ordinary, usual, familiar; (*adj*) everyday, general, conventional, routine; (*n*) accustomed, common, regular.

her humiliation to triumph, her lucklessness to **ascendency**; it had thrown over herself a garish light of mockery, and set upon all things about her an ironical smile.

Fanny's face was framed in by that yellow hair of hers; and there was no longer much room for doubt as to the origin of the curl owned by Troy. In Bathsheba's heated fancy the innocent white countenance expressed a dim triumphant consciousness of the pain she was retaliating for her pain with all the merciless **rigour** of the Mosaic law: "Burning for burning; wound for wound: strife for strife."

Bathsheba indulged in contemplations of escape from her position by immediate death, which, thought she, though it was an inconvenient and awful way, had limits to its inconvenience and **awfulness** that could not be overpassed; whilst the shames of life were **measureless**. Yet even this scheme of extinction by death was but **tamely** copying her rival's method without the reasons which had **glorified** it in her rival's case. She glided rapidly up and down the room, as was mostly her habit when excited, her hands hanging clasped in front of her, as she thought and in part expressed in broken words: "O, I hate her, yet I don't mean that I hate her, for it is grievous and wicked; and yet I hate her a little! yes, my flesh insists upon hating her, whether my spirit is willing or no!... If she had only lived, I could have been angry and cruel towards her with some justification; but to be vindictive towards a poor dead woman recoils upon myself. O God, have mercy! I am miserable at all this!"

Bathsheba became at this moment so terrified at her own state of mind that she looked around for some sort of refuge from herself. The vision of Oak kneeling down that night recurred to her, and with the **imitative** instinct which animates women she seized upon the idea, resolved to kneel, and, if possible, pray. Gabriel had prayed; so would she.

She knelt beside the coffin, covered her face with her hands, and for a time the room was silent as a tomb. Whether from a purely mechanical, or from any other cause, when Bathsheba arose it was with a **quieted** spirit, and a regret for the antagonistic instincts which had seized upon her just before.

Thesaurus

ascendency: (*n*) ascendant, predominance, sway, ascendance, advantage, ascendent, control, dominance, dominion, influence, mastery.

awfulness: (*n*) terribleness, horridness, frightfulness, atrociousness, fearfulness, gravity, solemnity, ghastliness, horror, horribleness, terror. ANTONYMS: (*n*) insignificance, delight.

glorified: (*adj*) celebrated, holy,

overvalued, puffed up, overrated, overestimated, hyped, haloed, canonised, blessed, authorized.

imitative: (*adj*) mock, counterfeit, derivative, fake, false, fictitious, bogus, bastard, onomatopoeic, base, sham. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) genuine, real, nonimitative.

measureless: (*adj*) immense, infinite, boundless, limitless, incalculable, endless, illimitable, countless, cosmic, unlimited, unmeasured. ANTONYM:

(*adj*) negligible.

quieted: (*adj*) composed.

rigour: (*n*) hardship, hardness, grimness, rigidity, strict, rigor, rigorousness, asperity, cruelty, acrimony, severity.

tamely: (*adv*) dully, blandly, gently, insipidly, obediently, uninterestingly, moderately, brokenly, subduedly, domestically, flatly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) cruelly, assertively, disobediently, interestingly, wildly.

In her desire to make **atonement** she took flowers from a **vase** by the window, and began laying them around the dead girl's head. Bathsheba knew no other way of showing kindness to persons departed than by giving them flowers. She knew not how long she remained engaged thus. She forgot time, life, where she was, what she was doing. A slamming together of the coach-house doors in the yard brought her to her-self again. An instant after, the front door opened and closed, steps crossed the hall, and her husband appeared at the entrance to the room, looking in upon her.

He beheld it all by degrees, stared in **stupefaction** at the scene, as if he thought it an illusion raised by some fiendish **incantation**. Bathsheba, **pallid** as a corpse on end, gazed back at him in the same wild way.

So little are instinctive guesses the fruit of a legitimate induction, that at this moment, as he stood with the door in his hand, Troy never once thought of Fanny in connection with what he saw. His first confused idea was that somebody in the house had died.

"Well—what?" said Troy, blankly.

"I must go! I must go!" said Bathsheba, to herself more than to him. She came with a **dilated** eye towards the door, to push past him.

"What's the matter, in God's name? who's dead?" said Troy.

"I cannot say; let me go out. I want air!" she continued.

"But no; stay, I insist!" He seized her hand, and then **volition** seemed to leave her, and she went off into a state of **passivity**. He, still holding her, came up the room, and thus, hand in hand, Troy and Bathsheba approached the coffin's side.

The candle was standing on a bureau close by them, and the light slanted down, distinctly enkindling the cold features of both mother and babe. Troy looked in, dropped his wife's hand, knowledge of it all came over him in a **lurid** sheen, and he stood still.

Thesaurus

atonement: (*n*) amends, reparation, satisfaction, compensation, penance, redress, redemption, reconciliation, recompense, propitiation, penitence.
dilated: (*adj*) wide, inflated, ampulliform.
incantation: (*n*) spell, magic, sorcery, enchantment, witchcraft, conjuration, magic spell, chant, wizardry, open sesame, adjuration.
lurid: (*adj*) ghastly, grisly, gruesome, loud, frightful, sharp, shocking,

gaudy, sensational, hideous, horrific.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) subtle, muted, bland, dull, modest.
pallid: (*adj*) ghastly, wan, bloodless, lurid, cadaverous, sickly, ashen, white, pasty, livid, watery.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) healthy, rosy, vivid.
passivity: (*n*) passiveness, apathy, indifference, inactivity, torpor, torpidity, compliance, listlessness, patience, obedience, tameness.

stupefaction: (*adj, n*) stupor; (*n*) astonishment, daze, amazement, shock, bewilderment, perplexity, surprise, awe, grogginess, semiconsciousness.
vase: (*n*) jar, urn, barrel, vessel, container, jug, pitcher, pot, bouquet, bushel.
volition: (*n, v*) will, testament; (*n*) choice, option, selection, determination, conation, preference, velleity, free will; (*v*) purpose.

So still he remained that he could be imagined to have left in him no motive power whatever. The clashes of feeling in all directions confounded one another, produced a neutrality, and there was motion in none.

"Do you know her?" said Bathsheba, in a small enclosed echo, as from the interior of a cell.

"I do," said Troy.

"Is it she?"

"It is."

He had originally stood perfectly erect. And now, in the well-nigh **congealed** immobility of his frame could be discerned an incipient movement, as in the darkest night may be discerned light after a while. He was gradually sinking forwards. The lines of his features softened, and dismay modulated to illimitable sadness. Bathsheba was regarding him from the other side, still with parted lips and distracted eyes. Capacity for intense feeling is proportionate to the general intensity of the nature, and perhaps in all Fanny's sufferings, much greater relatively to her strength, there never was a time she suffered in an absolute sense what Bathsheba suffered now.

What Troy did was to sink upon his knees with an indefinable union of **remorse** and **reverence** upon his face, and, bending over Fanny Robin, gently kissed her, as one would kiss an **infant** asleep to avoid awakening it.

At the sight and sound of that, to her, **unendurable** act, Bathsheba sprang towards him. All the strong feelings which had been scattered over her existence since she knew what feeling was, seemed gathered together into one pulsation now. The revulsion from her indignant mood a little earlier, when she had meditated upon compromised honour, forestalment, **eclipse** in maternity by another, was violent and entire. All that was forgotten in the simple and still strong attachment of wife to husband. She had sighed for her self-completeness then, and now she cried aloud against the **severance** of the union she had deplored. She flung her arms round Troy's neck, **exclaiming** wildly from the deepest deep of her heart—

Thesaurus

congealed: (*adj*) firm, solidify, frozen, jelled, jellied, stiff, thick, concrete.
eclipse: (*v*) darken, overshadow, cloud, shade, outdo, surpass, dim, transcend, outshine, outweigh; (*n*) disappearance. ANTONYMS: (*n*) rise; (*v*) fail, brighten, clear, disclose.
exclaiming: (*n*) deuce, Dickens, ejaculation, exclaim, devil, interjection, ecphonestic.
infant: (*n*) child, babe, minor, nursing, youngster, chick, toddler, suckling,

kid, pappoose; (*adj, n*) juvenile.
remorse: (*n*) penitence, contrition, repentance, regret, guilt, penance, sorrow, grief, qualm, ruefulness, compassion. ANTONYM: (*n*) shamelessness.
reverence: (*n, v*) respect, regard, fear, worship, honor, esteem, adore; (*n*) deference, adoration, admiration, awe. ANTONYMS: (*n*) despise, disrespect, irreverence, disdain, disparagement, contempt; (*v*)

dishonor.
severance: (*n*) separation, disunion, breach, interruption, division, divorce, parting, secession, rupture, breakaway, break. ANTONYM: (*n*) unification.
unendurable: (*adj*) intolerable, insufferable, insupportable, excruciating, impossible, unsupportable, uneasy, teasing, passionate, not patient, intolerant. ANTONYM: (*adj*) bearable.

“Don’t—don’t kiss them! O, Frank, I can’t bear it—I can’t! I love you better than she did: kiss me too, Frank—kiss me! *You will, Frank, kiss me too!*”

There was something so abnormal and startling in the childlike pain and simplicity of this appeal from a woman of Bathsheba’s **calibre** and independence, that Troy, **loosening** her tightly clasped arms from his neck, looked at her in bewilderment. It was such an unexpected revelation of all women being alike at heart, even those so different in their accessories as Fanny and this one beside him, that Troy could hardly seem to believe her to be his proud wife Bathsheba. Fanny’s own spirit seemed to be **animating** her frame. But this was the mood of a few instants only. When the momentary surprise had passed, his expression changed to a silencing **imperious** gaze.

“I will not kiss you!” he said pushing her away.

Had the wife now but gone no further. Yet, perhaps, under the **harrowing** circumstances, to speak out was the one wrong act which can be better understood, if not forgiven in her, than the right and politic one, her rival being now but a corpse. All the feeling she had been betrayed into showing she drew back to herself again by a strenuous effort of **self-command**.

“What have you to say as your reason?” she asked her bitter voice being strangely low—quite that of another woman now.

“I have to say that I have been a bad, black-hearted man,” he answered.

“And that this woman is your victim; and I not less than she.”

“Ah! don’t **taunt** me, madam. This woman is more to me, dead as she is, than ever you were, or are, or can be. If Satan had not tempted me with that face of yours, and those cursed coquetries, I should have married her. I never had another thought till you came in my way. Would to God that I had; but it is all too late!” He turned to Fanny then. “But never mind, darling,” he said; “in the sight of Heaven you are my very, very wife!”

At these words there arose from Bathsheba’s lips a long, low cry of measureless despair and indignation, such a **wail** of anguish as had never before been heard within those old-inhabited walls. It was the of her union with Troy.

Thesaurus

animating: (*adj*) enlivening, invigorating, inspiring, inspiring, proceusmatic, stirring, exhilarating, glad, animated, exciting; (*n*) awakening.

calibre: (*n*) bore, size, quality, level, diam, dimension, nature, inferiority, grade, diameter, degree.

harrowing: (*adj*) agonizing, excruciating, painful, distressing, torturous, disturbing, tormenting, traumatic, frightful, terrible; (*v*)

rending. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) heartening, pleasing, safe.

imperious: (*adj*) haughty, domineering, authoritative, arbitrary, imperative, masterful, dictatorial, commanding, lordly, magisterial, despotic. ANTONYM: (*adj*) subservient.

loosening: (*n*) relaxation, unfastening, ease, undoing, liberalization, adjustment, alteration, liberalisation, easiness; (*adj*) solutive, laxative.

self-command: (*n*) self-control, self-government, self-restraint, discipline, presence.

taunt: (*n, v*) ridicule, gibe, flout, insult, mock, deride, sneer, twit, quip; (*n*) scoff; (*v*) bait. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) respect, compliment; (*v*) applaud, comfort.

wail: (*n, v*) howl, cry, lament, moan, scream, bellow, whine; (*v*) ululate, weep, whimper, mewl. ANTONYMS: (*v*) whimper, laugh.

"If she's— that, — what— am I?" she added, as a continuation of the same cry, and **sobbing** pitifully: and the **rarity** with her of such **abandonment** only made the condition more dire.

"You are nothing to me—nothing," said Troy, **heartlessly**. "A ceremony before a priest doesn't make a marriage. I am not morally yours."

A vehement **impulse** to **flee** from him, to run from this place, hide, and escape his words at any price, not stopping short of death itself, **mastered** Bathsheba now. She waited not an instant, but turned to the door and ran out.

Thesaurus

abandonment: (*n*) resignation, renunciation, desertion, neglect, withdrawal, surrender, exposure, forsaking, relinquishment, rejection, leaving. ANTONYMS: (*n*) attention, accomplishment, arrival, acceptance.
flee: (*v*) bolt, break out, fly, desert, break, abscond, elope, elude, run away, run, leave. ANTONYMS: (*v*) appear, advance.
heartlessly: (*adv*) mercilessly, pitilessly, ruthlessly, inhumanly,

callously, unkindly, unfeelingly, brutally, unsympathetically, harshly, insensitively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) sympathetically, sensitively, mercifully, humanely.
impulse: (*n*) pulse, urge, impulsion, force, motive, whim, drive, goad, motivation, momentum, incentive. ANTONYMS: (*n*) aversion, disincentive, disinclination.
mastered: (*adj*) down pat, low, downhearted, perfecter, dispirited,

depressed, declining, downcast, down in the mouth, cut down, beaten.
rarity: (*n*) rareness, curiosity, infrequency, curio, peculiarity, dearth, scarcity, tenuity, paucity, scarceness, antique. ANTONYM: (*n*) frequency.
sobbing: (*adj*) crying, weeping, weepy, tearful; (*n*) lamentation, shortness of breath, shit, prick, motherfucker, tear, lament.

CHAPTER XLIV

UNDER A TREE—REACTION

Bathsheba went along the dark road, **neither** knowing nor caring about the direction or issue of her flight. The first time that she definitely noticed her position was when she reached a gate leading into a thicket over-hung by some large oak and **beech** trees. On looking into the place, it occurred to her that she had seen it by daylight on some previous occasion, and that what appeared like an **impassable** thicket was in reality a **brake** of fern now withering fast. She could think of nothing better to do with her palpitating self than to go in here and hide; and entering, she lighted on a spot sheltered from the damp fog by a reclining trunk, where she sank down upon a **tangled couch** of fronds and stems. She mechanically pulled some armfuls round her to keep off the breezes, and closed her eyes.

Whether she slept or not that night Bathsheba was not clearly aware. But it was with a freshened existence and a **cooler** brain that, a long time afterwards, she became conscious of some interesting proceedings which were going on in the trees above her head and around.

A coarse-throated chatter was the first sound.

It was a **sparrow** just **waking**.

Thesaurus

beech: (*n*) Black beech, copper beech, tree, common beech, wood, beech tree, beech wood.

brake: (*n*) bit, curb, brakes, pteridium aquilinum, airbrake, safety lock; (*v*) retard, hinder, halt, stop, slow.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) move, start, incentive; (*v*) speed, go.

cooler: (*n*) beverage, freezer, drinkable, potable, drink, air conditioner, penitentiary, choky, prison, chokey, clink.

couch: (*n*) bed, sofa, settee, divan; (*adj*, *v*) lie; (*v*) express, put, frame, lower, repose; (*adj*) recline.

impassable: (*adj*) impervious, impenetrable, impracticable, invincible, insuperable, inaccessible, unpassable, innavigable, inextricable, closed, impossible. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) passable, open.

neither: (*conj*) either, no-one, not either, nor, nother.

sparrow: (*n*) hedge sparrow, sparrows,

passerine, house sparrow, accentor, true sparrow, spur, snag, passeriform bird, incitement.

tangled: (*adj*) involved, complex, knotted, intricate, complicated, entangled, knotty, convoluted, disheveled, tousled, matted.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) tidy, straightforward, untangled, neat, simple.

waking: (*adj*) wakeful; (*n*) awakening, wakefulness, consciousness.

Next: "Chee-weeze-weeze-weeze!" from another retreat.

It was a finch.

Third: "Tink-tink-tink-tink-a-chink!" from the hedge.

It was a robin.

"Chuck-chuck-chuck!" overhead.

A squirrel.

Then, from the road, "With my ra-ta-ta, and my rum-tum-tum!"

It was a **ploughboy**. Presently he came opposite, and she believed from his voice that he was one of the boys on her own farm. He was followed by a **shambling** tramp of heavy feet, and looking through the ferns Bathsheba could just discern in the wan light of daybreak a team of her own horses. They stopped to drink at a pond on the other side of the way. She watched them flouncing into the pool, drinking, tossing up their heads, drinking again, the water dribbling from their lips in silver threads. There was another **flounce**, and they came out of the pond, and turned back again towards the farm.

She looked further around. Day was just **dawning**, and beside its cool air and colours her heated actions and resolves of the night stood out in lurid contrast. She perceived that in her lap, and clinging to her hair, were red and yellow leaves which had come down from the tree and settled silently upon her during her partial sleep. Bathsheba shook her dress to get rid of them, when multitudes of the same family lying round about her rose and fluttered away in the breeze thus created, "like ghosts from an **enchanter** fleeing."

There was an opening towards the east, and the glow from the as yet unrisen sun attracted her eyes thither. From her feet, and between the beautiful yellowing ferns with their feathery arms, the ground sloped downwards to a hollow, in which was a species of **swamp**, dotted with fungi. A morning mist hung over it now—a **fulsome** yet magnificent silvery veil, full of light from the sun, yet semi-opaque—the hedge behind it being in some measure hidden by its hazy **luminousness**. Up the sides of this depression grew sheaves of the common rush, and here and there a peculiar species of flag, the blades of which

Thesaurus

dawning: (*n*) daybreak, sunrise, start, beginning, aurora, cockcrow, dayspring, morning, birth, first light, break of day. ANTONYM: (*n*) sunset.
enchanter: (*n*) magician, necromancer, sorcerer, wizard, warlock, sorceress, witch.
flounce: (*v*) fling, flounder, bob, bounce, dance; (*n*) ruffle, frill, fringe, trimming, furbelow, frame.
fulsome: (*adj*) excessive, foul, immoderate, bad, plentiful, undue,

smarry, repugnant, rank, high; (*v*) loathsome. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) shy, scanty.
luminousness: (*n*) illumination, luminescence, glow, light, brightness, incandescence, luminance, light source, clearness, flawlessness, Christ Within. ANTONYM: (*n*) dirtiness.
ploughboy: (*n*) plowboy, child, male child, boy.
shambling: (*n*) walking, make, shuffling; (*adj*) awkward, blundering,

clumsy, ungraceful, graceless, inelegant, ungainly, tightfisted. ANTONYM: (*adj*) graceful.
squirrel: (*n*) hackee, spermophile, baranduki, burunduki, gopher, baronduki, barunduki, collector; (*v*) bank, conserve; (*adj*) courser.
swamp: (*v*) flood, submerge, overwhelm, inundate, drench; (*n*) marsh, mire, quagmire, morass; (*adj, v*) sink, drown. ANTONYMS: (*v*) underwhelm, disperse, dry.

glistened in the emerging sun, like scythes. But the general aspect of the swamp was malignant. From its moist and poisonous coat seemed to be exhaled the essences of evil things in the earth, and in the waters under the earth. The fungi grew in all manner of positions from **rotting** leaves and tree stumps, some exhibiting to her listless gaze their clammy tops, others their oozing **gills**. Some were marked with great splotches, red as **arterial** blood, others were saffron yellow, and others tall and attenuated, with stems like **macaroni**. Some were leathery and of richest browns. The hollow seemed a nursery of pestilences small and great, in the immediate neighbourhood of comfort and health, and Bathsheba arose with a tremor at the thought of having passed the night on the brink of so dismal a place.

"There were now other footsteps to be heard along the road. Bathsheba's nerves were still **unstrung**: she crouched down out of sight again, and the pedestrian came into view. He was a schoolboy, with a bag slung over his shoulder containing his dinner, and a hook in his hand. He paused by the gate, and, without looking up, continued murmuring words in tones quite loud enough to reach her ears.

" 'O Lord, O Lord, O Lord, O Lord, O Lord': — that I know out o' book. 'Give us, give us, give us, give us, give us': — that I know. 'Grace that, grace that, grace that, grace that': — that I know." Other words followed to the same effect. The boy was of the **dunce** class apparently; the book was a **psalter**, and this was his way of learning the collect. In the worst attacks of trouble there appears to be always a superficial film of consciousness which is left **disengaged** and open to the notice of **trifles**, and Bathsheba was faintly amused at the boy's method, till he too passed on.

By this time **stupor** had given place to anxiety, and anxiety began to make room for hunger and thirst. A form now appeared upon the rise on the other side of the swamp, half-hidden by the mist, and came towards Bathsheba. The woman—for it was a woman—approached with her face askance, as if looking earnestly on all sides of her. When she got a little further round to the left, and drew nearer, Bathsheba could see the newcomer's profile against the sunny sky,

Thesaurus

arterial: (*n*) arterials, cardinal, foremost, central, principal, prime, arteries, master, capital, major, basic.
disengaged: (*adj*) vacant, unemployed, disentangled, free, freed, untrammelled, devoid, unreserved, detached, liberated, loosened.
dunce: (*n*) dolt, blockhead, loggerhead, ignoramus, numskull, ass, bonehead, booby, dunderhead, dullard, dummy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) thinker, scholar, intellectual, genius.

gills: (*n*) branchia, gill, mouth, countenance, flabellum.
macaroni: (*n*) fop, buck, Italian paste, exquisite, beau, man about town, pasta, dude, blood, blade, alimentary paste.
psalter: (*n*) Book of Psalms, sauter.
rotting: (*adj*) rotten, decaying, decayed, mouldering, mouldering, decomposing, putrid; (*n*) rot, putrefaction, decomposition, deep etching.

stupor: (*n*) lethargy, stupefaction, coma, shock, insensibility, unconsciousness, trance, sluggishness, torpor, haze, grogginess. ANTONYMS: (*n*) alertness, awareness, wakefulness.
trifles: (*n*) jests, nonsense, nugae, trivia.
unstrung: (*adj*) nervous, asthenic, discomposed, overwrought, adynamic; (*v*) weakly.

and knew the **wavy** sweep from forehead to chin, with neither angle nor decisive line anywhere about it, to be the familiar **contour** of Liddy Smallbury.

Bathsheba's heart bounded with gratitude in the thought that she was not altogether deserted, and she jumped up. "Oh, Liddy!" she said, or attempted to say; but the words had only been framed by her lips; there came no sound. She had lost her voice by exposure to the clogged atmosphere all these hours of night.

"Oh, ma'am! I am so glad I have found you," said the girl, as soon as she saw Bathsheba.

"You can't come across," Bathsheba said in a whisper, which she vainly endeavoured to make loud enough to reach Liddy's ears. Liddy, not knowing this, stepped down upon the swamp, saying, as she did so, "It will bear me up, I think."

Bathsheba never forgot that **transient** little picture of Liddy crossing the swamp to her there in the morning light. Iridescent bubbles of **dank subterranean** breath rose from the **sweating** sod beside the waiting maid's feet as she trod, hissing as they burst and expanded away to join the vapoury firmament above. Liddy did not sink, as Bathsheba had anticipated.

She landed safely on the other side, and looked up at the beautiful though pale and weary face of her young mistress.

"Poor thing!" said Liddy, with tears in her eyes, "Do **hearten** yourself up a little, ma'am. However did — —"

"I can't speak above a whisper — my voice is gone for the present," said Bathsheba, hurriedly. "I suppose the damp air from that hollow has taken it away Liddy, don't question me, mind. Who sent you — anybody?"

"Nobody. I thought, when I found you were not at home, that something cruel had happened. I fancy I heard his voice late last night; and so, knowing something was wrong — —"

"Is he at home?"

"No; he left just before I came out."

Thesaurus

contour: (*n*) contour line, outline, form, profile, shape, line, configuration, silhouette, curve, circuit, edge. ANTONYM: (*n*) core.

dank: (*adj*) damp, wet, moist, humid, sticky, soggy, sultry, muggy, juicy, rheumy, musty. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) arid, parched, bright.

hearten: (*v*) encourage, animate, cheer up, embolden, comfort, fortify, reassure, strengthen, inspire, gladden, assure. ANTONYMS: (*v*)

dishearten, sadden.

subterranean: (*adj*) underground, backdoor, profound, subaqueous, submarine, subterrene, subterrestrial, deep, hole-and-corner, subterraneous, subterrany.

sweating: (*n*) sweat, exudation, diaphoresis, hidrosis, sudation, extravasation, fermentation, transpiration, bodily process; (*adj*) perspiring, sweaty.

transient: (*adj*) fleeting, temporary,

passing, transitory, fugacious, ephemeral, momentary, temporal, provisional; (*adj, n*) fugitive, vagabond. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) enduring, lasting, immanent, long; (*n*) resident.

wavy: (*adj*) crinkled, crinkly, corrugated, waved, undulating, und, rippled, wavelike, undulate, undulatory, rolling. ANTONYM: (*adj*) straight.

"Is Fanny taken away?"

"Not yet. She will soon be—at nine o'clock."

"We won't go home at present, then. Suppose we walk about in this wood?"

Liddy, without exactly understanding everything, or anything, in this episode, assented, and they walked together further among the trees.

"But you had better come in, ma'am, and have something to eat. You will die of a chill!"

"I shall not come indoors yet—perhaps never."

"Shall I get you something to eat, and something else to put over your head besides that little shawl?"

"If you will, Liddy."

Liddy vanished, and at the end of **twenty** minutes returned with a **cloak**, hat, some slices of bread and butter, a tea-cup, and some hot tea in a little china jug

"Is Fanny gone?" said Bathsheba.

"No," said her companion, **pouring** out the tea.

Bathsheba wrapped herself up and ate and drank **sparingly**. Her voice was then a little clearer, and trifling colour returned to her face. "Now we'll walk about again," she said.

They wandered about the wood for nearly two hours, Bathsheba **replying** in monosyllables to Liddy's **prattle**, for her mind ran on one subject, and one only. She **interrupted** with—

"I wonder if Fanny is gone by this time?"

"I will go and see."

She came back with the information that the men were just taking away the **corpse**; that Bathsheba had been inquired for; that she had replied to the effect that her mistress was **unwell** and could not be seen.

"Then they think I am in my bedroom?"

Thesaurus

cloak: (*n, v*) veil, mask, camouflage, wrap, masquerade, screen, pall; (*n*) cape; (*v*) conceal, dissemble, hide.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) reveal, uncloak, unmask; (*n, v*) uncover.

corpse: (*n*) carcass, body, carcase, dead person, stiff, dead body, remains, corse, clay, dry bones; (*adj*) lich.

interrupted: (*adj*) discontinuous, fitful, intermittent, discontinued, disconnected, unsuccessful, intervallic, episodic, gaping, periodic;

(*prep*) interrupt.

pouring: (*adj*) gushing, teeming, flowing profusely, burbling, burbly; (*n*) casting, affusion, downpour, effusion, tapping, baptism.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) light.

prattle: (*n, v*) gossip, babble, chat, gab, jabber, chitchat; (*adj, n, v*) chatter, prate, palaver; (*v*) cackle, clack.

replying: (*adj*) respondent, responsive.

sparingly: (*adv*) frugally, economically, parsimoniously,

cautiously, thriftily, prudently, meagerly, sparsely, poorly, stingily, moderately. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) amply, extravagantly, thickly, liberally, generously, densely, wastefully.

twenty: (*adj*) vigesimal; (*n*) large integer, twenty dollar bill.

unwell: (*adj*) sick, ill, poorly, ailing, sickly, unhealthy, seedy, bad, diseased, frail; (*adj, v*) indisposed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) healthy, well, fit.

“Yes.” Liddy then ventured to add: “You said when I first found you that you might never go home again—you didn’t mean it, ma’am?”

“No; I’ve altered my mind. It is only women with no pride in them who run away from their husbands. There is one position worse than that of being found dead in your husband’s house from his ill usage, and that is, to be found alive through having gone away to the house of somebody else. I’ve thought of it all this morning, and I’ve chosen my course. A **runaway** wife is an **encumbrance** to everybody, a burden to herself and a byword—all of which make up a heap of misery greater than any that comes by staying at home—though this may include the trifling items of insult, beating, and **starvation**. Liddy, if ever you marry—God forbid that you ever should!—you’ll find yourself in a fearful situation; but mind this, don’t you flinch. Stand your ground, and be cut to **pieces**. That’s what I’m going to do.”

“Oh, mistress, don’t talk so!” said Liddy, taking her hand; “but I knew you had too much sense to bide away. May I ask what dreadful thing it is that has happened between you and him?”

“You may ask; but I may not tell.”

In about ten minutes they returned to the house by a **circuitous** route, entering at the rear. Bathsheba glided up the back stairs to a disused attic, and her companion followed.

“Liddy,” she said, with a lighter heart, for youth and hope had begun to **reassert** themselves; “you are to be my **confidante** for the present—somebody must be—and I choose you. Well, I shall take up my **abode** here for a while. Will you get a fire lighted, put down a piece of carpet, and help me to make the place comfortable. Afterwards, I want you and Maryann to bring up that little **stump** bedstead in the small room, and the bed belonging to it, and a table, and some other things.... What shall I do to pass the heavy time away?”

“Hemming handkerchiefs is a very good thing,” said Liddy.

“Oh no, no! I hate needlework—I always did.”

“Knitting?”

Thesaurus

abode: (*n*) dwelling, house, residence, place, domicile, lodge, abidance, mansion, lodging, address, seat.

circuitous: (*adj*) roundabout, winding, devious, tortuous, meandering, oblique, complicated, labyrinthine, crooked, collateral, circumlocutional. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) straight, direct.

confidante: (*n*) comrade, intimate, camarade, companion, compeer, familiar, lady’s maid, guest, confrere, soul mate, associate. ANTONYMS:

(*n*) enemy, foe, rival.

encumbrance: (*n*) check, hindrance, load, burden, barrier, impediment, tie, obstacle, imposition, charge, onus.

pieces: (*n*) debris, trash.

reassert: (*v*) reaffirm, affirm, maintain, justify, confirm, reconfirm, warrant, uphold, justified, evidence, demonstrate.

runaway: (*adj, n*) renegade, delinquent; (*n*) deserter, romp,

walkaway, refugee, absconder, runagate, escapee, laugher; (*adj*) decided. ANTONYM: (*n*) challenge.

starvation: (*n*) inanition, famine, famishment, hungeriness, privation, starving, malnutrition, dearth, poverty, scarcity, esurience.

stump: (*n*) stub, end, pulpit; (*v*) confuse, stamp, baffle, perplex, nonplus, puzzle, bewilder, mystify. ANTONYM: (*v*) explain.

“And that, too.”

“You might finish your **sampler**. Only the carnations and peacocks want filling in; and then it could be **framed** and glazed, and hung beside your aunt’s ma’am.”

“Samplers are out of date—horribly **countrified**. No Liddy, I’ll read. Bring up some books—not new ones. I haven’t heart to read anything new.”

“Some of your uncle’s old ones, ma’am?”

“Yes. Some of those we stowed away in boxes.” A faint gleam of humour passed over her face as she said: “Bring Beaumont and Fletcher’s *Maid’s Tragedy*, and the *Mourning Bride*, and let me see—*Night Thoughts*, and the *Vanity of Human Wishes*.”

“And that story of the black man, who murdered his wife Desdemona? It is a nice **dismal** one that would suit you excellent just now.”

“Now, Liddy, you’ve been looking into my books without telling me; and I said you were not to! How do you know it would suit me? It wouldn’t suit me at all.”

“But if the others do— —”

“No, they don’t; and I won’t read dismal books. Why should I read dismal books, indeed? Bring me *Love in a Village*, and *Maid of the Mill*, and *Doctor Syntax*, and some volumes of the *Spectator*.”

All that day Bathsheba and Liddy lived in the attic in a state of **barricade**; a **precaution** which proved to be **needless** as against Troy, for he did not appear in the neighbourhood or trouble them at all. Bathsheba sat at the window till sunset, sometimes attempting to read, at other times watching every movement outside without much purpose, and listening without much interest to every sound.

The sun went down almost blood-red that night, and a livid cloud received its rays in the east. Up against this dark background the west front of the church tower—the only part of the edifice visible from the farm-house windows—rose distinct and lustrous, the vane upon the summit bristling with rays. Hereabouts,

Thesaurus

barricade: (*n, v*) barrier, blockade, barricado; (*v*) block, obstruct, hinder, dam; (*n*) obstruction, fence, rampart, hurdle. ANTONYMS: (*n*) opening; (*v*) open, expose, assist.
countrified: (*adj*) rural, provincial, pastoral, country, countryfied, boorish, bucolic, bumpkinly, Arcadian, leafy; (*adj, prep*) rude.
dismal: (*adj*) cheerless, dejected, dreary, gloomy, desolate, disconsolate, depressing, melancholy,

black, dim, dull. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bright, happy, lively, uplifting, sunny, pleasant, light, cheery, strong, soulful, wonderful.
framed: (*adj*) counterfeit, prepared, orderly, methodical, spurious. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unframed.
needless: (*adj, v*) unnecessary, superfluous; (*adj*) futile, dispensable, bootless, excessive, preventable, meaningless, pointless, wanton, unavailing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

essential, worthwhile, inevitable, justifiable.
precaution: (*n*) foresight, care, prevention, discretion, anticipation, caution, circumspection, prudence, safeguard, protection; (*adj*) precautionary.
sampler: (*n*) sampling element, pattern, specimen, soil sampler, tastetester, taster, observation station, fancywork, sampling device, sampling station.

at six o'clock, the young men of the village gathered, as was their custom, for a game of Prisoners' base. The spot had been **consecrated** to this ancient **diversion** from time **immemorial**, the old stocks **conveniently** forming a base facing the boundary of the churchyard, in front of which the ground was **trodden** hard and bare as a pavement by the players. She could see the brown and black heads of the young lads darting about right and left, their white shirt-sleeves **gleaming** in the sun; whilst occasionally a shout and a peal of hearty laughter varied the **stillness** of the evening air. They continued playing for a quarter of an hour or so, when the game concluded abruptly, and the players leapt over the wall and vanished round to the other side behind a yew-tree, which was also half behind a beech, now spreading in one mass of golden foliage, on which the **branches** traced black lines.

"Why did the base-players finish their game so suddenly?" Bathsheba inquired, the next time that Liddy entered the room.

"I think 'twas because two men came just then from Casterbridge and began putting up a grand carved tombstone," said Liddy. "The lads went to see whose it was."

"Do you know?" Bathsheba asked.

"I don't," said Liddy.

Thesaurus

branches: (*n*) branch, brushwood.
consecrated: (*adj*) consecrate, blessed, sanctified, hallowed, holy, dedicated, divine, devoted, adopted; (*adj, prep*) set apart; (*prep*) dedicate.
 ANTONYM: (*adj*) secular.
conveniently: (*adv*) easily, opportunely, expediently, usefully, fitly, properly, practically, timely, helpfully, commodiously; (*adv, v*) advantageously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) awkwardly, clumsily.

diversion: (*n*) amusement, entertainment, pastime, deviation, distraction, detour, fun, sport, recreation, digression, deflexion.
gleaming: (*adj*) brilliant, shiny, radiant, glossy, lustrous, glowing, beaming, resplendent; (*n*) gleam, glimmer; (*adj, adv*) agleam.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, dirty, rough.
immemorial: (*adj*) ancient, prescriptive, pristine, primaeval, primeval, traditional, old, eternal,

customary.
stillness: (*n*) hush, calmness, immobility, serenity, silence, quietness, peacefulness; (*adj, n*) calm, quiet, peace, still. ANTONYMS: (*n*) bustle, movement, uproar, motion, turbulence, turmoil, vigor, disturbance, chaos, agitation.
trodden: (*adj*) trampled, damaged, beaten, compressed, packed down.
 ANTONYM: (*adj*) loose.

CHAPTER XLV

TROY'S ROMANTICISM

When Troy's wife had left the house at the previous midnight his first act was to cover the dead from sight. This done he ascended the stairs, and throwing himself down upon the bed dressed as he was, he waited **miserably** for the morning.

Fate had dealt **grimly** with him through the last four-and-twenty hours. His day had been spent in a way which varied very materially from his intentions regarding it. There is always an **inertia** to be overcome in striking out a new line of conduct—not more in ourselves, it seems, than in circumscribing events, which appear as if **leagued** together to allow no **novelties** in the way of **amelioration**.

Twenty pounds having been **secured** from Bathsheba, he had managed to add to the sum every farthing he could muster on his own account, which had been seven pounds ten. With this money, twenty-seven pounds ten in all, he had hastily driven from the gate that morning to keep his appointment with Fanny Robin.

On reaching Casterbridge he left the horse and **trap** at an inn, and at five minutes before ten came back to the bridge at the lower end of the town, and sat

Thesaurus

amelioration: (*n*) betterment, advance, improvement, melioration, enhancement, reformation, advancement, correction, progress, reform, relief.
grimly: (*adv*) severely, harshly, morosely, fiercely, drearily, sourly, gloomily, dreadfully, hardly, horridly, sullenly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) brightly, pleasantly, warmly.
inertia: (*n*) idleness, lethargy, inaction, passivity, laziness, inertness,

indolence, apathy, lassitude, languor, inactiveness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) energy, activity, activeness.
leagued: (*v*) brief, dense, firm, compact, confederated, not verbose, not diffuse, solid, pithy; (*adj*) confederate, allied.
miserably: (*adv*) pathetically, pathetically, pitiably, unhappily, sorrowfully, pessimistically, tragically; (*adj, adv*) piteously, grievously, woefully; (*adj*) miserably.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) happily, hopefully, brightly, affluently, enthusiastically, fortunately, profusely, contentedly.
novelties: (*n*) odds and ends.
secured: (*adj*) secure, protected, firm, locked, fast, bonded, bolted, barred, latched, securer, obtained.
trap: (*n, v*) net, catch, ambush, mesh, trick; (*v*) entrap, ensnare, entangle; (*n*) gin, noose, entanglement.
 ANTONYM: (*v*) release.

himself upon the **parapet**. The clocks struck the hour, and no Fanny appeared. In fact, at that moment she was being robed in her grave-clothes by two **attendants** at the Union poorhouse—the first and last tiring-women the gentle creature had ever been honoured with. The quarter went, the half hour. A rush of recollection came upon Troy as he waited: this was the second time she had broken a serious engagement with him. In anger he **vowed** it should be the last, and at eleven o'clock, when he had lingered and watched the stone of the bridge till he knew every lichen upon their face and heard the chink of the ripples underneath till they **oppressed** him, he jumped from his seat, went to the inn for his gig, and in a bitter mood of indifference concerning the past, and **recklessness** about the future, drove on to Budmouth races.

He reached the race-course at two o'clock, and remained either there or in the town till nine. But Fanny's image, as it had appeared to him in the sombre shadows of that Saturday evening, returned to his mind, backed up by Bathsheba's reproaches. He vowed he would not bet, and he kept his vow, for on leaving the town at nine o'clock in the evening he had diminished his cash only to the extent of a few shillings.

He trotted slowly homeward, and it was now that he was struck for the first time with a thought that Fanny had been really prevented by illness from keeping her promise. This time she could have made no mistake. He regretted that he had not remained in Casterbridge and made inquiries. Reaching home he quietly unharnessed the horse and came indoors, as we have seen, to the fearful shock that **awaited** him.

As soon as it grew light enough to distinguish objects, Troy arose from the coverlet of the bed, and in a mood of absolute indifference to Bathsheba's whereabouts, and almost **oblivious** of her existence, he stalked downstairs and left the house by the back door. His walk was towards the churchyard, entering which he searched around till he found a newly dug **unoccupied** grave—the grave dug the day before for Fanny. The position of this having been marked, he

Thesaurus

attendants: (*n*) entourage, followers, retinue, tendance, persons present, suite.

awaited: (*adj*) expected, appointed, scheduled, forthcoming, prospective.

oblivious: (*adj*) careless, inattentive, mindless, heedless, neglectful, unaware, ignorant, unwitting, Lethan, deaf, blind. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) aware, watchful, mindful, careful, sharp.

oppressed: (*adj*) laden, persecuted,

broken, burdened, drawn, gloomy, aggrieved, downcast, heavy, ladened, loaded.

parapet: (*n*) bulwark, breastwork, fortification, railing, bastion, battlement, wall, banister, handrail, earthwork; (*v*) sunk fence.

recklessness: (*n, v*) imprudence; (*n*) rashness, carelessness, desperation, extravagance, heedlessness, negligence, temerity, adventurism, audacity, neglect. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

care, carefulness, consideration, forethought, parsimony, deliberation, discretion, regard, restraint, thoughtfulness.

unoccupied: (*adj*) empty, vacant, unemployed, free, desolate, void, uninhabited, idle, inactive, deserted, abandoned. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) full, inhabited, overcrowded, solid, working, busy.

vowed: (*v*) promised, named, benempt.

hastened on to Casterbridge, only pausing and musing for a while at the hill whereon he had last seen Fanny alive.

Reaching the town, Troy descended into a side street and entered a pair of gates surmounted by a board bearing the words, "Lester, stone and marble mason." Within were lying about **stones** of all sizes and designs, **inscribed** as being sacred to the memory of **unnamed** persons who had not yet died.

Troy was so unlike himself now in look, word, and deed, that the want of likeness was **perceptible** even to his own consciousness. His method of engaging himself in this business of purchasing a tomb was that of an absolutely unpractised man. He could not bring himself to consider, calculate, or **economize**. He **waywardly** wished for something, and he set about obtaining it like a child in a nursery. "I want a good tomb," he said to the man who stood in a little office within the yard. "I want as good a one as you can give me for twenty-seven pounds."

It was all the money he possessed.

"That sum to include everything?"

"Everything. Cutting the name, carriage to Weatherbury, and erection. And I want it now at once."

"We could not get anything special worked this week."

"I must have it now."

"If you would like one of these in stock it could be got ready immediately."

"Very well," said Troy, impatiently. "Let's see what you have."

"The best I have in stock is this one," said the stone-cutter, going into a shed. "Here's a marble **headstone** beautifully **crocketed**, with medallions beneath of typical subjects; here's the **footstone** after the same pattern, and here's the coping to enclose the grave. The **polishing** alone of the set cost me eleven pounds—the slabs are the best of their kind, and I can warrant them to resist rain and frost for a hundred years without flying."

"And how much?"

Thesaurus

crocketed: (*adj*) decorated.

economize: (*v*) economise, save, preserve, skimp, husband, retrench, cut back, stint, economizing, save up, spare. ANTONYMS: (*v*) waste, spend, squander, expand.

footstone: (*n*) monument.

headstone: (*n*) tombstone, monument, quoin, keystone, coign, coigne, cornerstone, stone, memorial, building block, cemetery.

inscribed: (*adj*) etched, incised,

graven, written, carved, carven.

perceptible: (*adj*) conspicuous, appreciable, evident, discernible, obvious, visible, palpable, apparent, detectable, manifest, observable.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) intangible, unclear, inaudible, inconspicuous, obscure, undetectable, invisible.

polishing: (*n*) shining, brightening, print polishing, brushing, mechanical polishing, bobbing; (*adj*) cultural, abrasive.

stones: (*n*) shingle, grit.

unnamed: (*adj*) unidentified, unknown, anonymous, tongueless, obscure, secret, speechless, strange, mute, faceless; (*adj, v*) innominate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) known, specific.

waywardly: (*adv*) obstinately, disobediently, stubbornly, rebelliously, freakishly, cussedly, whimsically, unruly, perversely, naughtily, mulishly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) submissively.

"Well, I could add the name, and put it up at Weatherbury for the sum you mention."

"Get it done to-day, and I'll pay the money now."

The man agreed, and wondered at such a mood in a visitor who wore not a **shred** of mourning. Troy then wrote the words which were to form the inscription, settled the account and went away. In the afternoon he came back again, and found that the **lettering** was almost done. He waited in the yard till the tomb was packed, and saw it placed in the cart and starting on its way to Weatherbury, giving directions to the two men who were to accompany it to inquire of the **sexton** for the grave of the person named in the inscription.

It was quite dark when Troy came out of Casterbridge. He carried rather a heavy basket upon his arm, with which he strode **moodily** along the road, resting occasionally at bridges and gates, whereon he deposited his burden for a time. Midway on his journey he met, returning in the darkness, the men and the **waggon** which had **conveyed** the tomb. He merely inquired if the work was done, and, on being assured that it was, passed on again.

Troy entered Weatherbury churchyard about ten o'clock and went immediately to the corner where he had marked the vacant grave early in the morning. It was on the obscure side of the tower, screened to a great extent from the view of passers along the road—a spot which until lately had been abandoned to heaps of stones and bushes of **alder**, but now it was cleared and made orderly for interments, by reason of the rapid filling of the ground elsewhere.

Here now stood the tomb as the men had stated, snow-white and shapely in the gloom, consisting of head and foot-stone, and **enclosing** border of marble-work uniting them. In the midst was mould, suitable for plants.

Troy deposited his basket beside the tomb, and vanished for a few minutes. When he returned he carried a **spade** and a lantern, the light of which he directed for a few moments upon the marble, whilst he read the inscription. He hung his lantern on the lowest **bough** of the yew-tree, and took from his basket flower-roots of several varieties. There were bundles of snow-drop, hyacinth

Thesaurus

alder: (*n*) wood, alder tree.

bough: (*n*) arm, limb, bow, member, tigella, ramage, offshoot, ramification, spray, sprig, stem.

conveyed: (*v*) borne, sent.

enclosing: (*n*) enclose, inclosure, boxing, encasement, introduction, insertion, intromission, surrounding, incasement, grip, envelopment.

lettering: (*n*) print, epigraph, script, superscription, writing, type, dedication, epitaph, typeface, font,

handwriting.

moodily: (*adv*) morosely, peevishly, glumly, sulkily, grumpily, capriciously, temperamentally, petulantly, saturninely, crossly, erratically. ANTONYM: (*adv*) cheerily.

sexton: (*n*) beadle, verger, almoner, Anne sexton, Suisse, gravedigger, church officer, caretaker.

shred: (*n*) rag, piece, scintilla, iota, bit, strip, remnant, sliver; (*adj, n*) scrap;

(*v*) rip, tear.

spade: (*v*) grub, delve, scoop, excavate; (*n*) nigger, coon, nigra, jigaboo, boy, black person, spit.

waggon: (*n*) wagon, cart, lorry, wain, dray, station wagon, beach wagon, beach waggon, station waggon, bandwagon, milkwagon.

and **crocus** bulbs, violets and double daisies, which were to bloom in early spring, and of carnations, pinks, picotees, **lilies** of the valley, forget-me-not, summer's farewell, meadow-saffron and others, for the later seasons of the year.

Troy laid these out upon the grass, and with an impassive face set to work to plant them. The snowdrops were arranged in a line on the outside of the coping, the remainder within the enclosure of the grave. The crocuses and hyacinths were to grow in rows; some of the summer flowers he placed over her head and feet, the lilies and forget-me-nots over her heart. The remainder were dispersed in the spaces between these.

Troy, in his prostration at this time, had no perception that in the **futility** of these romantic doings, dictated by a **remorseful** reaction from previous indifference, there was any element of **absurdity**. Deriving his idiosyncrasies from both sides of the Channel, he showed at such junctures as the present the **inelasticity** of the Englishman, together with that blindness to the line where sentiment verges on **mawkishness**, characteristic of the French.

It was a cloudy, **muggy**, and very dark night, and the rays from Troy's lantern spread into the two old **yews** with a strange illuminating power, flickering, as it seemed, up to the black ceiling of cloud above. He felt a large drop of rain upon the back of his hand, and presently one came and entered one of the holes of the lantern, whereupon the candle sputtered and went out. Troy was weary and it being now not far from midnight, and the rain threatening to increase, he resolved to leave the finishing touches of his labour until the day should break. He groped along the wall and over the **graves** in the dark till he found himself round at the north side. Here he entered the porch, and, reclining upon the bench within, fell asleep.

Thesaurus

absurdity: (*n*) absurdness, nonsense, silliness, nonsensicality, meaninglessness, illogicality, stupidity, folly, fatuity, idiocy, preposterousness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) logic, reasonableness, worthiness, solemnity, sensibleness.
crocus: (*n*) saffron; (*adj*) topaz.
futility: (*n*) emptiness, inanity, worthlessness, vanity, uselessness, fruitlessness, frivolity, unusefulness, purposelessness, hollowness,

insignificance. ANTONYMS: (*n*) importance, worth, worthiness, fruitfulness, effectiveness, competence, usefulness.
graves: (*n*) Robert Graves, Robert Ranke Graves.
inelasticity: (*n*) stiffness, rigidity, inflexibility, rigidness, flaccidity, unelasticity, firmness; (*adj*) laxity, inelastic.
lilies: (*n*) lily.
mawkishness: (*n*) bathos, insincere

pathos, emotionality, emotionalism, anticlimax.
muggy: (*adj*) moist, damp, close, humid, wet, airless, stuffy, oppressive, hot, clammy, soggy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) airy, dry.
remorseful: (*adj*) penitent, regretful, apologetic, sorry, repentant, regret, sad, rueful, bad, compunctious, compassionate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) glad, unremorseful.
yews: (*n*) genus *Taxus*.

CHAPTER XLVI

THE GURGOYLE: ITS DOINGS

The tower of Weatherbury Church was a square **erection** of fourteenth-century date, having two stone gargoyles on each of the four faces of its parapet. Of these eight carved protuberances only two at this time continued to serve the purpose of their erection—that of **spouting** the water from the lead roof within. One mouth in each front had been closed by bygone church-wardens as superfluous, and two others were broken away and choked—a matter not of much consequence to the **wellbeing** of the tower, for the two mouths which still remained open and active were **gaping** enough to do all the work.

It has been sometimes argued that there is no truer criterion of the **vitality** of any given art-period than the power of the master-spirits of that time in **grotesque**; and certainly in the instance of Gothic art there is no **disputing** the proposition. Weatherbury tower was a somewhat early instance of the use of an **ornamental** parapet in parish as distinct from cathedral churches, and the gargoyles, which are the necessary correlatives of a parapet, were exceptionally prominent—of the boldest cut that the hand could shape, and of the most original design that a human brain could conceive. There was, so to speak, that symmetry in their distortion which is less the characteristic of British than of

Thesaurus

disputing: (*adj*) opposed; (*v*) disputant.

erection: (*n, v*) building, structure; (*n*) assembly, construction, erecting, architecture, installation, creation, foundation, framework; (*adj*) elevation.

gaping: (*adj, n*) agape; (*adj*) vast, yawning, cavernous, discontinuous, wide, ajar, drowsy, hollow, wide open; (*adj, v*) oscitant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cramped, narrow.

grotesque: (*adj*) fantastic, bizarre, funny, antic, absurd, droll, strange, baroque, weird, ugly, hideous.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lovely, normal, commonplace, attractive.

ornamental: (*adj*) fancy, florid, cosmetic, extravagant, elaborate, showy, enhancing, delicate, beautifying; (*n*) decoration, adornment. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) plain, unadorned.

spouting: (*adj*) spurting, squirting,

flowing; (*n*) jet, running, harangue, drift, scope.

vitality: (*n*) energy, life, animation, life force, vigor, liveliness, verve, sparkle, spirit, vigour, vim. ANTONYMS: (*n*) lethargy, apathy, sluggishness.

wellbeing: (*n*) health, upbeat, confidence, physical condition, security, relief, protection, social welfare, luxury, fitness, eudaimonia. ANTONYMS: (*n*) insecurity, danger.

Continental grotesques of the period. All the eight were different from each other. A beholder was convinced that nothing on earth could be more hideous than those he saw on the north side until he went round to the south. Of the two on this latter face, only that at the south-eastern corner concerns the story. It was too human to be called like a dragon, too impish to be like a man, too animal to be like a fiend, and not enough like a bird to be called a **griffin**. This horrible stone entity was **fashioned** as if covered with a **wrinkled** hide; it had short, erect ears, eyes starting from their sockets, and its fingers and hands were **seizing** the corners of its mouth, which they thus seemed to pull open to give free passage to the water it vomited. The lower row of teeth was quite washed away, though the upper still remained. Here and thus, **jutting** a couple of feet from the wall against which its feet **rested** as a support, the creature had for four hundred years laughed at the surrounding landscape, **voicelessly** in dry weather, and in wet with a gurgling and **snorting** sound.

Troy slept on in the porch, and the rain increased outside. Presently the gurgyle spat. In due time a small stream began to trickle through the seventy feet of aerial space between its mouth and the ground, which the water-drops smote like duckshot in their accelerated velocity. The stream thickened in substance, and increased in power, gradually spouting further and yet further from the side of the tower. When the rain fell in a steady and **ceaseless** torrent the stream dashed downward in volumes.

We follow its course to the ground at this point of time. The end of the liquid **parabola** has come forward from the wall, has advanced over the **plinth** mouldings, over a heap of stones, over the marble border, into the midst of Fanny Robin's grave.

The force of the stream had, until very lately, been received upon some loose stones spread **thereabout**, which had acted as a shield to the soil under the onset. These during the summer had been cleared from the ground, and there was now nothing to resist the down-fall but the bare earth. For several years the stream had not spouted so far from the tower as it was doing on this night, and such a contingency had been over-looked. Sometimes this obscure corner received no

Thesaurus

ceaseless: (*adj*) eternal, uninterrupted, constant, perpetual, everlasting, endless, continuous, unremitting, continual, unending, nonstop.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) intermittent, temporary, sporadic, completed, restricted, limited, fleeting, finished, concluded, ending, inconstant.
fashioned: (*adj*) formed, featured, fictitious, intentional, bent, wrought.
griffin: (*n*) griffon, gryfon.
jutting: (*adj*) prominent, protruding,

protrusive, salient, protuberant, hence; (*n*) protrusion, protuberance, extrusion, hump, gibbosity.
parabola: (*n*) curve, conic section, conic.
plinth: (*n*) footstall, pedestal, dado, shank, zocle, support, wainscot, socle, skirting board, stand, dais.
rested: (*adj*) comfortable.
seizing: (*v*) seize; (*n*) seizure, clutches, prehension, taking, apprehension, capture, infection; (*adj*) catching,

galling, controlling.
snorting: (*n*) puffing, laughter, expiration, breathing out, exhalation.
thereabout: (*adv*) thereby, by that.
voicelessly: (*adv*) speechlessly, dumbly, inarticulately, tacitly, mutely, silently.
wrinkled: (*adj, n*) rough, rugged; (*adj*) puckered, creased, wrinkly, wizened, crumpled, lined, gnarled, unironed, crinkled. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) unwrinkled, ironed, straight.

inhabitant for the space of two or three years, and then it was usually but a **pauper**, a **poacher**, or other sinner of undignified sins.

The persistent torrent from the gurgoyles' jaws directed all its vengeance into the grave. The rich tawny mould was stirred into motion, and boiled like chocolate. The water accumulated and washed deeper down, and the roar of the pool thus formed spread into the night as the head and chief among other noises of the kind created by the deluging rain. The flowers so carefully planted by Fanny's **repentant** lover began to move and **writhe** in their bed. The winter-violets turned slowly upside down, and became a mere mat of mud. Soon the **snowdrop** and other bulbs danced in the boiling mass like ingredients in a cauldron. Plants of the tufted species were loosened, rose to the surface, and floated off.

Troy did not awake from his **comfortless** sleep till it was broad day. Not having been in bed for two nights his shoulders felt stiff, his feet tender, and his head heavy. He remembered his position, arose, shivered, took the spade, and again went out.

The rain had quite ceased, and the sun was shining through the green, brown, and yellow leaves, now sparkling and **varnished** by the **raindrops** to the brightness of similar effects in the landscapes of Ruysdael and Hobbema, and full of all those infinite beauties that arise from the union of water and colour with high lights. The air was rendered so transparent by the heavy fall of rain that the autumn hues of the middle distance were as rich as those near at hand, and the remote fields intercepted by the angle of the tower appeared in the same plane as the tower itself.

He entered the gravel path which would take him behind the tower. The path, instead of being stony as it had been the night before, was **browned** over with a thin coating of mud. At one place in the path he saw a tuft of **stringy** roots washed white and clean as a bundle of tendons. He picked it up—surely it could not be one of the primroses he had planted? He saw a bulb, another, and another as he advanced. Beyond doubt they were the crocuses. With a face of perplexed dismay Troy turned the corner and then beheld the wreck the stream had made.

Thesaurus

browned: (*adj*) brunet, tanned, suntanned, Brunette, done.

comfortless: (*adj*) dreary, desolate, bleak, uncomfortable, inconsolable, gloomy, lonely; (*adj, v*) disconsolate, forlorn; (*v*) joyless, sick at heart.

pauper: (*n*) poor man, mumper, bum, poor person, starving; (*adj*) poor, indigent, penniless; (*v*) bust, fold.

poacher: (*n*) alligatorfish, scorpaeonoid, lurcher, armed bullhead, gormandizer, sea poker, smuggler,

glutton, sea poacher.

raindrops: (*n*) rain, raindrop.

repentant: (*adj*) contrite, remorseful, regretful, sorry, apologetic, ashamed, compunctious, penitential, rueful, humble, doing penance.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) impenitent, unremorseful, glad.

snowdrop: (*n*) daffodil, narcissus, Amaryllidaceae, family Amaryllidaceae, wood anemone, amaryllis family, anemone.

stringy: (*adj*) tough, ropy, muscular, fibrous, sinewy, glutinous, brawny, thready, tenacious, sticky, filamentous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) plump, luxuriant.

varnished: (*adj*) sullied, polished, spotted, shiny, lustrous, smooth, painted, besmirched, glossy, tainted, flyblown. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dull.

writhe: (*adj, v*) distort, wrest; (*v*) contort, wriggle, squirm, wrench, worm, coil, wiggle, thrash, warp.

The pool upon the grave had soaked away into the ground, and in its place was a hollow. The disturbed earth was washed over the grass and pathway in the guise of the brown mud he had already seen, and it spotted the marble **tombstone** with the same stains. Nearly all the flowers were washed clean out of the ground, and they lay, roots upwards, on the spots whither they had been splashed by the stream.

Troy's brow became heavily contracted. He set his teeth closely, and his compressed lips moved as those of one in great pain. This singular accident, by a strange **confluence** of emotions in him, was felt as the sharpest sting of all. Troy's face was very expressive, and any observer who had seen him now would hardly have believed him to be a man who had laughed, and sung, and poured love-trifles into a woman's ear. To curse his miserable lot was at first his impulse, but even that lowest stage of rebellion needed an activity whose absence was necessarily antecedent to the existence of the **morbid** misery which wrung him. The sight, coming as it did, **superimposed** upon the other dark scenery of the previous days, formed a sort of climax to the whole **panorama**, and it was more than he could endure. Sanguine by nature, Troy had a power of **eluding** grief by simply **adjourning** it. He could put off the consideration of any particular **spectre** till the matter had become old and softened by time. The planting of flowers on Fanny's grave had been perhaps but a species of **elusion** of the primary grief, and now it was as if his intention had been known and circumvented.

Almost for the first time in his life, Troy, as he stood by this **dismantled** grave, wished himself another man. It is seldom that a person with much animal spirit does not feel that the fact of his life being his own is the one qualification which **singles** it out as a more hopeful life than that of others who may actually resemble him in every particular. Troy had felt, in his transient way, hundreds of times, that he could not envy other people their condition, because the possession of that condition would have necessitated a different personality, when he desired no other than his own. He had not minded the peculiarities of his birth, the **vicissitudes** of his life, the meteor-like uncertainty of all that related

Thesaurus

adjourning: (*v*) adjourn.

confluence: (*n*) meeting, concurrence, junction, assembly, union, conflux, crowd, convergence, coming together, aggregation; (*v*) corrivation.
ANTONYM: (*n*) split.

dismantled: (*adj*) razed, destroyed.

eluding: (*n*) chemise, case, cutting, slip, berth; (*adj*) intangible.

elusion: (*n*) escape, eluding, dodging, subterfuge, getaway, fallacy, shirking, trickery, case, cutting; (*n, v*)

evasion.

morbid: (*adj*) diseased, gruesome, macabre, corrupt, pathologic, unwholesome, peccant, sick, unhealthy, pathological; (*adj, v*) sickly.

panorama: (*n*) view, aspect, prospect, landscape, scene, vista, countryside, background, exposure, perspective, sight.

singles: (*n*) badminton.

spectre: (*n*) phantasm, shadow, shade,

phantom, apparition, ghost, spook, wraith, revenant, terror, eidolon.

superimposed: (*adj, v*) incumbent; (*adj*) layered, added, bedded, lying, obligatory, reclining, recumbent, stratified, superjacent; (*v*) superincumbent.

tombstone: (*n*) headstone, monument, stone, memorial, marker, keystone.

vicissitudes: (*n*) changeability, life, variability, variability.

to him, because these appertained to the hero of his story, without whom there would have been no story at all for him; and it seemed to be only in the nature of things that matters would right themselves at some proper date and wind up well. This very morning the illusion completed its disappearance, and, as it were, all of a sudden, Troy hated himself. The **suddenness** was probably more apparent than real. A coral reef which just comes short of the ocean surface is no more to the horizon than if it had never been begun, and the mere finishing stroke is what often appears to create an event which has long been potentially an accomplished thing.

He stood and mediated—a miserable man. Whither should he go? “He that is **accursed**, let him be accursed still,” was the pitiless **anathema** written in this spoliated effort of his new-born solicitousness. A man who has spent his **primal** strength in **journeying** in one direction has not much spirit left for reversing his course. Troy had, since yesterday, faintly reversed his; but the merest opposition had **disheartened** him. To turn about would have been hard enough under the greatest **providential** encouragement; but to find that Providence, far from helping him into a new course, or showing any wish that he might adopt one, actually jeered his first trembling and critical attempt in that kind, was more than nature could bear.

He slowly withdrew from the grave. He did not attempt to fill up the hole, replace the flowers, or do anything at all. He simply threw up his cards and forswore his game for that time and always. Going out of the churchyard silently and unobserved—none of the villagers having yet risen—he passed down some fields at the back, and emerged just as secretly upon the high road. Shortly afterwards he had gone from the village.

Meanwhile, Bathsheba remained a voluntary prisoner in the attic. The door was kept locked, except during the entries and exits of Liddy, for whom a bed had been arranged in a small adjoining room. The light of Troy’s lantern in the churchyard was noticed about ten o’clock by the maid-servant, who casually glanced from the window in that direction whilst taking her supper, and she

Thesaurus

accursed: (*adj*) execrable, abominable, detestable, accurst, hateful, damned, damnable, maledict, blasted; (*v*) atrocious, stranded.

anathema: (*n*) imprecation, curse, execration, abomination, commination, ban, malison, bane, fulmination, maranatha; (*adj, n*) taboo. ANTONYMS: (*n*) blessing, love, beloved.

disheartened: (*adj*) dejected, depressed, despondent, dispirited,

demoralized, disappointed, sad, downcast, down, low, daunted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cheerful, enthusiastic, happy, positive, hopeful.

journeying: (*adj*) itinerant, wayfaring, vagabond; (*n*) excursion, digression, expedition, travelling, movement, outing, passage, pilgrimage.

primal: (*adj*) primordial, primitive, fundamental, primeval, cardinal, central, key, aboriginal, early, first,

initial. ANTONYM: (*adj*) modern.

providential: (*adj*) lucky, happy, divine, fortuitous, opportune, miraculous, favorable, blessed, seasonable; (*adj, v*) auspicious; (*v*) propitious. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unfortunate.

suddenness: (*n*) steepness, hastiness, precipitance, precipitancy, precipitateness, sudden, craggedness, surprise, precipitousness, brusqueness, curtness.

called Bathsheba's attention to it. They looked curiously at the phenomenon for a time, until Liddy was sent to bed.

Bathsheba did not sleep very heavily that night. When her **attendant** was unconscious and softly breathing in the next room, the mistress of the house was still looking out of the window at the faint gleam spreading from among the trees—not in a steady **shine**, but **blinking** like a revolving coastlight, though this appearance failed to suggest to her that a person was passing and repassing in front of it. Bathsheba sat here till it began to rain, and the light vanished, when she withdrew to lie restlessly in her bed and **re-enact** in a worn mind the lurid scene of **yesternight**.

Almost before the first faint sign of dawn appeared she arose again, and opened the window to obtain a full breathing of the new morning air, the **panes** being now wet with **trembling** tears left by the night rain, each one rounded with a pale lustre caught from primrose-hued slashes through a cloud low down in the awakening sky. From the trees came the sound of steady dripping upon the drifted leaves under them, and from the direction of the church she could hear another noise—peculiar, and not **intermittent** like the rest, the **purl** of water falling into a pool.

Liddy knocked at eight o'clock, and Bathsheba un-locked the door.

"What a heavy rain we've had in the night, ma'am!" said Liddy, when her **inquiries** about breakfast had been made.

"Yes, very heavy."

"Did you hear the strange noise from the church yard?"

"I heard one strange noise. I've been thinking it must have been the water from the tower spouts."

"Well, that's what the shepherd was saying, ma'am. He's now gone on to see."

"Oh! Gabriel has been here this morning!"

Thesaurus

attendant: (*n*) companion, follower, assistant, escort, subordinate, employee, guide, varlet; (*adj*) accompanying, concomitant, incidental. ANTONYMS: (*n*) superior, boss; (*adj*) absent, unrelated, significant.

blinking: (*adj*) flickering, bally, blooming; (*adj, n*) winking; (*n*) shimmer, blink, wink, twinkling, nictation, blink of an eye, nictitation.

inquiries: (*n*) investigation,

examination, study, enquiries, enquiry, inquiry, exploration.

intermittent: (*adj*) broken, sporadic, fitful, discontinuous, spasmodic, irregular, periodic, uneven, recurrent; (*adj, v*) occasional; (*adv*) intermittently. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) constant, repeated, continual, steady, regular, recurring, frequent, spasmodic, unbroken, common.

panes: (*n*) Fauni.

purl: (*v*) babble, eddy, bubble, flip,

guggle, whirl, embroider, swirl, whirlpool, whisper; (*n*) purl stitch.

re-enact: (*v*) rehearse, interpret.

shine: (*n, v*) light, sheen, flash, glitter, sparkle, polish, rub; (*v*) burnish, gleam, blaze; (*n*) radiance.

trembling: (*adj, n*) shaking; (*adj, n, v*) tremor; (*adj*) shaky, quaking, shivering, flutter; (*n*) palpitation, quiver, vibration, shiver, quake. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stable, steady.

yesternight: (*n*) last night.

“Only just looked in in passing – quite in his old way, which I thought he had left off lately. But the tower spouts used to **spatter** on the stones, and we are puzzled, for this was like the **boiling** of a pot.”

Not being able to read, think, or work, Bathsheba asked Liddy to stay and breakfast with her. The tongue of the more childish woman still ran upon recent events. “Are you going across to the church, ma’am?” she asked.

“Not that I know of,” said Bathsheba.

“I thought you might like to go and see where they have put Fanny. The trees hide the place from your window.”

Bathsheba had all sorts of dreads about meeting her husband. “Has Mr. Troy been in to-night?” she said

“No, ma’am; I think he’s gone to Budmouth.”

Budmouth! The sound of the word carried with it a much diminished perspective of him and his **deeds**; there were thirteen miles **interval** betwixt them now. She hated questioning Liddy about her husband’s movements, and indeed had hitherto **sedulously** avoided doing so; but now all the house knew that there had been some dreadful disagreement between them, and it was futile to attempt disguise. Bathsheba had reached a stage at which people cease to have any appreciative regard for public opinion.

“What makes you think he has gone there?” she said.

“Laban Tall saw him on the Budmouth road this morning before breakfast.”

Bathsheba was **momentarily** relieved of that wayward **heaviness** of the past twenty-four hours which had quenched the vitality of youth in her without substituting the philosophy of **maturer** years, and she resolved to go out and walk a little way. So when breakfast was over, she put on her **bonnet**, and took a direction towards the church. It was nine o’clock, and the men having returned to work again from their first meal, she was not likely to meet many of them in the road. Knowing that Fanny had been laid in the reprobates’ quarter of the graveyard, called in the parish “behind church,” which was invisible from the road, it was impossible to resist the impulse to enter and look upon a spot which,

Thesaurus

boiling: (*adj*) hot, ebullient, heated, burning, scalding, torrid, humid; (*adj, v*) effervescent; (*v*) seethe, effervesce; (*n*) ebullience. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cold, happy, frozen, cooled, cool, collected, calm, fresh, airy.
bonnet: (*n*) cap, protection, chapeau, tile, wimple, beret, lid, cowling, castor, poke bonnet, sunbonnet.
deeds: (*n*) works, activity, actions, conduct, background, events, happenings, performance, activities.

heaviness: (*n*) dullness, fatness, sadness, ponderosity, ponderousness, weightiness, weight, darkness, gloom, wideness, pressure. ANTONYMS: (*n*) slenderness, nimbleness, weightlessness.
interval: (*n*) intermission, interruption, distance, break, interlude, hiatus, interim, pause, period, respite, gap. ANTONYM: (*n*) intensification.
maturer: (*adj*) overripe, ripe, ripened.
momentarily: (*adv*) transitorily,

temporarily, momentarily, transiently, passingly, ephemerally, fugitively, provisionally, briefly, cursorily, in a moment. ANTONYM: (*adv*) slowly.
sedulously: (*adv*) industriously, assiduously, studiously, earnestly, attentively, intently, painstakingly, perseveringly, laboriously, fixedly, eagerly.
spatter: (*n, v*) splash, plash, sputter; (*v*) dash, slop, scatter, smear, spit, spray, squirt, soil.

from nameless feelings, she at the same time dreaded to see. She had been unable to overcome an impression that some connection existed between her rival and the light through the trees.

Bathsheba skirted the **buttness**, and beheld the hole and the tomb, its delicately **veined** surface **splashed** and stained just as Troy had seen it and left it two hours earlier. On the other side of the scene stood Gabriel. His eyes, too, were fixed on the tomb, and her arrival having been **noiseless**, she had not as yet attracted his attention. Bathsheba did not at once perceive that the grand tomb and the disturbed grave were Fanny's, and she looked on both sides and around for some humbler **mound**, earthed up and clodded in the usual way. Then her eye followed Oak's, and she read the words with which the inscription opened:—

ERECTED BY FRANCIS TROY IN BELOVED MEMORY OF
FANNY ROBIN

Oak saw her, and his first act was to gaze inquiringly and learn how she received this knowledge of the **authorship** of the work, which to himself had caused considerable astonishment. But such discoveries did not much affect her now. Emotional convulsions seemed to have become the commonplaces of her history, and she bade him good morning, and asked him to fill in the hole with the spade which was standing by. Whilst Oak was doing as she desired, Bathsheba collected the flowers, and began planting them with that sympathetic manipulation of roots and leaves which is so conspicuous in a woman's gardening, and which flowers seem to understand and thrive upon. She **requested** Oak to get the churchwardens to turn the **leadwork** at the mouth of the gurgyle that hung gaping down upon them, that by this means the stream might be directed sideways, and a repetition of the accident prevented. Finally, with the superfluous **magnanimity** of a woman whose narrower instincts have brought down bitterness upon her instead of love, she wiped the mud spots from the tomb as if she rather liked its words than otherwise, and went again home.

Thesaurus

authorship: (*n*) source, paternity, writing, pencraft, fatherhood, origin, authorism, bookcraft, drafting; (*n, v*) composition; (*v*) publication.
buttness: (*n, v*) support, prop; (*n*) crutch, stay, reinforcement; (*v*) underpin, fortify, sustain, bolster, reinforce, strengthen. ANTONYM: (*v*) undermine.
fanny: (*n*) bottom, buttocks, arse, rump, rear, posterior, bum, backside, can, fundament, hindquarters.

leadwork: (*n*) plumbage.
magnanimity: (*adj, n*) generosity, liberality; (*n*) largesse, greatness, charity, munificence, tolerance, nobleness, nobility, kindness, largess. ANTONYM: (*n*) pettiness.
mound: (*v*) embankment; (*adj, n*) knoll, hillock, hummock; (*n*) hill, mass, grave; (*n, v*) stack, bank, pile; (*adj*) barrow. ANTONYM: (*n*) hollow.
noiseless: (*adj*) quiet, silent, soundless, hushed, voiceless, mute, stealthy,

dumb, soft, calm, tranquil.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) heavy.
requested: (*adj*) demanded.
splashed: (*adj*) dabbled, bespattered, besplashed, spattered, marked, unclean, dirty, splattered, distributed, showy, dotted.
veined: (*v*) striated, barred; (*adj*) streaked, venous, venose, mottled, camleted, multicolored, fibrous, patterned, veinlike.

CHAPTER XLVII

ADVENTURES BY THE SHORE

Troy wandered along towards the south. A composite feeling, made up of disgust with the, to him, **humdrum tediousness** of a farmer's life, gloomy images of her who lay in the churchyard, remorse, and a general **averseness** to his wife's society, **impelled** him to seek a home in any place on earth save Weatherbury. The sad accessories of Fanny's end confronted him as vivid pictures which threatened to be **indelible**, and made life in Bathsheba's house intolerable. At three in the afternoon he found himself at the foot of a slope more than a mile in length, which ran to the ridge of a range of **hills** lying parallel with the shore, and forming a monotonous barrier between the basin of cultivated country inland and the wilder scenery of the coast. Up the hill stretched a road nearly straight and perfectly white, the two sides approaching each other in a gradual taper till they met the sky at the top about two miles off. Throughout the length of this narrow and **irksome** inclined plane not a sign of life was visible on this garish afternoon. Troy toiled up the road with a languor and depression greater than any he had experienced for many a day and year before. The air was warm and muggy, and the top seemed to **recede** as he approached.

Thesaurus

averseness: (*n*) aversion, declination, hesitation.

hills: (*n*) home, dry land, foothills, earth, ground.

humdrum: (*adj, v*) dull, monotonous, uninteresting, tedious, stupid; (*adj*) banal, commonplace, flat, prosaic, dreary, everyday. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) exciting, surprising, remarkable, stunning, romantic, exotic, extraordinary, interesting.

impelled: (*adj*) prompted, provoked,

determined, compulsive, encouraged, goaded, motivated, bound.

indelible: (*adj*) inefaceable, memorable, fixed, ineradicable, lasting, irrevocable, ingrained; (*adj, v*) indestructible; (*n*) impressive, deep; (*v*) incorruptible. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) erasable, fleeting.

irksome: (*adj, v*) wearisome, tiresome; (*adj*) boring, dull, annoying, tedious, trying, burdensome, bothersome, irritating, prosaic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

delightful, pleasant, refreshing, soothing.

recede: (*v*) decline, withdraw, retire, fall back, diminish, retreat, abate, give, draw back, decrease, lose. ANTONYMS: (*v*) approach, gain, proceed, surge, stay, increase, appear, level.

tediousness: (*n*) boredom, dullness, monotony, flatness, ennui, dulness, prosiness, tediousness, tiresomeness, irksomeness; (*adj*) wearisomeness.

At last he reached the summit, and a wide and novel prospect burst upon him with an effect almost like that of the Pacific upon Balboa's gaze. The broad steely sea, marked only by faint lines, which had a semblance of being **etched** thereon to a degree not deep enough to disturb its general **evenness**, stretched the whole width of his front and round to the right, where, near the town and port of Budmouth, the sun bristled down upon it, and banished all colour, to substitute in its place a clear oily polish. Nothing moved in sky, land, or sea, except a **frill** of milkwhite foam along the nearer angles of the shore, shreds of which licked the contiguous stones like tongues.

He descended and came to a small basin of sea enclosed by the cliffs. Troy's nature freshened within him; he thought he would rest and **bathe** here before going farther. He undressed and plunged in. Inside the cove the water was uninteresting to a swimmer, being smooth as a pond, and to get a little of the ocean swell, Troy presently swam between the two projecting spurs of rock which formed the pillars of Hercules to this miniature Mediterranean. Unfortunately for Troy a current unknown to him existed outside, which, unimportant to craft of any burden, was awkward for a swimmer who might be taken in it **unawares**. Troy found himself carried to the left and then round in a swoop out to sea.

He now recollected the place and its sinister character. Many bathers had there prayed for a dry death from time to time, and, like Gonzalo also, had been unanswered; and Troy began to **deem** it possible that he might be added to their number. Not a boat of any kind was at present within sight, but far in the distance Budmouth lay upon the sea, as it were quietly regarding his efforts, and beside the town the harbour showed its position by a dim **meshwork** of ropes and spars. After well-nigh exhausting himself in attempts to get back to the mouth of the cove, in his weakness swimming several inches deeper than was his **wont**, keeping up his breathing entirely by his nostrils, turning upon his back a dozen times over, swimming *en papillon* and so on, Troy resolved as a last resource to tread water at a slight incline, and so endeavour to reach the shore at any point, merely giving himself a gentle impetus inwards whilst carried on in

Thesaurus

bathe: (*adj, v*) steep, lave, immerse, soak; (*v*) take a bath, tub, clean, rinse, bath; (*n, v*) swim; (*n*) bathing.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) smudge, stain, soil, dip.

deem: (*v*) believe, assume, consider, count, hold, think, feel, view, suppose, regard, imagine.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) disregard, doubt.

etched: (*adj*) inscribed, incised, graven, graphic, carven, carved, clean-cut.

evenness: (*n*) monotony, balance,

equilibrium, regularity, equivalence, uniformity, consistency, level, composure, steadiness, flatness.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) inconsistency, asymmetry, variety.

frill: (*n*) flounce, adornment, embellishment, frills, luxury, furbelow, fringe, trimming, frame; (*n, v*) ruffle, disturbance.

meshwork: (*n*) network, net, reticulation, graticule, grid, web, system, earnings, electronic network,

engagement, interlock.

unawares: (*adv*) suddenly, pop, plump, abruptly, a l'improviste, unaware, all at once, unexpectedly, inadvertently; (*adj*) unwary, unsuspecting. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) prepared; (*adv*) knowingly, consciously.

wont: (*adj, n*) use, custom, usage; (*n*) practice, tradition, cleanliness, assuetude, assuefaction, convention, rut; (*v*) practise.

the general direction of the tide. This, necessarily a slow process, he found to be not altogether so difficult, and though there was no choice of a landing-place—the objects on shore passing by him in a sad and slow procession—he perceptibly approached the extremity of a spit of land yet further to the right, now well defined against the sunny portion of the horizon. While the swimmer's eye's were fixed upon the spit as his only means of salvation on this side of the Unknown, a moving object broke the outline of the extremity, and immediately a ship's boat appeared manned with several sailor lads, her bows towards the sea.

All Troy's vigour spasmodically revived to **prolong** the struggle yet a little further. Swimming with his right arm, he held up his left to **hail** them, **splashing** upon the waves, and shouting with all his might. From the position of the setting sun his white form was distinctly visible upon the now deep-hued bosom of the sea to the east of the boat, and the men saw him at once. Backing their oars and putting the boat about, they pulled towards him with a will, and in five or six minutes from the time of his first **halloo**, two of the sailors hauled him in over the stern.

They formed part of a brig's crew, and had come ashore for sand. Lending him what little clothing they could spare among them as a slight protection against the rapidly cooling air, they agreed to land him in the morning; and without further delay, for it was growing late, they made again towards the **roadstead** where their vessel lay.

And now night drooped slowly upon the wide watery levels in front; and at no great distance from them, where the **shoreline** curved round, and formed a long riband of shade upon the horizon, a series of points of yellow light began to start into existence, denoting the spot to be the site of Budmouth, where the lamps were being lighted along the parade. The cluck of their oars was the only sound of any distinctness upon the sea, and as they **laboured** amid the **thickening** shades the lamplights grew larger, each appearing to send a **flaming** sword deep down into the waves before it, until there arose, among other dim shapes of the kind, the form of the vessel for which they were bound.

Thesaurus

flaming: (*adj, n*) burning, ardent, glowing, passionate; (*adj*) blazing, ablaze, aflame, hot; (*n*) enthusiastic, flame, fire. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) extinguished, placid, gentle, quiet.
hail: (*v*) address, cry, acclaim, applaud, summon, accost, fall, cheer, salute; (*n, v*) call; (*n*) greeting. ANTONYMS: (*v*) ignore, criticize.
halloo: (*n, v*) whoop; (*v*) squall, yell, shout, call to, incite, roar; (*int*) hollo, hello; (*n*) loo, vociferation.

laboured: (*adj*) labored, forced, arduous, hard, strained, difficult, laborious, grievous, grave, weighty, unnatural.
prolong: (*v*) extend, delay, protract, keep up, expand, elongate, drag out, maintain, lengthen, draw out, procrastinate. ANTONYMS: (*v*) stop, cancel, curtail, quit.
roadstead: (*n*) roads, road, harbor, haven, port, anchorage ground, inroad, invasion, raid.

shoreline: (*n*) coast, coastline, seashore, beach, seaboard, strandline, bound, bank, boundary, seaside, sand.
splashing: (*n*) spatter, spattering, painting, splattering, dab, splash; (*adj*) liquid.
thickening: (*n*) thickener, inspissation, growth, lymph node, pommel, indiscrptibility, node, bodying up, lymph gland, knob, indivisibility.

CHAPTER XLVIII

DOUBTS ARISE—DOUBTS LINGER

Bathsheba **underwent** the **enlargement** of her husband's absence from **hours** to days with a slight feeling of surprise, and a slight feeling of relief; yet neither sensation rose at any time far above the level commonly designated as indifference. She belonged to him: the certainties of that position were so well defined, and the reasonable probabilities of its issue so bounded that she could not **speculate** on contingencies. Taking no further interest in herself as a splendid woman, she acquired the indifferent feelings of an outsider in contemplating her probable fate as a singular **wretch**; for Bathsheba drew herself and her future in colours that no reality could exceed for darkness. Her original vigorous pride of youth had **sickened**, and with it had **declined** all her anxieties about coming years, since anxiety recognizes a better and a worse alternative, and Bathsheba had made up her mind that alternatives on any noteworthy scale had ceased for her. Soon, or later—and that not very late—her husband would be home again. And then the days of their tenancy of the Upper Farm would be numbered. There had originally been shown by the agent to the estate some **distrust** of Bathsheba's **tenure** as James Everdene's successor, on the score of her sex, and her youth, and her beauty; but the peculiar nature of her uncle's will, his own frequent testimony before his death to her cleverness in such a pursuit, and

Thesaurus

declined: (*adj*) less.

distrust: (*n, v*) mistrust, discredit; (*n*) suspicion, misgiving, disbelief, uncertainty, hesitation; (*v*) suspect, disbelieve, question; (*adj*) distrustful. ANTONYMS: (*n*) confidence, faith, trustingness, certainty, belief, optimism; (*v*) believe, entrust, depend, confide.

enlargement: (*n*) magnification, amplification, expansion, increase, dilation, addition, development,

distension, distention, growth, extension. ANTONYMS: (*n*) contraction, decrease, lessening, shrinkage, deterioration, drop, erosion.

hours: (*n*) period, duty period; (*adv*) o'clock.

sickened: (*adj*) aghast, horrified, appalled, shocked.

speculate: (*v*) contemplate, deliberate, suppose, imagine, venture, consider, hazard, meditate, muse, reflect,

ponder.

tenure: (*n*) tenancy, occupancy, occupation, term of office, incumbency, administration, copyhold, ownership, presidency, freehold, land tenure. ANTONYMS: (*n*) vacancy, title.

underwent: (*v*) endure, tolerate.

wretch: (*n*) victim, villain, scoundrel, reprobate, reptile, miscreant, martyr, object of compassion, poor devil, prey, wreck.

her vigorous **marshalling** of the numerous flocks and herds which came suddenly into her hands before negotiations were concluded, had won confidence in her powers, and no further objections had been raised. She had latterly been in great doubt as to what the legal effects of her marriage would be upon her position; but no notice had been taken as yet of her change of name, and only one point was clear—that in the event of her own or her husband’s inability to meet the agent at the forthcoming January rent-day, very little consideration would be shown, and, for that matter, very little would be deserved. Once out of the farm, the approach of poverty would be sure.

Hence Bathsheba lived in a perception that her purposes were broken off. She was not a woman who could hope on without good materials for the process, **differing** thus from the less **far-sighted** and **energetic**, though more **petted** ones of the sex, with whom hope goes on as a sort of clockwork which the merest food and shelter are sufficient to wind up; and **perceiving** clearly that her mistake had been a fatal one, she accepted her position, and waited coldly for the end.

The first Saturday after Troy’s departure she went to Casterbridge alone, a journey she had not before taken since her marriage. On this Saturday Bathsheba was passing slowly on foot through the crowd of rural business-men **gathered** as usual in front of the market-house, who were as usual gazed upon by the burghers with feelings that those healthy lives were dearly paid for by exclusion from possible aldermanship, when a man, who had apparently been following her, said some words to another on her left hand. Bathsheba’s ears were keen as those of any wild animal, and she distinctly heard what the speaker said, though her back was towards him.

“I am looking for Mrs. Troy. Is that she there?”

“Yes; that’s the young lady, I believe,” said the the person addressed.

“I have some awkward news to break to her. Her husband is drowned.”

As if **endowed** with the spirit of **prophecy**, Bathsheba gasped out, “No, it is not true; it cannot be true!” Then she said and heard no more. The ice of self-command which had latterly gathered over her was broken, and the currents

Thesaurus

differing: (*adj*) divergent, opposite, disagreeing, different, diverse, heretical, dissonant, dissentaneous, discrepant; (*adv*) differinglly; (*n*) divergence. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) similar, parallel.

endowed: (*adj*) gifted, clever, cute, felicitous, competent, blessed, artistic, brilliant, ingenious, talented, qualified.

energetic: (*adj*) animated, brisk, busy, driving, dynamic, powerful, strong,

effective, agile, emphatic, forcible. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sluggish, lazy, weary, languid, inactive, exhausted, indolent, apathetic, dull, indifferent, listless.

far-sighted: (*adj*) prudent, sagacious, judicious, clairvoyant, right, sensible, shrewd, thoughtful, rational.

gathered: (*adj*) deepened, congregated, accumulated, amassed, assembled, concentrated, equanimous, congregate, collective.

marshalling: (*n*) roundup.

perceiving: (*n*) feeling, sensing, hearing, looking at, recognition, thought, vision, lipreading; (*adj*) conscious, percipient, reasonable.

petted: (*adj*) cherished, domesticated, indulged, admired, cade.

prophecy: (*n*) oracle, augury, prognostication, forecast, vaticination, prevision, prediction, prognosis, omen, revelation, foreboding.

burst forth again, and over whelmed her. A darkness came into her eyes, and she fell.

But not to the ground. A gloomy man, who had been **observing** her from under the **portico** of the old corn-exchange when she passed through the group without, stepped quickly to her side at the moment of her exclamation, and caught her in his arms as she sank down.

“What is it?” said Boldwood, looking up at the **bringer** of the big news, as he supported her.

“Her husband was **drowned** this week while **bathing** in Lulwind Cove. A **coastguardsman** found his clothes, and brought them into Budmouth yesterday.”

Thereupon a strange fire lighted up Boldwood’s eye, and his face flushed with the **suppressed** excitement of an unutterable thought. Everybody’s glance was now centred upon him and the unconscious Bathsheba. He lifted her bodily off the ground, and **smoothed** down the **folds** of her dress as a child might have taken a storm-beaten bird and arranged its **ruffled** plumes, and bore her along the pavement to the King’s Arms Inn. Here he passed with her under the **archway** into a private room; and by the time he had deposited – so lothly – the precious burden upon a sofa, Bathsheba had opened her eyes. Remembering all that had occurred, she murmured, “I want to go home!”

Boldwood left the room. He stood for a moment in the passage to recover his senses. The experience had been too much for his consciousness to keep up with, and now that he had grasped it it had gone again. For those few heavenly, golden moments she had been in his arms. What did it matter about her not knowing it? She had been close to his breast; he had been close to hers.

He started onward again, and sending a woman to her, went out to **ascertain** all the facts of the case. These appeared to be limited to what he had already heard. He then ordered her horse to be put into the gig, and when all was ready returned to inform her. He found that, though still pale and unwell, she had in the meantime sent for the Budmouth man who brought the tidings, and learnt from him all there was to know.

Thesaurus

archway: (*n*) arcade, entry, entranceway, entryway, entree, doorway, entrance.
ascertain: (*v*) determine, find out, learn, discover, check, tell, control, find, ensure, detect; (*adj, v*) establish.
 ANTONYM: (*v*) disprove.
bathing: (*n*) bathe, bath, shower, diversion, recreation, dip, washing, wash, purification, washup.
bringer: (*n*) spreader, supplier, transmitter, teller, contributor,

purveyor, donor, source.
coastguardsman: (*n*) bluejacket.
drowned: (*adj*) prostrate, sunken; (*v*) drenched, drent.
folds: (*n*) laps.
observing: (*adj*) observant, mindful, watchful, commemorative, conscious, observative, perceptive, thoughtful; (*n*) investigation.
portico: (*n*) portal, arcade, entrance, veranda, corridor, mouth, lips, inlet, chops, balcony, orifice.

ruffled: (*adj*) rippled, frilly, frilled, upset, disordered, excited, disconcerted, decorated, tousled, tangled, turbulent.
smoothed: (*adj*) round, smoothened, curved. ANTONYM: (*adj*) sharp.
suppressed: (*adj*) stifled, smothered, strangled, repressed, downtrodden, buried, hidden, pent-up, latent, untold; (*n*) subordinate.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) publicized, overt.

Being hardly in a condition to drive home as she had driven to town, Boldwood, with every **delicacy** of manner and feeling, offered to get her a driver, or to give her a seat in his **phaeton**, which was more comfortable than her own **conveyance**. These proposals Bathsheba gently declined, and the farmer at once departed.

About half-an-hour later she **invigorated** herself by an effort, and took her seat and the reins as usual—in external appearance much as if nothing had happened. She went out of the town by a **tortuous** back street, and drove slowly along, unconscious of the road and the scene. The first shades of evening were showing themselves when Bathsheba reached home, where, silently alighting and leaving the horse in the hands of the boy, she proceeded at once upstairs. Liddy met her on the **landing**. The news had preceded Bathsheba to Weatherbury by half-an-hour, and Liddy looked inquiringly into her mistress's face. Bathsheba had nothing to say.

She entered her bedroom and sat by the window, and thought and thought till night enveloped her, and the extreme lines only of her shape were visible. Somebody came to the door, knocked, and opened it.

"Well, what is it, Liddy?" she said.

"I was thinking there must be something got for you to wear," said Liddy, with **hesitation**.

"What do you mean?"

"Mourning."

"No, no, no," said Bathsheba, hurriedly.

"But I suppose there must be something done for poor — —"

"Not at present, I think. It is not necessary."

"Why not, ma'am?"

"Because he's still alive."

"How do you know that?" said Liddy, amazed.

Thesaurus

conveyance: (*n*) transfer, vehicle, assignment, alienation, transference, delivery, transportation, negotiation, portage; (*n, v*) carriage, ecstasy.

delicacy: (*adj, n*) weakness, fragility, tidbit; (*n*) finesse, daintiness, delicate, elegance, sensitivity, luxury, treat, airiness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) sturdiness, toughness, durability, frankness, inelegance, ruggedness, vulgarity, tactlessness, insensitivity, inaccuracy, clumsiness.

hesitation: (*n, v*) falter, fear; (*n*) hesitance, faltering, delay, hesitate, diffidence, hesitancy, qualm, reluctance; (*v*) hesitating. ANTONYMS: (*n*) certainty, resolution, confidence, decisiveness, enthusiasm, inclination, willingness. **invigorated:** (*adj*) brisk, reinvigorated, impudent, impertinent, energizing, energising, clean, bracing, refreshed. **landing:** (*n*) disembarkation, land, dock, touchdown, debarkation,

disembarkment, floor, platform, landing place, bank, banking-ground.

phaeton: (*n*) coach, tourer, automobile, chariot, holidaymaker, car, machine, auto, touring car, motorcar.

tortuous: (*adj*) indirect, intricate, circuitous, complex, knotty, winding, convoluted, sinuous, involved, devious, roundabout. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) straightforward, straight, uncomplicated, untwisted, easy, simple.

“I don’t know it. But wouldn’t it have been different, or shouldn’t I have heard more, or wouldn’t they have found him, Liddy? – or – I don’t know how it is, but death would have been different from how this is. I am perfectly convinced that he is still alive!”

Bathsheba remained firm in this opinion till Monday, when two circumstances conjoined to shake it. The first was a short paragraph in the local newspaper, which, beyond making by a methodizing pen formidable **presumptive** evidence of Troy’s death by drowning, contained the important testimony of a young Mr. **Barker**, M.D., of Budmouth, who spoke to being an **eyewitness** of the accident, in a letter to the editor. In this he stated that he was passing over the cliff on the remoter side of the **cove** just as the sun was setting. At that time he saw a **bather** carried along in the current outside the mouth of the cove, and guessed in an instant that there was but a poor chance for him unless he should be possessed of unusual muscular powers. He drifted behind a **projection** of the coast, and Mr. Barker followed along the shore in the same direction. But by the time that he could reach an elevation sufficiently great to command a view of the sea beyond, dusk had set in, and nothing further was to be seen.

The other circumstance was the arrival of his clothes, when it became necessary for her to examine and identify them – though this had virtually been done long before by those who inspected the letters in his pockets. It was so evident to her in the midst of her agitation that Troy had **undressed** in the full conviction of dressing again almost immediately, that the notion that anything but death could have prevented him was a **perverse** one to entertain.

Then Bathsheba said to herself that others were assured in their opinion; strange that she should not be. A strange reflection occurred to her, causing her face to flush. Suppose that Troy had followed Fanny into another world. Had he done this **intentionally**, yet contrived to make his death appear like an accident? Nevertheless, this thought of how the apparent might differ from the real – made vivid by her bygone jealousy of Fanny, and the remorse he had shown that

Thesaurus

barker: (*n*) promoter, plugger, booster, tout, doggie, pooch, doggy.

bather: (*n*) traveler, traveller, surfer, floater, aquanaut, natator.

cove: (*n*) bay, cave, harbor, bight, inlet, recess, creek, glen, man, fellow, guy.

eyewitness: (*n*) witness, bystander, onlooker, observer, beholder, watcher, passer by, earwitness, passerby, viewer, outsider.

intentionally: (*adv*) deliberately, advisedly, consciously, purposely, on

purpose, knowingly, willfully, studiously, expressly, purposefully, intendedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) accidentally, innocently.

perverse: (*adj*) fractious, obstinate, obdurate, bad, corrupt, headstrong, disobedient, intractable, willful, sinister, wayward. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wholesome, obliging, agreeable, accommodating, malleable, good.

presumptive: (*adj*) credible, specious, presumable, putative, apparent, easy

of belief, circumstantial, ben trovato, colorable; (*adj, v*) hypothetical; (*v*) conjectural.

projection: (*n*) hump, prominence, jut, protuberance, knob, overhang, plan, ledge, protrusion, bump; (*adj, n*) salient. ANTONYM: (*n*) depression.

undressed: (*adj*) naked, unclad, unclothed, bare, raw, stripped, unattired, unappareled, crude, rough, disrobed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) covered, decent.

night—did not blind her to the perception of a likelier difference, less **tragic**, but to herself far more disastrous.

When alone late that evening beside a small fire, and much **calmed** down, Bathsheba took Troy's watch into her hand, which had been **restored** to her with the rest of the articles **belonging** to him. She opened the case as he had opened it before her a week ago. There was the little coil of pale hair which had been as the **fuze** to this great **explosion**.

"He was hers and she was his; they should be gone together," she said. "I am nothing to either of them, and why should I keep her hair?" She took it in her hand, and held it over the fire." No—I'll not **burn** it—I'll keep it in memory of her, poor thing!" she added, **snatching** back her hand.

Thesaurus

belonging: (*adj*) appertaining, appertinent, apropos, apposite; (*n*) household, family, appendage, appurtenance, intimacy, commodity, closeness. ANTONYM: (*n*) antipathy.
burn: (*adj, v*) glow; (*n, v*) bite, fire, sunburn; (*v*) sting, scorch, incinerate, blaze, flare, ignite, cremate.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) smother, give, subdue, help, quench, repay, stifle, extinguish, wet.
calmed: (*adj*) composed, thankful.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) worried.
explosion: (*n*) blast, detonation, boom, eruption, bang, fulmination, outbreak, outburst; (*adj, n, v*) discharge; (*adj, n*) paroxysm; (*n, v*) salvo. ANTONYMS: (*n*) collapse, slump.
fuze: (*n*) fuse, primer, ignitor, light, lighter, igniter, electrical fuse, priming, flat coat, detonating fuse, fuzeed.
restored: (*adj*) new, healthy,

comfortable, convalescent.
snatching: (*n*) capture.
tragic: (*adj*) calamitous, disastrous, dreadful, grievous, catastrophic, unlucky, unfortunate, woeful, tragical, comic, heartbreaking.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) humorous, heartwarming, blessed, advantageous, lucky, fortunate, joyous.

CHAPTER XLIX

OAK'S ADVANCEMENT—
A GREAT HOPE

The later autumn and the winter drew on **apace**, and the leaves lay thick upon the turf of the glades and the mosses of the woods. Bathsheba, having previously been living in a state of suspended feeling which was not suspense, now lived in a mood of **quietude** which was not precisely peacefulness. While she had known him to be alive she could have thought of his death with equanimity; but now that it might be she had lost him, she regretted that he was not hers still. She kept the farm going, raked in her profits without caring keenly about them, and **expended** money on ventures because she had done so in bygone days, which, though not long gone by, seemed infinitely removed from her present. She looked back upon that past over a great **gulf**, as if she were now a dead person, having the faculty of meditation still left in her, by means of which, like the **mouldering gentlefolk** of the poet's story, she could sit and **ponder** what a gift life used to be.

However, one excellent result of her general **apathy** was the **long**-delayed installation of Oak as bailiff; but he having virtually exercised that function for a

Thesaurus

apace: (*adj, adv*) speedily, quickly; (*adv*) fast, rapidly, hastily, soon, promptly; (*adj*) forthwith, immediately, incontinently, shortly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) slowly.
apathy: (*n*) indifference, inactivity, lassitude, inertia, lethargy, passivity, supineness, passiveness, lukewarmness, emotionlessness, impassivity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) keenness, energy, interest, inquisitiveness, vitality, drive,

eagerness, concern, involvement, enjoyment, desire.
expended: (*adj*) spent, finished, dead, departed, unpursed, bypast, bygone, deceased, gone, completely exhausted; (*v*) expending.
gentlefolk: (*n*) gentlefolks, gentility, jet set.
gulf: (*n*) abyss, depth, creek, vortex, bay, loch, cove, abysm, gap, gorge, bight.
long-delayed: (*adj*) belated, slow.

mouldering: (*adj*) mouldering, becoming rotten, rotten, rotting.
ponder: (*v*) meditate, consider, cogitate, deliberate, think, reflect, conceive, mull, mull over; (*n, v*) muse, study. ANTONYMS: (*v*) decide, wander, ignore.
quietude: (*n*) quietness, calmness, peace, composure, placidity, tranquility, repose, serenity, tranquillity, hush, silence.

long time already, the change, beyond the substantial increase of wages it brought, was little more than a nominal one addressed to the outside world.

Boldwood lived secluded and inactive. Much of his wheat and all his barley of that season had been spoilt by the rain. It sprouted, grew into intricate mats, and was ultimately thrown to the pigs in armfuls. The strange neglect which had produced this ruin and waste became the subject of whispered talk among all the people round; and it was **elicited** from one of Boldwood's men that **forgetfulness** had nothing to do with it, for he had been reminded of the danger to his corn as many times and as persistently as inferiors dared to do. The sight of the pigs turning in disgust from the rotten ears seemed to arouse Boldwood, and he one evening sent for Oak. Whether it was suggested by Bathsheba's recent act of promotion or not, the farmer proposed at the interview that Gabriel should undertake the superintendence of the Lower Farm as well as of Bathsheba's, because of the necessity Boldwood felt for such aid, and the impossibility of discovering a more trustworthy man. Gabriel's malignant star was **assuredly** setting fast.

Bathsheba, when she learnt of this proposal—for Oak was obliged to consult her—at first **languidly** objected. She considered that the two farms together were too extensive for the observation of one man. Boldwood, who was apparently determined by personal rather than commercial reasons, suggested that Oak should be furnished with a horse for his sole use, when the plan would present no difficulty, the two farms lying side by side. Boldwood did not directly communicate with her during these negotiations, only speaking to Oak, who was the go-between throughout. All was **harmoniously** arranged at last, and we now see Oak mounted on a strong cob, and daily trotting the length breadth of about two thousand acres in a cheerful spirit of surveillance, as if the **crops** all belonged to him—the actual mistress of the one-half and the master of the other, sitting in their respective homes in gloomy and sad **seclusion**.

Out of this there arose, during the spring succeeding, a talk in the parish that Gabriel Oak was **feathering** his nest fast.

Thesaurus

assuredly: (*adv*) certainly, confidently, positively, securely, indeed, definitely, undoubtedly, admittedly, safely, insuredly, decidedly.

crops: (*n*) crop.

elicited: (*adj*) evoked, elicit.

feathering: (*n*) plumage, quill, rotation, plume, bevelling, ink creep, feather edging.

forgetfulness: (*n*) neglect, amnesia, obliviousness, inattention, memory loss, omission, unknowingness,

unawareness, Lethe, carelessness, loss of memory. ANTONYMS: (*n*) awareness, concentration, remembering, attention.

harmoniously: (*adv*) musically, tunefully, melodiously, symmetrically, melodically, cordially, unanimously, sweetly, euphoniously, quietly, symphoniously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) bitterly, harshly, discordantly, inappropriately, disagreeably.

languidly: (*adv*) languorously, listlessly, wearily, lethargically, slowly, dreamily, limply, weakly, torpidly, indolently, impassively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) dynamically, vigorously.

seclusion: (*n*) retreat, segregation, retirement, isolation, secrecy, concealment, insulation, separation, hermitage; (*adj, n*) solitude, loneliness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) company, closeness, inclusion.

“Whatever d’ye think,” said Susan Tall, “Gable Oak is coming it quite the dand. He now wears shining boots with hardly a hob in ‘em, two or three times a-week, and a tall hat a-Sundays, and ‘a hardly knows the name of smockfrock. When I see people **strut** enough to be cut up into **bantam** cocks, I stand **dormant** with wonder, and says no more!”

It was eventually known that Gabriel, though paid a fixed wage by Bathsheba independent of the fluctuations of agricultural profits, had made an engagement with Boldwood by which Oak was to receive a share of the receipts—a small share certainly, yet it was money of a higher quality than mere wages, and capable of expansion in a way that wages were not. Some were beginning to consider Oak a “near” man, for though his condition had thus far improved, he lived in no better style than before, occupying the same cottage, **paring** his own potatoes, **mending** his stockings, and sometimes even making his bed with his own hands. But as Oak was not only **provokingly** indifferent to public opinion, but a man who clung persistently to old habits and usages, simply because they were old, there was room for doubt as to his motives.

A great hope had latterly germinated in Boldwood, whose **unreasoning** devotion to Bathsheba could only be characterized as a fond madness which neither time nor circumstance, evil nor good report, could weaken or destroy. This fevered hope had grown up again like a grain of mustard-seed during the quiet which followed the hasty **conjecture** that Troy was drowned. He **nourished** it fearfully, and almost shunned the contemplation of it in earnest, lest facts should reveal the wildness of the dream. Bathsheba having at last been persuaded to wear mourning, her appearance as she entered the church in that guise was in itself a weekly addition to his faith that a time was coming—very far off perhaps, yet surely nearing—when his waiting on events should have its reward. How long he might have to wait he had not yet closely considered. What he would try to recognize was that the severe schooling she had been subjected to had made Bathsheba much more considerate than she had formerly been of the feelings of others, and he trusted that, should she be willing at any time in the future to marry any man at all, that man would be himself. There

Thesaurus

bantam: (*adj*) petite, little, diminutive, tiny, small, midget, Lilliputian, piddling, petty, stunted; (*n*) dwarf.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) giant, huge, large.

conjecture: (*n*) supposition, speculation, assumption, surmise, hypothesis; (*v*) suppose, believe, anticipate, assume, speculate; (*n, v*) estimate. ANTONYMS: (*n*) certainty; (*v*) demonstrate, know, learn, prove.

dormant: (*adj*) inactive, torpid, inert, smoldering, suspended, inoperative,

potential, sluggish, quiescent, latent, quiet. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) overt, extinct, dynamic, alive, awake.

mending: (*n*) fix, repair, fixing, maintenance, restoration, reparation, improvement, darning, mend, amendment, correction.

nourished: (*adj*) fostered.

paring: (*adj*) clipping, dribble, shiver; (*n*) shaving, splinter, chip, rind, flinders, grazing; (*adj, n*) sliver; (*v*) pare.

provokingly: (*adv*) annoyingly, maddeningly, exasperatingly, irritatingly, aggravatingly, gallingly, vexatiously.

strut: (*adj, n, v*) swagger; (*n, v*) stalk, prance, stride, support; (*n*) buttress, brace, prop; (*v*) parade, boast, cock. ANTONYM: (*v*) conceal.

unreasoning: (*adj*) irrational, unintelligent, unintellectual, thoughtless, unreasonable, partisan, vacuous, unthinking, unreasoned.

was a **substratum** of good feeling in her: her **self-reproach** for the injury she had **thoughtlessly** done him might be depended upon now to a much greater extent than before her infatuation and disappointment. It would be possible to approach her by the channel of her good nature, and to suggest a friendly **businesslike** compact between them for fulfilment at some future day, keeping the passionate side of his desire entirely out of her sight. Such was Boldwood's hope.

To the eyes of the middle-aged, Bathsheba was perhaps additionally charming just now. Her **exuberance** of spirit was pruned down; the original phantom of delight had shown herself to be not too bright for human nature's daily food, and she had been able to enter this second poetical phase without losing much of the first in the process.

Bathsheba's return from a two months' visit to her old aunt at Norcombe afforded the **impassioned** and yearning farmer a pretext for inquiring directly after her—now possibly in the **ninth** month of her widowhood—and endeavouring to get a notion of her state of mind regarding him. This occurred in the middle of the haymaking, and Boldwood contrived to be near Liddy who was assisting in the fields.

"I am glad to see you out of doors, Lydia," he said pleasantly.

She simpered, and wondered in her heart why he should speak so frankly to her.

"I hope Mrs. Troy is quite well after her long absence," he continued, in a manner expressing that the coldest-hearted neighbour could scarcely say less about her.

"She is quite well, sir."

"And cheerful, I suppose."

"Yes, cheerful."

"Fearful, did you say?"

"Oh no. I merely said she was cheerful."

Thesaurus

businesslike: (*adj*) tidy, efficient, neat, orderly, practical, pragmatic, systematic, matter-of-fact, purposeful, workaday, realistic.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unbusinesslike, slipshod, inefficient, disorganized, amateur.
exuberance: (*adj, n*) abundance; (*n*) copiousness, ebullience, happiness, life, affluence, spirit, excess, overflow, joy; (*adj*) plenty.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) apathy, shortage,

scarcity, listlessness, lethargy, depression, boredom, sadness, misery.
impassioned: (*adj*) fervent, fanatical, fiery, burning, passionate, hot, torrid, vehement, keen, zealous; (*adj, v*) enthusiastic. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) impassive, indifferent, calm.
ninth: (*adv*) ninthly; (*n*) common fraction.
self-reproach: (*n*) regret, repentance, shame, penitence, contrition, guilt.

substratum: (*adj, n*) substance; (*n*) bed, groundwork, matter, body, layer, principle, subsoil, element, substructure, brute matter.
thoughtlessly: (*adv*) carelessly, inconsiderately, heedlessly, rashly, imprudently, inattentively, hastily, negligently, indiscreetly, unheedingly; (*adj, adv*) foolishly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) considerately, carefully, cautiously, prudently, sensibly, wisely.

"Tells you all her affairs?"

"No, sir."

"Some of them?"

"Yes, sir."

"Mrs. Troy puts much confidence in you, Lydia, and very **wisely**, perhaps."

"She do, sir. I've been with her all through her **troubles**, and was with her at the time of Mr. Troy's going and all. And if she were to marry again I expect I should bide with her."

"She promises that you shall—quite natural," said the strategic lover, **throbbing** throughout him at the **presumption** which Liddy's words appeared to warrant—that his darling had thought of re-marriage.

"No—she doesn't promise it exactly. I merely judge on my own account."

"Yes, yes, I understand. When she alludes to the possibility of marrying again, you conclude—"

"She never do allude to it, sir," said Liddy, thinking how very stupid Mr. Boldwood was getting.

"Of course not," he returned hastily, his hope falling again. "You needn't take quite such long **reaches** with your **rake**, Lydia—short and quick ones are best. Well, perhaps, as she is absolute mistress again now, it is wise of her to resolve never to give up her freedom."

"My mistress did certainly once say, though not seriously, that she supposed she might marry again at the end of seven years from last year, if she cared to risk Mr. Troy's coming back and **claiming** her."

"Ah, six years from the present time. Said that she might. She might marry at once in every reasonable person's opinion, whatever the lawyers may say to the contrary."

"Have you been to ask them?" said Liddy, **innocently**.

Thesaurus

claiming: (*adj*) pressing.

innocently: (*adv*) innocuously, ingenuously, inoffensively, naively, purely, simply, artlessly, unsophisticatedly, blamelessly, spotlessly, cleanly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) artfully, meaningfully, indecently, immorally, illicitly, intentionally, knowingly, unkindly, suspiciously, offensively, deliberately.

presumption: (*n*) effrontery,

confidence, assurance, premise, arrogance, guess, conjecture, surmise, insolence, impertinence, belief. ANTONYM: (*n*) respect.

rake: (*n, v*) tilt; (*adj, v*) comb; (*v*) hoe, harrow, graze, draw, plow; (*n*) debauchee, roue, slant, blood. ANTONYM: (*v*) glance.

reaches: (*n*) recess.

throbbing: (*adj, n*) beating; (*n*) pounding, pulsation, pulse, ache, palpitation, sting; (*adj*) painful,

pulsatile, palpitating, palpitant. ANTONYM: (*n*) pleasure.

troubles: (*n*) dilemma, evils, harms, ills.

wisely: (*adv*) judiciously, prudently, sagaciously, cleverly, discreetly, shrewdly, smartly, learnedly, astutely, sharply, perspicaciously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) stupidly, recklessly, imprudently, immaturely, illogically.

“Not I,” said Boldwood, growing red. “Liddy, you needn’t stay here a minute later than you wish, so Mr. Oak says. I am now going on a little farther. Good-afternoon.”

He went away vexed with himself, and ashamed of having for this one time in his life done anything which could be called **underhand**. Poor Boldwood had no more skill in **finesse** than a battering-ram, and he was uneasy with a sense of having made himself to appear stupid and, what was worse, mean. But he had, after all, lighted upon one fact by way of repayment. It was a singularly fresh and fascinating fact, and though not without its sadness it was pertinent and real. In little more than six years from this time Bathsheba might certainly marry him. There was something definite in that hope, for admitting that there might have been no deep thought in her words to Liddy about marriage, they showed at least her creed on the matter.

This pleasant notion was now continually in his mind. Six years were a long time, but how much shorter than never, the idea he had for so long been obliged to endure! Jacob had served twice seven years for Rachel: what were six for such a woman as this? He tried to like the notion of waiting for her better than that of winning her at once. Boldwood felt his love to be so deep and strong and eternal, that it was possible she had never yet known its full volume, and this patience in delay would afford him an opportunity of giving sweet proof on the point. He would **annihilate** the six years of his life as if they were minutes—so little did he value his time on earth beside her love. He would let her see, all those six years of **intangible ethereal** courtship, how little care he had for anything but as it bore upon the **consummation**.

Meanwhile the early and the late summer brought round the week in which Greenhill Fair was held. This fair was frequently **attended** by the folk of Weatherbury.

Thesaurus

annihilate: (*v*) eradicate, exterminate, eliminate, wipe out, extinguish, destroy, quash, crush, demolish, quench, extirpate. ANTONYMS: (*v*) build, help, save, protect, surrender.
attended: (*adj*) attent, fraught, tended to.
consummation: (*n*) accomplishment, completion, fulfillment, fruition, performance, execution, climax, attainment, perfection, end, realization.

ethereal: (*adj*) airy, celestial, unworldly, delicate, intangible, aeriform, spiritual, aery, vaporous, incorporeal, diaphanous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) earthly, heavy, indelicate, worldly, tangible, thick, robust, concrete.
finesse: (*n*) artifice, diplomacy, delicacy, refinement, dexterity, daintiness, ability, skill; (*n, v*) maneuver; (*adj*) intrigue; (*v*) circumvent. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

ignorance, tactlessness, coarseness.
intangible: (*adj*) immaterial, incorporeal, ethereal, indefinite, spiritual, elusive, imperceptible, insubstantial, airy, indefinable; (*n*) intangible asset. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) concrete, palpable, touchable, actual.
underhand: (*adj*) stealthy, furtive, clandestine, sly, underhanded, sneaky, shift, covert, crooked, indirect; (*adj, adv*) underarm. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) honest, overhand.

CHAPTER I

THE SHEEP FAIR—TROY TOUCHES HIS WIFE'S HAND

Greenhill was the Nijni Novgorod of South Wessex; and the busiest, merriest, noisiest day of the whole statute number was the day of the sheep fair. This **yearly** gathering was upon the summit of a hill which retained in good preservation the remains of an ancient **earthwork**, consisting of a huge **rampart** and **entrenchment** of an oval form encircling the top of the hill, though somewhat broken down here and there. To each of the two chief openings on opposite sides a **winding** road ascended, and the level green space of ten or fifteen acres enclosed by the bank was the site of the fair. A few permanent erections **dotted** the spot, but the majority of visitors patronized canvas alone for resting and feeding under during the time of their **sojourn** here.

Shepherds who attended with their flocks from long distances started from home two or three days, or even a week, before the fair, driving their charges a few miles each day—not more than ten or twelve—and resting them at night in **hired** fields by the wayside at previously chosen points, where they fed, having fasted since morning. The shepherd of each flock marched behind, a bundle containing his kit for the week **strapped** upon his shoulders, and in his hand his

Thesaurus

dotted: (*adj*) speckled, dappled, specked, spotted, dashed, stippled, scattered, spotty, dot, mottled, broken.

earthwork: (*n*) fortification, bulwark, embankment, trench, rampart, parapet, mound, agger, wall.

entrenchment: (*v*) bulwark, fosse, moat; (*n*) intrenchment, fortification, invasion, trench, trespass, retrenchment.

hired: (*adj*) leased, chartered,

mercenary, hackneyed, hack; (*v*) contented, compensated, paid.

rampart: (*n*) wall, fortification, earthwork, guard, embankment, barricade, defense, barrier; (*v*) battlement, circumvallation; (*n, v*) vallum.

sojourn: (*adj, v*) reside, inhabit; (*n*) residence, abode; (*adj, n, v*) stay; (*v*) remain, lodge, abide, live; (*n, v*) delay, domicile.

strapped: (*adj*) impecunious, poor,

penniless, late, poverty-stricken, short of money, impoverished, destitute, insolvent, indigent.

winding: (*n*) twist, wind, turn; (*adj, n*) indirect, crooked, circuitous, meandering, twisty, wandering; (*adj, n*) twisting, twisted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) direct, unbent.

yearly: (*adv*) annually, each year, every year, per annum, per year, by year; (*adj*) perennial, anniversary, periodic, annual tickets; (*n*) a year.

crook, which he used as the staff of his pilgrimage. Several of the sheep would get worn and lame, and occasionally a lambing occurred on the road. To meet these contingencies, there was frequently provided, to accompany the flocks from the remoter points, a pony and waggon into which the weakly ones were taken for the remainder of the journey.

The Weatherbury Farms, however, were no such long distance from the hill, and those arrangements were not necessary in their case. But the large united flocks of Bathsheba and Farmer Boldwood formed a valuable and imposing multitude which demanded much attention, and on this account Gabriel, in addition to Boldwood's shepherd and Cain Ball, accompanied them along the way, through the **decayed** old town of Kingsbere, and upward to the plateau, — old George the dog of course behind them.

When the autumn sun slanted over Greenhill this morning and lighted the **dewy** flat upon its crest, nebulous clouds of dust were to be seen floating between the pairs of hedges which **streaked** the wide prospect around in all directions. These gradually converged upon the base of the hill, and the flocks became individually visible, climbing the serpentine ways which led to the top. Thus, in a slow procession, they entered the opening to which the roads tended, multitude after multitude, horned and hornless — blue flocks and red flocks, **buff** flocks and brown flocks, even green and salmon-tinted flocks, according to the fancy of the colourist and custom of the farm. Men were shouting, dogs were barking, with greatest **animation**, but the thronging travellers in so long a journey had grown nearly indifferent to such terrors, though they still bleated **piteously** at the unwontedness of their experiences, a tall shepherd rising here and there in the midst of them, like a gigantic **idol** amid a crowd of prostrate devotees.

The great mass of sheep in the fair consisted of South Downs and the old Wessex horned breeds, to the latter class Bathsheba's and Farmer Boldwood's mainly belonged. These filed in about nine o'clock, their **vermiculated** horns **lopping** gracefully on each side of their cheeks in geometrically perfect spirals, a small pink and white ear **nestling** under each horn. Before and behind came

Thesaurus

animation: (*adj, n*) life, vivacity; (*n*) liveliness, vitality, activity, spirit, exhilaration, dash, energy, buoyancy; (*adj*) alacrity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) lethargy, lifelessness, inertness, inertia, sluggishness, boredom.
buff: (*n*) devotee, fan, addict, enthusiast, aficionado, admirer; (*adj, n*) tan, beige; (*v*) shine, furbish, polish. ANTONYMS: (*v*) corrode, dull, erode; (*n*) detractor.
decayed: (*adj*) spoiled, corrupt,

dilapidated, rank, rusty, rotting, decaying, rotted, putrid; (*adj, v*) wasted; (*v*) stale. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) matured, restored, strengthened.
dewy: (*adj*) wet, dank, bedewed, humid, moist, damp, fresh, new, roric, undried, rorid.
idol: (*n*) fetish, deity, effigy, divinity, graven image, image, hero, favorite, star, simulacrum, beloved.
lopping: (*n*) trimming, contraction.
nestling: (*n*) chick, bairn, toddler,

baby bird, bambino, changeling, fry, kiddy, nesting, pullet, tadpole.
piteously: (*adj, adv*) sadly; (*adv*) pitifully, wretchedly, ruefully, woefully, poorly, plaintively, sorrowfully, grievously, sorrowfully, dolefully.
streaked: (*adj*) veined, striped, streaky, brindled, lined, mottled, virgated, patterned; (*v*) areolar, cancelled, grated.
vermiculated: (*adj*) vermiculate, fancier, fancy.

other varieties, perfect **leopards** as to the full rich substance of their coats, and only lacking the spots. There were also a few of the Oxfordshire breed, whose wool was beginning to curl like a child's **flaxen** hair, though surpassed in this respect by the **effeminate** Leicesters, which were in turn less curly than the Cotswolds. But the most picturesque by far was a small flock of Exmoors, which chanced to be there this year. Their pied faces and legs, dark and heavy horns, tresses of wool hanging round their **swarthy** foreheads, quite relieved the monotony of the flocks in that quarter.

All these bleating, panting, and weary **thousands** had entered and were **penned** before the morning had far advanced, the dog belonging to each flock being tied to the corner of the pen containing it. Alleys for pedestrians **intersected** the pens, which soon became crowded with buyers and **sellors** from far and near.

In another part of the hill an altogether different scene began to force itself upon the eye towards midday. A circular tent, of exceptional **newness** and size, was in course of erection here. As the day drew on, the flocks began to change hands, **lightening** the shepherd's responsibilities; and they turned their attention to this tent and inquired of a man at work there, whose soul seemed concentrated on tying a **bothering** knot in no time, what was going on.

"The Royal Hippodrome Performance of Turpin's Ride to York and the Death of Black Bess," replied the man promptly, without turning his eyes or leaving off trying.

As soon as the tent was completed the band struck up highly stimulating harmonies, and the announcement was publicly made, Black Bess standing in a conspicuous position on the outside, as a living proof, if proof were wanted, of the truth of the **oracular** utterances from the stage over which the people were to enter. These were so convinced by such genuine appeals to heart and understanding both that they soon began to crowd in abundantly, among the foremost being visible Jan Coggan and Joseph Poorgrass, who were holiday keeping here to-day.

Thesaurus

bothering: (*v*) teasing, tormenting, carking; (*n*) harassment, provocation.
effeminate: (*adj*) womanish, delicate, epicene, sissy, emasculate, tender, ladylike, cissy, easy, voluptuous; (*adj, v*) feminine. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) macho, manly, masculine.
flaxen: (*adj*) flaxy, fair, blond, light, pale, golden, arenaceous, sandy, farinaceous; (*n*) blonde.
intersected: (*adj*) decussated.
leopards: (*n*) cheetahs, family Felidae,

Felidae, jaguars, cats.
lightening: (*v*) lighten, lightning; (*n*) mitigation, change of color, whitening, alleviation, brightening, consolation, assuagement; (*adj*) comforting, fulgurant.
newness: (*n*) freshness, recency, originality, innovation, inexperience, new, uniqueness, age, novelty, recentness, new state. ANTONYMS: (*n*) mustiness, oldness.
oracular: (*adj*) prophetic, ambiguous,

mystic, cryptic, prophetic, sibylline, mysterious, delphic, obscure, opinionated, dogmatic.
penned: (*adj*) fenced in, confined, captive, in captivity, jailed, imprisoned, enclosed.
sellors: (*n*) Peter Sellers.
swarthy: (*adj*) dusky, black, swart, sable, somber, dun, tawny, coloured, colored, atramentous; (*n*) Brunette. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) fair, light.
thousands: (*n*) myriad, much, many.

"That's the great ruffen pushing me!" screamed a woman in front of Jan over her shoulder at him when the rush was at its fiercest.

"How can I help pushing ye when the folk behind push me?" said Coggan, in a deprecating tone, turning without turning his body, which was **jammed** as in a vice.

There was a silence; then the **drums** and **trumpets** again sent forth their **echoing** notes. The crowd was again ecstasied, and gave another **lurch** in which Coggan and Poorgrass were again thrust by those behind upon the women in front.

"Oh that helpless feymels should be at the mercy of such ruffens!" exclaimed one of these ladies again, as she swayed like a reed shaken by the wind.

Now," said Coggan, appealing in an earnest voice to the public at large as it stood **clustered** about his shoulder-blades. "Did ye ever hear such onreasonable woman as that? Upon my carcass, neighbours, if I could only get out of this cheesewring, the damn women might eat the show for me!"

"Don't ye lose yer temper, Jan!" implored Joseph Poorgrass, in a whisper. "They might get their men to murder us, for I think by the shine of their eyes that they be a sinful form of womankind."

Jan held his tongue, as if he had no objection to be pacified to please a friend, and they gradually reached the foot of the ladder, Poorgrass being flattened like a jumping-jack, and the **sixpence**, for admission, which he had got ready half-an-hour earlier, having become so **reeking** hot in the tight squeeze of his excited hand that the woman in spangles, brazen rings set with glass diamonds, and with chalked face and shoulders, who took the money of him, hastily dropped it again from a fear that some trick had been played to burn her fingers. So they all entered, and the cloth of the tent, to the eyes of an observer on the outside, became **bulged** into **innumerable pimples** such as we observe on a sack of potatoes, caused by the various human heads, backs, and elbows at high pressure within.

Thesaurus

bulged: (*adj*) bulgy, convex.

clustered: (*adj*) agglomerated, agglomerative, bunched, bunchy, gregarious, concentrated, conglomerate, collective.

drums: (*n*) drumming.

echoing: (*adj*) resonant, hollow, resounding, deep, booming, loud, ringing, spacious, vast; (*n*) imitation, roll. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) thin, weak, cramped.

innumerable: (*adj*) countless,

numberless, incalculable, multitudinous, infinite, innumeros, unnumbered, uncounted, myriad, immeasurable, untold. ANTONYM: (*adj*) finite.

jammed: (*adj*) packed, congested, full, overcrowded, fixed, wedged, crammed, stuffed, blocked, clogged; (*adj, v*) stuck. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) free, loose.

lurch: (*n, v*) stumble, pitch, stagger; (*v*) reel, tilt, cant, rock, sway, shake,

teeter, wobble. ANTONYM: (*v*) hesitate.

pimples: (*n*) acne vulgaris, hives, rash, skin complaint.

reeking: (*adj*) dripping, overly diluted, odorous, noisome, high, fetid, stale; (*v*) sloppy, soft, soaking, sodden.

sixpence: (*n*) bender, coin, teston, testern.

trumpets: (*n*) *Sarracenia flava*, yellow pitcher plant, pitcher plant, yellow trumpet.

At the rear of the large tent there were two small dressing-tents. One of these, allotted to the male performers, was **partitioned** into halves by a cloth; and in one of the **divisions** there was sitting on the grass, pulling on a pair of jack-boots, a young man whom we instantly recognise as Sergeant Troy.

Troy's appearance in this position may be briefly accounted for. The **brig** aboard which he was taken in Budmouth Roads was about to start on a voyage, though somewhat short of hands. Troy read the articles and joined, but before they sailed a boat was despatched across the bay to Lulwind cove; as he had half expected, his clothes were gone. He ultimately worked his passage to the United States, where he made a **precarious** living in various towns as Professor of Gymnastics, Sword Exercise, Fencing, and Pugilism. A few months were sufficient to give him a **distaste** for this kind of life. There was a certain animal form of refinement in his nature; and however pleasant a strange condition might be whilst privations were easily warded off, it was **disadvantageously** coarse when money was short. There was ever present, too, the idea that he could claim a home and its **comforts** did he but chose to return to England and Weatherbury Farm. Whether Bathsheba thought him dead was a frequent subject of curious conjecture. To England he did return at last; but the fact of drawing nearer to Weatherbury **abstracted** its fascinations, and his intention to enter his old groove at the place became modified. It was with gloom he considered on landing at Liverpool that if he were to go home his reception would be of a kind very unpleasant to contemplate; for what Troy had in the way of emotion was an occasional fitful sentiment which sometimes caused him as much inconvenience as emotion of a strong and healthy kind. Bathsheba was not a woman to be made a fool of, or a woman to suffer in silence; and how could he endure existence with a spirited wife to whom at first entering he would be **beholden** for food and lodging? Moreover, it was not at all unlikely that his wife would fail at her farming, if she had not already done so; and he would then become liable for her maintenance: and what a life such a future of poverty with her would be, the spectre of Fanny constantly between them, harrowing his temper and **embittering** her words! Thus, for reasons touching on distaste, regret, and shame commingled, he put off his return from day to day, and would

Thesaurus

abstracted: (*adj*) absentminded, separate, absent-minded, abstract, distrait, inattentive, pensive, preoccupied, remote, lost, vacant. ANTONYM: (*adj*) alert.
beholden: (*adj*) thankful, indebted, obliged, indebted to, appreciative, beholding; (*adj, v*) under obligation, bound; (*v*) bounden. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unbound, ungrateful.
brig: (*n*) barque, hermaphrodite brig, snow, jail, bridge, prison, big house,

penal institution, ship.
comforts: (*n*) amenities, bread and butter, convenience, conveniences.
disadvantageously: (*adv*) injuriously, harmfully, adversely, unfavorably, inconveniently, prejudicially, damagingly, badly, inopportunistly, unfavorably, inexpediently.
distaste: (*n, v*) disgust, aversion, disinclination; (*n*) antipathy, dissatisfaction, repulsion, hatred, disrelish, revulsion, displeasure,

disfavor. ANTONYMS: (*n*) attraction, liking, taste, desire, love.
divisions: (*n*) contents.
embittering: (*adj*) onerous.
partitioned: (*adj*) divide, enclosed, partitioned off, separate.
precarious: (*adj*) dangerous, insecure, hazardous, doubtful, unstable, unsafe, uncertain, delicate, disputable, tricky, risky. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stable, secure, certain.

have decided to put it off altogether if he could have found anywhere else the ready-made establishment which existed for him there.

At this time—the July preceding the September in which we find at Greenhill Fair—he fell in with a travelling circus which was performing in the outskirts of a northern town. Troy introduced himself to the manager by **taming** a restive horse of the **troupe**, hitting a suspended apple with a pistol-bullet fired from the animal's back when in full **gallop**, and other feats. For his **merits** in these—all more or less based upon his experiences as a dragoon-guardsman—Troy was taken into the company, and the play of Turpin was prepared with a view to his **personation** of the chief character. Troy was not greatly **elated** by the appreciative spirit in which he was undoubtedly treated, but he thought the engagement might afford him a few weeks for consideration. It was thus carelessly, and without having formed any definite plan for the future, that Troy found himself at Greenhill Fair with the rest of the company on this day.

And now the mild autumn sun got lower, and in front of the pavilion the following incident had taken place. Bathsheba—who was driven to the fair that day by her odd man Poorgrass—had, like every one else, read or heard the announcement that Mr. Francis, the Great Cosmopolitan Equestrian and Roughrider, would **enact** the part of Turpin, and she was not yet too old and **careworn** to be without a little curiosity to see him. This particular show was by far the largest and grandest in the fair, a **horde** of little shows grouping themselves under its shade like chickens around a hen. The crowd had passed in, and Boldwood, who had been watching all the day for an opportunity of speaking to her, seeing her comparatively isolated, came up to her side.

“I hope the sheep have done well to-day, Mrs. Troy?” he said, nervously.

“Oh yes, thank you,” said Bathsheba, colour springing up in the centre of her cheeks. “I was fortunate enough to sell them all just as we got upon the hill, so we hadn't to pen at all.”

“And now you are entirely at leisure?”

“Yes, except that I have to see one more dealer in two hours' time: otherwise I should be going home. He was looking at this large tent and the

Thesaurus

careworn: (*adj*) tired, drawn, worn, weary, harassed, under pressure, wan, pinched, stressed, fraught, bony. ANTONYM: (*adj*) relaxed.

elated: (*adj*) joyful, delighted, jubilant, exultant, gleeful, happy, triumphant, overjoyed, proud, ecstatic; (*n*) buoyant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dejected, disappointed, sad, unhappy, miserable, down, depressed, despairing, blue, sorrowful, desolate.

enact: (*v*) constitute, pass, command,

act, ordain, order, prescribe, legislate, play, perform; (*adj, v*) establish.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) cancel, abolish, annul, fail, reject, repeal, veto, revoke, stop.

gallop: (*v*) speed, dart, dash, race, spring, tear, hasten, sprint; (*adj, v*) fly; (*n, v*) trot; (*n*) gait.

horde: (*n*) gang, crowd, crush, swarm, mob, drove, crew, cloud, shoal, throng, herd. ANTONYM: (*n*) few.

merits: (*n*) qualities.

personation: (*n, v*) impersonation; (*n*) mimicry, enactment, apery, playacting, playing, personification, portrayal, caricature, imposture; (*v*) simulation.

taming: (*n*) conditioning, training, breaking in; (*adj*) calming, humanizing.

troupe: (*n*) troop, band, party, corps, ensemble, minstrelsy, circus, organization, theater company, chorus, cast.

announcement. Have you ever seen the play of “Turpin’s Ride to York?” Turpin was a real man, was he not?”

“Oh yes, perfectly true—all of it. Indeed, I think I’ve heard Jan Coggan say that a relation of his knew Tom King, Turpin’s friend, quite well.”

“Coggan is rather given to strange stories connected with his relations, we must remember. I hope they can all be believed.”

“Yes, yes; we know Coggan. But Turpin is true enough. You have never seen it played, I suppose?”

“Never. I was not allowed to go into these places when I was young. Hark! What’s that prancing? How they shout!”

“Black Bess just started off, I suppose. Am I right in **supposing** you would like to see the performance, Mrs. Troy? Please excuse my mistake, if it is one; but if you would like to, I’ll get a seat for you with pleasure.” Perceiving that she hesitated, he added, “I myself shall not stay to see it: I’ve seen it before.”

Now Bathsheba did care a little to see the show, and had only withheld her feet from the ladder because she feared to go in alone. She had been hoping that Oak might appear, whose assistance in such cases was always accepted as an **inalienable** right, but Oak was nowhere to be seen; and hence it was that she said, “Then if you will just look in first, to see if there’s room, I think I will go in for a minute or two.”

And so a short time after this Bathsheba appeared in the **tent** with Boldwood at her elbow, who, taking her to a “reserved” seat, again withdrew.

This feature consisted of one raised bench in very **conspicuous** part of the circle, covered with red cloth, and floored with a piece of carpet, and Bathsheba immediately found, to her confusion, that she was the single reserved individual in the tent, the rest of the **crowded spectators**, one and all, standing on their legs on the borders of the **arena**, where they got twice as good a view of the performance for half the money. Hence as many eyes were turned upon her, enthroned alone in this place of honour, against a scarlet back-ground, as upon the ponies and **clown** who were engaged in preliminary exploits in the centre,

Thesaurus

arena: (*n*) theater, battlefield, sphere, field, amphitheater, area, platform, amphitheatre, hippodrome, region, scene.

clown: (*n*) fool, joker, jester, boor, harlequin, joke, comedian, rustic, comic, acrobat; (*v*) antic.

conspicuous: (*adj*) apparent, blatant, visible, manifest, obvious, marked, glaring, blazing, flagrant, famous; (*adj, v*) salient. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unobtrusive, unremarkable,

unnoticeable, concealed, hidden, indistinct, invisible, secret, unimportant, unseen, doubtful.

crowded: (*adj*) compact, congested, full, packed, busy, dense, populous, jammed, cramped, tight; (*adj, n*) thronged. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sparse, deserted, uncrowded, loose.

inalienable: (*adj*) untransferable, unassailable, absolute, inviolable, infeasible, inseparable, inherent, unassignable, unforfeitable; (*v*)

incommunicable.

spectators: (*n*) spectator, gallery, viewer, viewers, attendance.

supposing: (*adv*) admitting, conditionally, in case; (*n*) supposition, conjecture, thought, theory, assumption; (*conj*) although, what if; (*v*) suppose.

tent: (*n*) awning, marquee, pavilion, canopy, collapsible shelter, tabernacle, attention, pack tent, parasol, pop tent; (*n, v*) camp.

Turpin not having yet appeared. Once there, Bathsheba was forced to make the best of it and remain: she sat down, spreading her skirts with some dignity over the unoccupied space on each side of her, and giving a new and feminine aspect to the **pavilion**. In a few minutes she noticed the fat red nape of Coggan's neck among those standing just below her, and Joseph Poorgrass's saintly profile a little further on.

The interior was shadowy with a peculiar shade. The strange luminous semi-opacities of fine autumn afternoons and eves **intensified** into Rembrandt effects the few yellow **sunbeams** which came through holes and divisions in the canvas, and spirted like **jets** of gold-dust across the dusky blue atmosphere of **haze pervading** the tent, until they alighted on inner surfaces of cloth opposite, and shone like little lamps suspended there.

Troy, on **peeping** from his dressing-tent through a slit for a reconnoitre before entering, saw his unconscious wife on high before him as described, sitting as queen of the tournament. He started back in utter confusion, for although his disguise **effectually** concealed his personality, he instantly felt that she would be sure to recognize his voice. He had several times during the day thought of the possibility of some Weatherbury person or other appearing and **recognizing** him; but he had taken the risk carelessly. If they see me, let them, he had said. But here was Bathsheba in her own person; and the reality of the scene was so much intenser than any of his prefigurings that he felt he had not half enough considered the point.

She looked so charming and fair that his cool mood about Weatherbury people was changed. He had not expected her to exercise this power over him in the **twinkling** of an eye. Should he go on, and care nothing? He could not bring himself to do that. Beyond a politic wish to remain unknown, there suddenly arose in him now a sense of shame at the possibility that his attractive young wife, who already despised him, should despise him more by discovering him in so mean a condition after so long a time. He actually blushed at the thought, and was vexed beyond measure that his sentiments of dislike towards Weatherbury should have led him to **dally** about the country in this way.

Thesaurus

dally: (*v*) flirt, act, linger, trifle, toy, coquette, hesitate, play, dawdle, waste time, lag. ANTONYMS: (*v*) hurry, rush, hasten, lead.

effectually: (*adv*) efficaciously, effectively, validly, adequately, potently, tellingly, strongly, decisively; (*adj*) nicely, fully, head and shoulders. ANTONYM: (*adv*) ineffectually.

haze: (*n*) fog, cloud, confusion, vapor, blur, daze, film, cloudiness, turbidity;

(*n, v*) mist; (*v*) dim. ANTONYMS: (*n*) clarity, brightness.

intensified: (*adj*) intense, resonant, furious.

jets: (*n*) blue jets, atmospheric electricity.

pavilion: (*n*) marquee, kiosk, tent, porch, pergola, gazebo, hall, canopy, booth, place, rus in urbe.

peeping: (*n*) cheeping, tweeting, chirping; (*adj*) inquisitive.

pervading: (*adj*) penetrating, general,

profound, permeating, permeant, overmastering, lowly, deeply felt, intellectually deep, deep, almighty.

recognizing: (*v*) recognize, acknowledge, recognise; (*adj*) conscious, respectful; (*n*) observation.

sunbeams: (*n*) sunshine, light, daylight, rays.

twinkling: (*n*) moment, jiffy, minute, second, flash, trice, twinkle, wink, split second, breath; (*adj*) sparkling. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dull.

But Troy was never more clever than when absolutely at his wit's end. He hastily thrust aside the curtain dividing his own little dressing space from that of the manager and proprietor, who now appeared as the individual called Tom King as far down as his waist, and as the aforesaid respectable manager **thence** to his toes.

"Here's the devil to pay!" said Troy.

"How's that?"

"Why, there's a **blackguard** creditor in the tent I don't want to see, who'll discover me and nab me as sure as Satan if I open my mouth. What's to be done?"

"You must appear now, I think."

"I can't."

"But the play must proceed."

"Do you give out that Turpin has got a bad cold, and can't speak his part, but that he'll perform it just the same without speaking."

The proprietor shook his head.

"Anyhow, play or no play, I won't open my mouth," said Troy, firmly.

"Very well, then let me see. I tell you how we'll manage," said the other, who perhaps felt it would be extremely awkward to offend his leading man just at this time. "I won't tell 'em anything about your keeping silence; go on with the piece and say nothing, doing what you can by a **judicious wink** now and then, and a few **indomitable** nods in the heroic places, you know. They'll never find out that the speeches are omitted."

This seemed feasible enough, for Turpin's speeches were not many or long, the fascination of the piece lying entirely in the action; and accordingly the play began, and at the appointed time Black Bess leapt into the grassy circle amid the **plaudits** of the spectators. At the turnpike scene, where Bess and Turpin are **hotly** pursued at midnight by the **officers**, and half-awake gatekeeper in his **tasselled nightcap** denies that any horseman has passed, Coggan uttered a

Thesaurus

blackguard: (*n*) ruffian, rogue, dog, rascal, heel, hound, cad; (*adj*) base, vile; (*v*) vituperate, revile.

hotly: (*adv*) heatedly, passionately, fervidly, fervently, pepperily, sultrily, intensely, sharply, torridly; (*adj, adv*) violently, vehemently. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) impassively, mildly.

indomitable: (*adj, v*) firm, gritty, iron; (*adj*) dogged, invincible, inflexible, tough, irresistible, rigid, dauntless,

undaunted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) feeble, submissive, weak, irresolute.

judicious: (*adj, v*) discreet; (*adj*) careful, discerning, sensible, prudent, rational, sagacious, sound, cautious, reasonable, advisable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stupid, tactless, indiscriminate, reckless, illogical, extreme, untimely.

nightcap: (*n*) drink, dram, game, cap, mobcap, drop.

officers: (*n*) executive committee, staff.

plaudits: (*n*) acclaim, plaudit,

acclamation, cheer, eclat, applause, hand, exaltation, flattery, clapping, ovation.

tasselled: (*adj*) decorated.

thence: (*adv*) therefore, thus, therefrom, thereof, consequently, then, so, thereafter, thenceforth, since, on account of.

wink: (*n, v*) twinkle, blink, flash; (*n*) instant, twinkling, trice; (*v*) sparkle, nictitate, flicker, nictate, leer.

broad-chested “Well done!” which could be heard all over the fair above the bleating, and Poorgrass smiled **delightedly** with a nice sense of dramatic contrast between our hero, who coolly leaps the gate, and halting justice in the form of his enemies, who must needs pull up **cumbersomely** and wait to be let through. At the death of Tom King, he could not refrain from seizing Coggan by the hand, and whispering, with tears in his eyes, “Of course he’s not really shot, Jan—only seemingly!” And when the last sad scene came on, and the body of the gallant and faithful Bess had to be carried out on a **shutter** by twelve volunteers from among the spectators, nothing could restrain Poorgrass from lending a hand, exclaiming, as he asked Jan to join him, “Twill be something to tell of at Warren’s in future years, Jan, and hand down to our children.” For many a year in Weatherbury, Joseph told, with the air of a man who had had experiences in his time, that he touched with his own hand the **hoof** of Bess as she lay upon the board upon his shoulder. If, as some thinkers hold, immortality consists in being **enshrined** in others’ memories, then did Black Bess become immortal that day if she never had done so before.

Meanwhile Troy had added a few touches to his ordinary make-up for the character, the more effectually to disguise himself, and though he had felt faint **qualms** on first entering, the **metamorphosis** effected by **judiciously** “lining” his face with a wire rendered him safe from the eyes of Bathsheba and her men. Nevertheless, he was relieved when it was got through.

There a second performance in the evening, and the tent was lighted up. Troy had taken his part very quietly this time, venturing to introduce a few speeches on occasion; and was just concluding it when, whilst standing at the edge of the circle contiguous to the first row of spectators, he observed within a yard of him the eye of a man darted keenly into his side features. Troy hastily shifted his position, after having recognized in the **scrutineer** the **knavish** bailiff Pennyways, his wife’s sworn enemy, who still hung about the outskirts of Weatherbury.

At first Troy resolved to take no notice and abide by circumstances. That he had been recognized by this man was highly probable; yet there was room for a

Thesaurus

cumbersomely: (*adv*) ponderously, weightily, unwieldily, heavily, clumsily, heftily, onerously, embarrassingly, ineptly, bulkily, awkwardly.
delightedly: (*adv*) elatedly, jubilantly, pleasedly, overjoyedly, joyfully, exultantly, gleefully, entrancedly, joyously, cheerfully; (*adv, v*) happily.
enshrined: (*adj*) hallowed.
hoof: (*n*) toe, sole, hooves, bottom, keel, root, leg, ungula, unguis, animal

foot; (*v*) step.
judiciously: (*adv*) prudently, sagaciously, shrewdly, discreetly, discerningly, politically, cautiously, logically, rationally, sensibly, soundly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) foolishly, injudiciously, unwisely, illogically, imprudently.
knavish: (*adj*) tricky, dishonest, crafty, sly, roguish, guileful, foxy, dodgy, cunning, false, corrupt.
metamorphosis: (*n*) alteration, change,

conversion, transformation, metamorphism, translation, transmutation, transfiguration, revision, modification, transmogrification.
qualms: (*n*) nausea, doubts, unwillingness. ANTONYM: (*n*) willingness.
scrutineer: (*n*) canvasser.
shutter: (*n, v*) close, shade; (*n*) curtain, shut, blind, window, skylight, deadlight, lid, louver, jealousy.

doubt. Then the great objection he had felt to allowing news of his proximity to **precede** him to Weatherbury in the event of his return, based on a feeling that knowledge of his present occupation would **discredit** him still further in his wife's eyes, returned in full force. Moreover, should he resolve not to return at all, a tale of his being alive and being in the neighbourhood would be awkward; and he was anxious to acquire a knowledge of his wife's temporal affairs before deciding which to do.

In this dilemma Troy at once went out to reconnoitre. It occurred to him that to find Pennyways, and make a friend of him if possible, would be a very wise act. He had put on a thick beard borrowed from the establishment, and in this he wandered about the fair-field. It was now almost dark, and respectable people were getting their carts and gigs ready to go home.

The largest refreshment booth in the fair was provided by an **innkeeper** from a neighbouring town. This was considered an unexceptionable place for obtaining the necessary food and rest: Host Trencher (as he was jauntily called by the local newspaper) being a substantial man of high **repute** for catering through all the country round. The tent was divided into first and **second**-class compartments, and at the end of the first-class division was a yet further enclosure for the most exclusive, fenced off from the body of the tent by a luncheon-bar, behind which the host himself stood **bustling** about in white apron and shirt-sleeves, and looking as if he had never lived anywhere but under canvas all his life. In these **penetralia** were chairs and a table, which, on candles being lighted, made quite a **cozy** and luxurious show, with an urn, **plated** tea and coffee pots, china teacups, and plum cakes.

Troy stood at the entrance to the booth, where a gipsy-woman was **frying** pancakes over a little fire of sticks and selling them at a penny a-piece, and looked over the heads of the people within. He could see nothing of Pennyways, but he soon discerned Bathsheba through an opening into the reserved space at the further end. Troy thereupon retreated, went round the tent into the darkness, and listened. He could hear Bathsheba's voice immediately inside the canvas; she was conversing with a man. A warmth overspread his face: surely

Thesaurus

bustling: (*adj*) lively, busy, boisterous, buzzing, brisk, alive, vibrant, noisy, tumultuous; (*v*) stirring, full of incident. ANTONYM: (*adj*) inactive.
cozy: (*adj, n*) cosy, cosey; (*adj*) comfy, snug, familiar, homely, informal, easy, close, intimate; (*n*) cozie.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uncomfortable, tense, unwelcoming, bleak, insecure, impersonal, harsh.
discredit: (*n, v*) disgrace, dishonor, degrade, reproach, shame, doubt,

defame, slur; (*v*) disbelieve, decry, impeach. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) honor; (*v*) believe, credit, dignify, praise, trust, verify, support, laud, commend, accept.
frying: (*adj*) burning up, boiling, hot; (*n*) cookery, cooking, sauteing.
innkeeper: (*n*) victualer, landlord, Boniface, hostess, hotel keeper, victualler, padrone, emcee, horde.
penetralia: (*n*) recesses, recess, bowels, innermost recesses.

plated: (*v*) pinchbeck, overlaid, superimposed, tinsel; (*adj*) silver.
precede: (*v*) lead, head, forego, antecede, antedate, anticipate, introduce, forerun, pass, preface, go. ANTONYMS: (*v*) succeed, postdate.
repute: (*n, v*) reputation, report, esteem, respect, honor; (*n*) name, character, celebrity, standing; (*v*) count, regard as.
second-class: (*adj*) inferior, minor, common, mean, lower.

she was not so **unprincipled** as to flirt in a fair! He wondered if, then, she reckoned upon his death as an absolute certainty. To get at the root of the matter, Troy took a **penknife** from his pocket and softly made two little cuts crosswise in the cloth, which, by **folding** back the corners left a hole the size of a **wafer**. Close to this he placed his face, withdrawing it again in a movement of surprise; for his eye had been within **twelve** inches of the top of Bathsheba's head. It was too near to be convenient. He made another hole a little to one side and lower down, in a shaded place beside her chair, from which it was easy and safe to survey her by looking horizontally.

Troy took in the scene completely now. She was leaning back, **sipping** a cup of tea that she held in her hand, and the owner of the male voice was Boldwood, who had apparently just brought the cup to her, Bathsheba, being in a **negligent** mood, leant so idly against the **canvas** that it was pressed to the shape of her shoulder, and she was, in fact, as good as in Troy's arms; and he was obliged to keep his breast carefully backward that she might not feel its warmth through the cloth as he gazed in.

Troy found unexpected **chords** of feeling to be stirred again within him as they had been stirred earlier in the day. She was handsome as ever, and she was his. It was some minutes before he could counteract his sudden wish to go in, and claim her. Then he thought how the proud girl who had always looked down upon him even whilst it was to love him, would hate him on discovering him to be a strolling player. Were he to make himself known, that chapter of his life must at all risks be kept for ever from her and from the Weatherbury people, or his name would be a **byword** throughout the parish. He would be nicknamed "Turpin" as long as he lived. Assuredly before he could claim her these few past months of his existence must be entirely blotted out.

"Shall I get you another cup before you start, ma'am?" said Farmer Boldwood.

"Thank you," said Bathsheba. "But I must be going at once. It was great neglect in that man to keep me waiting here till so late. I should have gone two hours ago, if it had not been for him. I had no idea of coming in here; but there's

Thesaurus

byword: (*n*) aphorism, saw, saying, maxim, personification, proverb, sentence, motto, slogan, expression, catchphrase.

canvas: (*n*) duck, sail, sheet, tarpaulin, cloth, tarp, burlap; (*n, v*) canvass; (*v*) painting, tableau, solicit.

chords: (*n*) key, clef.

folding: (*n*) foldaway, plication, foldable, bend, crease, bending, flexure, pleating, collapsible, collapsible, doubling.

negligent: (*adj*) neglectful, heedless, forgetful, reckless, inattentive, inadvertent, indifferent, slow, lax, untidy; (*adj, v*) remiss. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) strict, diligent, conscientious, careful, dutiful, prompt, prudent, responsible, sensible, cautious.

penknife: (*adj, n*) blade; (*n*) switchblade, pocketknife, clasp knife, pocket knife, carving knife, stiletto; (*adj*) cutlery, edge tool, whittle, razor.

sipping: (*n*) imbibing, imbibition; (*adj*)

libant.

twelve: (*adj, n*) dozen, XII; (*n*) boxcars, large integer.

unprincipled: (*adj*) abandoned, unscrupulous, depraved, dishonest, unethical, profligate, dissolute, shameless, unconscionable, vicious, immoral. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ethical, moral, honest, professional.

wafer: (*n*) cookie, waffle, paste, cement, glue, size, gum, coke, stucco, staff of life, solder.

nothing so **refreshing** as a cup of tea, though I should never have got one if you hadn't helped me."

Troy scrutinized her cheek as lit by the candles, and watched each varying shade thereon, and the white shell-like sinuosities of her little ear. She took out her purse and was insisting to Boldwood on paying for her tea for herself, when at this moment Pennyways entered the tent. Troy trembled: here was his scheme for respectability **endangered** at once. He was about to leave his hole of espial, attempt to follow Pennyways, and find out if the ex-bailiff had recognized him, when he was arrested by the conversation, and found he was too late.

"Excuse me, ma'am," said Pennyways; "I've some private information for your ear alone."

"I cannot hear it now," she said, coldly. That Bathsheba could not **endure** this man was evident; in fact, he was continually coming to her with some tale or other, by which he might **creep** into favour at the expense of persons **maligned**.

"I'll write it down," said Pennyways, confidently. He stooped over the table, pulled a leaf from a warped pocket-book, and wrote upon the paper, in a round hand—

"Your husband is here. I've seen him. Who's the fool now?"

This he folded small, and handed towards her. Bathsheba would not read it; she would not even put out her hand to take it. Pennyways, then, with a laugh of **derision**, tossed it into her lap, and, turning away, left her.

From the words and action of Pennyways, Troy, though he had not been able to see what the ex-bailiff wrote, had not a moment's doubt that the note referred to him. Nothing that he could think of could be done to check the exposure. "Curse my luck!" he whispered, and added imprecations which rustled in the gloom like a **pestilent** wind. Meanwhile Boldwood said, taking up the note from her lap—

"Don't you wish to read it, Mrs. Troy? If not, I'll destroy it."

"Oh, well," said Bathsheba, carelessly, "perhaps it is **unjust** not to read it; but I can guess what it is about. He wants me to recommend him, or it is to tell me of

Thesaurus

creep: (*v*) grovel, sneak, steal, fawn, lurk, truckle, cringe; (*n*) creeping, crawling, toady, sycophant.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) race, dash, hasten, hurry, speed, fly.
derision: (*n*) contempt, mockery, scorn, banter, jeering, disdain, scoff, insult, irony, sport, gibe.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) applause, esteem, admiration, praise, approval.
endangered: (*n*) tiger, white rhinoceros; (*adj*) risky, vulnerable,

defenseless, at risk, in danger.
endure: (*adj, n, v*) continue, support; (*n, v*) bear, suffer, stand, be; (*v*) accept, undergo, allow, stay, tolerate.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) perish, die, break, fall, discontinue, crumble, end, enjoy, resign, quit, collapse.
maligned: (*adj*) reviled.
pestilent: (*adj*) mortal, deathly, pernicious, deadly, baneful, fatal, harmful, noxious, pestiferous, plaguey, bothersome. ANTONYM:

(*adj*) delightful.
refreshing: (*adj*) bracing, invigorating, refreshful, pleasant, fresh, cool, refresh, refreshingly, crisp, tonic, pleasing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unwelcome, soporific, tiring, relaxing, musty.
unjust: (*adj*) partial, injurious, wrong, inequitable, unrighteous, wicked, foul, wrongful, improper, unmerited, unjustified. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) just, equitable, rightful, reasonable, good.

some little scandal or another connected with my work-people. He's always doing that."

Bathsheba held the note in her right hand. Boldwood handed towards her a plate of cut **bread-and-butter**; when, in order to take a slice, she put the note into her left hand, where she was still holding the purse, and then allowed her hand to drop beside her close to the canvas. The moment had come for saving his game, and Troy impulsively felt that he would play the card. For yet another time he looked at the fair hand, and saw the pink finger-tips, and the blue veins of the wrist, **encircled** by a **bracelet** of **coral** chippings which she wore: how familiar it all was to him! Then, with the lightning action in which he was such an **adept**, he noiselessly slipped his hand under the bottom of the tent-cloth, which was far from being pinned tightly down, lifted it a little way, keeping his eye to the hole, snatched the note from her fingers, dropped the canvas, and ran away in the gloom towards the bank and ditch, smiling at the scream of astonishment which burst from her. Troy then slid down on the outside of the rampart, hastened round in the bottom of the entrenchment to a distance of a hundred yards, ascended again, and crossed boldly in a slow walk towards the front entrance of the tent. His object was now to get to Pennyways, and prevent a repetition of the announcement until such time as he should choose.

Troy reached the tent door, and standing among the groups there gathered, looked anxiously for Pennyways, evidently not wishing to make himself prominent by inquiring for him. One or two men were speaking of a daring attempt that had just been made to rob a young lady by lifting the canvas of the tent beside her. It was supposed that the **rogue** had imagined a slip of paper which she held in her hand to be a bank note, for he had seized it, and made off with it, leaving her purse behind. His **chagrin** and disappointment at discovering its **worthlessness** would be a good joke, it was said. However, the occurrence seemed to have become known to few, for it had not interrupted a fiddler, who had lately begun playing by the door of the tent, nor the four bowed old men with grim countenances and walking-sticks in hand, who were dancing "Major Malley's Reel" to the tune. Behind these stood Pennyways. Troy glided

Thesaurus

adept: (*adj, n*) expert; (*adj*) skillful, able, accomplished, experienced, capable, smart, clever, adroit; (*n*) virtuoso, whiz. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) incompetent, inept, awkward, bumbling, fumbling, unskilled.
bracelet: (*n*) annulus, armband, circlet, wristband, necklace, ring, hoop, areola, circle, anklet, annulet.
bread-and-butter: (*adj*) economic, immature.
chagrin: (*n*) mortification, vexation,

annoyance, shame, disappointment, letdown, humiliation; (*n, v*) disquiet, gangrene; (*v*) disappoint, mortify. ANTONYMS: (*v*) please, delight; (*n*) pride, satisfaction.
coral: (*adj*) rosy, chromatic; (*n*) roe, red coral, red, precious coral, madrepore, anthozoan, actinozoan, orange.
encircled: (*adj*) enclosed, bounded, circinate, circular, decorated, delimited, ringed, wreathed, bordered, annulated, annular.

rogue: (*n, v*) rascal; (*n*) knave, imp, miscreant, crook, cheat, impostor, swindler, cad, villain, scoundrel.
worthlessness: (*n*) emptiness, uselessness, paltriness, trashiness, insignificance, nothingness, negativity, purposelessness, pride, pointlessness; (*adj*) inanity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) importance, worth, helpfulness, appropriateness.

up to him, beckoned, and **whispered** a few **words**; and with a **mutual glance of concurrence** the two men went into the night **together**.

Thesaurus

concurrence: (*n*) coincidence, accord, assent, concord, consent, agreement, approval, compliance, concourse, conjunction, confluence.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) disagreement, conflict, refusal, rejection.

glance: (*n, v*) look, peek, flash, peep; (*n*) gaze, glimpse, coup d'oeil, gander; (*v*) bounce, glint, ricochet.

ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) study; (*n*) examination, perusal; (*v*) stick, stare.

mutual: (*adj*) common, communal,

joint, bilateral, collective, public, united, concerted, shared, alternate; (*adv*) mutually. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) individual, unilateral, private, solitary.

together: (*adv*) in concert, conjointly, at the same time, at once, simultaneously, mutually, in unison, all together, at the same moment; (*adj*) united, stable. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) separately, individually, independently, apart, alone; (*adj*)

separate, upset, unstable, separated, imbalanced, scatterbrained.

whispered: (*adj*) low, voiceless, unvoiced, nonvocal, weak, unheard, surd, supposed, sharp, thought, quiet.

words: (*n*) speech, expression, row, text, fracas, argument; (*n, v*) altercation, squabble, tiff, dispute, quarrel.

CHAPTER LI

BATHSHEBA TALKS WITH HER OUTFRIDER

The arrangement for getting back again to Weatherbury had been that Oak should take the place of Poorgrass in Bathsheba's conveyance and drive her home, it being discovered late in the afternoon that Joseph was suffering from his old **complaint**, a multiplying eye, and was, therefore, hardly trustworthy as **coachman** and **protector** to a woman. But Oak had found himself so occupied, and was full of so many cares relative to those portions of Boldwood's flocks that were not disposed of, that Bathsheba, without telling Oak or anybody, resolved to drive home herself, as she had many times done from Casterbridge Market, and trust to her good **angel** for **performing** the journey **unmolested**. But having fallen in with Farmer Boldwood accidentally (on her part at least) at the refreshment-tent, she found it impossible to refuse his offer to **ride** on horseback beside her as **escort**. It had grown twilight before she was aware, but Boldwood assured her that there was no cause for uneasiness, as the moon would be up in half-an-hour.

Immediately after the incident in the tent, she had risen to go—now absolutely alarmed and really grateful for her old lover's protection—though regretting Gabriel's absence, whose company she would have much preferred, as

Thesaurus

angel: (*n, v*) sponsor, support; (*n*) backer, cherub, messenger, patron, benefactor, saint; (*adj*) Dulcinea, goddess; (*adj, n*) darling.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) fiend, devil, jerk, demon.
coachman: (*n*) teamster, cabman, charioteer, carter, carman, Jehu, postboy, drayman, wagoner, postilion; (*v*) whip.
complaint: (*n*) charge, ailment, disease, affection, whine, disorder,

wail, complain, plaint, protest, sickness. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) compliment, commendation, health.
escort: (*n, v*) chaperon, attend, convoy, guard, guide, conduct, date; (*v*) accompany, see; (*n*) suite, attendant. **ANTONYMS:** (*v*) abandon, desert, leave, follow.
performing: (*n*) impersonation, byplay, enactment, hamming, business, implementation, executing, performance, activity; (*v*) perform,

execute.
protector: (*n*) guard, guardian, patron, champion, custodian, conservator, escort, hero, paladin, supporter, benefactor.
ride: (*n, v*) outing; (*adj, v*) bestride; (*n*) run, lift, jaunt; (*v*) mount, bait, float, rag, tease, harass.
unmolested: (*adj*) undisturbed, untroubled, unthreatened, peaceable, tranquil, still, smooth, safe, quiet; (*v*) unafflicted, unplagued.

being more proper as well as more pleasant, since he was her own managing-man and servant. This, however, could not be helped; she would not, on any consideration, treat Boldwood **harshly**, having once already illuded him, and the moon having risen, and the gig being ready, she drove across the **hilltop** in the wending way's which led downwards—to oblivious **obscurity**, as it seemed, for the moon and the hill it flooded with light were in appearance on a level, the rest of the world lying as a vast shady concave between them. Boldwood mounted his horse, and followed in close attendance behind. Thus they descended into the lowlands, and the sounds of those left on the hill came like voices from the sky, and the lights were as those of a camp in heaven. They soon passed the merry stragglers in the immediate vicinity of the hill, traversed Kingsbere, and got upon the high road.

The keen instincts of Bathsheba had perceived that the farmer's staunch devotion to herself was still un-diminished, and she sympathized deeply. The sight had quite depressed her this evening; had reminded her of her folly; she wished **anew**, as she had wished many months ago, for some means of making **reparation** for her fault. Hence her pity for the man who so persistently loved on to his own injury and permanent gloom had betrayed Bathsheba into an **injudicious** considerateness of manner, which appeared almost like tenderness, and gave new vigour to the exquisite dream of a Jacob's seven years service in poor Boldwood's mind.

He soon found an excuse for advancing from his position in the rear, and rode close by her side. They had gone two or three miles in the moonlight, speaking desultorily across the wheel of her gig concerning the fair, farming, Oak's usefulness to them both, and other indifferent subjects, when Boldwood said suddenly and simply—

“Mrs. Troy, you will marry again some day?”

This point-blank query unmistakably confused her, it was not till a minute or more had **elapsed** that she said, “I have not seriously thought of any such subject.”

Thesaurus

anew: (*adv*) again, newly, lately, recently, over again, once more, once again, new; (*adj*) only yesterday, the other day, just now.

elapsed: (*adj*) gone, forgotten, lapsed, back, beyond, onwards, over and done.

harshly: (*adv*) roughly, severely, sternly, sharply, cruelly, hoarsely, strictly, pitilessly, rigorously, rigidly; (*adj, adv*) piercingly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) softly, harmoniously, quietly,

gently, elaborately, leniently, smoothly, tolerantly, cheerfully, loosely, pleasantly.

hilltop: (*n*) brow, peak, summit, top, pinnacle, hill, acme, height, zenith, apex; (*adj*) outdoor.

injudicious: (*adj*) foolish, unwise, indiscreet, unadvised, careless, improper, thoughtless, rash, hasty, ill-judged, incautious. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wise, sensible, careful, prudent, judicious, discreet, advisable.

obscurity: (*n*) gloom, darkness, shade, dimness, obscureness, night, oblivion, haze, ambiguity, shadow, cloudiness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) clarity, fame, light, simplicity, prominence, celebrity, brightness.

reparation: (*n*) redress, recompense, atonement, indemnity, correction, restoration; (*n, v*) indemnification, compensation, repair, remuneration, restitution.

"I quite understand that. Yet your late husband has been dead nearly one year, and — —"

"You forget that his death was never absolutely proved, and may not have taken place; so that I may not be really a widow," she said, catching at the **straw** of escape that the fact afforded.

"Not absolutely proved, perhaps, but it was proved **circumstantially**. A man saw him drowning, too. No reasonable person has any doubt of his death; nor have you, ma'am, I should imagine."

"I have none now, or I should have acted differently," she said, gently. "I certainly, at first, had a strange **unaccountable** feeling that he could not have **perished**, but I have been able to explain that in several ways since. But though I am fully persuaded that I shall see him no more, I am far from thinking of marriage with another. I should be very **contemptible** to indulge in such a thought."

They were silent now awhile, and having struck into an **unfrequented** track across a common, the creaks of Boldwood's saddle and gig springs were all the sounds to be heard. Boldwood ended the pause.

"Do you remember when I carried you **fainting** in my arms into the King's Arms, in Casterbridge? Every dog has his day: that was mine."

"I know — I know it all," she said, hurriedly.

"I, for one, shall never cease regretting that events so fell out as to deny you to me."

"I, too, am very sorry," she said, and then checked herself. "I mean, you know, I am sorry you thought I — —"

"I have always this dreary pleasure in thinking over those past times with you — that I was something to you before *he* was anything, and that you belonged *almost* to me. But, of course, that's nothing. You never liked me."

"I did; and respected you, too."

"Do you now?"

Thesaurus

circumstantially: (*adv*) minutely, detailedly, particularly, by chance, incidentally, fortuitously, contingently, precisely, presumptively, specifically, specifically.

contemptible: (*adj*) abject, mean, base, pitiful, little, worthless, unworthy, miserable, ignoble, abominable, shameful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) estimable, admired, deserving, worthy, honorable, respectable,

respectful, noble, generous, commendable, good.

fainting: (*n*) swoon, syncope, deliquium, lipothymy, prostration, stupor; (*adj*) lipothymic.

perished: (*adj*) decayed, emperished, rotting, annihilated, fallen, lost, moldy, nonexistent, putrefied, dead, decomposed.

straw: (*n*) rush, stalk, drinking straw, chaff, fig, bran; (*adj*) feather, cobweb, mote, gossamer; (*v*) strew.

unaccountable: (*adj*) incomprehensible, inexplicable, strange, unintelligible, unexplainable, mysterious, impenetrable, undiscoverable, undecipherable, unknowable, unnatural. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) accountable, explainable, responsible, explicable. **unfrequented:** (*adj*) secluded, solitary, isolated, lonesome, desolate, remote, secret, eremitical, deserted, quiet, off the beaten path.

“Yes.”

“Which?”

“How do you mean which?”

“Do you like me, or do you respect me?”

“I don’t know – at least, I cannot tell you. It is difficult for a woman to define her feelings in language which is **chiefly** made by men to express theirs. My treatment of you was thoughtless, **inexcusable**, wicked! I shall **eternally** regret it. If there had been anything I could have done to make amends I would most **gladly** have done it – there was nothing on earth I so longed to do as to repair the error. But that was not possible.”

“Don’t blame yourself – you were not so far in the wrong as you suppose. Bathsheba, suppose you had real complete proof that you are what, in fact, you are – a widow – would you repair the old wrong to me by marrying me?”

“I cannot say. I shouldn’t yet, at any rate.”

“But you might at some future time of your life?”

“Oh yes, I might at some time.”

“Well, then, do you know that without further proof of any kind you may marry again in about six years from the present – subject to nobody’s objection or blame?”

“Oh yes,” she said, quickly. “I know all that. But don’t talk of it – seven or six years – where may we all be by that time?”

“They will soon glide by, and it will seem an **astorishingly** short time to look back upon when they are past – much less than to look forward to now.”

“Yes, yes; I have found that in my own experience.”

“Now **listen** once more,” Boldwood pleaded. “If I wait that time, will you marry me? You own that you owe me amends – let that be your way of making them.”

“But, Mr. Boldwood – six years – –”

Thesaurus

astorishingly: (*adj, adv*) surprisingly, wonderfully, stupendously, strangely; (*adv*) astoundingly, marvelously, prodigiously, staggeringly, startlingly, extraordinarily, unusually. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) predictably, mildly.

chiefly: (*adv*) principally, primarily, above all, especially, headly, mostly, largely, primely, predominantly; (*adj, adv*) mainly, particularly.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) partially.

eternally: (*adv*) always, permanently, incessantly, perpetually, constantly, ceaselessly, endlessly, unendingly, unceasingly, lastingly; (*adj, adv*) forever. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) briefly, sporadically.

gladly: (*adv, v*) happily; (*adv*) gleefully, contentedly, cheerfully, fain, joyfully, jovially, cheerily, delightedly, gladsomely, readily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) reluctantly, unwillingly, sadly,

resentfully, miserably.

inexcusable: (*adj*) irremissible, unpardonable, reprehensible, unwarrantable, unforgivable, unwarranted, unfair, untenable, not excusable, intolerable, unexcusable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) understandable, forgivable, justifiable, justified, laudable, wonderful.

listen: (*v*) hear, heed, harken, attend, harken, list, listening, eavesdrop, mind, concentrate, pay attention.

“Do you want to be the wife of any other man?”

“No indeed! I mean, that I don’t like to talk about this matter now. Perhaps it is not proper, and I ought not to allow it. Let us drop it. My husband may be living, as I said.”

“Of course, I’ll drop the subject if you wish. But **propriety** has nothing to do with reasons. I am a middle-aged man, willing to protect you for the remainder of our lives. On your side, at least, there is no passion or **blamable** haste—on mine, perhaps, there is. But I can’t help seeing that if you choose from a feeling of pity, and, as you say, a wish to make amends, to make a bargain with me for a far-ahead time—an agreement which will set all things right and make me happy, late though it may be—there is no fault to be found with you as a woman. Hadn’t I the first place beside you? Haven’t you been almost mine once already? Surely you can say to me as much as this, you will have me back again should circumstances permit? Now, **pray** speak! O Bathsheba, promise—it is only a little promise—that if you marry again, you will marry me!”

His tone was so excited that she almost feared him at this moment, even whilst she sympathized. It was a simple physical fear—the weak of the strong; there was no emotional **aversion** or inner **repugnance**. She said, with some distress in her voice, for she remembered vividly his outburst on the Yalbury Road, and shrank from a repetition of his anger:—

“I will never marry another man whilst you wish me to be your wife, whatever comes—but to say more—you have taken me so by surprise— —”

“But let it stand in these simple words—that in six years’ time you will be my wife? Unexpected accidents we’ll not mention, because those, of course, must be given way to. Now, this time I know you will keep your word.”

“That’s why I hesitate to give it.”

“But do give it! Remember the past, and be kind.”

She breathed; and then said **mournfully**: “Oh what shall I do? I don’t love you, and I much fear that I never shall love you as much as a woman ought to love a husband. If you, sir, know that, and I can yet give you happiness by a

Thesaurus

aversion: (*n*) antipathy, distaste, abhorrence, disinclination, dislike, grudge, aversation, nausea, enmity, revulsion; (*n, v*) disgust.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) attraction, love, inclination, predilection, desire, fondness, goodwill.
blamable: (*adj*) faulty, culpable, reprehensible, blameworthy, blameable, blameful, censurable, delinquent, reprobable, condemnable, accountable.

mournfully: (*adv*) sadly, sorrowfully, glumly, woefully, unhappily, plaintively, grievously, funereally, dejectedly, dolorously, poignantly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) cheerfully, joyfully.
pray: (*v*) beg, implore, entreat, crave, invite, plead, beseech, appeal, importune, adjure, invoke.
ANTONYM: (*v*) reject.
propriety: (*adj, n*) decency, modesty, correctness, aptitude; (*n*) decorum,

fitness, etiquette, civility, grace, politeness, manners. ANTONYMS: (*n*) impropriety, rudeness, unsuitableness, indecorum, decadence, tactlessness, corruption, vulgarity, indecency.
repugnance: (*n*) horror, hatred, antipathy, inconsistency, repulsion, nausea, revulsion, loathing, detestation, aversion, hate.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) pleasantness, love, attractiveness, adoration, liking.

mere promise to marry at the end of six years, if my husband should not come back, it is a great honour to me. And if you value such an act of friendship from a woman who doesn't **esteem** herself as she did, and has little love left, why it will — —"

"Promise!"

"— Consider, if I cannot promise soon."

"But soon is perhaps never?"

"Oh no, it is not! I mean soon. Christmas, we'll say."

"Christmas!" He said nothing further till he added: "Well, I'll say no more to you about it till that time."

Bathsheba was in a very peculiar state of mind, which showed how entirely the soul is the slave of the body, the ethereal spirit dependent for its quality upon the **tangible** flesh and blood. It is hardly too much to say that she felt **coerced** by a force stronger than her own will, not only into the act of promising upon this **singularly** remote and vague matter, but into the emotion of fancying that she ought to promise. When the weeks **intervening** between the night of this conversation and Christmas day began perceptibly to diminish, her anxiety and perplexity increased.

One day she was led by an accident into an **oddly** confidential dialogue with Gabriel about her difficulty. It afforded her a little relief—of a dull and cheerless kind. They were **auditing accounts**, and something occurred in the course of their labours which led Oak to say, speaking of Boldwood, "He'll never forget you, ma'am, never."

Then out came her trouble before she was aware; and she told him how she had again got into the toils; what Boldwood had asked her, and how he was expecting her assent. "The most mournful reason of all for my agreeing to it," she said sadly, "and the true reason why I think to do so for good or for evil, is this—it is a thing I have not breathed to a living soul as yet—I believe that if I don't give my word, he'll go out of his mind."

Thesaurus

accounts: (*n*) financial statement.

auditing: (*n*) investigation.

coerced: (*adj*) bound.

esteem: (*n*) deference, admiration; (*n, v*) respect, value, consideration, account; (*v*) appreciate, deem, adore, admire, count. ANTONYMS: (*v*) scorn, hate, disdain, insult, despise, abominate, abhor, dislike, reject; (*n*) disesteem, disapproval.

intervening: (*adj*) middle, interstitial, intervene, interposed, intermediate

colors, mediate, mesne; (*adj, v*)

intercurrent, interjacent; (*v*)

intervient; (*n*) middler.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) permanent.

oddly: (*adv*) curiously, peculiarly,

strangely, funnily, queerly,

unusually, grotesquely,

extraordinarily, uncommonly,

singularly, weirdly. ANTONYMS:

(*adv*) ordinarily, typically, sensibly, harmoniously.

singularly: (*adv*) peculiarly, uniquely,

unusually, curiously, rarely,

uncommonly, oddly, solely, exceptionally, individually; (*adj, adv*) remarkably.

tangible: (*adj*) substantial, concrete, actual, real, perceptible, physical, palpable, evident, corporeal, definite, sensible. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) intangible, impalpable, incorporeal, disembodied, conceptual, abstract, ethereal, insubstantial.

"Really, do ye?" said Gabriel, gravely.

"I believe this," she continued, with reckless frankness; "and Heaven knows I say it in a spirit the very reverse of **vain**, for I am grieved and troubled to my soul about it—I believe I hold that man's future in my hand. His career depends entirely upon my treatment of him. O Gabriel, I **tremble** at my responsibility, for it is terrible!"

"Well, I think this much, ma'am, as I told you years ago," said Oak, "that his life is a total blank **whenever** he isn't hoping for 'ee; but I can't suppose—I hope that nothing so dreadful hangs on to it as you fancy. His natural manner has always been dark and strange, you know. But since the case is so sad and oddlike, why don't ye give the conditional promise? I think I would."

"But is it right? Some **rash** acts of my past life have taught me that a watched woman must have very much circumspection to retain only a very little credit, and I do want and long to be discreet in this! And six years—why we may all be in our graves by that time, even if Mr. Troy does not come back again, which he may not **impossibly** do! Such thoughts give a sort of absurdity to the scheme. Now, isn't it preposterous, Gabriel? However he came to dream of it, I cannot think. But is it wrong? You know—you are older than I."

"Eight years older, ma'am."

"Yes, eight years—and is it wrong?"

"Perhaps it would be an uncommon agreement for a man and woman to make: I don't see anything really wrong about it," said Oak, slowly. "In fact the very thing that makes it doubtful if you ought to marry en under any condition, that is, your not caring about him—for I may suppose—"

"Yes, you may suppose that love is wanting," she said shortly. "Love is an utterly bygone, sorry, worn-out, miserable thing with me—for him or any one else."

"Well, your want of love seems to me the one thing that takes away harm from such an agreement with him. If wild heat had to do wi' it, making ye long to over-come the awkwardness about your husband's **vanishing**, it mid be

Thesaurus

impossibly: (*adv*) unusually, unthinkable, doubtfully, implausibly, incredibly, insufferably, oddly, unbearably, surprisingly, unbelievably, unimaginably. ANTONYM: (*adv*) tolerably.
rash: (*adj, n*) foolhardy, hasty, precipitate, eruption; (*adj*) imprudent, reckless, impetuous, heedless, audacious, sudden; (*adj, adv*) thoughtless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cautious, careful, sensible, wise,

considered, deliberate, prudent, modest, slow, responsible, patient.
tremble: (*adj, n, v*) shiver; (*n, v*) quiver, shudder, thrill, palpitate; (*adj, v*) totter, quake; (*n*) throb; (*v*) flutter, quail, falter. ANTONYMS: (*v*) steady, calm.
vain: (*adj*) proud, arrogant, conceited, fruitless, idle, empty, abortive, ineffectual, unproductive, narcissistic; (*adj, v*) useless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) shy, successful,

possible, persuasive, selfless, fruitful, humble, useful, responsible, worthwhile, effective.
vanishing: (*n*) disappearance, vanishment, dissipation; (*adj*) dying, fleeting, momentary, breaking up, declining, diminishing, dissolving, evanescent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) thriving, increasing.
whenever: (*n*) anytime, convenience; (*adv*) always, where'er. ANTONYM: (*adv*) immediately.

wrong; but a cold-hearted agreement to **oblige** a man seems different, somehow. The real sin, ma'am in my mind, lies in thinking of ever wedding wi' a man you don't love honest and true."

"That I'm willing to pay the penalty of," said Bathsheba, firmly. "You know, Gabriel, this is what I cannot get off my conscience—that I once seriously injured him in sheer idleness. If I had never played a trick upon him, he would never have wanted to marry me. Oh if I could only pay some heavy damages in money to him for the harm I did, and so get the sin off my soul that way!... Well, there's the debt, which can only be discharged in one way, and I believe I am bound to do it if it honestly lies in my power, without any consideration of my own future at all. When a rake gambles away his expectations, the fact that it is an **inconvenient** debt doesn't make him the less liable. I've been a rake, and the single point I ask you is, considering that my own **scruples**, and the fact that in the eye of the law my husband is only missing, will keep any man from marrying me until seven years have passed—am I free to **entertain** such an idea, even though 'tis a sort of penance—for it will be that? I *hate* the act of marriage under such circumstances, and the class of women I should seem to belong to by doing it!"

"It seems to me that all depends upon whe'r you think, as everybody else do, that your husband is dead."

"Yes—I've long ceased to doubt that. I well know what would have brought him back long before this time if he had lived."

"Well, then, in a religious sense you will be as free to *think o'* marrying again as any real widow of one year's standing. But why don't ye ask Mr. Thirdly's advice on how to treat Mr. Boldwood?"

"No. When I want a **broad-minded** opinion for general **enlightenment**, distinct from special advice, I never go to a man who deals in the subject **professionally**. So I like the parson's opinion on law, the lawyer's on **doctoring**, the doctor's on business, and my business-man's—that is, yours—on morals."

"And on love— —"

Thesaurus

broad-minded: (*adj*) large-minded, liberal, Catholic, progressive, charitable, enlightened, humane.

doctoring: (*n*) doping, corruption.

enlightenment: (*n*) light, information, education, culture, civilization, instruction, wisdom, illumination, notice, Age of Reason; (*n, v*) knowledge.

entertain: (*v*) amuse, delight, bear, cherish, beguile, admit, accommodate, harbor, hold, distract;

(*n, v*) interest. ANTONYMS: (*v*) disregard, ignore, banish, forget, tire, displease.

inconvenient: (*adj*) inopportune, awkward, disadvantageous, bothersome, improper, unfavorable, troublesome, hard, inapt, untoward, unfortunate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) convenient, suitable, opportune, timely, advantageous.

oblige: (*v*) coerce, force, drive, constrain, make, bind, accommodate,

obligate, necessitate, enforce, impel. ANTONYMS: (*v*) displease, request, hinder.

professionally: (*adv*) expertly, occupationally, proficiently, competently, adeptly, technically, vocationally, resourcefully, skillfully, skilfully, efficiently.

scruples: (*n*) conscience, moral sense, sense of right and wrong, morality, ethical motive, principle, ethics, moral fiber, morals.

“My own.”

“I’m afraid there’s a **hitch** in that argument,” said Oak, with a grave smile.

She did not reply at once, and then saying, “Good evening, Mr. Oak.” went away.

She had spoken frankly, and neither asked nor expected any reply from Gabriel more satisfactory than that she had **obtained**. Yet in the centremost parts of her complicated heart there existed at this minute a little **pang** of disappointment, for a reason she would not allow herself to recognize. Oak had not once wished her free that he might marry her himself—had not once said, “I could wait for you as well as he.” That was the **insect** sting. Not that she would have listened to any such hypothesis. O no—for wasn’t she saying all the time that such thoughts of the future were **improper**, and wasn’t Gabriel far too poor a man to speak **sentiment** to her? Yet he might have just hinted about that old love of his, and asked, in a **playful** off-hand way, if he might speak of it. It would have seemed pretty and sweet, if no more; and then she would have shown how kind and inoffensive a woman’s “No” can sometimes be. But to give such cool advice—the very advice she had asked for—it ruffled our **heroine** all the afternoon.

Thesaurus

heroine: (*n*) woman, persona, brave woman, role, protagonist, part, leading lady, heroess, role model, female lead, character.

hitch: (*v*) fasten, attach; (*n, v*) catch, limp, hobble, arrest; (*n*) hindrance, drawback, barrier, difficulty, check. ANTONYMS: (*n*) advantage, ease, help; (*v*) detach, undo.

improper: (*adj*) false, illicit, illegitimate, unsuitable, wrong, indecent, bad, coarse, amiss, faulty;

(*adj, v*) indecorous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) suitable, fitting, polite, acceptable, sensitive, moral, correct, dignified, lawful, clean, honest.

insect: (*n*) worm, flea, hymenopteran, hymenopteron, earwig, dirt ball, homopteran, hemipteran, gallfly, fish, biting louse.

obtained: (*adj*) fulfilled, derivative.

pang: (*n*) pain, torture, ache, agony, twinge, affliction, sting, stab, distress, ailment, cramp.

playful: (*adj*) frisky, humorous, kittenish, mischievous, skittish, impish, naughty, merry, lighthearted, frivolous, frolicsome. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) serious, lethargic, solemn, staid, subdued, heavy.

sentiment: (*n*) emotion, mind, notion, feeling, persuasion, opinion, judgment, sense, judgement, attitude, impression.

CHAPTER LII

CONVERGING COURSES

I

Christmas-eve came, and a party that Boldwood was to give in the evening was the great subject of talk in Weatherbury. It was not that the rarity of Christmas parties in the parish made this one a wonder, but that Boldwood should be the **giver**. The announcement had had an **abnormal** and incongruous sound, as if one should hear of croquet-playing in a cathedral aisle, or that some much-respected judge was going upon the stage. That the party was intended to be a truly **jovial** one there was no room for doubt. A large bough of **mistletoe** had been brought from the woods that day, and suspended in the hall of the bachelor's home. Holly and ivy had followed in armfuls. From six that morning till past **noon** the huge wood fire in the kitchen roared and sparkled at its highest, the kettle, the **saucepan**, and the three-legged pot appearing in the midst of the flames like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; moreover, roasting and **basting** operations were continually carried on in front of the genial **blaze**.

As it grew later the fire was made up in the large long hall into which the staircase descended, and all encumbrances were cleared out for dancing. The log

Thesaurus

abnormal: (*adj*) aberrant, uncommon, unusual, odd, unnatural, strange, anomalous, perverted, irregular, atypical, monstrous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) typical, usual, Standard, unexceptional, straight, regular, average, ordinary, natural, customary, conventional.

basting: (*n*) tacking, dampening, moistening, tack, stitch, needlepoint, needlework, hemming, embroidery, tapestry, darning.

blaze: (*n, v*) flash, glare, flame, mark, scintillation; (*n*) fire, light, burning, inflammation, sheen; (*adj, v*) burn.

giver: (*n*) contributor, benefactor, abnegator, almsgiver, altruist, supporter, helper, donator, grantor, provider, philanthropist.

jovial: (*adj, n*) gay; (*adj*) jolly, genial, glad, festive, joyful, gleeful, merry, jocund, cheerful, blithe.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) miserable, gloomy, frosty, serious, hostile.

mistletoe: (*n*) *viscum album*, false mistletoe, *Loranthus europaeus*, parasitic plant, missel, misletoe, old world mistletoe.

noon: (*n*) high noon, noonday, noontide, afternoon, hour, dinnertime, crest, twelve noon; (*adj*) meridian, meridional; (*adj, n*) culmination.

saucepan: (*n*) pot, pan, stewpan, casserole, boiler, basin, skillet, jorum, rummer, tumbler, punch bowl.

which was to form the back-brand of the evening fire was the uncleft trunk of a tree, so unwieldy that it could be neither brought nor rolled to its place; and accordingly two men were to be observed dragging and **heaving** it in by chains and levers as the hour of assembly drew near.

In spite of all this, the spirit of **revelry** was wanting in the atmosphere of the house. Such a thing had never been attempted before by its owner, and it was now done as by a **wrench**. Intended gaieties would insist upon appearing like **solemn** grandeurs, the organization of the whole effort was carried out coldly, by hirelings, and a shadow seemed to move about the rooms, saying that the proceedings were unnatural to the place and the lone man who lived **therein**, and hence not good.

II

Bathsheba was at this time in her room, dressing for the event. She had called for candles, and Liddy entered and placed one on each side of her mistress's glass.

"Don't go away, Liddy," said Bathsheba, almost timidly. "I am **foolishly** agitated—I cannot tell why. I wish I had not been obliged to go to this dance; but there's no escaping now. I have not spoken to Mr. Boldwood since the autumn, when I promised to see him at Christmas on business, but I had no idea there was to be anything of this kind."

"But I would go now," said Liddy, who was going with her; for Boldwood had been **indiscriminate** in his invitations.

"Yes, I shall make my appearance, of course," said Bathsheba. "But I am *the cause* of the party, and that upsets me!—Don't tell, Liddy."

"Oh no, ma'am. You the cause of it, ma'am?"

Thesaurus

foolishly: (*adv*) idiotically, ridiculously, stupidly, indiscreetly, silly, insanely, injudiciously, preposterously, absurdly, senselessly; (*adj, adv*) madly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) sensibly, solemnly, shrewdly, prudently, responsibly, judiciously, carefully, rationally.
heaving: (*v*) tremor, twitter; (*adj*) swelling, full, full up, jammed; (*n*) murmur, forcing out, groan, grumble, mutter. ANTONYM: (*adj*) deserted.

indiscriminate: (*adj*) random, haphazard, sweeping, general, confused, aimless, disorderly, motley, indiscriminating, irregular; (*adj, v*) miscellaneous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) discerning, discriminating, selective, specific, systematic, isolated, methodical, deliberate.
revelry: (*adj, n*) revels; (*n*) debauchery, festivity, orgy, merriment, revel, carnival, mirth, gaiety, carousal, jollification.

solemn: (*adj, n, v*) serious; (*adj, v*) sober, important, sedate, devout, formal, demure; (*adj*) heavy, dignified, sacred; (*adj, n*) earnest. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) frivolous, cheerful, unceremonious, funny, playful, flippant, relaxed.
therein: (*adv*) in this, in there.
wrench: (*n, v*) pull, jerk, strain, turn, twist, tug, yank; (*n*) spanner; (*v*) distort, contort, force.

“Yes. I am the reason of the party – I. If it had not been for me, there would never have been one. I can’t explain any more – there’s no more to be explained. I wish I had never seen Weatherbury.”

“That’s wicked of you – to wish to be worse off than you are.”

“No, Liddy. I have never been free from trouble since I have lived here, and this party is likely to bring me more. Now, fetch my black silk dress, and see how it sits upon me.”

“But you will leave off that, surely, ma’am? You have been a widowlady fourteen months, and ought to **brighten** up a little on such a night as this.”

“Is it necessary? No; I will appear as usual, for if I were to wear any light dress people would say things about me, and I should seem to be **rejoicing** when I am solemn all the time. The party doesn’t suit me a bit; but never mind, stay and help to finish me off.”

III

Boldwood was dressing also at this hour. A **tailor** from Casterbridge was with him, assisting him in the operation of trying on a new coat that had just been brought home.

Never had Boldwood been so **fastidious**, unreasonable about the fit, and generally difficult to please. The tailor walked round and round him, tugged at the waist, pulled the sleeve, pressed out the collar, and for the first time in his experience Boldwood was not bored. Times had been when the farmer had exclaimed against all such **niceties** as childish, but now no **philosophic** or hasty rebuke whatever was provoked by this man for attaching as much importance to a **crease** in the coat as to an earthquake in South America. Boldwood at last expressed himself nearly satisfied, and paid the bill, the tailor passing out of the door just as Oak came in to report progress for the day.

Thesaurus

brighten: (*adj, v*) clear up; (*v*) light, illuminate, burnish, clear, gild, glow, perk up, cheer, irradiate, enliven.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) upset, sadden, overcast, fade, dim, depress, blacken, spoil.
crease: (*n, v*) fold, crinkle, plait, pucker, furrow, line; (*v*) crumple, cockle, rumple, ruck; (*n*) pleat.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) iron, flatten.
fastidious: (*adj, n*) exacting, critical, accurate; (*adj*) delicate, particular,

careful, exigent, dainty, discriminating, nice, fussy.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sloppy, unfastidious, careless, uncouth, uncritical, easy, indifferent, undemanding, slapdash, relaxed, easygoing.
niceties: (*n*) details, facts, information, ins and outs, particulars, propriety, workings, trivia, minutiae.
philosophic: (*v*) platonic, staid, stayed, stoical; (*adj*) thoughtful, rational,

patient, learned, ideologic, ideological. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) nonphilosophical.
rejoicing: (*n*) exultation, jubilation, happiness, joy, mirth, pleasure, elation; (*adj*) jubilant, exultant; (*v*) rejoice; (*adv*) rejoicingly. **ANTONYM:** (*n*) sadness.
tailor: (*v*) sew, fashion, shape, accommodate, design, cut, adjust, fit; (*n*) snip, dressmaker, sartor.

“Oh, Oak,” said Boldwood. “I shall of course see you here to-night. Make yourself **merry**. I am determined that neither expense nor trouble shall be spared.”

“I’ll try to be here, sir, though perhaps it may not be very early,” said Gabriel, quietly. “I am glad indeed to see such a change in ‘ee from what it used to be.”

“Yes—I must own it—I am bright to-night: cheerful and more than cheerful—so much so that I am almost sad again with the sense that all of it is passing away. And sometimes, when I am **excessively** hopeful and blithe, a trouble is **looming** in the distance: so that I often get to look upon gloom in me with content, and to fear a happy mood. Still this may be absurd—I feel that it is absurd. Perhaps my day is dawning at last.”

“I hope it ‘ill be a long and a fair one.”

“Thank you—thank you. Yet perhaps my cheerful mess rests on a slender hope. And yet I trust my hope. It is faith, not hope. I think this time I **reckon** with my host.—Oak, my hands are a little **shaky**, or something; I can’t tie this neckerchief properly. Perhaps you will tie it for me. The fact is, I have not been well lately, you know.”

“I am sorry to hear that, sir.”

“Oh, it’s nothing. I want it done as well as you can, please. Is there any late knot in fashion, Oak?”

“I don’t know, sir,” said Oak. His tone had sunk to sadness.

Boldwood approached Gabriel, and as Oak tied the neckerchief the farmer went on **feverishly**—

“Does a woman keep her promise, Gabriel?”

“If it is not inconvenient to her she may.”

“—Or rather an implied promise.”

“I won’t answer for her implying,” said Oak, with faint bitterness. “That’s a word as full o’ holes as a **sieve** with them.”

Thesaurus

excessively: (*adj, adv*) immoderately, exorbitantly, inordinately; (*adv*) extremely, enormously, exceedingly, very, profusely, overly, exaggeratedly, intemperately.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) justifiably, moderately, insufficiently.
feverishly: (*adv*) excitedly, hotly, febrilely, hectically, feverously, hysterically, passionately, frantically, fanatically, heatedly, frenziedly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) indifferently,

peacefully, sluggishly.
looming: (*adj*) threatening, impending, menacing, pending; (*v*) illusion, anamorphosis, false light, distortion, phasma, appear, mirage.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) distant.
merry: (*adj*) joyful, lively, cheerful, glad, jolly, facetious, frolicsome, lighthearted, festive; (*adj, n*) convivial, jovial. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) gloomy, miserable, serious, uptight.
reckon: (*v*) estimate, judge, hold,

compute, guess, calculate, gauge, rate; (*n, v*) enumerate, count, number.
shaky: (*adj*) precarious, ramshackle, insecure, unsafe, unstable, unsteady, wobbly, tottery, trembling; (*adj, v*) crazy, broken. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) steady, stable, strong, watertight, sound, hard, composed, alert, safe, secure, promising.
sieve: (*v*) filter, riddle, strain, shovel, mop, separate, broom; (*n, v*) sift; (*n*) strainer, sifter, colander.

“Oak, don’t talk like that. You have got quite **cynical** lately—how is it? We seem to have shifted our positions: I have become the young and **hopeful** man, and you the old and **unbelieving** one. However, does a woman keep a promise, not to marry, but to enter on an **engagement** to marry at some time? Now you know women better than I—tell me.”

“I am afraid you honour my understanding too much. However, she may keep such a promise, if it is made with an honest meaning to repair a wrong.”

“It has not gone far yet, but I think it will soon—yes, I know it will,” he said, in an impulsive whisper. “I have pressed her upon the subject, and she inclines to be kind to me, and to think of me as a husband at a long future time, and that’s enough for me. How can I expect more? She has a notion that a woman should not marry within seven years of her husband’s disappearance—that her own self shouldn’t, I mean—because his body was not found. It may be merely this legal reason which influences her, or it may be a religious one, but she is reluctant to talk on the point. Yet she has promised—implied—that she will **ratify** an engagement to-night.”

“Seven years,” murmured Oak.

“No, no—it’s no such thing!” he said, with **impatience**. Five years, nine months, and a few days. Fifteen months nearly have passed since he vanished, and is there anything so wonderful in an engagement of little more than five years?”

“It seems long in a forward view. Don’t build too much upon such promises, sir. Remember, you have once be’n deceived. Her meaning may be good; but there—she’s young yet.”

“Deceived? Never!” said Boldwood, vehemently. “She never promised me at that first time, and hence she did not break her promise! If she promises me, she’ll marry me, Bathsheba is a woman to her word.”

IV

Thesaurus

cynical: (*adj*) distrustful, cynic, ironic, disenchanting, disbelieving, misanthropic, suspicious, negative, contemptuous; (*adj, v*) satirical, sardonic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) trusting, convinced, approving, dreamy, positive, hopeful, resigned, believing, aggressive, fresh, certain.
engagement: (*n, v*) combat, battle, action, fight, contest; (*n*) conflict, commitment, appointment, contract, duty, date. ANTONYM: (*n*)

disengagement.
hopeful: (*adj*) confident, auspicious, bright, optimistic, sanguine, rosy, probable, likely, expectant, upbeat; (*n, v*) candidate. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) desperate, pessimistic, gloomy, pained, doubtful, bad, unhelpful, unlikely, unpromising, down.
impatience: (*n*) annoyance, eagerness, anger, intolerance, restlessness, fidget, nervousness, fidgetiness, enthusiasm, edginess; (*adj*)

nonendurance. ANTONYMS: (*n*) calmness, endurance, apathy.
ratify: (*v*) approve, sanction, acknowledge, authorize, endorse, affirm, pass, attest, establish, adopt; (*n, v*) corroborate. ANTONYM: (*v*) reject.
unbelieving: (*adj*) incredulous, disbelieving, sceptical, suspicious, atheistical, nescient, irreligious, atheistic, faithless, unconverted, distrustful.

Troy was sitting in a corner of The White Hart **taavern** at Casterbridge, smoking and drinking a steaming mixture from a glass. A knock was given at the door, and Pennyways entered.

"Well, have you seen him?" Troy inquired, **pointing** to a chair.

"Boldwood?"

"No—Lawyer Long."

"He wadn' at home. I went there first, too."

"That's a nuisance."

" 'Tis rather, I suppose."

"Yet I don't see that, because a man appears to be drowned and was not, he should be liable for anything. I shan't ask any lawyer—not I."

"But that's not it, exactly. If a man changes his name and so forth, and takes steps to deceive the world and his own wife, he's a **cheat**, and that in the eye of the law is ayless a rogue, and that is ayless a lammocken **vagabond**; and that's a **punishable** situation."

"Ha-ha! Well done, Pennyways," Troy had laughed, but it was with some anxiety that he said, "Now, what I want to know is this, do you think there's really anything going on between her and Boldwood? Upon my soul, I should never have believed it! How she must **detest** me! Have you found out whether she has encouraged him?"

"I haen't been able to learn. There's a deal of feeling on his side seemingly, but I don't answer for her. I didn't know a word about any such thing till yesterday, and all I heard then was that she was gwine to the party at his house to-night. This is the first time she has ever gone there, they say. And they say that she've not so much as spoke to him since they were at Greenhill Fair: but what can folk believe o't? However, she's not **fond** of him—quite **offish** and quite care less, I know."

Thesaurus

cheat: (*n, v*) trick, con, fake, sham; (*n*) fraud, bilk, impostor; (*v*) defraud, beguile, betray, fleece. ANTONYMS: (*v*) support, repay, help, contribute, aid.
detest: (*n, v*) hate; (*v*) abominate, loathe, despise, execrate, dislike, nauseate, contemn, dislike intensely; (*n*) loathing, abhorrence. ANTONYMS: (*v*) adore, like, cherish, admire.
fond: (*adj*) affectionate, caring,

devoted, tender, loving, amorous, delicate, adoring, dotting, ardent, attached. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) aversion, cold, rough.
offish: (*adj*) remote, unapproachable, aloof, distant, unsociable, reserved, cool, solitary, prudish, uncommunicative, lacking cordiality.
pointing: (*n*) punctuation, indication, scoring.
punishable: (*adj*) culpable, guilty, criminal, corrective, chastisable,

corrigible, liable to penalty, liable to punishment, deserving chastisement, docile, illegal.
taavern: (*n*) hotel, saloon, bar, inn, pub, public house, pothouse, taphouse, cabaret, khan, hostelry.
vagabond: (*n, v*) tramp; (*adj, n*) vagrant; (*v*) roam, stray, wander, range, ramble; (*n*) outcast, bum, wanderer, nomad. ANTONYMS: (*n*) inhabitant, resident; (*adj*) settled.

"I'm not so sure of that.... She's a handsome woman, Pennyways, is she not? Own that you never saw a finer or more **splendid** creature in your life. Upon my honour, when I set eyes upon her that day I wondered what I could have been made of to be able to leave her by herself so long. And then I was hampered with that bothering show, which I'm free of at last, thank the stars." He smoked on awhile, and then added, "How did she look when you passed by yesterday?"

"Oh, she took no great heed of me, ye may well fancy; but she looked well enough, far's I know. Just flashed her haughty eyes upon my poor **scram** body, and then let them go past me to what was yond, much as if I'd been no more than a leafless tree. She had just got off her **mare** to look at the last wring-down of cider for the year; she had been riding, and so her colours were up and her breath rather quick, so that her bosom plimmed and fell—plimmed and fell—every time plain to my eye. Ay, and there were the fellers round her wringing down the cheese and bustling about and saying, "Ware o' the **pommy**, ma'am: 'twill spoil yer gown." "Never mind me," says she. Then Gabe brought her some of the new cider, and she must needs go drinking it through a strawmote, and not in a nateral way at all. "Liddy," says she, "bring indoors a few gallons, and I'll make some cider-wine." Sergeant, I was no more to her than a morsel of scroff in the fuel-house!"

"I must go and find her out at once—O yes, I see that—I must go. Oak is head man still, isn't he?"

"Yes, 'a b'lieve. And at Little Weatherbury Farm too. He manages everything."

" 'Twill **puzzle** him to manage her, or any other man of his compass!"

"I don't know about that. She can't do without him, and knowing it well he's pretty independent. And she've a few soft corners to her mind, though I've never been able to get into one, the devil's in't!"

"Ah, baily, she's a **notch** above you, and you must own it: a higher class of animal—a finer tissue. However, stick to me, and neither this haughty **goddess**, dashing piece of **womanhood**, Juno-wife of mine (Juno was a goddess, you

Thesaurus

goddess: (*n*) divinity, God, beauty, nymph; (*adj, n*) idol; (*adj*) duck, darling, angel, Dulcinea, ladylove, innamorata.
mare: (*n*) Maria, Money makes the mare go, broodmare, doe, hen, bitch, horse, region, part, jennet, roe.
notch: (*n, v*) mark, dent, hack, nick, score, knock, hollow, scratch; (*n*) gap, incision; (*v*) indent. ANTONYM: (*v*) fill.
pommy: (*n*) pommetty.

puzzle: (*adj, v*) perplex, confuse, embarrass; (*n*) enigma, riddle, mystery, maze; (*n, v*) nonplus; (*v*) confound, mystify, baffle.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) clarify, placate, explain; (*n*) explanation.
scram: (*v*) get, buzz off, bugger off, leave, skedaddle, decamp, flee, beat it, abscond, disappear; (*n*) emergency shutdown.
splendid: (*adj, n, v*) illustrious, glorious; (*adj*) gorgeous, beautiful,

royal, gallant, proud; (*adj, n*) magnificent, noble, grand; (*adj, v*) brilliant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unimpressive, modest, humble, ordinary, undistinguished, meager, awful, dire, lowly, inglorious, shabby.
womanhood: (*n*) muliebriety, femininity, adulthood, maturity, manhood, womankind, wifehood, softness, social class, majority, adult female.

know), nor anybody else shall hurt you. But all this wants looking into, I perceive. What with one thing and another, I see that my work is well cut out for me."

V

"How do I look to-night, Liddy?" said Bathsheba, giving a final adjustment to her dress before leaving the glass.

"I never saw you look so well before. Yes—I'll tell you when you looked like it—that night, a year and a half ago, when you came in so wildlike, and scolded us for making remarks about you and Mr. Troy."

"Everybody will think that I am setting myself to **captivate** Mr. Boldwood, I suppose," she murmured. "At least they'll say so. Can't my hair be brushed down a little flatter? I **dread** going—yet I dread the risk of wounding him by staying away."

"Anyhow, ma'am, you can't well be dressed plainer than you are, unless you go in **sackcloth** at once. 'Tis your excitement is what makes you look so **noticeable** to-night."

"I don't know what's the matter, I feel wretched at one time, and **buoyant** at another. I wish I could have continued quite alone as I have been for the last year or so, with no hopes and no fears, and no pleasure and no grief."

"Now just suppose Mr. Boldwood should ask you—only just suppose it—to run away with him, what would you do, ma'am?"

"Liddy—none of that," said Bathsheba, gravely. "Mind, I won't hear **joking** on any such matter. Do you hear?"

"I beg pardon, ma'am. But knowing what rum things we women be, I just said—however, I won't speak of it again."

Thesaurus

buoyant: (*adj*) cheerful, light, optimistic, lighthearted, airy, hopeful, floaty, bright, blithe, elastic; (*adj, n*) sanguine. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) heavy, weighted, down, depressed, somber, miserable, serious, melancholy, downbeat.
captivate: (*adj, v*) attract, charm, fascinate; (*v*) bewitch, enchant, take, lure, hypnotize; (*n, v*) allure, tempt, entice. ANTONYMS: (*v*) repulse, disillusion, offend, bore, annoy.

dread: (*n, v*) apprehension, fear, panic; (*n*) anxiety, awe, consternation, alarm, trepidation, dismay, foreboding, terror. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pleasing, welcomed, pleasant; (*v*) welcome, want; (*n*) reassurance, fearlessness, confidence, security, ease, calm.
joking: (*n*) banter, fooling, fun; (*adj*) jocose, jocular, humorous, funny, kidding, playful, puckish, comical. ANTONYM: (*n*) seriousness.

noticeable: (*adj*) notable, evident, noteworthy, discernible, apparent, marked, visible, remarkable, appreciable, considerable; (*adj, v*) perceptible. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) obscure, inconspicuous, hidden, unobtrusive, unclear, unnoticeable, unremarkable, uninteresting, inward, invisible, indistinguishable.
sackcloth: (*n*) bagging, bag cloth, sacking, cloth, garment.

“No marrying for me yet for many a year; if ever, ’twill be for reasons very, very different from those you think, or others will believe! Now get my cloak, for it is time to go.”

VI

“Oak,” said Boldwood, “before you go I want to mention what has been passing in my mind lately—that little arrangement we made about your share in the farm I mean. That share is small, too small, considering how little I attend to business now, and how much time and thought you give to it. Well, since the world is brightening for me, I want to show my sense of it by increasing your proportion in the partnership. I’ll make a **memorandum** of the arrangement which struck me as likely to be convenient, for I haven’t time to talk about it now; and then we’ll discuss it at our leisure. My intention is ultimately to **retire** from the management altogether, and until you can take all the expenditure upon your shoulders, I’ll be a **sleeping** partner in the stock. Then, if I marry her—and I hope—I feel I shall, why— —”

“Pray don’t speak of it, sir,” said Oak, hastily. “We don’t know what may happen. So many upsets may **befall** ’ee. There’s many a slip, as they say—and I would **advise** you— —I know you’ll **pardon** me this once—not to be *too sure*.”

“I know, I know. But the feeling I have about increasing your share is on account of what I know of you Oak, I have learnt a little about your secret: your interest in her is more than that of bailiff for an employer. But you have behaved like a man, and I, as a sort of successful rival—successful partly through your **goodness** of heart—should like definitely to show my sense of your friendship under what must have been a great pain to you.”

“O that’s not necessary, thank ’ee,” said Oak, hurriedly. “I must get used to such as that; other men have, and so shall I.”

Thesaurus

advise: (*v*) recommend, propose, warn, inform, acquaint, suggest, notify, announce, tell, offer, forewarn. ANTONYMS: (*v*) betray, deceive, delude, fool, trick.
befall: (*v*) bechance, become, happen, fall, arise, come about, occur, betide, chance, transpire, pass.
goodness: (*adj, n*) generosity, kindness, gentleness; (*n*) good, excellence, benefit, virtue, worth, morality; (*adj*) favor, beneficence.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) evil, wickedness, badness, corruptness, bad, immorality, corruption.
memorandum: (*n, v*) note; (*n*) memorial, entry, letter, memoranda, record, inscription, notice, protocol, chit, missive.
pardon: (*v*) excuse, condone, forgive, acquit, spare; (*n*) amnesty, forgiveness, grace; (*adj, v*) justify, exonerate, exculpate. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) blame; (*v*) punish, castigate,

condemn, convict; (*n*) intolerance.
retire: (*v*) resign, retreat, withdraw, leave, abdicate, ebb, depart, turn in, fall back, hit the hay, go to bed. ANTONYMS: (*v*) remain, enter.
sleeping: (*adj*) asleep, inactive, latent, sleepy, vegetive, vegetative; (*n*) dormancy, noctambulism, quiescence, quiescency, short sleep. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) active; (*n*) waking.

Oak then left him. He was uneasy on Boldwood's account, for he saw anew that this constant passion of the farmer made him not the man he once had been.

As Boldwood continued awhile in his room alone—ready and dressed to receive his company—the mood of anxiety about his appearance seemed to pass away, and to be succeeded by a deep solemnity. He looked out of the window, and regarded the dim outline of the trees upon the sky, and the twilight **deepening** to darkness.

Then he went to a locked **closet**, and took from a locked drawer therein a small circular case the size of a **pillbox**, and was about to put it into his pocket. But he lingered to open the cover and take a momentary glance inside. It contained a woman's finger-ring, set all the way round with small **diamonds**, and from its appearance had evidently been recently **purchased**. Boldwood's **eyes** dwelt upon its many sparkles a long time, though that its material aspect concerned him little was plain from his manner and mien, which were those of a mind following out the **presumed thread** of that jewel's future history.

The noise of wheels at the front of the house became audible. Boldwood closed the box, stowed it away carefully in his pocket, and went out upon the landing. The old man who was his **indoor factotum** came at the same moment to the foot of the stairs.

"They be coming, sir—lots of 'em—a-foot and a-driving!"

"I was coming down this moment. Those wheels I heard—is it Mrs. Troy?"

"No, sir—'tis not she yet."

A reserved and **sombre** expression had returned to Boldwood's face again, but it poorly cloaked his feelings when he pronounced Bathsheba's name; and his feverish anxiety continued to show its existence by a galloping motion of his fingers upon the side of his **thigh** as he went down the stairs.

Thesaurus

closet: (*n*) cupboard, cubicle, cell, latrine, bathroom, wardrobe, water closet; (*adj*) clandestine, confidential, secret, private. ANTONYM: (*adj*) open.
deepening: (*n*) amplification, aggravation.
diamonds: (*n*) hearts, ice, spades, sparkler, clubs.
eyes: (*n*) sight, eye, vision, view, baby blues, guard, propensity, eyen.
factotum: (*n*) housekeeper, retainer,

seneschal, shepherd, servant, servant of all work, maid, drudge, croupier, agent, laboring oar.
indoor: (*v*) home, intramural; (*adj*) internal, inner, intrinsic. ANTONYM: (*adj*) outdoor.
pillbox: (*n*) blockhouse, bunker, toque, gun emplacement, case, millinery, turban.
presumed: (*adj*) supposed, reputed, putative, understood, alleged, probable, theoretical.

purchased: (*adj*) boughten, not homemade; (*prep*) bribed.
sombre: (*adj*) dismal, dreary, dark, shadowy, mournful, morose, murky, gloomy, sober, dull, glum.
thigh: (*n*) portion, limb, second joint, femur, hip, serving, drumstick, crus, helping, flank.
thread: (*n*) screw thread, yarn, rope, wire, twine, ligature; (*adj, n, v*) line, file; (*n, v*) string together; (*adj, v*) range; (*v*) penetrate.

VII

“How does this cover me?” said Troy to Pennyways, “Nobody would recognize me now, I’m sure.”

He was buttoning on a heavy grey overcoat of Noachian cut, with **cape** and high **collar**, the latter being **erect** and rigid, like a **girdling** wall, and nearly reaching to the **verge** of travelling cap which was pulled down over his ears.

Pennyways snuffed the candle, and then looked up and deliberately inspected Troy.

“You’ve made up your mind to go then?” he said.

“Made up my mind? Yes; of course I have.”

“Why not write to her? ‘Tis a very queer corner that you have got into, sergeant. You see all these things will come to light if you go back, and they won’t sound well at all. Faith, if I was you I’d even bide as you be—a single man of the name of Francis. A good wife is good, but the best wife is not so good as no wife at all. Now that’s my outspoke mind, and I’ve been called a long-headed feller here and there.”

“All nonsense!” said Troy, angrily. “There she is with plenty of money, and a house and farm, and horses, and comfort, and here am I living from hand to mouth—a **needy adventurer**. Besides, it is no use talking now; it is too late, and I am glad of it; I’ve been seen and recognized here this very afternoon. I should have gone back to her the day after the fair, if it hadn’t been for you talking about the law, and rubbish about getting a separation; and I don’t put it off any longer. What the **deuce** put it into my head to run away at all, I can’t think! Humbugging sentiment—that’s what it was. But what man on earth was to know that his wife would be in such a hurry to get rid of his name!”

“I should have known it. She’s bad enough for anything.”

“Pennyways, mind who you are talking to.”

Thesaurus

adventurer: (*n*) venturer, speculator, plunger, argonaut, traveler, daredevil, gambler, adventurers, carpetbagger, divers, mercenary.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) killjoy, milquetoast.
cape: (*n*) headland, ness, shawl, tippet, coat, point, mantelet, promontory, mantle, capellet, capeskin.
collar: (*n, v*) arrest, catch, capture, pinch; (*n*) choker, ruff, lapel; (*v*) apprehend, nail, grab, clutch.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) free, release.

deuce: (*n*) devil, couple, two, dyad, demon, duo, duet, Twain, Dickens, brace, craps.
erect: (*adj*) upright, vertical, straightforward; (*v*) build, raise, rear, construct, assemble, lift, put up, put together. **ANTONYMS:** (*v*) dismantle, wreck, topple, level, demolish, destroy; (*adj*) prostrate, drooping, prone, flaccid, flat.
girdling: (*n*) cincture.
needy: (*adj*) indigent, poor,

impoverished, necessitous, underprivileged, penniless, impecunious, deficient, miserable, deprived, poverty-stricken.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rich, affluent, independent, solvent, privileged, satisfied.
verge: (*n, v*) edge, skirt; (*n*) boundary, brink, margin, limit, rim, bound, brim, side; (*v*) bend. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) end, middle; (*v*) retreat.

“Well, sergeant, all I say is this, that if I were you I’d go abroad again where I came from—’tisn’t too late to do it now. I wouldn’t **stir** up the business and get a bad name for the sake of living with her—for all that about your **play**-acting is sure to come out, you know, although you think otherwise. My eyes and limbs, there’ll be a **racket** if you go back just now—in the middle of Boldwood’s Christmasing!”

“H’m, yes. I expect I shall not be a very welcome guest if he has her there,” said the sergeant, with a slight laugh. “A sort of Alonzo the Brave; and when I go in the guests will sit in silence and fear, and all laughter and pleasure will be **hushed**, and the lights in the chamber burn blue, and the worms—Ugh, horrible!—Ring for some more **brandy**, Pennyways, I felt an awful shudder just then! Well, what is there besides? A stick—I must have a walking-stick.”

Pennyways now felt himself to be in something of a difficulty, for should Bathsheba and Troy become **reconciled** it would be necessary to **regain** her good opinion if he would secure the **patronage** of her husband. “I sometimes think she **likes** you yet, and is a good woman at bottom,” he said, as a saving sentence. “But there’s no telling to a certainty from a body’s outside. Well, you’ll do as you like about going, of course, sergeant, and as for me, I’ll do as you tell me.”

“Now, let me see what the time is,” said Troy, after **emptying** his glass in one draught as he stood. “Half-past six o’clock. I shall not hurry along the road, and shall be there then before nine.”

Thesaurus

brandy: (*n*) applejack, spirits, brandies, liquor, Brandywine, Marc, fruit brandy; (*v*) brandy smash.
emptying: (*n*) evacuation, draining, discharge, voidance, drainage, remotion, removal, voiding, elimination, unloading; (*adj*) cathartic.
hushed: (*adj*) calm, silent, still, subdued, placid, muffled, noiseless, soft, soundless, tranquil, gentle.
 ANTONYM: (*adj*) noisy.

likes: (*n*) kind, sort, type.
patronage: (*n*) condescension, aegis, clientele, favor, trade, backing, assistance, countenance, auspices, aid, championship.
play-acting: (*n*) make-believe.
racket: (*n*) noise, din, disturbance, commotion, uproar; (*n, v*) hubbub, riot; (*v*) fuss, bustle, brawl, clutter.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) silence, peace.
reconciled: (*adj*) consistent, resigned, serene, meet; (*v*) made friends,

affriended. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unreconciled.
regain: (*v*) retrieve, recoup, recuperate, reclaim, recapture, redeem, get, discover, feel, recall, get back.
stir: (*adj, n, v*) move, bustle; (*v*) rouse, arouse, affect, agitate, inspire; (*adj, n*) movement; (*n*) commotion, excitement, disturbance.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) dampen, retire, stultify, bore, steady, stifle, suppress; (*n*) quiet, peace; (*n, v*) calm.

CHAPTER LIII

CONCURRITUR—HORAE MOMENTO

Outside the front of Boldwood's house a group of men stood in the dark, with their faces **towards** the door, which occasionally opened and closed for the passage of some **guest** or servant, when a golden rod of light would stripe the ground for the moment and **vanish** again, leaving nothing outside but the glowworm shine of the pale lamp amid the evergreens over the door.

"He was seen in Casterbridge this afternoon—so the boy said," one of them remarked in a whisper. "And I for one believe it. His body was never found, you know."

"'Tis a strange story," said the next. "You may **depend** upon't that she knows nothing about it."

"Not a word."

"Perhaps he don't mean that she shall," said another man.

"If he's alive and here in the **neighbourhood**, he means mischief," said the first. "Poor young thing: I do **pity** her, if 'tis true. He'll **drag** her to the dogs."

"O no; he'll **settle** down quiet enough," said one disposed to take a more hopeful view of the case.

Thesaurus

depend: (*adj.*, *v.*) hang; (*v.*) dangle, count, rely, stay, reckon, confide, suspend, calculate, attend, pivot. ANTONYM: (*v.*) distrust.

drag: (*v.*) attract, draw, lug, cart, heave, tow; (*n.*, *v.*) pull, puff; (*adv.*, *v.*) trail; (*n.*) bother; (*adj.*) dragging. ANTONYMS: (*n.*) pleasure; (*v.*) hasten, hurry, shove, speed, rush, propel, fly.

guest: (*n.*) caller, visitor, customer, alien, foreigner, client, invite, foreign, company, guests, houseguest.

neighbourhood: (*n.*) neighborhood, adjacency, locality, near, nearness, proximity, place, community, street, vicinity, nearby.

pity: (*n.*, *v.*) compassion, ruth; (*n.*) mercy, commiseration, condolence, sympathy, clemency, remorse; (*v.*) sympathize, compassionate, feel sorry for. ANTONYMS: (*n.*) blame, cruelty, indifference, harshness, joy.

settle: (*adj.*, *n.*, *v.*) fix, establish, confirm; (*n.*, *v.*) place, set; (*v.*) resolve, clarify,

pay, regulate, adjudicate, agree. ANTONYMS: (*v.*) float, wander, prolong, owe, bungle, open, provoke, rise, weaken, worsen, complicate.

towards: (*prep.*) to, facing, until, opposite to, till, unto, upon; (*n.*, *prep.*) against; (*adv.*) about, by; (*n.*) at.

vanish: (*n.*, *v.*) disappear; (*adj.*, *v.*) fade; (*v.*) disperse, pass, go, die, dissipate, evaporate, depart, flee, melt away. ANTONYMS: (*v.*) come, arrive, wax, stay.

“What a **fool** she must have been ever to have had anything to do with the man! She is so **self-willed** and independent too, that one is more **minded** to say it serves her right than pity her.”

“No, no. I don’t hold with ‘ee there. She was no otherwise than a girl mind, and how could she tell what the man was made of? If ‘tis really true, ‘tis too hard a punishment, and more than she ought to hae. —Hullo, who’s that?” This was to some footsteps that were heard approaching.

“William Smallbury,” said a dim figure in the shades, coming up and **joining** them. “Dark as a hedge, to-night, isn’t it? I all but missed the **plank** over the river ath’art there in the bottom — never did such a thing before in my life. Be ye any of Boldwood’s workfolk?” He peered into their faces.

“Yes — all o’ us. We met here a few minutes ago.”

“Oh, I hear now — that’s Sam Samway: thought I knowed the voice, too. Going in?”

“Presently. But I say, William,” Samway whispered, “have ye heard this strange tale?”

“What — that about Sergeant Troy being seen, d’ye mean, souls?” said Smallbury, also **lowering** his voice.

“Ay: in Casterbridge.”

“Yes, I have. Laban Tall named a hint of it to me but now — but I don’t think it. Hark, here Laban comes himself, ‘a b’lieve.” A footstep drew near.

“Laban?”

“Yes, ‘tis I,” said Tall. “Have ye heard any more about that?”

“No,” said Tall, joining the group. “And I’m **inclined** to think we’d better keep quiet. If so be ‘tis not true, ‘twill flurry her, and do her much harm to repeat it; and if so be ‘tis true, ‘twill do no good to **forestall** her time o’ trouble. God send that it mid be a lie, for though Henery Fray and some of ‘em do speak against her, she’s never been anything but fair to me. She’s hot and hasty, but

Thesaurus

fool: (*n*) blockhead, dunce, clown, idiot, ass, booby, buffoon; (*v*) deceive, bamboozle; (*n, v*) joke, gull.

ANTONYM: (*n*) savant.

forestall: (*v*) prevent, avert, forbid, stop, preclude, obviate, foreclose, impede, debar, avoid; (*adj, v*) engross.

inclined: (*adj, v*) given; (*adj*) prone, willing, oblique, apt, predisposed, ready, minded, likely, liable, bowed.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) reluctant, unwilling, disinclined, horizontal,

unbiased, vertical, impervious.

joining: (*n*) connection, junction, connexion, union, combination, association, concatenation, attachment, assembly, fastening; (*adj*) connecting.

lowering: (*adj*) heavy, dismal, gloomy, threatening, dark, glum, murky; (*n*) fall, drop, cut, decline.

minded: (*prep*) inclined; (*adj, prep*) disposed; (*adj*) willing, apt, ready, prone, orientated, favorable,

oriented, prepared, partial.

plank: (*n*) timber, beam, slat, girder, panel, parachute, matchboard, footbridge, hardboard; (*v*) flump; (*n, v*) planch.

self-willed: (*adj*) stubborn, wilful, wayward, obstinate, headstrong, perverse, intractable, masterful, pig-headed, wild, deaf.

she's a brave girl who'll never tell a lie however much the truth may harm her, and I've no cause to wish her evil."

"She never do tell women's little lies, that's true; and 'tis a thing that can be said of very few. Ay, all the harm she thinks she says to yer face: there's nothing underhand wi' her."

They stood silent then, every man busied with his own thoughts, during which interval sounds of merriment could be heard within. Then the front door again opened, the rays streamed out, the well-known form of Boldwood was seen in the **rectangular** area of light, the door closed, and Boldwood walked slowly down the path.

"'Tis master," one of the men whispered, as he neared them. "We'd better stand quiet—he'll go in again directly. He would think it **unseemly** o' us to be loitering here."

Boldwood came on, and passed by the men without seeing them, they being under the **bushes** on the grass. He paused, leant over the gate, and breathed a long breath. They heard low words come from him.

"I hope to God she'll come, or this night will be nothing but misery to me! Oh my darling, my darling, why do you keep me in suspense like this?"

He said this to himself, and they all distinctly heard it. Boldwood remained silent after that, and the noise from indoors was again just audible, until, a few minutes later, light wheels could be distinguished coming down the hill. They drew nearer, and ceased at the gate. Boldwood hastened back to the door, and opened it; and the light shone upon Bathsheba coming up the path.

Boldwood **compressed** his emotion to mere welcome: the men marked her light laugh and **apology** as she met him: he took her into the house; and the door closed again.

"**Gracious** heaven, I didn't know it was like that with him!" said one of the men. "I thought that fancy of his was over long ago."

"You don't know much of master, if you thought that," said Samway.

Thesaurus

apology: (*n, v*) excuse; (*n*) amends, regret, defense, justification, reason, explanation, vindication, alibi, acknowledgment; (*v*) apologize.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) blame, reprehension, accusation, shamelessness, epitome.
bushes: (*n*) underbrush, thicket, undergrowth, minor league.
compressed: (*adj*) flat, condensed, dense, concentrated, compacted, tight, pointed, packed, concise, close,

brief.
gracious: (*adj*) genial, benign, good, courteous, compassionate, kind, accommodating, civil; (*adj, n*) benevolent, congenial, gentle.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ungracious, boorish, discourteous, reserved, rude, abrupt, critical, unkind, hardhearted, harsh, poor.
rectangular: (*adj*) orthogonal, oblong, square, rectangled, rectangle, multilateral, angular; (*n*) rectangular

wave.
unseemly: (*adj*) indecent, unbecoming, indelicate, inappropriate, gross, impolite, unbecoming; (*adj, v*) indecorous; (*adj, adv*) uncomely; (*adv*) indecently, unbecomingly.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) proper, appropriate, dignified, due, fitting, polite, suitable, correct, decent, sensitive.

"I wouldn't he should know we heard what 'a said for the world," remarked a third.

"I wish we had told of the report at once," the first uneasily continued. "More harm may come of this than we know of. Poor Mr. Boldwood, it will be hard upon en. I wish Troy was in— —Well, God forgive me for such a wish! A **scoundrel** to play a poor wife such **tricks**. Nothing has prospered in Weatherbury since he came here. And now I've no heart to go in. Let's look into Warren's for a few minutes first, shall us, neighbours?"

Samway, Tall, and Smallbury agreed to go to Warren's, and went out at the gate, the remaining ones entering the house. The three soon drew near the malt-house, approaching it from the **adjoining orchard**, and not by way of the street. The pane of glass was illuminated as usual. Smallbury was a little in advance of the rest when, pausing, he turned suddenly to his **companions** and said, "Hist! See there."

The light from the pane was now perceived to be shining not upon the ivied wall as usual, but upon some object close to the glass. It was a human face.

"Let's come closer," whispered Samway; and they approached on **tiptoe**. There was no **disbelieving** the report any longer. Troy's face was almost close to the pane, and he was looking in. Not only was he looking in, but he appeared to have been arrested by a conversation which was in progress in the malt-house, the voices of the interlocutors being those of Oak and the maltster.

"The **spre** is all in her honour, isn't it—hey?" said the old man. "Although he made believe 'tis only keeping up o' Christmas?"

"I cannot say," replied Oak.

"Oh 'tis true enough, faith. I cannot understand Farmer Boldwood being such a fool at his time of life as to ho and **hanker** after this woman in the way 'a do, and she not care a bit about en."

The men, after recognizing Troy's features, withdrew across the orchard as quietly as they had come. The air was big with Bathsheba's fortunes to-night:

Thesaurus

adjoining: (*adj*) contiguous, neighbor, near, abutting, touching, conterminous, neighboring, immediate, next, vicinal; (*adj, v*) close. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) separate, divided, detached, apart, far.
companions: (*n*) circle, entourage, people.
disbelieving: (*adj*) unbelieving, skeptical, questioning, leery, not persuaded, unsure, uncertain, suspicious, quizzical, nervous,

mistrustful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) believing, credulous, unsuspecting, certain, convinced.
hanker: (*v*) long, aspire, desire, crave, yearn, wish, longing, sigh, languish, pine, itch.
orchard: (*n*) park, garden, plantation, arboretum, avenue, pinetum, shrubby, woodlet, parterre, pinery, copse.
scoundrel: (*n, v*) rascal; (*n*) knave, blackguard, cad, villain, ruffian,

miscreant, crook, rapsallion, varlet, scalawag.
spre: (*n, v*) frolic; (*n*) revel, fling, revelry, prank, orgy, bout, merriment, glee, mirth; (*v*) splurge.
tiptoe: (*v*) tip, tippytoe, creep, patter, skirt, skip, tilt, sidle, lean; (*adj*) alert; (*n*) quieter. ANTONYM: (*v*) clump.
tricks: (*n*) actions, behavior, thing, clowning around, fooling, magic, plunder, possession, activities.

every word everywhere concerned her. When they were quite out of **earshot** all by one instinct paused.

"It gave me quite a turn—his face," said Tall, breathing.

"And so it did me," said Samway. "What's to be done?"

"I don't see that 'tis any business of ours," Smallbury **murmured** dubiously.

"But it is! 'Tis a thing which is everybody's business," said Samway. "We know very well that master's on a wrong **tack**, and that she's quite in the dark, and we should let 'em know at once. Laban, you know her best—you'd better go and ask to speak to her."

"I bain't fit for any such thing," said Laban, **nervously**. "I should think William ought to do it if anybody. He's oldest."

"I shall have nothing to do with it," said Smallbury. "'Tis a **ticklish** business altogether. Why, he'll go on to her himself in a few minutes, ye'll see."

"We don't know that he will. Come, Laban."

"Very well, if I must I must, I suppose," Tall reluctantly answered. "What must I say?"

"Just ask to see master."

"Oh no; I shan't speak to Mr. Boldwood. If I tell anybody, 'twill be mistress."

"Very well," said Samway.

Laban then went to the door. When he opened it the hum of **bustle** rolled out as a wave upon a still strand—the assemblage being immediately inside the hall—and was deadened to a murmur as he closed it again. Each man waited intently, and looked around at the dark tree tops gently rocking against the sky and occasionally **shivering** in a slight wind, as if he took interest in the scene, which neither did. One of them began walking up and down, and then came to where he started from and stopped again, with a sense that walking was a thing not worth doing now.

"I should think Laban must have seen mistress by this time," said Smallbury, breaking the silence. "Perhaps she won't come and speak to him."

Thesaurus

bustle: (*adj, n, v*) hurry; (*n, v*) flurry, ado, fuss, hustle; (*adj, n*) stir, movement; (*n*) bother, commotion, disorder; (*adj, v*) hasten.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) inactivity, stillness, idleness; (*v*) laziness, relaxation.

earshot: (*n*) earreach, audience, auditory modality, stone's throw, audition, auditory sense, range; (*n, v*) sound.

murmur: (*n, v*) grumble, mumble, hum, whisper, mutter, whine, babble,

drone; (*v*) complain, bubble, breathe.

nervously: (*adv*) edgily, anxiously, timidly, worriedly, uneasily, restlessly, timorously, skittishly, excitedly, neurotically, apprehensively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) confidently, boldly, fearlessly, unconcernedly, nonchalantly, trustingly.

shivering: (*adj*) quivering, shaking, trembling, shaky, quaking, tremulous, shuddering, chilled; (*n*)

chill, cold, shiver. ANTONYM: (*adj*) composed.

tack: (*v*) affix, attach, fasten, veer; (*n, v*) baste, shift, turn; (*n*) pin, tache, brad; (*adj, v*) sew. ANTONYMS: (*v*) separate, detach.

ticklish: (*adj*) difficult, sensitive, tricky, tender, awkward, touchy, unsettled, unstable; (*adj, v*) precarious; (*v*) slippery, questionable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unproblematic, easy.

The door opened. Tall appeared, and joined them.

“Well?” said both.

“I didn’t like to ask for her after all,” Laban faltered out. “They were all in such a stir, trying to put a little spirit into the party. Somehow the fun seems to hang fire, though everything’s there that a heart can desire, and I couldn’t for my soul **interfere** and throw damp upon it—if ‘twas to save my life, I couldn’t!”

“I suppose we had better all go in together,” said Samway, **gloomily**. “Perhaps I may have a chance of saying a word to master.”

So the men entered the hall, which was the room selected and arranged for the gathering because of its size. The younger men and maids were at last just beginning to dance. Bathsheba had been perplexed how to act, for she was not much more than a slim young maid herself, and the weight of **stateliness** sat heavy upon her. Sometimes she thought she ought not to have come under any circumstances; then she considered what cold **unkindness** that would have been, and finally resolved upon the middle course of staying for about an hour only, and gliding off unobserved, having from the first made up her mind that she could on no account dance, sing, or take any active part in the proceedings.

Her **allotted** hour having been passed in chatting and looking on, Bathsheba told Liddy not to hurry herself, and went to the small parlour to prepare for departure, which, like the hall, was **decorated** with **holly** and ivy, and well lighted up.

Nobody was in the room, but she had hardly been there a moment when the master of the house entered.

“Mrs. Troy—you are not going?” he said. “We’ve hardly begun!”

“If you’ll excuse me, I should like to go now.” Her manner was restive, for she remembered her promise, and imagined what he was about to say. “But as it is not late,” she added, “I can walk home, and leave my man and Liddy to come when they choose.”

“I’ve been trying to get an opportunity of speaking to you,” said Boldwood. “You know perhaps what I long to say?”

Thesaurus

allotted: (*adj*) agreed, chosen, fixed, selected.

decorated: (*adj*) ornate, fancy, frilled, beautiful, bejeweled, ornamental, embellished, decked, bedecked, ornamented, brocaded.

gloomily: (*adv*) murkily, obscurely, drearily, darkly, somberly, morosely, sadly, sorrowfully, despondently, unhappily, glumly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) brightly, favorably, happily, optimistically, contentedly; (*adj*)

auspiciously.

holly: (*n*) Charles Hardin Holley, common winterberry holly, buddy holly, deciduous holly, evergreen winterberry, flowering tree, gallberry, angiospermous tree.

interfere: (*n, v*) interpose; (*v*) intercede, obstruct, disturb, conflict, impede, hinder, meddle, intervene; (*n*) interference; (*adj, v*) intermeddle.

stateliness: (*n*) loftiness, magnificence, dignity, nobility, splendor, grandeur,

greatness, grandness, starched stateliness, impressiveness, decorum. ANTONYM: (*n*) simplicity.

unkindness: (*n*) heartlessness, callousness, thoughtlessness, inconsideration, inconsiderateness, diskindness, insensitivity, unpleasantry, unfriendliness, unkindliness, insensitiveness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) goodwill, diplomacy, gentleness, humanity, thoughtfulness.

Bathsheba silently looked on the floor.

"You do give it?" he said, eagerly.

"What?" she whispered.

"Now, that's evasion! Why, the promise. I don't want to **intrude** upon you at all, or to let it become known to anybody. But do give your word! A mere business compact, you know, between two people who are beyond the influence of passion." Boldwood knew how false this picture was as regarded himself; but he had proved that it was the only tone in which she would allow him to approach her. "A promise to marry me at the end of five years and three-quarters. You owe it to me!"

"I feel that I do," said Bathsheba; "that is, if you demand it. But I am a changed woman—an unhappy woman—and not—not—"

"You are still a very beautiful woman," said Boldwood. Honesty and pure conviction suggested the remark, **unaccompanied** by any perception that it might have been adopted by blunt **flattery** to **soothe** and win her.

However, it had not much effect now, for she said, in a **passionless** murmur which was in itself a proof of her words: "I have no feeling in the matter at all. And I don't at all know what is right to do in my difficult position, and I have nobody to advise me. But I give my promise, if I must. I give it as the **rendering** of a debt, **conditionally**, of course, on my being a widow."

"You'll marry me between five and six years hence?"

"Don't press me too hard. I'll marry nobody else."

"But surely you will name the time, or there's nothing in the promise at all?"

"Oh, I don't know, pray let me go!" she said, her bosom beginning to rise. "I am afraid what to do! I want to be just to you, and to be that seems to be **wronging** myself, and perhaps it is breaking the commandments. There is considerable doubt of his death, and then it is dreadful; let me ask a solicitor, Mr. Boldwood, if I ought or no!"

Thesaurus

conditionally: (*adv*) provisorily, qualifiedly, contingently, dependently, supposing, guardedly, hypothetically, temporarily; (*n*) if, in case, provided.

flattery: (*n, v*) cajolery; (*n*) blarney, compliment, adulation, taffy, palaver, praise, gloze, sweet talk, sycophancy, soft soap. ANTONYMS: (*n*) insult, offense.

intrude: (*v*) interfere, trespass, encroach, infringe, impose, obtrude,

disturb, interrupt, impinge, barge in, butt in. ANTONYM: (*v*) disregard.

passionless: (*adj*) frigid, indifferent, emotionless, soulless, spiritless, dispassionate, impassive, apathetical, unimpassioned, calm, unemotional.

rendering: (*n*) interpretation, translation, rendition, reading, representation, version, interpreting, depiction, execution, construction, explanation.

soothe: (*n, v*) comfort, allay, console,

solace; (*v*) alleviate, palliate, ease, calm, mitigate; (*adj, v*) appease; (*adj, n, v*) assuage. ANTONYMS: (*v*) upset, irritate, aggravate, annoy, intensify, worry, enrage, scare, provoke, incite, disturb.

unaccompanied: (*adj*) lone, solitary, unescorted, unaided, unattended; (*adj, adv*) only, on your own, without help; (*adv*) solo, singly, by yourself. ANTONYM: (*adj*) together.

wronging: (*n*) tribulation.

“Say the words, dear one, and the subject shall be dismissed; a **blissful** loving intimacy of six years, and then marriage—O Bathsheba, say them!” he begged in a **husky** voice, unable to sustain the forms of mere friendship any longer. “Promise yourself to me; I deserve it, indeed I do, for I have loved you more than anybody in the world! And if I said hasty words and showed **uncalled-for** heat of manner towards you, believe me, dear, I did not mean to distress you; I was in agony, Bathsheba, and I did not know what I said. You wouldn’t let a dog suffer what I have suffered, could you but know it! Sometimes I shrink from your knowing what I have felt for you, and sometimes I am **distressed** that all of it you never will know. Be gracious, and give up a little to me, when I would give up my life for you!”

The **trimmings** of her dress, as they quivered against the light, showed how agitated she was, and at last she burst out crying. “And you’ll not—press me—about anything more—if I say in five or six years?” she sobbed, when she had power to frame the words.

“Yes, then I’ll leave it to time.”

She waited a moment. “Very well. I’ll marry you in six years from this day, if we both live,” she said solemnly.

“And you’ll take this as a token from me.”

Boldwood had come close to her side, and now he clasped one of her hands in both his own, and lifted it to his breast.

“What is it? Oh I cannot wear a ring!” she exclaimed, on seeing what he held; “besides, I wouldn’t have a soul know that it’s an engagement! Perhaps it is improper? Besides, we are not engaged in the usual sense, are we? Don’t insist, Mr. Boldwood—don’t!” In her trouble at not being able to get her hand away from him at once, she stamped **passionately** on the floor with one foot, and tears crowded to her eyes again.

“It means simply a pledge—no sentiment—the seal of a practical compact,” he said more quietly, but still retaining her hand in his firm grasp. “Come, now!” And Boldwood slipped the ring on her finger.

Thesaurus

blissful: (*adj*) happy, heavenly, merry, joyful, delighted, glad, cheerful, delightful, ecstatic, elated, blest.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unhappy, grieving, sad, sorrowful, depressed, unpleasant, down, dreadful.
distressed: (*adj*) worried, distraught, anxious, sad, disturbed, downcast, hurt, distracted, wretched, shocked, troubled. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) composed, content, euphoric, happy, comforted, glad, joyful, collected,

unconcerned, unaffected.
husky: (*adj*) hoarse, gruff, burly, big, dry, raucous, beefy, strapping, brawny, sturdy; (*n*) Eskimo dog.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) high, puny, small, smooth, soft.
passionately: (*adv*) fervently, vehemently, violently, fiercely, eagerly, zealously, fervidly, fierily, enthusiastically, heatedly, stormily.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) mildly, apathetically, calmly, halfheartedly,

impassively, jokingly, gently.
trimmings: (*n*) embellishments, trappings, finery, fixing, superfluities, plumage, edge, paraphernalia, gear, additions, fixings.
uncalled-for: (*adj*) needless, superfluous, improper, groundless, unsuitable, gratuitous, unwarranted, unasked, undue, unfair, wanton.

"I cannot wear it," she said, **weeping** as if her heart would break. "You **frighten** me, almost. So wild a scheme! Please let me go home!"

"Only to-night: wear it just to-night, to please me!"

Bathsheba sat down in a chair, and buried her face in her handkerchief, though Boldwood kept her hand yet. At length she said, in a sort of hopeless whisper—

"Very well, then, I will to-night, if you wish it so earnestly. Now **loosen** my hand; I will, indeed I will wear it to-night."

"And it shall be the beginning of a pleasant secret **courtship** of six years, with a wedding at the end?"

"It must be, I suppose, since you will have it so!" she said, fairly beaten into non-resistance.

Boldwood pressed her hand, and allowed it to drop in her lap. "I am happy now," he said. "God **bless** you!"

He left the room, and when he thought she might be sufficiently composed sent one of the maids to her. Bathsheba cloaked the effects of the late scene as she best could, followed the girl, and in a few moments came downstairs with her hat and cloak on, ready to go. To get to the door it was necessary to pass through the hall, and before doing so she paused on the bottom of the staircase which descended into one corner, to take a last look at the gathering.

There was no music or dancing in progress just now. At the lower end, which had been arranged for the work-folk specially, a group conversed in whispers, and with **clouded** looks. Boldwood was standing by the **fireplace**, and he, too, though so absorbed in visions **arising** from her promise that he scarcely saw anything, seemed at that moment to have observed their peculiar manner, and their looks askance.

"What is it you are in doubt about, men?" he said.

One of them turned and replied uneasily: "It was something Laban heard of, that's all, sir."

Thesaurus

arising: (*n*) emanation.

bless: (*v*) consecrate, celebrate, sanctify, anoint, eulogize, sign, praise, keep, grant, glorify; (*n*) blessing. ANTONYMS: (*v*) curse, condemn, disapprove, damn, disallow, deny.

clouded: (*adj, n*) cloudy; (*adj*) gloomy, dark, overcast, obscure, blurred, foggy, misty, hazy, bleary; (*v*) cymophanous. ANTONYM: (*adj*) clear.

courtship: (*n*) courting, wooing, love, bundling, the soft impeachment, prayer, entreaty, gallantry, addresses, cause, affection.

fireplace: (*n*) chimney, fire, hearth, oven, stove, fire place, fireside, kitchen, niche, recess, furnace.

frighten: (*v*) cow, alarm, daunt, terrify, appall, scare, affright, intimidate, terrorize, appal; (*n, v*) fright. ANTONYMS: (*v*) comfort, reassure, soothe, calm.

loosen: (*n, v*) relax, release, ease; (*adj, v*) loose, disengage; (*v*) detach, undo, ravel, discharge, fluff, untie.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) fasten, compress, fix, tense, stiffen, bend.

weeping: (*adj*) tearful, lachrymose, dolourous, dolorous; (*n, v*) lament, lamentation; (*v*) wailing; (*n*) sobbing, tears, cry; (*adj, n*) howling.

ANTONYM: (*n*) celebration.

"News? Anybody married or engaged, born or dead?" inquired the farmer, gaily. "Tell it to us, Tall. One would think from your looks and **mysterious** ways that it was something very dreadful indeed."

"Oh no, sir, nobody is dead," said Tall.

"I wish somebody was," said Samway, in a whisper.

"What do you say, Samway?" asked Boldwood, somewhat sharply. "If you have anything to say, speak out; if not, get up another dance."

"Mrs. Troy has come downstairs," said Samway to Tall. "If you want to tell her, you had better do it now."

"Do you know what they mean?" the farmer asked Bathsheba, across the room.

"I don't in the least," said Bathsheba.

There was a smart rapping at the door. One of the men opened it instantly, and went outside.

"Mrs. Troy is wanted," he said, on returning.

"Quite ready," said Bathsheba. "Though I didn't tell them to send."

"It is a stranger, ma'am," said the man by the door.

"A stranger?" she said.

"Ask him to come in," said Boldwood.

The message was given, and Troy, wrapped up to his eyes as we have seen him, stood in the **doorway**.

There was an **unearthly** silence, all looking towards the **newcomer**. Those who had just learnt that he was in the neighbourhood recognized him instantly; those who did not were perplexed. Nobody noted Bathsheba. She was **leaning** on the stairs. Her brow had heavily **contracted**; her whole face was pallid, her lips apart, her eyes **rigidly** staring at their visitor.

Thesaurus

contracted: (*adj*) insular, contract, constricted, tight, bound, close, narrow-minded, confined, brief; (*v*) shrunk; (*adj, v*) selfish. ANTONYM: (*adj*) expanded.

doorway: (*n*) door, entrance, entry, passage, entryway, way in, access, driveway, gate, gateway, lobby.

leaning: (*adj, n*) bent, disposition, partiality; (*n*) propensity, bias, tendency, incline, lean; (*adj*) tilted, canted, inclined. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

antipathy, dislike; (*adj*) upright.

mysterious: (*adj*) inscrutable, incomprehensible, deep, eerie, inexplicable, obscure, abstruse, dark, cryptic, secret, arcane. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) known, apparent, normal, open, explicable, facile, obvious, simple, legible, familiar, transparent.

newcomer: (*n*) freshman, beginner, fledgeling, neophyte, recruit, immigrant, novice, arrival, entrant; (*adj, n*) foreigner, stranger.

rigidly: (*adv*) severely, sternly, strictly, firmly, stringently, unbendingly, rigorously, uncompromisingly, stubbornly, unyieldingly, strongly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) loosely, amenably.

unearthly: (*adj*) weird, ghostly, uncanny, ethereal, unworldly, preternatural, spectral, eerie, spiritual, strange, heavenly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) natural, physical, acceptable, normal, human.

Boldwood was among those who did not notice that he was Troy. “Come in, come in!” he repeated, cheerfully, “and drain a Christmas **beaker** with us, stranger!”

Troy next advanced into the middle of the room, took off his cap, turned down his coat-collar, and looked Boldwood in the face. Even then Boldwood did not recognize that the **impersonator** of Heaven’s persistent irony towards him, who had once before broken in upon his bliss, scourged him, and snatched his delight away, had come to do these things a second time. Troy began to laugh a mechanical laugh: Boldwood recognized him now.

Troy turned to Bathsheba. The poor girl’s wretchedness at this time was beyond all fancy or **narration**. She had sunk down on the lowest stair; and there she sat, her mouth blue and dry, and her dark eyes fixed vacantly upon him, as if she wondered whether it were not all a terrible illusion.

Then Troy spoke. “Bathsheba, I come here for you!”

She made no reply.

“Come home with me: come!”

Bathsheba moved her feet a little, but did not rise. Troy went across to her.

“Come, madam, do you hear what I say?” he said, peremptorily.

A strange voice came from the fireplace—a voice sounding far off and confined, as if from a **dungeon**. Hardly a soul in the assembly recognized the thin tones to be those of Boldwood. Sudden dispaire had transformed him.

“Bathsheba, go with your husband!”

Nevertheless, she did not move. The truth was that Bathsheba was beyond the pale of activity—and yet not in a **swoon**. She was in a state of mental *gutta serena*; her mind was for the minute totally deprived of light at the same time no **obscuration** was apparent from without.

Troy stretched out his hand to pull her her towards him, when she quickly shrank back. This visible dread of him seemed to **irritate** Troy, and he seized her arm and pulled it sharply. Whether his grasp **pinched** her, or whether his mere

Thesaurus

beaker: (*n*) goblet, bail, bowl, canakin, Billy, chalice, tumbler, cup, glass, container, jar.

dungeon: (*n, v*) keep; (*n*) prison, cell, jail, penitentiary, fastness, oubliette, Bastille, bridewell, detention, house of correction.

impersonator: (*n*) actor, mimic, cheater, copycat, trickster, player, apeer, ape, cheat, double, impressionist.

irritate: (*adj, v*) incense; (*v*) gall, fret,

chafe, harass, grate, displease, vex, goad, aggravate, anger.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) soothe, pacify, please, help, calm, encourage, placate.

narration: (*n*) description, recital, narrative, explanation, history, tale, report, relation, story, recitation, rehearsal.

obscuration: (*n*) darkness, gloom, concealment, defilement, mumbo jumbo, shadow, shade, obscurement,

obscuration of smoke, film, impuration.

pinched: (*adj*) haggard, drawn, emaciated, cadaverous, narrow, penurious, thin, penniless, adenoidal; (*adj, n*) necessitous; (*n*) distressed. ANTONYM: (*adj*) relaxed.

swoon: (*adj, n, v*) faint; (*adj, n*) collapse; (*n*) fainting, syncope, prostration, deliquium; (*v*) conk, black out, pass out, die; (*adj*) puff.

touch was the cause, was never known, but at the moment of his **seizure** she **writhed**, and gave a quick, low scream.

The scream had been heard but a few seconds when it was followed by sudden **deafening** report that echoed through the room and **stupefied** them all. The oak partition shook with the **concussion**, and the place was filled with grey smoke.

In bewilderment they turned their eyes to Boldwood. At his back, as stood before the fireplace, was a gun-rack, as is usual in farmhouses, constructed to hold two guns. When Bathsheba had cried out in her husband's grasp, Boldwood's face of gnashing despair had changed. The veins had swollen, and a **frenzied** look had gleamed in his eye. He had turned quickly, taken one of the guns, **cocked** it, and at once discharged it at Troy.

Troy fell. The distance apart of the two men was so small that the charge of shot did not spread in the least, but passed like a **bullet** into his body. He uttered a long **guttural** sigh—there was a contraction—an extension—then his muscles relaxed, and he lay still.

Boldwood was seen through the smoke to be now again engaged with the gun. It was double-barrelled, and he had, meanwhile, in some way fastened his hand-kerchief to the trigger, and with his foot on the other end was in the act of turning the second barrel upon himself. Samway his man was the first to see this, and in the midst of the general horror darted up to him. Boldwood had already twitched the handkerchief, and the gun exploded a second time, sending its contents, by a timely blow from Samway, into the beam which crossed the ceiling.

"Well, it makes no difference!" Boldwood gasped. "There is another way for me to die."

Then he broke from Samway, crossed the room to Bathsheba, and kissed her hand. He put on his hat, opened the door, and went into the darkness, nobody thinking of preventing him.

Thesaurus

bullet: (*n*) shot, round, pellet, slug, projectile, missile, stone, carcass, delivery, grenade, sphere.

cocked: (*adj*) erect, upright, vertical.

concussion: (*n*) shock, collision, blow, impact, shake, shudder, bump, jolt, percussion, crash, vibrate.

deafening: (*adj*) earsplitting, thunderous, shrill, piercing, noisy, massive, roaring, enormous, gigantic, tremendous; (*v*) thundering.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) tranquil.

frenzied: (*adj*) frenetic, crazy, delirious, hectic, furious, wild, manic, fanatical, raging, rabid; (*n*) maniac.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) calm, controlled, mellow, composed.

guttural: (*adj*) hoarse, throaty, gruff, croaking, husky, harsh, velar, raucous, grum; (*n*) dental; (*v*) nasal.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) soft, smooth, high.

seizure: (*n*) arrest, confiscation, capture, seizing, apprehension,

appropriation, attachment, convulsion, detention; (*adj, n*) attack, assumption. ANTONYMS: (*n*) release, restoration, surrender.

stupefied: (*adj*) stunned, amazed, astonished, bewildered, astounded, dumbfounded, stupid, confused, flabbergasted, dumfounded, groggy.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) precise, unimpressed.

writhed: (*adj*) crooked, writhen, distorted, twisted.

CHAPTER LIV

AFTER THE SHOCK

Boldwood passed into the high road and turned in the direction of Casterbridge. Here he walked at an even, steady pace over Yalbury Hill, along the dead level beyond, mounted Mellstock Hill, and between **eleven** and twelve o'clock crossed the Moor into the town. The streets were nearly deserted now, and the waving lamp-flames only lighted up rows of grey shop-shutters, and strips of white **paving** upon which his step echoed as he passed along. He turned to the right, and **halted** before an archway of heavy **stonework**, which was closed by an iron **studded** pair of doors. This was the entrance to the gaol, and over it a lamp was fixed, the light enabling the wretched traveller to find a bell-pull.

The small **wicket** at last opened, and a porter appeared. Boldwood stepped forward, and said something in a low tone, when, after a delay, another man came. Boldwood entered, and the door was closed behind him, and he walked the world no more.

Long before this time Weatherbury had been thoroughly **aroused**, and the wild **deed** which had terminated Boldwood's **merrymaking** became known to all. Of those out of the house Oak was one of the first to hear of the **catastrophe**,

Thesaurus

aroused: (*adj*) ablaze, aflame, passionate, hot, agitated, inflamed, susceptible, tense, fascinated, emotional, elated.

catastrophe: (*n*) disaster, adversity, tragedy, cataclysm, misfortune, bale, denouement, misery, misadventure, woe, finale. ANTONYMS: (*n*) joy, miracle, wonder, success.

deed: (*n*) accomplishment, act, feat, behavior, action, exploit, covenant, doing, document, title, fact.

ANTONYM: (*n*) failure.

eleven: (*adj, n*) xi; (*n*) eight, squad, football team, team.

halted: (*adj*) motionless, nonmoving, unmoving.

merrymaking: (*n*) merriment, jollification, celebration, revel, revelry, conviviality, gaiety, jinks; (*adj, n*) jollity, joviality; (*adj*) festive board.

paving: (*n*) pavement, floor, pavage, curbside, earth, ground, sett paving,

surface, paved surface, metalling of road, ground floor.

stonework: (*n*) masonry, cyclopean masonry.

studded: (*adj*) muricated, bristling, peopled, crowded, manifold, multinominal, multiple, multiplied, multitudinous, populous; (*v*) freckled.

wicket: (*n*) lattice, hatch, door, grille, portal, hoop, ostiary, postern, porch, grill, vestibule.

and when he entered the room, which was about five minutes after Boldwood's exit, the scene was terrible. All the female **guests** were huddled **aghast** against the walls like sheep in a storm, and the men were bewildered as to what to do. As for Bathsheba, she had changed. She was sitting on the floor beside the body of Troy, his head pillowed in her lap, where she had herself lifted it. With one hand she held her handkerchief to his breast and covered the wound, though scarcely a single drop of blood had flowed, and with the other she tightly clasped one of his. The household **convulsion** had made her herself again. The temporary **coma** had ceased, and activity had come with the necessity for it. Deeds of **endurance**, which seem ordinary in philosophy, are rare in conduct, and Bathsheba was astonishing all around her now, for her philosophy was her conduct, and she seldom thought practicable what she did not practise. She was of the stuff of which great men's mothers are made. She was indispensable to high generation, hated at tea parties, feared in shops, and loved at crises. Troy recumbent in his wife's lap formed now the sole spectacle in the middle of the spacious room.

"Gabriel," she said, automatically, when he entered, turning up a face of which only the wellknown lines remained to tell him it was hers, all else in the picture having faded quite. "Ride to Casterbridge instantly for a surgeon. It is, I believe, useless, but go. Mr. Boldwood has shot my husband."

Her statement of the fact in such quiet and simple words came with more force than a tragic **declamation**, and had somewhat the effect of setting the **distorted** images in each mind present into proper focus. Oak, almost before he had **comprehended** anything beyond the briefest abstract of the event, hurried out of the room, saddled a horse and rode away. Not till he had ridden more than a mile did it occur to him that he would have done better by sending some other man on this errand, remaining himself in the house. What had become of Boldwood? He should have been looked after. Was he mad—had there been a quarrel? Then how had Troy got there? Where had he come from? How did this remarkable reappearance effect itself when he was supposed by many to be at the bottom of the sea? Oak had in some slight measure been prepared for the

Thesaurus

aghast: (*adj*) dismayed, appalled, horrified, frightened, scared, terrified, confounded, astonished; (*n*) agape; (*v*) all agog, breathless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) undisturbed, unperturbed, unsurprised.

coma: (*n*) lethargy, trance, stupor, sleep, insensibility, fuzz; (*n, v*) dream; (*v*) doze, forty winks, wink of sleep, hibernation. ANTONYMS: (*n*) awareness, cognizance.

comprehended: (*adj*) understood,

apprehended.

convulsion: (*adj, n, v*) spasm; (*n*) fit, paroxysm, commotion, attack, clonus, shake, seizure, upheaval, cramp; (*adj, n*) disturbance. ANTONYM: (*n*) peace.

declamation: (*n*) speech, recitation, oration, rhetoric, elocution, ranting, oratory, public speaking.

distorted: (*adj*) deformed, contorted, twisted, misshapen, perverted, wry, bent, misrepresented, malformed,

distort; (*adj, adv*) awry. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unchanged, distinct, balanced, perfect.

endurance: (*adj, n*) sufferance; (*n*) stamina, tolerance, courage, permanence, continuance, energy, fortitude, tenacity, duration, toughness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) weakness, inconsistency, impatience, frailty, discontinuation, discontinuance, death.

guests: (*n*) guest, visitors.

presence of Troy by hearing a rumour of his return just before entering Boldwood's house; but before he had **weighed** that information, this fatal event had been superimposed. However, it was too late now to think of sending another **messenger**, and he rode on, in the excitement of these self-inquiries not **discerning**, when about three miles from Casterbridge, a square-figured **pedestrian** passing along under the dark hedge in the same direction as his own.

The miles necessary to be traversed, and other hindrances **incidental** to the lateness of the hour and the darkness of the night, delayed the arrival of Mr. Aldritch, the surgeon; and more than three hours passed between the time at which the shot was fired and that of his entering the house. Oak was **additionally** detained in Casterbridge through having to give notice to the authorities of what had happened; and he then found that Boldwood had also entered the town, and delivered himself up.

In the meantime the surgeon, having hastened into the hall at Boldwood's, found it in darkness and quite deserted. He went on to the back of the house, where he discovered in the kitchen an old man, of whom he made inquiries.

"She's had him took away to her own house, sir," said his informant.

"Who has?" said the doctor.

"Mrs. Troy. 'A was quite dead, sir."

This was astonishing information. "She had no right to do that," said the doctor. "There will have to be an **inquest**, and she should have waited to know what to do."

"Yes, sir; it was hinted to her that she had better wait till the law was known. But she said law was nothing to her, and she wouldn't let her dear husband's corpse bide neglected for folks to stare at for all the crowners in England."

Mr. Aldritch drove at once back again up the hill to Bathsheba's. The first person he met was poor Liddy, who seemed literally to have dwindled smaller in these few latter hours. "What has been done?" he said.

Thesaurus

additionally: (*adv*) in addition, subsidiarily, furtherly, sparsely, morely, supplementarily, also, too, secondarily, newly, supernumerarily.
discerning: (*adj*) apprehensive, perceptive, acute, shrewd, discriminating, discreet, penetrating, refined, judicious, sharp, conscious.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) indiscriminate, undiscriminating, disregardful, negligent, overlooking, undiscerning, unobservant, unperceptive,

insensitive, obtuse, tasteless.
incidental: (*adj*) fortuitous, accidental, contingent, adventitious, collateral, chance, occasional, incident, attendant, concomitant, episodic.
 ANTONYMS: (*adj*) basic, direct, intended, significant.
inquest: (*n*) inquiry, investigation, quest, probe, inquisition, inspection, search, interrogation, survey, trial, research.
messenger: (*n, v*) herald; (*n*) harbinger,

runner, emissary, bearer, ambassador, precursor, courier, carrier, apostle, errand.
pedestrian: (*adj*) humdrum, ordinary, earthbound, banal, trite, tedious, hackneyed, prosaic, dull; (*n*) walker, footer. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) exciting, inspired, excellent, exceptional, inspiring, original; (*n*) driver.
weighed: (*adj*) determined, deliberate, tared.

“I don’t know, sir,” said Liddy, with suspended breath. “My mistress has done it all.”

“Where is she?”

“Upstairs with him, sir. When he was brought home and taken upstairs, she said she wanted no further help from the men. And then she called me, and made me fill the bath, and after that told me I had better go and lie down because I looked so ill. Then she **locked** herself into the room alone with him, and would not let a nurse come in, or anybody at all. But I thought I’d wait in the next room in case she should want me. I heard her moving about inside for more than an hour, but she only came out once, and that was for more candles, because hers had burnt down into the **socket**. She said we were to let her know when you or Mr. **Thirdly** came, sir.”

Oak entered with the parson at this moment, and they all went upstairs together, preceded by Liddy Smallbury. Everything was silent as the **grave** when they paused on the landing. Liddy knocked, and Bathsheba’s dress was heard rustling across the room: the key turned in the lock, and she opened the door. Her looks were calm and nearly rigid, like a slightly **animated bust** of Melpomene.

“Oh, Mr. Aldritch, you have come at last,” she murmured from her lips merely, and threw back the door. “Ah, and Mr. Thirdly. Well, all is done, and anybody in the world may see him now.” She then passed by him, crossed the landing, and entered another room.

Looking into the chamber of death she had vacated they saw by the light of the candles which were on the **drawers** a tall straight shape lying at the further end of the bedroom, wrapped in white. Everything around was quite orderly. The doctor went in, and after a few minutes returned to the landing again, where Oak and the parson still waited.

“It is all done, indeed, as she says,” remarked Mr. Aldritch, in a subdued voice. “The body has been undressed and properly laid out in grave clothes. Gracious Heaven—this mere girl! She must have the **nerve** of a stoic!”

Thesaurus

animated: (*adj*) alive, lively, animate, perky, spirited, sprightly, brisk, cheerful, quick, vivacious, airy.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lethargic, dull, blank, lifeless, spiritless, stiff, unanimated, bored, impassive, unexciting, dead.

bust: (*adj*) broke; (*n, v*) arrest, tear, capture, raid; (*adj, v*) bankrupt; (*v*) break, burst; (*n*) flop, thorax, heart.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) solvent; (*v*) mend, fix, exonerate, aid, help, free, repair.

drawers: (*n*) knickers, pants, tights, shorts, bloomers, briefs, underwear, breeches, underpants, underdrawers, trousers.

grave: (*adj*) solemn, serious, critical, earnest, dangerous, sedate, sad, grand; (*adj, v*) severe, acute; (*v*) engrave. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) frivolous, funny, cheerful, carefree, slight, nonchalant, trivial, stable, minor, insignificant, favorable.

locked: (*adj*) bolted, closed, fast,

barred, blocked, fixed, guaranteed, barricaded, safe, protected, fastened.

nerve: (*n*) cheek, audacity, boldness, brass, impudence, heart, mettle, daring, courage, face, fortitude.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) cowardice, timidity, reticence, respect.

socket: (*n*) cavity, receptacle, outlet, alveolus, hole, pit, dent, sleeve, hollow, pocket, depression.

thirdly: (*adv*) third, tertiary, in the third place, thrice.

“The heart of a wife merely,” floated in a whisper about the ears of the three, and turning they saw Bathsheba in the midst of them. Then, as if at that instant to prove that her **fortitude** had been more of will than of **spontaneity**, she silently sank down between them and was a shapeless heap of drapery on the floor. The simple consciousness that **superhuman** strain was no longer required had at once put a period to her power to continue it.

They took her away into a further room, and the medical attendance which had been useless in Troy’s case was **invaluable** in Bathsheba’s, who fell into a series of fainting-fits that had a serious aspect for a time. The **sufferer** was got to bed, and Oak, finding from the bulletins that nothing really dreadful was to be **apprehended** on her **score**, left the house. Liddy kept watch in Bathsheba’s chamber, where she heard her mistress, **moaning** in whispers through the dull slow hours of that wretched night: “Oh it is my fault—how can I live! O Heaven, how can I live!”

Thesaurus

apprehended: (*adj*) arrested, seized, understood, under arrest, in custody, detained, appreciated, comprehended.

fortitude: (*n*) bravery, endurance, grit, pluck, backbone, determination, tenacity, firmness, strength; (*adj, n*) guts, spunk. ANTONYMS: (*n*) cowardice, frailty, impatience.

invaluable: (*adj*) valuable, inestimable, incalculable, precious, costly, rare, unvalued, beyond price, unvaluable,

serviceable, unprizable. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dispensable.

moaning: (*n, v*) lamentation; (*adj*) groaning, whining, funereal, inarticulate, dirgeful; (*n*) complaining, mourning.

score: (*n, v*) count, notch, scratch, line, cut, tally, scotch; (*n*) bill, groove, debt; (*v*) get.

spontaneity: (*n*) abandon, freedom, voluntariness, unaffectedness, suddenness, energy, recklessness,

impetuosity, facility, hastiness, rashness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) deliberation, affectedness.

sufferer: (*n*) victim, martyr, prey, casualty, invalid, depressive, diseased person, sick person, rheumatic, diabetic, neurotic.

superhuman: (*adj*) supernatural, heavenly, preterhuman, superman, epic, daring, godlike, gallant, brave, celestial, incredible. ANTONYM: (*adj*) normal.

CHAPTER LV

THE MARCH FOLLOWING—“BATHSHEBA
BOLDWOOD”

We pass rapidly on into the month of March, to a **breezy** day without sunshine, frost, or dew. On Yalbury Hill, about **midway** between Weatherbury and Casterbridge, where the turnpike road passes over the **crest**, a numerous **concourse** of people had gathered, the eyes of the greater number being frequently stretched afar in a **northerly** direction. The groups consisted of a **throng** of idlers, a party of javelin-men, and two trumpeters, and in the midst were **carriages**, one of which contained the high **sheriff**. With the idlers, many of whom had mounted to the top of a cutting formed for the road, were several Weatherbury men and boys—among others Poorgrass, Coggan, and Cain Ball.

At the end of half-an-hour a faint dust was seen in the expected quarter, and shortly after a travelling-carriage, bringing one of the two **judges** on the Western Circuit, came up the hill and halted on the top. The judge changed carriages whilst a flourish was blown by the big-cheeked trumpeters, and a procession being formed of the vehicles and javelin-men, they all proceeded towards the town, excepting the Weatherbury men, who as soon as they had seen the judge move off returned home again to their work.

Thesaurus

breezy: (*adj*) windy, blowy, gusty, jaunty, gay, merry, jolly, blithe, jocund, chilly, bright. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) still, morose, spiritless, sad, quiet, peaceful, heavyhearted, heavy, depressed, bland, becalmed.
carriages: (*n*) carriage.
concourse: (*n*) assemblage, swarm, multitude, throng, company, merging, crowd, aggregation, meeting, gathering, legion.
crest: (*n, v*) crown, top, peak, climax;

(*n*) summit, brow, cockscomb, acme, pinnacle, zenith; (*v*) cap.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) base, bottom, nadir, trough.
judges: (*n*) judge, adjudicators, jury.
midway: (*adj*) middle, center, intermediate, central, median; (*n*) tract, middle of the road, intermediary, battle of midway; (*adv*) in the middle; (*prep*) between.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) extreme.
northerly: (*adj, adv, n*) north; (*adj, n*)

northern; (*adv*) northwards, northward, in the north, septentrionally, to the north, northerly; (*adj*) boreal.
sheriff: (*n*) Lord Lieutenant, constable, shrieve, peace officer, officer of the law, officer, police officer, law officer.
throng: (*n, v*) swarm, herd, mob, flock, press; (*n*) multitude, host, horde, mass, assembly, concourse.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) trickle, few; (*v*) disperse.

“Joseph, I seed you **squeezing** close to the carriage,” said Coggan, as they walked. “Did ye notice my lord judge’s face?”

“I did,” said Poorgrass. “I looked hard at en, as if I would read his very soul; and there was mercy in his eyes—or to speak with the exact truth required of us at this solemn time, in the eye that was towards me.”

“Well, I hope for the best,” said Coggan, “though bad that must be. However, I shan’t go to the trial, and I’d advise the rest of ye that bain’t wanted to bide away. ‘Twill disturb his mind more than anything to see us there staring at him as if he were a show.”

“The very thing I said this morning,” observed Joseph, “‘Justice is come to weigh him in the balances,’ I said in my reflectious way, ‘and if he’s found wanting, so be it **unto** him,’ and a bystander said ‘Hear, hear! A man who can talk like that ought to be heard.’ But I don’t like dwelling upon it, for my few words are my few words, and not much; though the speech of some men is rumoured abroad as though by nature formed for such.”

“So ‘tis, Joseph. And now, neighbours, as I said, every man bide at home.”

The resolution was adhered to; and all waited anxiously for the news next day. Their suspense was **diverted**, however, by a discovery which was made in the afternoon, throwing more light on Boldwood’s conduct and condition than any details which had preceded it.

That he had been from the time of Greenhill Fair until the fatal Christmas Eve in excited and unusual moods was known to those who had been intimate with him; but nobody imagined that there had shown in him **unequivocal** symptoms of the mental **derangement** which Bathsheba and Oak, alone of all others and at different times, had momentarily suspected. In a locked closet was now discovered an extraordinary collection of articles. There were several sets of ladies’ dresses in the piece, of **sundry** expensive materials; **silks** and satins, poplins and velvets, all of colours which from Bathsheba’s style of dress might have been judged to be her favourites. There were two muffs, **sable** and **ermine**. Above all there was a case of jewellery, containing four heavy gold **bracelets** and several lockets and rings, all of fine quality and manufacture. These things had

Thesaurus

bracelets: (*n*) trinkets, jewels, necklaces, charms, costume jewelry, ornaments.

derangement: (*n*) lunacy, disorder, disturbance, insanity, jumble, upset, confusion; (*adj, n*) aberration, craziness, alienation; (*adj*) madness.

diverted: (*adj*) abstracted, entertained, pleased, inattentive, sidetracked, unfocused, preoccupied.

ermine: (*n*) purple, pelt, fur, weasel, pall, shorttail weasel, mantle, toga,

millinery, robes of state.

sable: (*adj*) black, dark, dusky, sombre, murky, mournful; (*n*) ebony, fur, blackness, marten, pitch black.

silks: (*n*) garment.

squeezing: (*n*) constriction, compression, pressure, squeeze, crushing, compressing, expulsion, extrusion, distress, power play; (*v*) expression.

sundry: (*adj*) several, different, diverse, assorted, miscellaneous,

many, varied, mixed, divers, various; (*n*) sundries. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uniform, homogeneous.

unequivocal: (*adj, v*) clear, positive, definite; (*adj*) decided, explicit, unambiguous, categorical, plain, definitive, unmistakable; (*adj, n*) certain. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) equivocal, indefinite, obscured, vague, ambiguous, implicit, uncertain.

unto: (*prep, v*) to, till, up to; (*prep*) towards, before.

been bought in Bath and other towns from time to time, and brought home by **stealth**. They were all carefully packed in paper, and each package was **labelled** "Bathsheba Boldwood," a date being subjoined six years in advance in every instance.

These somewhat pathetic evidences of a mind crazed with care and love were the subject of discourse in Warren's malt-house when Oak entered from Casterbridge with tidings of sentence. He came in the afternoon, and his face, as the kiln glow shone upon it, told the tale sufficiently well. Boldwood, as every one supposed he would do, had pleaded guilty, and had been **sentenced** to death.

The conviction that Boldwood had not been morally responsible for his later acts now became general. Facts elicited previous to the trial had pointed strongly in the same direction, but they had not been of sufficient weight to lead to an order for an examination into the state of Boldwood's mind. It was astonishing, now that a presumption of insanity was raised, how many **collateral** circumstances were remembered to which a condition of mental disease seemed to afford the only explanation—among others, the unprecedented neglect of his corn stacks in the previous summer.

A petition was addressed to the Home Secretary, advancing the circumstances which appeared to justify a request for a **reconsideration** of the sentence. It was not "numerously signed" by the inhabitants of Casterbridge, as is usual in such cases, for Boldwood had never made many friends over the counter. The shops thought it very natural that a man who, by **importing** direct from the producer, had **daringly** set aside the first great principle of provincial existence, namely that God made country villages to supply **customers** to county towns, should have confused ideas about the Decalogue. The prompters were a few merciful men who had perhaps too **feelingly** considered the facts latterly unearthed, and the result was that evidence was taken which it was hoped might remove the crime in a moral point of view, out of the category of **wilful** murder, and lead it to be regarded as a sheer outcome of madness.

Thesaurus

collateral: (*n*) warranty, guarantee, mortgage, guaranty, security, pledge, bond; (*adj*) secondary, indirect, oblique, subsidiary. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) primary, chief, fundamental, principal, lineal.
customers: (*n*) trade.
daringly: (*adv*) fearlessly, intrepidly, venturesomely, bravely, audaciously, gallantly, foolhardily, pluckily; (*adj*, *adv*) valiantly, courageously, heroically. ANTONYMS: (*adv*)

timidly, fearfully.
feelingly: (*adv*) sensitively, sympathetically, feeling, deeply.
importing: (*n*) importation, mercantilism, commercialism, commerce.
labelled: (*adj*) tagged.
reconsideration: (*n*) revision, afterthought, rethink, second thoughts, turnabout, turnaround, reversal, scruple, second thought, amendment, change of mind.

sentenced: (*adj*) doomed, guilty.
stealth: (*n*) stealing, furtiveness, stealthiness, slyness, larceny, thievery, theft, sneakiness, secretiveness, hiding; (*adj*) undercover. ANTONYM: (*n*) openness.
wilful: (*adj*) headstrong, deliberate, intentional, knowing, designed, wayward, obstinate, willful, stubborn, studied, persistent.

The **upshot** of the petition was waited for in Weatherbury with **solicitous** interest. The execution had been fixed for eight o'clock on a Saturday morning about a fortnight after the sentence was passed, and up to Friday afternoon no answer had been received. At that time Gabriel came from Casterbridge Gaol, whither he had been to wish Boldwood good-bye, and turned down a by-street to avoid the town. When past the last house he heard a **hammering**, and lifting his bowed head he looked back for a moment. Over the chimneys he could see the upper part of the gaol entrance, rich and **glowing** in the afternoon sun, and some moving figures were there. They were carpenters lifting a post into a vertical position within the parapet. He withdrew his eyes quickly, and hastened on.

It was dark when he reached home, and half the village was out to meet him.

"No tidings," Gabriel said, **wearily**. "And I'm afraid there's no hope. I've been with him more than two hours."

"Do ye think he *really* was out of his mind when he did it?" said Smallbury.

"I can't honestly say that I do," Oak replied. "However, that we can talk of another time. Has there been any change in mistress this afternoon?"

"None at all."

"Is she downstairs?"

"No. And getting on so **nicely** as she was too. She's but very little better now again than she was at Christmas. She keeps on asking if you be come, and if there's news, till one's wearied out wi' **answering** her. Shall I go and say you've come?"

"No," said Oak. "There's a chance yet; but I couldn't stay in town any longer — after seeing him too. So Laban — Laban is here, isn't he?"

"Yes," said Tall.

"What I've arranged is, that you shall ride to town the last thing to-night; leave here about nine, and wait a while there, getting home about twelve. If nothing has been received by eleven to-night, they say there's no chance at all."

Thesaurus

answering: (*adj*) respondent, responsive, according, agreeing, responsory; (*n*) responsiveness.

glowing: (*adj, n*) enthusiastic, cordial, passionate; (*adj*) burning, fervent, blazing, flaming, fiery, dazzling; (*adj, v*) warm; (*adj, adv*) aglow.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pale, wan, unhappy, unenthusiastic, derogatory, dispassionate, unwell.

hammering: (*n*) beating, pounding, pound, fagging, drudgery, needle

hammer, defeat, knock, failure, British pound, Ezra Loomin Pound. ANTONYM: (*n*) victory.

nicely: (*adv*) daintily, pleasantly, finely, deliciously, kindly, delicately, correctly, exactly, pleasingly, elegantly, skillfully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) badly, unattractively, inelegantly, cruelly.

solicitous: (*adj*) eager, attentive, apprehensive, careful, anxious, jealous, considerate, avid, thoughtful,

fervent; (*n*) desirous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uncaring, serene, thoughtless.

upshot: (*n*) result, conclusion, consequence, outcome, issue, aftermath, effect, event, corollary, end, product.

wearily: (*adv*) sickly, boredly, dully, languidly, jadedly, exhaustedly, sadly, soberly, gravely, heavily, seriously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) hopefully, untiringly, energetically, dynamically.

"I do so hope his life will be spared," said Liddy. "If it is not, she'll go out of her mind too. Poor thing; her sufferings have been dreadful; she deserves anybody's pity."

"Is she altered much?" said Coggan.

"If you haven't seen poor mistress since Christmas, you wouldn't know her," said Liddy. "Her eyes are so miserable that she's not the same woman. Only two years ago she was a **romping** girl, and now she's this!"

Laban **departed** as directed, and at eleven o'clock that night several of the villagers strolled along the road to Casterbridge and awaited his arrival—among them Oak, and nearly all the rest of Bathsheba's men. Gabriel's anxiety was great that Boldwood might be saved, even though in his conscience he felt that he ought to die; for there had been **qualities** in the farmer which Oak loved. At last, when they all were **weary** the **tramp** of a horse was heard in the distance—

First dead, as if on turf it trode,
Then, **clattering** on the village road
In other pace than forth he yode.

"We shall soon know now, one way or other," said Coggan, and they all stepped down from the bank on which they had been standing into the road, and the **riders** pranced into the midst of them.

"Is that you, Laban?" said Gabriel.

"Yes—'tis come. He's not to die. 'Tis **confinement** during her Majesty's pleasure."

"Hurrah!" said Coggan, with a **swelling** heart. "God's above the devil yet!"

Thesaurus

clattering: (*n*) crash; (*adj*) clattery.

confinement: (*n, v*) childbirth, delivery; (*n*) detention, custody, restraint, internment, prison, labor, containment, incarceration, arrest. ANTONYMS: (*n*) release, death, liberation.

departed: (*adj*) dead, bygone, late, former, bypass, defunct, past, left; (*adj, v*) gone, extinct; (*n*) decedent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) remaining, alive.

qualities: (*n*) character, disposition,

nature, spirit, tone, quality, role, self, part, traits, individuality.

riders: (*n*) horseman, appendix, passenger, equestrian, supplement, codicil, provision, clause, addition, condition, corollary.

romping: (*n*) fun; (*adj*) rollicking.

swelling: (*n*) protuberance, lump, swell, intumescence, growth, projection, prominence, bulge, dropsy; (*adj, v*) inflated; (*adj*) growing. ANTONYM: (*n*) decline.

tramp: (*n*) bum, hobo, beggar; (*n, v*) walk, trudge, vagabond, ramble, march; (*v*) roam, range, plod.

ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) loyalist; (*n*) resident.

weary: (*adj, n, v*) fatigue; (*v*) exhaust, tire out; (*adj*) tired, exhausted, fatigued, weary, beat, languid; (*n, v*) jade, bore. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) energetic, fresh, lively, untiring, hopeful, refreshed; (*v*) refresh, enliven, energize, activate, rally.

CHAPTER LVI

BEAUTY IN LONELINESS—AFTER ALL

Bathsheba **revived** with the spring. The utter prostration that had followed the low **fever** from which she had suffered diminished perceptibly when all uncertainty upon every subject had come to an end.

But she remained alone now for the greater part of her time, and stayed in the house, or at furthest went into the garden. She shunned every one, even Liddy, and could be brought to make no confidences, and to ask for no sympathy.

As the summer drew on she passed more of her time in the open air, and began to examine into **farming** matters from sheer necessity, though she never rode out or personally superintended as at former times. One Friday evening in August she walked a little way along the road and entered the village for the first time since the sombre event of the **preceding** Christmas. None of the old colour had as yet come to her cheek, and its absolute paleness was heightened by the jet black of her gown, till it appeared **preternatural**. When she reached a little shop at the other end of the place, which stood nearly opposite to the churchyard, Bathsheba heard singing inside the church, and she knew that the **singers** were **practising**. She crossed the road, opened the gate, and entered the graveyard, the high sills of the church windows **effectually** screening her from the eyes of

Thesaurus

effectually: (*adv*) efficaciously, effectively, validly, adequately, potently, tellingly, strongly, decisively; (*adj*) nicely, fully, head and shoulders. ANTONYM: (*adv*) ineffectually.
farming: (*n*) cultivation, husbandry, culture, gardening, tillage, land, arboriculture, dairying, animal husbandry; (*adj*) agrarian, agricultural.
fever: (*n*) malaria, delirium, pyrexia,

heat, frenzy, feverishness, febricity, Bilious typhoid fever, Levant fever, Hectic infantile fever, Typhoid fever.
practising: (*adj*) practicing, churchgoing.
preceding: (*adj, adv*) anterior, earlier; (*adj*) foregoing, former, previous, prior, past, precedent, preventient; (*adv*) forward; (*prep*) before. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) following, succeeding, next, present.
preternatural: (*adj*) unearthly, occult,

outlandish, miraculous, uncanny, transcendental, extraordinary, abnormal, weird, nonnatural, otherworldly.
revived: (*adj*) fresh, refreshed, animated, revitalized, alive, invigorated, new.
singers: (*n*) gospel choir, church choir, choral group, singing group, school choir.

those gathered within. Her stealthy walk was to the nook wherein Troy had worked at **planting** flowers upon Fanny Robin's grave, and she came to the marble tombstone.

A motion of satisfaction **enlivened** her face as she read the complete inscription. First came the words of Troy himself:—

ERECTED BY FRANCIS TROY
IN BELOVED MEMORY OF
FANNY ROBIN,
WHO DIED OCTOBER 9, 18—,
AGED 20 YEARS.

Underneath this was now inscribed in new letters:—

IN THE SAME GRAVE LIE
THE REMAINS OF THE AFORESAID
FRANCIS TROY,
WHO DIED DECEMBER 24TH, 18—,
AGED 26 YEARS.

Whilst she stood and read and meditated the tones of the organ began again in the church, and she went with the same light step round to the **porch** and listened. The door was closed, and the **choir** was learning a new **hymn**. Bathsheba was stirred by emotions which latterly she had assumed to be altogether dead within her. The little attenuated voices of the children brought to her ear in distinct **utterance** the words they **sang** without thought or **comprehension**—

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling **gloom**,
Lead Thou me on.

Thesaurus

choir: (*n*) quire, chancel, choral society, choral group, crypt, Golgotha, nave, transept, vestry, chorister, ensemble.

comprehension: (*n*) knowledge, inclusion, conception, understanding, intelligence, grasp, wit, capacity, familiarity, discernment, uptake.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) incomprehension, ignorance.

enlivened: (*adj*) bouncy, active, spirited, alive, bouncing.

gloom: (*n*) desolation, dark, darkness, blackness, depression, dimness, dusk, dreariness, despair, dejection; (*n, v*) cloud. ANTONYMS: (*n*) brightness, happiness, cheerfulness, glee, ecstasy, joy, optimism, cheer.

hymn: (*n*) song, canticle, chant, anthem, carol, chorale, doxology; (*v*) glorify, laud, sing, extol.

planting: (*n*) plantation, positioning, position, cultivation, transplanting, set, planting system, husbandry,

placement, locating, farming.
porch: (*n*) lobby, hall, vestibule, veranda, door, entrance, deck, gallery, portico, balcony, inlet.
sang: (*n*) panax quinquefolius, sing, herb, herbaceous plant.
utterance: (*n*) pronunciation, expression, speech, exclamation, statement, remark, articulation, observation, language, phrase, speaking.

Bathsheba's feeling was always to some extent dependent upon her **whim**, as is the case with many other women. Something big came into her throat and an **uprising** to her eyes—and she thought that she would allow the imminent tears to flow if they wished. They did flow and **plenteously**, and one fell upon the stone bench beside her. Once that she had begun to cry for she hardly knew what, she could not leave off for crowding thoughts she knew too well. She would have given anything in the world to be, as those children were, **unconcerned** at the meaning of their words, because too innocent to feel the necessity for any such expression. All the impassioned scenes of her brief experience seemed to revive with added emotion at that moment, and those scenes which had been without emotion during enactment had emotion then. Yet grief came to her rather as a luxury than as the **scourge** of former times.

Owing to Bathsheba's face being buried in her hands she did not notice a form which came quietly into the porch, and on seeing her, first moved as if to retreat, then paused and regarded her. Bathsheba did not raise her head for some time, and when she looked round her face was wet, and her eyes drowned and dim. "Mr. Oak," exclaimed she, **disconcerted**, "how long have you been here?"

"A few minutes, ma'am," said Oak, respectfully.

"Are you going in?" said Bathsheba; and there came from within the church as from a **prompter**—

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

"I was," said Gabriel. "I am one of the bass singers, you know. I have sung bass for several months."

"Indeed: I wasn't aware of that. I'll leave you, then."

Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile,

Thesaurus

disconcerted: (*adj*) confused, confounded, bewildered, blank, embarrassed, disturbed, troubled, worried, ashamed, discombobulated, bemused. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) composed, soothed, unabashed, relaxed.

plenteously: (*adv*) bountifully, plentifully, generously, profusely, richly, exuberantly, fertile, fully, amply; (*adj, adv*) abundantly, copiously.

prompter: (*n*) autocue, supporter, tempter, call boy, helper, theater prompter, help, device, assistant.

scourge: (*n*) curse, blight, affliction, plague, bane, calamity; (*v*) lash, flagellate, castigate, punish; (*n, v*) whip.

unconcerned: (*adj*) apathetic, detached, insouciant, casual, careless, nonchalant, thoughtless, easygoing, listless, carefree; (*adj, n*) cold. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) caring, eager,

troubled, sensitive, uptight, craving, involved, energetic, interested, annoyed, strict.

uprising: (*n*) insurrection, mutiny, rebellion, revolt, insurgency, revolution, outbreak, sedition, disturbance, ascent; (*adj, n*) rising. ANTONYMS: (*n*) peace; (*adj*) content. **whim:** (*n, v*) fancy, vagary, humor, freak; (*n*) notion, impulse, fad, mood, whimsy, thought, idea. ANTONYMS: (*n*) plan, reality, aversion.

sang the children.

“Don’t let me drive you away, mistress. I think I won’t go in to-night.”

“Oh no—you don’t drive me away.”

Then they stood in a state of some **embarrassment**, Bathsheba trying to **wipe** her **dreadfully** drenched and inflamed face without his noticing her. At length Oak said, “I’ve not seen you—I mean spoken to you—since ever so long, have I?” But he feared to bring distressing **memories** back, and interrupted himself with: “Were you going into church?”

“No,” she said. “I came to see the **tombstone** privately—to see if they had cut the inscription as I wished. Mr. Oak, you needn’t mind speaking to me, if you wish to, on the matter which is in both our minds at this moment.”

“And have they done it as you wished?” said Oak.

“Yes. Come and see it, if you have not already.”

So together they went and read the tomb. “Eight months ago!” Gabriel murmured when he saw the date. “It seems like yesterday to me.”

“And to me as if it were years ago—long years, and I had been dead between. And now I am going home, Mr. Oak.”

Oak walked after her. “I wanted to name a small matter to you as soon as I could,” he said, with hesitation. “Merrily about business, and I think I may just mention it now, if you’ll allow me.”

“Oh yes, certainly.”

It is that I may soon have to give up the management of your farm, Mrs. Troy. The fact is, I am thinking of leaving England—not yet, you know—next spring.”

“Leaving England!” she said, in surprise and genuine **disappointment**. “Why, Gabriel, what are you going to do that for?”

“Well, I’ve thought it best,” Oak stammered out. “California is the spot I’ve had in my mind to try.”

Thesaurus

disappointment: (*n*) anticlimax, failure, letdown, comedown, frustration, shame, disillusionment, annoyance, dismay, setback, misfortune. ANTONYMS: (*n*) satisfaction, boost, happiness, pleasure, hopefulness, fulfillment, comfort, idealism, climax, bonus, gratification.
dreadfully: (*adj, adv*) frightfully, shockingly; (*adv*) fearfully, appallingly, hideously, horrendously,

horribly, atrociously, ghastly, tremendously, horridly.
 ANTONYMS: (*adv*) pleasantly, wonderfully, happily, hardly, superbly, well.
embarrassment: (*n*) abashment, difficulty, quandary, discomfiture, humiliation, bewilderment, mortification, uneasiness, shame; (*n, v*) distress; (*adj, n*) dilemma. ANTONYMS: (*n*) confidence, honor, pride, shortage.

memories: (*n*) recollections, reminiscences, nostalgia, memento Mori.
tomb: (*n*) sepulchre, sepulcher, crypt, pit, sepulture, vault, monument, entomb, mausoleum; (*n, v*) bury; (*v*) inter.
wipe: (*n, v*) rub; (*v*) mop, clean, towel, brush, scour, scrub, clear, dry, wash; (*adj*) sponge. ANTONYM: (*v*) dirty.

"But it is understood everywhere that you are going to take poor Mr. Boldwood's farm on your own account."

"I've had the refusal o' it 'tis true; but nothing is settled yet, and I have reasons for giving up. I shall finish out my year there as manager for the trustees, but no more."

"And what shall I do without you? Oh, Gabriel, I don't think you ought to go away. You've been with me so long—through bright times and dark times—such old friends that as we are—that it seems unkind almost. I had fancied that if you leased the other farm as master, you might still give a helping look across at mine. And now going away!"

"I would have willingly."

"Yet now that I am more helpless than ever you go away!"

"Yes, that's the ill fortune o' it," said Gabriel, in a distressed tone. "And it is because of that very **helplessness** that I feel bound to go. Good afternoon, ma'am" he concluded, in evident anxiety to get away, and at once went out of the churchyard by a path she could follow on no pretence whatever.

Bathsheba went home, her mind occupied with a new trouble, which being rather harassing than deadly was calculated to do good by **diverting** her from the chronic gloom of her life. She was set thinking a great deal about Oak and of his wish to **shun** her; and there occurred to Bathsheba several incidents of her latter intercourse with him, which, trivial when singly viewed amounted together to a perceptible **disinclination** for her society. It broke upon her at length as a great pain that her last old **disciple** was about to forsake her and flee. He who had **believed** in her and argued on her side when all the rest of the world was against her, had at last like the others become weary and **neglectful** of the old cause, and was leaving her to fight her battles alone.

Three weeks went on, and more evidence of his want of interest in her was forthcoming. She noticed that instead of entering the small parlour or office where the farm accounts were kept, and waiting, or leaving a memorandum as he had hitherto done during her seclusion, Oak never came at all when she was

Thesaurus

believed: (*adj*) whispered, alleged, thought, held.
disciple: (*n*) adherent, follower, devotee, scholar, pupil, believer, proselyte, cohort, learner, partisan, votary. ANTONYMS: (*n*) leader, teacher, God, instructor.
disinclination: (*n*) dislike, distaste, indisposition, reluctance, antipathy, opposition, disaffection, disrelish, unwillingness, disfavor; (*n, v*) disgust. ANTONYMS: (*n*) inclination,

disposition, desire, tendency, keenness, willingness.
diverting: (*adj, v*) entertaining; (*adj*) comical, fun, amusing, droll, comic, laughable, funny, humorous, recreative, intriguing.
helplessness: (*n*) powerlessness, defenselessness, dependence, impotency, impotence, inability, impuissance, incapability, incapacity, defencelessness, failing. ANTONYMS: (*n*) resistance, capacity,

strength.
neglectful: (*adj, v*) negligent, remiss; (*adj*) heedless, derelict, careless, forgetful, delinquent, nonchalant, regardless, reckless, lax. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) attentive, helpful, mindful, conscientious, dutiful.
shun: (*v*) evade, escape, elude, dodge, flee, refuse, shirk, ostracize, banish, parry; (*adj, v*) eschew. ANTONYMS: (*v*) befriend, invite, seek, welcome, woo, court, participate, include.

likely to be there, only entering at **unseasonable** hours when her presence in that part of the house was least to be expected. Whenever he wanted directions he sent a message, or note with neither heading nor signature, to which she was obliged to reply in the same **offhand** style. Poor Bathsheba began to suffer now from the most torturing sting of all—a sensation that she was despised.

The autumn wore away gloomily enough amid these melancholy conjectures, and Christmas-day came, completing a year of her legal **widowhood**, and two years and a quarter of her life alone. On **examining** her heart it appeared beyond measure strange that the subject of which the season might have been supposed suggestive—the event in the hall at Boldwood’s—was not agitating her at all; but instead, an **agonizing** conviction that everybody abjured her—for what she could not tell—and that Oak was the **ringleader** of the recusants. Coming out of church that day she looked round in hope that Oak, whose bass voice she had heard rolling out from the gallery overhead in a most unconcerned manner, might chance to linger in her path in the old way. There he was, as usual, coming down the path behind her. But on seeing Bathsheba turn, he looked aside, and as soon as he got beyond the gate, and there was the barest excuse for a divergence, he made one, and vanished.

The next morning brought the **culminating** stroke; she had been expecting it long. It was a formal notice by letter from him that he should not renew his engagement with her for the following Lady-day.

Bathsheba actually sat and cried over this letter most bitterly. She was aggrieved and wounded that the possession of hopeless love from Gabriel, which she had grown to regard as her inalienable right for life, should have been withdrawn just at his own pleasure in this way. She was bewildered too by the prospect of having to rely on her own resources again: it seemed to herself that she never could again acquire energy sufficient to go to market, **barter**, and sell. Since Troy’s death Oak had attended all sales and fairs for her, transacting her business at the same time with his own. What should she do now? Her life was becoming a desolation.

Thesaurus

agonizing: (*adj, v*) excruciating; (*adj*) painful, harrowing, poignant, grievous, agonising, torturous, heartbreaking, sore, anguished, aching. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) restful, painless, enjoyable, easy, bearable, wonderful, unemotional.
barter: (*n, v*) trade, swap, truck, traffic, swop, switch; (*v*) bargain, change; (*n*) commutation, permutation, interchange.
culminating: (*adj*) uppermost, best,

crowning, perfect, supreme, top.
examining: (*v*) examine, investigate; (*adj*) investigative, curious, disquisitive, exploratory, inquiring.
offhand: (*adj, adv*) impromptu, extemporaneous, extempore; (*adj*) casual, extemporary, careless, cavalier, nonchalant, brusque, abrupt, improvised. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) careful, considerate, warm, serious, civil, cautious, conscientious, concerned, caring, intended,

prepared.
ringleader: (*n*) conductor, fogleman, bellwether, agitator, troublemaker, chief, mastermind, inciter, precentor, insurgent, agent provocateur.
unseasonable: (*adj*) inopportune, inappropriate, premature, ill timed, improper, immature, inconvenient, ill-timed, inept, unchancy; (*v*) illtimed.
widowhood: (*n*) weeds, marital status, time of life.

So desolate was Bathsheba this evening, that in an absolute hunger for pity and sympathy, and miserable in that she appeared to have outlived the only true friendship she had ever owned, she put on her bonnet and cloak and went down to Oak's house just after **sunset**, **guided** on her way by the pale **primrose** rays of a **crested** moon a few days old.

A lively **firelight** shone from the window, but nobody was visible in the room. She tapped nervously, and then thought it doubtful if it were right for a single woman to call upon a **bachelor** who lived alone, although he was her manager, and she might be supposed to call on business without any real **impropriety**. Gabriel opened the door, and the moon shone upon his forehead.

"Mr. Oak," said Bathsheba, faintly.

"Yes; I am Mr. Oak," said Gabriel. "Who have I the honour—O how stupid of me, not to know you, mistress!"

"I shall not be your mistress much longer, shall I Gabriel?" she said, in **pathetic** tones.

"Well, no. I suppose—But come in, ma'am. Oh—and I'll get a light," Oak replied, with some awkwardness.

"No; not on my account."

"It is so seldom that I get a lady visitor that I'm afraid I haven't proper accommodation. Will you sit down, please? Here's a chair, and there's one, too. I am sorry that my chairs all have wood seats, and are rather hard, but I was thinking of getting some new ones." Oak placed two or three for her.

"They are quite easy enough for me."

So down she sat, and down sat he, the fire dancing in their faces, and upon the old furniture,

all a-sheenen

Wi' long years o' handlen,

Thesaurus

bachelor: (*adj*) single, unmarried, unattached; (*n*) unmarried man, graduate, knight bachelor, widower, old bachelor, spinster, adult male, agamist. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) married; (*n*) husband.
crested: (*n*) circus, carve, arch, arcade, bow, peristyle, lunule; (*adj*) semilunar, falcate; (*adj, n*) convex, concave. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uncoiled, straight, unbent, unbowed.
firelight: (*adj*) light, rushlight,

starlight.
guided: (*adj*) conducted, directed, led.
impropriety: (*n*) barbarism, obscenity, indecorum, error, rudeness, indelicacy, incorrectness, solecism, wrongness; (*adj*) immorality, inaptitude. ANTONYMS: (*n*) decency, correctness.
pathetic: (*adj*) deplorable, miserable, pitiful, wretched, forlorn, lamentable, tragic, distressing; (*adj, v*) touching, affecting, sad. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

strong, comical, effective, impressive, admirable, spirited, praiseworthy, generous, fine, brilliant, decisive.
primrose: (*n*) auricula, polyanthus, primula, oxlip, paigle, primerole, herbaceous plant, herb; (*adj*) sensuous.
sunset: (*n*) dusk, sundown, nightfall, twilight, night, sunseting, periodic event, crepuscule, atmospheric phenomenon, hour, recurrent event. ANTONYMS: (*n*) sunrise, daybreak.

that formed Oak's array of household **possessions**, which sent back a **dancing** reflection in reply. It was very odd to these two persons, who knew each other passing well, that the mere **circumstance** of their meeting in a new place and in a new way should make them so awkward and **constrained**. In the fields, or at her house, there had never been any embarrassment; but now that Oak had become the entertainer their lives seemed to be moved back again to the days when they were strangers.

"You'll think it strange that I have come, but — —"

"Oh no; not at all."

"But I thought — Gabriel, I have been **uneasy** in the belief that I have offended you, and that you are going away on that account. It grieved me very much and I couldn't help coming."

"Offended me! As if you could do that, Bathsheba!"

"Haven't I?" she asked, gladly. "But, what are you going away for else?"

"I am not going to **emigrate**, you know; I wasn't aware that you would wish me not to when I told 'ee or I shouldn't ha' thought of doing it," he said, simply. "I have arranged for Little Weatherbury Farm and shall have it in my own hands at Lady-day. You know I've had a share in it for some time. Still, that wouldn't prevent my attending to your business as before, hadn't it been that things have been said about us."

"What?" said Bathsheba, in surprise. "Things said about you and me! What are they?"

"I cannot tell you."

"It would be wiser if you were to, I think. You have played the part of **mentor** to me many times, and I don't see why you should fear to do it now."

"It is nothing that you have done, this time. The top and **tail** o't is this — that I am sniffing about here, and waiting for poor Boldwood's farm, with a thought of getting you some day."

"Getting me! What does that mean?"

Thesaurus

circumstance: (*n*) affair, incident, matter, event, occasion, chance, accident, opportunity, adventure, casualty, fact.

constrained: (*adj*) forced, bound, stiff, strained, awkward, compelled, limited, affected, stilted, rigid, unnatural. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unrestricted, liberated, natural, open.

dancing: (*n*) choreography, Terpsichore, saltation, break dancing, ceremonial dance, galloping, hoofing,

Pavan; (*adj*) morrice; (*adv*) adance; (*v*) saltant.

emigrate: (*n, v*) migrate; (*v*) immigrate, transplant, depart, demigrate, leave.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) remain, immigrate.

mentor: (*n*) advisor, instructor, coach, teacher, guide, adviser, consultant, counsellor, monitor, counselor, tutor. ANTONYM: (*n*) follower.

possessions: (*n*) means, belongings, assets, goods, property, effects, wealth, gear, things, possession,

riches.

tail: (*n, v*) shadow, trail; (*v*) follow, track, pursue, dog, tag, chase; (*n*) behind, posterior, butt. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) head, front; (*v*) lead.

uneasy: (*adj*) anxious, fidgety, restless, concerned, nervous, apprehensive, ill at ease, unquiet, awkward, fretful, restive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) calm, untroubled, composed, relaxed, easy, unconcerned, still, comfortable, carefree, confident, serene.

“Marrying of ‘ee, in plain British. You asked me to tell, so you mustn’t blame me.”

Bathsheba did not look quite so alarmed as if a **cannon** had been **discharged** by her ear, which was what Oak had expected. “Marrying me! I didn’t know it was that you meant,” she said, quietly. “Such a thing as that is too **absurd**—too soon—to think of, by far!”

“Yes; of course, it is too absurd. I don’t desire any such thing; I should think that was plain enough by this time. Surely, surely you be the last person in the world I think of marrying. It is too absurd, as you say.”

“‘Too—s-s-soon’ were the words I used.”

“I must beg your pardon for **correcting** you, but you said, ‘too absurd,’ and so do I.”

“I beg your pardon too!” she returned, with tears in her eyes. “‘Too soon’ was what I said. But it doesn’t matter a bit—not at all—but I only meant, ‘too soon.’ Indeed, I didn’t, Mr. Oak, and you must believe me!”

Gabriel looked her long in the face, but the firelight being faint there was not much to be seen. “Bathsheba,” he said, tenderly and in surprise, and coming closer: “if I only knew one thing—whether you would allow me to love you and win you, and marry you after all—if I only knew that!”

“But you never will know,” she murmured.

“Why?”

“Because you never ask.”

“Oh—Oh!” said Gabriel, with a low **laugh** of **joyousness**. “My own dear— —”

“You ought not to have sent me that harsh letter this morning,” she interrupted. “It shows you didn’t care a bit about me, and were ready to desert me like all the rest of them! It was very **cruel** of you, considering I was the first sweetheart that you ever had, and you were the first I ever had; and I shall not forget it!”

Thesaurus

absurd: (*adj*) ridiculous, foolish, unreasonable, irrational, meaningless, inept, senseless, nonsensical, illogical, ludicrous; (*adj, n*) silly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rational, reasonable, logical, wise, weighty, sound, consistent, serious, plausible, credible, acceptable.

cannon: (*n*) clash, carom, gun, shank, basilisk, gun of position, carambole, carronade, culverin, field piece, howitzer.

correcting: (*n*) amendment, correction, rectification, adjustment, compensation, reading.

cruel: (*adj, v*) hard, harsh, sharp, severe; (*adj*) barbarous, unkind, brutal, bloody, bitter, savage, atrocious. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) merciful, gentle, sympathetic, humane, liberal, compassionate, charitable, friendly, caring, considerate, libertarian.

discharged: (*adj*) released, exempt,

clear, freer, free, fired, finished, drained, dismissed, defunct, deadened.

joyousness: (*n*) joyfulness, mirth, joy, exhilaration, exultation, gaiety, cheerfulness, excitement, exuberance, glee, gladness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) unhappiness, sadness.

laugh: (*n, v*) joke, giggle, chortle, titter, snicker; (*v*) smile; (*n*) jest, gag, jape, laughter, cackle. ANTONYM: (*v*) weep.

"Now, Bathsheba, was ever anybody so provoking," he said, laughing. "You know it was purely that I, as an unmarried man, carrying on a business for you as a very taking young woman, had a proper hard part to play—more particular that people knew I had a sort of feeling for 'ee; and I fancied, from the way we were mentioned together, that it might injure your good name. Nobody knows the heat and **fret** I have been caused by it."

"And was that all?"

"All."

"Oh, how glad I am I came!" she exclaimed, thankfully, as she rose from her seat. "I have thought so much more of you since I fancied you did not want even to see me again. But I must be going now, or I shall be missed. Why Gabriel," she said, with a slight laugh, as they went to the door, "it seems exactly as if I had come courting you—how dreadful!"

"And quite right too," said Oak. "I've danced at your **skittish** heels, my beautiful Bathsheba, for many a long mile, and many a long day; and it is hard to **begrudge** me this one visit."

He accompanied her up the hill, explaining to her the details of his forthcoming tenure of the other farm. They spoke very little of their mutual feeling; pretty phrases and warm expressions being probably unnecessary between such tried friends. Theirs was that substantial affection which arises (if any arises at all) when the two who are thrown together begin first by knowing the rougher sides of each other's character, and not the best till further on, the romance growing up in the interstices of a mass of hard **prosaic** reality. This good-fellowship—*camaraderie*—usually **occurring** through similarity of **pursuits**, is unfortunately seldom superadded to love between the sexes, because men and women associate, not in their labours, but in their pleasures merely. Where, however, happy circumstance permits its development, the compounded feeling proves itself to be the only love which is strong as death—that love which many waters cannot **quench**, nor the floods **drown**, beside which the passion usually called by the name is **evanescent** as steam.

Thesaurus

begrudge: (*v*) envy, covet, resent, stint, hang fire; (*adj, v*) pinch; (*adj*) hold back, screw, gripe, withhold, starve. ANTONYMS: (*v*) congratulate, wish.

drown: (*v*) drench, submerge, overwhelm, choke, engulf, flood, swamp, inundate, suffocate, asphyxiate; (*adj, n, v*) sink. ANTONYMS: (*v*) float, swim, amplify, dry.

evanescent: (*adj*) passing, temporary, fleeting, transitory, fugitive,

momentary, transient, cursory, temporal, intangible, short-lived.

fret: (*n, v*) gall, irritate, trouble, worry; (*v*) agitate, chafe, rub, fray, upset, annoy; (*n*) anxiety.

occurring: (*adj*) going on.

prosaic: (*adj*) commonplace, dull, monotonous, pedestrian, prosy, ordinary, uninteresting, trite, boring, humdrum, everyday. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) idealistic, imaginative, sensitive, inspired, exciting, inspiring,

interesting, original, romantic.

pursuits: (*n*) diversion, duties.

quench: (*adj, v*) extinguish, allay, slake; (*v*) appease, quash, put out, destroy, assuage, annihilate, calm, chill. ANTONYMS: (*v*) stimulate, light.

skittish: (*adj*) nervous, timid, excitable, coy, lively, fearful; (*n*) freakish, fantastic, crotchety, fanciful; (*v*) mettlesome. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) solemn, calm, confident.

CHAPTER LVII

A FOGGY NIGHT AND MORNING—
CONCLUSION

“The most private, secret, plainest wedding that it is possible to have.”

Those had been Bathsheba’s words to Oak one evening, some time after the event of the preceding chapter, and he meditated a full hour by the **clock** upon how to carry out her **wishes** to the letter.

“A licence—O yes, it must be a licence,” he said to himself at last. “Very well, then; first, a license.”

On a dark night, a few days later, Oak came with mysterious steps from the surrogate’s door, in Casterbridge. On the way home he heard a heavy tread in front of him, and, **overtaking** the man, found him to be Coggan. They walked together into the village until they came to a little **lane** behind the church, leading down to the **cottage** of Laban Tall, who had lately been installed as **clerk** of the parish, and was yet in **mortal terror** at church on Sundays when he heard his **lone** voice among certain hard words of the Psalms, whither no man ventured to follow him.

“Well, good-night, Coggan,” said Oak, “I’m going down this way.”

Thesaurus

clerk: (*n, v*) writer, secretary, transcriber; (*n*) servant, shop assistant, salesclerk, employee, accountant, recorder; (*v*) scrivener, scribe.

clock: (*n*) chronometer, horologe, alarm, alarm clock, clepsydra, ticker, cuckoo clock, clock radio; (*n, v*) time, stopwatch; (*v*) measure.

cottage: (*n*) cabin, bungalow, crib, hut, villa, lodge, shanty, chalet, country house, house, cot.

lane: (*n*) alley, road, path, passage, avenue, way, track, aisle, side street, line, artery.

lone: (*adj*) forlorn, lonely, only, solitary, individual, single, sole, separate, isolated, one, solo. ANTONYM: (*adj*) attached.

mortal: (*adj*) deadly, fatal, lethal, deathly, earthly; (*n*) man, individual, creature, person, human being, body. ANTONYMS: (*adj, n*) immortal; (*adj*) eternal, heavenly, mild, perfect,

spiritual.

overtaking: (*n*) passing, overtake, pass, going, expiration, loss, departure, exit.

terror: (*n, v*) alarm, scare; (*adj, n*) dread, awe; (*n*) fear, dismay, consternation, horror, panic, apprehension, scourge.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) peace, security, delight, calm, confidence.

wishes: (*n*) desires, requirements, requests, needs, will.

“Oh!” said Coggan, surprised; “what’s going on to-night then, make so bold Mr. Oak?”

It seemed rather ungenerous not to tell Coggan, under the circumstances, for Coggan had been true as steel all through the time of Gabriel’s **unhappiness** about Bathsheba, and Gabriel said, “You can keep a secret, Coggan?”

“You’ve proved me, and you know.”

“Yes, I have, and I do know. Well, then, mistress and I mean to get married to-morrow morning.”

“Heaven’s high **tower!** And yet I’ve thought of such a thing from time to time; true, I have. But keeping it so close! Well, there, ‘tis no consarn of of mine, and I wish ‘ee joy o’ her.”

“Thank you, Coggan. But I assure ‘ee that this great **hush** is not what I wished for at all, or what either of us would have wished if it hadn’t been for certain things that would make a gay wedding seem hardly the thing. Bathsheba has a great wish that all the parish shall not be in church, looking at her—she’s shylike and nervous about it, in fact—so I be doing this to **humour** her.”

“Ay, I see: quite right, too, I suppose I must say. And you be now going down to the clerk.”

“Yes; you may as well come with me.”

“I am afeard your labour in keeping it close will be throwed away,” said Coggan, as they walked along. “Labe Tall’s old woman will **horn** it all over parish in half-an-hour.”

“So she will, upon my life; I never thought of that,” said Oak, pausing. “Yet I must tell him to-night, I suppose, for he’s working so far off, and leaves early.”

“I’ll tell ‘ee how we could **tackle** her,” said Coggan. “I’ll **knock** and ask to speak to Laban outside the door, you standing in the background. Then he’ll come out, and you can tell yer **tale**. She’ll never guess what I want en for; and I’ll make up a few words about the farm-work, as a blind.”

Thesaurus

horn: (*n*) car horn, antler, klaxon, cornet, French horn, ivory, foghorn, cornu, alarm, trumpet, arm.

humour: (*n*) fun, wit, witticism, body fluid, temper, mood, amiability, drollery, disposition; (*adj*) humorous; (*v*) gratify.

hush: (*adj, n, v*) calm, silence, quiet, still, lull; (*n*) peace; (*v*) shut up, gag, quieten, muffle; (*adj, v*) soothe. ANTONYMS: (*n*) noise, turmoil; (*v*) Louden.

knock: (*n, v*) hit, blow, bang, bump, tap, strike, whack, bash, punch, cuff; (*n*) crash. ANTONYMS: (*n*) improvement, boost; (*v*) encourage, bolster, approve.

tackle: (*n*) equipment, rigging, kit, paraphernalia, rig, fishing tackle; (*v*) harness, deal with, handle, undertake, set about. ANTONYMS: (*v*) forget, ignore, dodge, neglect.

tale: (*n*) account, narrative, narration, recital, fib, fable, report, fiction, lie,

relation, yarn. ANTONYM: (*n*) fact. **tower:** (*n*) column, spire, steeple, pinnacle, pylon, castle; (*adj, n*) pillar; (*v*) ascend, rise, loom, arise.

unhappiness: (*n*) sadness, misery, melancholy, distress, grief, regret, infelicity, woe, sorrowfulness, depression, displeasure. ANTONYMS: (*n*) cheerfulness, pleasure, joy, elation, contentment, satisfaction, cheer.

This scheme was considered **feasible**; and Coggan advanced boldly, and rapped at Mrs. Tall's door. Mrs. Tall herself opened it.

"I wanted to have a word with Laban."

"He's not at home, and won't be this side of eleven o'clock. He've been forced to go over to Yalbury since shutting out work. I shall do quite as well."

"I hardly think you will. Stop a moment;" and Coggan stepped round the corner of the porch to **consult** Oak.

"Who's t'other man, then?" said Mrs. Tall.

"Only a friend," said Coggan.

"Say he's wanted to meet mistress near church-hatch to-morrow morning at ten," said Oak, in a whisper. "That he must come without fail, and wear his best clothes."

"The clothes will floor us as safe as houses!" said Coggan.

"It can't be helped," said Oak. "Tell her."

So Coggan delivered the message. "Mind, het or wet, blow or snow, he must come," added Jan. "'Tis very particular, indeed. The fact is, 'tis to **witness** her sign some law-work about taking shares wi' another farmer for a long **span** o' years. There, that's what 'tis, and now I've told 'ee, Mother Tall, in a way I shouldn't ha' done if I hadn't loved 'ee so **hopeless** well."

Coggan retired before she could ask any further; and next they called at the vicar's in a manner which excited no **curiosity** at all. Then Gabriel went home, and prepared for the morrow.

"Liddy," said Bathsheba, on going to bed that night, "I want you to call me at seven o'clock to-morrow, in case I shouldn't wake."

"But you always do wake **afore** then, ma'am."

"Yes, but I have something important to do, which I'll tell you of when the time comes, and it's best to make sure."

Thesaurus

afore: (*adv*) ahead, along, before, forwards, formerly, beforehand, previously; (*adj*) erewhile, beforehand, theretofore, preceding.

consult: (*v*) consider, negotiate, deliberate, advise, refer, discuss, ask, reason, look up, canvass; (*n, v*) talk. ANTONYMS: (*v*) ignore, bypass.

curiosity: (*n*) curiousness, rarity, interest, curio, oddity, prying, nosiness, peculiarity, novelty, marvel; (*adj, n*) prodigy.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) emotionlessness, indifference, disinterest.

feasible: (*adj*) probable, possible, fit, viable, available, practical, credible, achievable, likely, doable, realizable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) impossible, unlikely, impracticable, impractical, inconceivable, infeasible, unfeasible, unrealistic, implausible.

hopeless: (*adj*) incurable, despondent, forlorn, disconsolate, desperate, impossible, useless, abject, despair,

dismal, irreparable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cheerful, competent, promising, optimistic, encouraging, helpful, useful, successful, practical, laudable, effective.

span: (*n*) length, distance, couple, range, period, extent, pair; (*n, v*) bridge, reach, stretch; (*v*) cross.

Bathsheba, however, awoke **voluntarily** at four, nor could she by any contrivance get to sleep again. About six, being quite positive that her watch had stopped during the night, she could wait no longer. She went and **tapped** at Liddy's door, and after some labour awoke her.

"But I thought it was I who had to call you?" said the bewildered Liddy. "And it isn't six yet."

"Indeed it is; how can you tell such a story, Liddy? I know it must be ever so much past seven. Come to my room as soon as you can; I want you to give my hair a good brushing."

When Liddy came to Bathsheba's room her mistress was already waiting. Liddy could not understand this extraordinary promptness. "Whatever *is* going on, ma'am?" she said.

"Well, I'll tell you," said Bathsheba, with a **mischievous** smile in her bright eyes. "Farmer Oak is coming here to **dine** with me to-day!"

"Farmer Oak – and nobody else? – you two alone?"

"Yes."

"But is it safe, ma'am, after what's been said?" asked her companion, dubiously. "A woman's good name is such a **perishable** article that – –"

Bathsheba laughed with a flushed cheek, and whispered in Liddy's ear, although there was nobody present. Then Liddy stared and exclaimed, "Souls alive, what news! It makes my heart go quite bumpity-bump!"

"It makes mine rather furious, too," said Bathsheba. "However, there's no getting out of it now!"

It was a damp **disagreeable** morning. Nevertheless, at twenty minutes to ten o'clock, Oak came out of his house, and

Went up the hill side
With that sort of **stride**
A man puts out when walking in search of a bride,

Thesaurus

dine: (*v*) feed, lunch, breakfast, dining, meal, give, have supper, take tea, grub, consume, entertain.

ANTONYM: (*v*) abstain.

disagreeable: (*adj*) nasty, offensive, uncomfortable, distasteful, cantankerous, cross, ungrateful, abhorrent, horrible, bad, painful.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pleasant, friendly, amiable, inoffensive, acceptable, desirable, easygoing, happy, pleasing, sweet, nice.

mischievous: (*adj*) bad, injurious, detrimental, naughty, deleterious, impish, harmful, playful, maleficent, arch; (*adj, v*) hurtful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) harmless, serious.

perishable: (*adj*) mortal, temporary, frail, corruptible, transitory, dying words, dying day, caduke, dying; (*adj, v*) unstable; (*v*) precarious. ANTONYM: (*adj*) durable.

stride: (*n, v*) pace, tread, walk, stalk, rate, toddle, stump; (*n*) footstep, gait,

progress; (*v*) march.

tapped: (*adj*) poor, powerless, helpless. ANTONYM: (*adj*) untapped.

voluntarily: (*adv*) spontaneously, willingly, intentionally, willfully, voluntarily, deliberately, gratuitously, readily, optionally, independently, unforcedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) obligatory, reluctantly, forced, grudgingly, unwillingly.

and knocked Bathsheba's door. Ten minutes later a large and a smaller **umbrella** might have been seen moving from the same door, and through the mist along the road to the church. The distance was not more than a quarter of a mile, and these two sensible persons deemed it unnecessary to drive. An observer must have been very close indeed to discover that the forms under the umbrellas were those of Oak and Bathsheba, arm-in-arm for the first time in their lives, Oak in a **greatcoat extending** to his knees, and Bathsheba in a cloak that reached her clogs. Yet, though so **plainly** dressed there was a certain **rejuvenated** appearance about her:—

As though a rose should shut and be a bud again.

Repose had again incarnadined her cheeks; and having, at Gabriel's request, arranged her hair this morning as she had worn it years ago on Norcombe Hill, she seemed in his eyes remarkably like a girl of that fascinating dream, which, considering that she was now only three or four-and-twenty, was perhaps not very wonderful. In the church were Tall, Liddy, and the parson, and in a remarkably short space of time the deed was done.

The two sat down very quietly to tea in Bathsheba's parlour in the evening of the same day, for it had been arranged that Farmer Oak should go there to live, since he had as yet neither money, house, nor **furniture** worthy of the name, though he was on a sure way towards them, whilst Bathsheba was, comparatively, in a **plethora** of all three.

Just as Bathsheba was pouring out a cup of tea, their ears were greeted by the **firing** of a cannon, followed by what seemed like a tremendous **blowing** of trumpets, in the front of the house.

"There!" said Oak, laughing, "I knew those **fellows** were up to something, by the look on their faces"

Thesaurus

blowing: (*n*) processing, insufflation, bravado; (*v*) fanning, blow out; (*adj*) windy, breezy.

extending: (*adj*) expanding.

fellows: (*n*) fellow, membership, faculty.

firing: (*n, v*) discharge, explosion; (*n*) dismissal, fire, combustion, sack, lighting, dismissal, release; (*adj*) combustible; (*v*) burst.

furniture: (*n*) fitment, equipment, appliance, fixture, appointments,

furnishings, goods, dresser, article of furniture, cabinet; (*v*) stuff.

greatcoat: (*n*) coat, topcoat, capote, chesterfield, surcoat, Ulster.

plainly: (*adv*) evidently, manifestly, clearly, distinctly, openly, obviously, patently, overtly, definitely; (*adj, adv*) frankly, honestly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) imperceptibly, vaguely, obscurely, figuratively, unclearly, politely, incoherently, implicitly, finely, ambiguously, covertly.

plethora: (*n*) abundance, overplus, overabundance, nimiety, overflow, plenty, store, repletion, surfeit, surplus, redundancy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) scarcity, insufficiency, lack, shortage.

rejuvenated: (*adj*) convalescent, revitalized, revived, invigorated.

umbrella: (*n*) parasol, sunshade, shelter, canopy, cover, gamp, protection, tent, shield, screen, umbra.

Oak took up the light and went into the porch, followed by Bathsheba with a **shawl** over her head. The rays fell upon a group of male figures gathered upon the gravel in front, who, when they saw the newly-married couple in the porch, set up a loud "Hurrah!" and at the same moment bang again went the cannon in the background, followed by a **hideous** clang of music from a drum, tambourine, clarionet, **serpent**, **hautboy**, tenor-viol, and double-bass—the only remaining **relics** of the true and original Weatherbury band—venerable worm-eaten instruments, which had celebrated in their own persons the victories of Marlborough, under the fingers of the **forefathers** of those who played them now. The performers came forward, and marched up to the front.

"Those bright boys, Mark Clark and Jan, are at the bottom of all this," said Oak. "Come in, souls, and have something to eat and drink wi' me and my wife."

"Not to-night," said Mr. Clark, with evident **self-denial**. "Thank ye all the same; but we'll call at a more **seemly** time. However, we couldn't think of letting the day pass without a note of admiration of some sort. If ye could send a drop of som'at down to Warren's, why so it is. Here's long life and happiness to neighbour Oak and his comely bride!"

"Thank ye; thank ye all," said Gabriel. "A bit and a drop shall be sent to Warren's for ye at once. I had a thought that we might very likely get a **salute** of some sort from our old friends, and I was saying so to my wife but now."

"Faith," said Coggan, in a critical tone, turning to his companions, "the man hev learnt to say 'my wife' in a wonderful naterel way, considering how very youthful he is in wedlock as yet—hey, neighbours all?"

"I never heerd a skilful old married feller of twenty years' standing pipe 'my wife' in a more used note than 'a did,'" said Jacob Smallbury. "It might have been a little more true to nater if't had been spoke a little chillier, but that wasn't to be expected just now."

"That improvement will come wi' time," said Jan, twirling his eye.

Thesaurus

forefathers: (*n*) patriarchs, forefather, ancestor, colony, lineage, family.

hautboy: (*n*) hautbois, corno di bassetto, basset horn, hobo, serpent, basset oboe, bassoon, contrafagotto, cor anglais, corno Inglese, double bassoon.

hideous: (*adj*) dreadful, frightful, fearful, ghastly, horrid, ugly, repulsive, lurid, horrible, grisly, grim. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lovely, pleasant, beautiful, wonderful.

relics: (*n*) relic, rood, rosary, thurible, reliquary, remainder, remain, leavings, remains, remnants, patera. **salute:** (*v*) greet, hail, kiss, accolade, acknowledge, buss; (*n*) salutation, bow, salaam; (*n, v*) address, compliment.

seemly: (*adj, v*) befitting, becoming; (*adj, adv*) comely; (*adj*) respectable, decorous, decent, fitting, fit, appropriate; (*adv*) becomingly, properly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

unseemly, unbecoming, unsuitable, inappropriate.

self-denial: (*n*) renunciation, abstinence, austerity, restraint, temperance.

serpent: (*n*) snake, ophidian, viper, snake in the grass, reptile, rattlesnake, colubrid, contrafagotto, cor anglais, hautboy; (*v*) goose.

shawl: (*n*) wrap, mantle, cape, muffler, scarf, pall, mantlet Mantua, wrapper, kerchief, headscarf, stole.

Then Oak laughed, and Bathsheba smiled (for she never laughed **readily** now), and their friends turned to go.

“Yes; I suppose that’s the size o’ t,” said Joseph Poorgrass with a **cheerful sigh** as they moved away; “and I wish him joy o’ her; though I were once or twice upon saying to-day with **holy** Hosea, in my **scripture** manner, which is my second nature. ‘Ephraim is **joined** to idols: let him alone.’ But since ‘tis as ‘tis why, it might have been worse, and I feel my **thanks** accordingly.”

Thesaurus

cheerful: (*adj, v*) buoyant; (*adj*) breezy, merry, optimistic, pleasant, glad, blithe, carefree, bright, lively, happy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) depressed, gloomy, sad, depressing, grim, hopeless, miserable, morose, somber, dejected, unwelcoming.

holy: (*adj*) devout, divine, heavenly, religious, blessed, hallowed, spiritual, devotional, pure; (*adj, adv*) saintly; (*adv*) sacredly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) irreligious, unholy.

joined: (*adj*) coupled, united, allied, connected, joint, associated, linked, amalgamated, concerted, incorporated; (*n*) joining. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) disjointed, rival.

readily: (*adv*) easily, lightly, freely, quickly, immediately, instantly, willingly, soon, eagerly; (*adj, adv*) handily, smoothly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) grudgingly, eventually, reluctantly, unenthusiastically.

scripture: (*adj, n*) gospel; (*n*) bible,

book, Holy Writ, canon, writ, inscription, writing, Vulgate, fact, Holy Scripture.

sigh: (*n, v*) groan, suspire, murmur; (*v*) breathe, languish, pine; (*n*) breath, wail, whimper, whine, suspiration.

thanks: (*n*) acknowledgment, gratitude, blessing, grace, praise, gratefulness, recognition, credit, benediction, thankfulness; (*int*) thank you. ANTONYMS: (*n*) criticism, blame.

GLOSSARY

- aaron:** (n) hank Aaron
- abament:** (n) humiliation, abjection, depression, degeneration, fall, deterioration, disgrace, degeneracy, abjectness, dejection, sinking
- abashed:** (adj, v) discomfited; (adj) mortified, sheepish, embarrassed, ashamed, confused, humiliated, afraid, shamefaced, confounded; (v) dashed. ANTONYMS: (adj) proud, undaunted, reassured, pleased, heartened, emboldened, cool, confident, composed, relaxed, unabashed
- abated:** (adj) slack
- abel:** (n) Niels Henrik Abel
- abide:** (v) endure, bide, undergo, tolerate, take, suffer, stomach, bear, brook; (adj, v) stay, dwell. ANTONYMS: (v) check, depart, disallow, disapprove, disbelieve, journey, dodge, leave, migrate, move, pass
- abiding:** (adj) immortal, stable, constant, everlasting, lasting, enduring, perpetual, eternal, perennial, continuing, imperishable. ANTONYMS: (adj) ephemeral, fleeting, impermanent, temporary, passing, mortal, erratic, inconstant
- able-bodied:** (adj) strong, stout, hale, muscular, healthy, athletic, burly, well, hardy, fit, brawny
- abode:** (n) dwelling, house, residence, place, domicile, lodge, abidance, mansion, lodging, address, seat
- abounding:** (adj) rich, abundant, full, rife, replete, affluent, wealthy, plentiful, ample, fraught, prolific. ANTONYM: (adj) poor
- abraded:** (adj) scraped, raw, scratched
- abreast:** (adv) opposite, acquainted, off, au fait, alongside, on one side, abeam; (adj) near, aligned, knowledgeable; (prep) against. ANTONYMS: (adv) uninformed, lost, unaware
- abruptness:** (n) gradient, shortness, slope, brusqueness, curtness, steepness, haste, hurriedness, rudeness, brevity, hastiness. ANTONYMS: (n) gradualness, courtesy, friendliness, gentleness, pleasantness
- absently:** (adv) absentmindedly, missingly, lackingly, inattentively, wantingly, offly, deficiently, lostly, removedly, preoccupiedly, outly
- absorbing:** (adj) fascinating, engrossing, charming, enthralling, gripping, captivating, riveting, absorbent, attractive, readable; (adj, v) exciting. ANTONYMS: (adj) dull, irksome, tedious, repellent, uninteresting
- abstain:** (v) desist, forbear, avoid, give up, eschew, withhold, cease, decline, fast, neglect; (adj, v) deny oneself. ANTONYMS: (v) consume, yield, use, surrender, partake, indulge, imbibe, persist, vote, eat
- abstracted:** (adj) absentminded, separate, absent-minded, abstract, distrait, inattentive, pensive, preoccupied, remote, lost, vacant. ANTONYM: (adj) alert
- abstractedly:** (adv) absently, distractedly, distantly, pensively, separately, preoccupiedly, abstractly, removedly, dreamily, absent-mindedly, scatterbrainedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) carefully, clearly, calmly
- abstruse:** (adj) esoteric, obscure, abstract, difficult, deep, cryptic, mysterious, occult, complex, dark, intricate. ANTONYMS: (adj) simple, direct, clear, lucid, plain, obvious, mainstream, concrete, comprehensible, easy, accessible
- absurdity:** (n) absurdness, nonsense, silliness, nonsensicality, meaninglessness, illogicality, stupidity, folly, fatuity, idiocy, preposterousness. ANTONYMS: (n) logic, reasonableness, worthiness, solemnity, sensibleness
- absurdly:** (adv) ridiculously, foolishly, ludicrously, nonsensically, idiotically, silly, stupidly, inconsistently, comically, illogically, irrationally. ANTONYMS: (adv) solemnly, impressively, rationally, harmoniously
- abundantly:** (adv) copiously, richly, fully, generously, bounteously, plentifully, plenteously, freely, exuberantly, largely, bountifully. ANTONYMS: (adv) fruitlessly, insufficiently, stingily, meagerly, scantily
- accenting:** (n) action, accentuation
- accomplish:** (v) perform, reach, do, compass, perfect, attain, make, fulfill, realize, execute, carry out. ANTONYMS: (v) abandon, neglect, choke, blow, lose
- accordance:** (n) harmony, agreement, conformity, unison, concordance, coincidence, accordancy, admission, fitness, consensus, concert
- according:** (adj) pursuant, consonant, equal, agreeable, harmonious, conformable, consistent, corresponding, respondent; (adv) correspondingly, accordingly
- accoutrements:** (n) accouterments, trappings, paraphernalia, equipment, gear, dress, clothes, apparel, attire
- accused:** (adj) execrable, abominable, detestable, accurst, hateful, damned, damnable, maledict, blasted; (v) atrocious, stranded
- accuse:** (v) charge, incriminate, arraign, denounce, defame, criminate, indict, fault, betray, condemn, inculpate. ANTONYMS: (v) absolve, exculpate, exonerate, praise, support, clear

accustomed: (adj, n) habitual; (adj) familiar, normal, wonted, usual, natural, everyday, ordinary, habituated, common, traditional. ANTONYMS: (adj) unusual, green, unseasoned, unconventional, untrained, abnormal, uncharacteristic, exceptional

ache: (n, v) hunger, pain, hurt, yen; (n) twinge, thirst; (v) long, yearn, itch, smart, pine. ANTONYMS: (v) help, assist; (n) comfort, ease, health, relief, joy

aching: (adj) sore, achy, hurt, uncomfortable, tender, hurtful, agonizing; (n) ache, pain, hurting; (v) griped

acme: (n) crown, peak, pinnacle, top, apex, height, summit, vertex, climax, zenith, crest. ANTONYMS: (n) bottom, lowest, valley, base, pit, trough

acquaintanceship: (n) familiarity, relationship, association, friendship, awareness

acquainted: (adj) knowledgeable, informed, aware, cognizant, conversant, hand and glove, intimate, thick; (adv) abreast; (v) inform, acquaint

actuated: (adj) motivated, actuate

a-day: (n) target date

adept: (adj, n) expert; (adj) skillful, able, accomplished, experienced, capable, smart, clever, adroit; (n) virtuoso, whiz. ANTONYMS: (adj) incompetent, inept, awkward, bumbling, fumbling, unskilled

adhere: (v) abide, cleave, accede, bond, cling, attach, stick, bind, persist, sustain; (adj, v) agree. ANTONYMS: (v) separate, repel, unfasten, loose, loosen

adhering: (adj, v) adhesive; (n) adherence; (adj) partisan; (prep) on; (v) cohesive

adieu: (int, n) farewell; (n) vale, valediction, goodbye, leave, cheerio, adios, bye, so long, parting; (int) bon voyage. ANTONYM: (n) greeting

adjourning: (v) adjourn

admirably: (adv) superbly, perfectly, excellently, admirable, marvellously, heroically, bravely, brilliantly, nicely, creditably, ably. ANTONYMS: (adv) badly, inadequately, dishonorably, execrably, incompetently, poorly

adored: (adj) loved, respected, precious, idolized, idolised, acclaimed, blessed, favorite, dearly loved, beloved, venerated

advantageous: (adj) expedient, useful, auspicious, helpful, gainful, serviceable, convenient, lucky, worthwhile, beneficial; (adj, v) profitable. ANTONYMS: (adj) useless, disadvantageous, detrimental, unhelpful, unfortunate, inauspicious, worthless, unpleasant

adventurer: (n) venturer, speculator, plunger, argonaut, traveler, daredevil, gambler, adventurers, carpetbagger, divers, mercenary. ANTONYMS: (n) killjoy, milquetoast

adversity: (n) hardship, calamity, disaster, distress, misadventure, affliction, fatality, catastrophe, trial, trouble, tragedy. ANTONYMS: (n) favor, prosperity, fortune, aid, help, opportunity, privilege

afar: (adv) off, away, far away, distantly, beyond, Afar off, in the distance, by far, apart; (adj) outlying, far. ANTONYMS: (adv) close, nearby, near; (prep) within

afear: (adj) afraid

affections: (n) bosom

affixed: (adj) additional

afflict: (n, v) pain, distress; (v) trouble, grieve, torment, hurt, strike, aggravate, smite, bother, disturb. ANTONYMS: (v) aid, comfort, encourage, help, soothe

afflicted: (adj) miserable, distressed, stricken, pitiful, sorrowful, ill, woeful, dejected, sorry; (v) afflict, displeased

affliction: (n, v) adversity; (n) distress, regret, martyrdom, torment, curse, trial, bane, misadventure, sorrow, agony. ANTONYMS: (n) gift, godsend, solace, blessing

affright: (v) frighten, scare, horrify, startle, terrorize, terrify, intimidate; (n) dread, alarm, fear; (n, v) fright

affield: (adj) astray, awry; (adv) aboard, on board, at home, everywhere, here, there, wrong, amiss, where

afflame: (adj) ablaze, burning, excited, afire, passionate, fiery, on fire, flaming, alight, reddened, red. ANTONYM: (adj) pale

afore: (adv) ahead, along, before, forwards, formerly, beforehand, previously; (adj) erewhile, beforehand, theretofore, preceding

aforehand: (adj) theretofore, erewhile, ere; (adv) beforehand

aforsaid: (adj) aforementioned, said, foregoing, above-mentioned, same,

preceding, former, foresaid

afresh: (adv) again, newly, over again, new, once again, freshly, once more, often; (adj) the other day, just now, only yesterday

aggrandizement: (n) elevation, exaggeration, exaltation, growth, increase, promotion, rise, aggravation, dilation, refraction, spread

aggrieved: (adj) injured, offended, hurt, persecuted, harmed, pained, resentful, indignant, bitter, angry, affronted. ANTONYMS: (adj) assisted, comforted, happy, pleased, unaffected

aghost: (adj) dismayed, appalled, horrified, frightened, scared, terrified, confounded, astonished; (n) agape; (v) all agog, breathless. ANTONYMS: (adj) undisturbed, unperturbed, unsurprised

agitated: (adj) upset, excited, nervous, restive, tumultuous, distressed, tense, jumpy, overwrought, anxious, alarmed. ANTONYMS: (adj) calm, lethargic, tranquil, relaxed, assured, cool, still

agitating: (adj) stirring, provoking, poignant, vexatious, sensational, provocative, afflictive, terrific

aglow: (adj) glowing, radiant, brilliant, ablaze, bright, lambent, lucent, luminous, light; (v) alight

agonized: (adj) distressed, painful, woeful, tormented, suffering, miserable, hurt

agonizing: (adj, v) excruciating; (adj) painful, harrowing, poignant, grievous, agonising, torturous, heartbreaking, sore, anguished, aching. ANTONYMS: (adj) restful, painless, enjoyable, easy, bearable, wonderful, unemotional

airs: (n, v) pretension; (n) affectation, pride, pose, pretensions, attitude; (adj, n) arrogance; (v) precisionism, euphuism, purism, pedantry. ANTONYMS: (n) humility, personality, realness, truthfulness, honesty

ajar: (v) dissentient, unclosed, unstopped, wide open, out of tune; (adj) open, gaping, partly open, not closed

alarming: (adj) scary, alarm, awful, formidable, shocking, appalling, awesome, dire, horrid, horrible, dreadful. ANTONYMS: (adj) soothing, lovely, normal

alder: (n) wood, alder tree

allotted: (adj) agreed, chosen, fixed,

- selected
- allude:** (v) advert, refer, hint, glance, intimate, suggest, touch, bring up, mean, notice, pertain
- alluring:** (adj) tempting, charming, attractive, enticing, beguiling, glamorous, magnetic, enchanting, enthralling, appealing, appetizing. ANTONYMS: (adj) unappealing, unattractive, dull, repulsive
- allusion:** (n) innuendo, reference, cue, suggestion, mention, intimation, pointer, insinuation, implication, indication, clue
- aloft:** (adj, adv) overhead; (adv) up, on high, over, aloof, upwards, uphill, above ground; (prep) upon; (adj) eminent, lofty
- alternating:** (adj) intermittent, recurrent, irregular, regular, every other, blinking, successive; (adv) back and forth. ANTONYM: (adj) direct
- amalgamated:** (adj) amalgamate, mixed, fused, merged, combined, consolidated, integrated, joined, coalesced, incorporated, unified. ANTONYM: (adj) disjointed
- amaranthine:** (adj) unfading, immortal, undying, eternal, unending, never-ending, evergreen, endless, ceaseless, everlasting
- amble:** (n, v) stroll, walk, ramble, trot, wander, run, hike; (v) mosey, dawdle, gallop; (n) promenade. ANTONYMS: (v) race, hurry, run, stride
- amelioration:** (n) betterment, advance, improvement, melioration, enhancement, reformation, advancement, correction, progress, reform, relief
- amen:** (adj) right, correct; (n) Amon; (adv) positively, yes
- amends:** (n) atonement, compensation, recompense, satisfaction, redress, damages, reprisal, indemnity, requal; (n, v) restitution, restoration
- amor:** (n) Cupid
- amorous:** (adj) amatory, romantic, amative, affectionate, passionate, fond, warm, ardent, erotic, tender, impassioned. ANTONYMS: (adj) cold, hateful, repulsed, unfriendly, cool
- amply:** (adj, adv) abundantly, sufficiently; (adv) fully, well, lavishly, plentifully, richly, generously, enough, adequately, capaciously. ANTONYMS: (adv) meagerly, inadequately, illiberally,
- sparingly, poorly
- anachronism:** (n) anomaly, artefact, artifact, parochronism, prochronism, timekeeping, mistiming, antichronism, misdating
- anathema:** (n) imprecation, curse, execration, abomination, commination, ban, malison, bane, fulmination, maranatha; (adj, n) taboo. ANTONYMS: (n) blessing, love, beloved
- anew:** (adv) again, newly, lately, recently, over again, once more, once again, new; (adj) only yesterday, the other day, just now
- angelic:** (adj) cherubic, heavenly, seraphic, virtuous, celestial, beautiful, angelical, divine, good, holy, saintly. ANTONYMS: (adj) devilish, demonic, dark, wicked
- angularity:** (n) angular, angularness, bend, triangularity, rectangularity, plication, oblongness, jog, furcation, fold, crease
- animated:** (adj) alive, lively, animate, perky, spirited, sprightly, brisk, cheerful, quick, vivacious, airy. ANTONYMS: (adj) lethargic, dull, blank, lifeless, spiritless, stiff, unanimated, bored, impassive, unexciting, dead
- animating:** (adj) enlivening, invigorating, inspiring, inspiring, proceusmatic, stirring, exhilarating, glad, animated, exciting; (n) awakening
- animation:** (adj, n) life, vivacity; (n) liveliness, vitality, activity, spirit, exhilaration, dash, energy, buoyancy; (adj) alacrity. ANTONYMS: (n) lethargy, lifelessness, inertness, inertia, sluggishness, boredom
- annals:** (n) history, record, account, records, register, story, roll, almanac, diary, legend, yearbook
- annihilate:** (v) eradicate, exterminate, eliminate, wipe out, extinguish, destroy, quash, crush, demolish, quench, extirpate. ANTONYMS: (v) build, help, save, protect, surrender
- annihilating:** (adj) crushing, annihilative, destructive, withering, disrespectful
- anointed:** (adj) hallowed, divine, greasy; (v) anoint
- anointing:** (v) plating, barrel plating; (n) inunction, anointment
- antagonist:** (n) opponent, adversary, enemy, foe, rival, match, opposition, opposer, assailant, opposite, competitor. ANTONYMS: (n)
- supporter, advocate, colleague, synergist, ally, defender
- antagonistic:** (adj) counter, opposite, opposed, conflicting, averse, warlike, inimical, unfriendly, repugnant, contrary; (adj, v) adverse. ANTONYMS: (adj) synergistic, conciliating, peaceable, peaceful, compatible, agreeable, sympathetic
- antecedent:** (adj, n, v) precedent; (n) precursor, forerunner, forebear, forefather, predecessor; (adj) anterior, past, former, preceding, prior. ANTONYMS: (adj) subsequent, after, following, later, posterior; (n) successor
- antecedently:** (adv) precedently, anteriorly, precedingly, formerly, foregoingly, priorly, before, firstly, forward, fore, ahead
- anticlimax:** (n) bathos, letdown, fall, end, downfall, close, closing, conclusion, ending, frustration, disappointment
- antics:** (n) sport, monkey business
- antiquity:** (n) ancientness, ancientry, past, relic, status quo, artefact, artifact, oldness, old age, hoariness; (adj, n) age. ANTONYMS: (n) today, newness, modernity
- antithetic:** (adj) antithetical, different, opposing, polar, contradictory
- apace:** (adj, adv) speedily, quickly; (adv) fast, rapidly, hastily, soon, promptly; (adj) forthwith, immediately, incontinently, shortly. ANTONYM: (adv) slowly
- apathy:** (n) indifference, inactivity, lassitude, inertia, lethargy, passivity, supineness, passiveness, lukewarmness, emotionlessness, impassivity. ANTONYMS: (n) keenness, energy, interest, inquisitiveness, vitality, drive, eagerness, concern, involvement, enjoyment, desire
- apex:** (n) top, peak, vertex, crown, acme, apices, extremity, height, summit, pinnacle, point. ANTONYMS: (n) base, nadir, trough, bottom, abyss, depth
- aphrodite:** (adj) peri, Apollo, Cupid, Hebe, narcissus, the Graces, Hyperion, houri, Venus; (n) Adonis, Cytherea
- apologetic:** (adj) regretful, sorry, contrite, penitent, rueful, alleged, ashamed, compunctious, deprecatory, apologize, regret. ANTONYMS: (adj) defensive, defiant, glad, recalcitrant, stubborn,

- unapologetic, unremorseful
apologize: (n) palliate, extenuate, apology, gloze; (n, v) excuse; (v) apologise, beg pardon, give satisfaction, justify, plead; (adj) sorry. ANTONYM: (v) defy
apoplectic: (adj) motionless
apotheosis: (n) deification, exaltation, ideal, paragon, canonization, worship, glorification, embodiment, epitome, angel, crackerjack
apparel: (n, v) garb, attire, garment, array, vesture; (n) clothing, finery, costume, clothes; (v) adorn, clothe
appellation: (n) designation, denomination, title, name, nickname, epithet, moniker, term, appellative, cognomen, degree
appertaining: (adj) appertinent
applauded: (adj) famous, highly praised, commended
appreciable: (adj, adv, v) perceptible, noticeable; (adj) considerable, respectable, conspicuous, palpable, discernible, apparent, manifest; (adj, adv) observable; (v) measurable. ANTONYMS: (adj) insignificant, inconsiderable, negligible, unnoticed
appreciative: (adj) grateful, supportive, indebted, appreciatory, complimentary, sympathetic, understanding, sensitive, discriminating, pleased, obliged. ANTONYMS: (adj) unkind, derogatory, uncomplimentary, disapproving, unsympathetic, negative
apprehended: (adj) arrested, seized, understood, under arrest, in custody, detained, appreciated, comprehended
apprehensively: (adv) uneasily, fearfully, worriedly, solicitously, timidly, restlessly, nervously, timorously, suspiciously, uncertainly, hesitantly. ANTONYMS: (adv) calmly, fearlessly, trustingly, unconcernedly
appropriated: (adj) taken, destined, taken over, confiscate, confiscated, condemned, seized, reserved
approving: (n) adoption, appreciation, admiration, acceptance; (adj) good, approbative, approbatory, sympathetic, favourable; (adv) approvingly; (v) approve. ANTONYMS: (adj) against, mocking, scornful, critical, negative, uncomplimentary; (n) disapproval
approximating: (prep) akin to, similar to; (n) smoothing; (adj) like, nearing
aptitude: (n) capability, skill, capacity, fitness, facility, dexterity, potential, talent, flair, gift, proficiency. ANTONYMS: (n) inability, inaptitude, stupidity, disinclination, incapacity, skilllessness, incompetence
aptly: (adv) fitly, appropriately, adroitly, appositely, fittingly, properly, readily, felicitously, handily, ably, pronely. ANTONYMS: (adv) incompetently, unsuitably
ararat: (n) Mount Ararat
arcadian: (adj) rustic, rural, idyllic, unsophisticated, bucolic, utopian, country, agrestic
arched: (adj, v) bowed, arcuate; (adj) bent, vaulted, convex, arciform, arched, domed, hooked, hunched, crooked
archness: (n) playfulness, craftiness, cunning, wiliness, slyness, perkiness, flippancy, hatred, astuteness, malice, pertness. ANTONYM: (n) humility
archway: (n) arcade, entry, entranceway, entryway, entree, doorway, entrance
arithmetic: (adj) arithmetical, numerical; (n) calculation, computation, algorithm, mathematics, math, estimate, weighing up; (v) fluxions, geometry
armoury: (n) arsenal, resourcefulness, foundry, imagination, metalworks, resource, inventory, armament
arouse: (v) wake, stir, agitate, excite, awaken, stimulate, anger, kindle, provoke, raise; (n, v) rouse. ANTONYMS: (v) calm, dampen, stifle, sedate, quiet, pacify, bore, allay, lull, quench, suppress
arrant: (adj) rank, unmitigated, thorough, stark, utter, ill, gross, infamous, bad, blatant, base. ANTONYM: (adj) minor
arterial: (n) arterials, cardinal, foremost, central, principal, prime, arteries, master, capital, major, basic
artery: (n) aorta, corridor, road, tendon, thoroughfare, celiac axis, Pipe-stem arteries, arteria, aisle, arteriola, arteriole
artfulness: (n) art, craft, diplomacy, subtlety, finesse, artifice, guile, disingenuousness, knack, deceit, craftiness. ANTONYM: (n) straightforwardness
artifice: (n, v) art; (n) ruse, deception, contrivance, artfulness, dodge, science, trickery, wile, proficiency, maneuver. ANTONYMS: (n) truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, naivete, inability, artlessness, incapacity, straightforwardness
artificially: (adv) synthetically, factitiously, affectedly, contrivedly, insincerely, unreally, feignedly, falsely, fictitiously, artfully, counterfeited. ANTONYM: (adv) naturally
ascend: (n, v) mount; (v) arise, scale, uprise, climb, go up, come up, increase, elevate; (n) ascending, ascent. ANTONYMS: (v) descend, drop, decline, fall, lower, set, sink
ascendant: (n) ancestor, forefather, ascending, progenitor, primogenitor; (adj) rising, predominant, regnant, prevalent, prevailing; (adj, n) ascendent. ANTONYMS: (adj) minor, downward
ascendancy: (n) ascendant, predominance, sway, ascendance, advantage, ascendent, control, dominance, dominion, influence, mastery
ascending: (adj) uphill, rising, assurgent, climbing, ascendent; (n) ascension, ascent, rise, advance, movement; (v) go up
askance: (adj) asquint, awry, askant, sidelong, oblique, indirect, squint; (adv) suspiciously, obliquely, mistrustfully, edgewise. ANTONYM: (adj) trustingly
aspiring: (adj) aspirant, wishful, enterprising, envious, desirous, coming; (v) aspire, vaulting. ANTONYM: (adj) desperate
assaying: (n) assay, judgment
assemblage: (n) meeting, collection, congregation, set, multitude, crew, confluence, gathering, gang, convention, convocation. ANTONYMS: (v) dispersal, scattering
assignable: (adj) negotiable, alienable, conveyable, allocatable, movable, referable, exchangeable, transferrable, ascribable, convertible
assignment: (n) meeting, tryst, engagement, date, assignment, apportionment, allocation, allocate, allotment, alienation, assign
assuredly: (adv) certainly, confidently, positively, securely, indeed, definitely, undoubtedly, admittedly, safely, insuredly, decidedly

assuring: (adj) ensuring, insure, insuring, assure, ensure, giving confidence, securing, likely, promising

astonish: (adj, v) astound; (adj, n, v) surprise; (adj) astonishing, surprised; (v) flabbergast, daze, confound, dazzle, stun, alarm, nonpluss. ANTONYMS: (v) expect, bore

astonishingly: (adj, adv) surprisingly, wonderfully, stupendously, strangely; (adv) astoundingly, marvelously, prodigiously, staggeringly, startlingly, extraordinarily, unusually. ANTONYMS: (adv) predictably, mildly

astounding: (adj) amazing, miraculous, wonderful, incredible, tremendous, spectacular, sensational, breathtaking, awesome, staggering, prodigious.

ANTONYMS: (adj) unremarkable, comforting, predictable, boring, insignificant

astray: (adj, adv) adrift, off course; (adj) lost, wrong, disoriented, awry; (adv) amiss, widely, far, afield, aside. ANTONYM: (adj) accurate

astronomical: (adj) vast, celestial, astrophysical, great, uranic, enormous, large, galactic, universal, elevated, excessive

atonement: (n) amends, reparation, satisfaction, compensation, penance, redress, redemption, reconciliation, recompense, propitiation, penitence

attaching: (n) fastening; (adj) adhesive

attainable: (adj) possible, obtainable, gettable, available, feasible, approachable, accessible, viable, doable, realistic, open.

ANTONYMS: (adj) unattainable, unachievable, impossible

attar: (n) Otto, ottar, atar, athar, Ferd-Eddn, perfume

attendants: (n) entourage, followers, retinue, tendance, persons present, suite

attentively: (adv) carefully, mindfully, watchfully, observantly, heedfully, vigilantly, cautiously, considerably, diligently, alertly, obligingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) unhelpfully, neglectfully, abruptly, carelessly, hastily, casually

attenuated: (adj) weakened, shriveled, rawboned, marcid, barebone, tabid, extenuated, diminished, reduced, rare,

decreased

attestation: (n) affirmation, evidence, confirmation, attest, assertion, certificate, proof, affidavit, verification, profession, approbation

attested: (adj) authenticated, documented, sworn, authoritative, avowed, genuine, historical, valid, attested to, guaranteed

auburn: (adj) bay, russet, reddish, foxy, coloured, dapple, coffee, chocolate, brunette; (adj, n) brown, tawny

audible: (adj) plain, hearable, distinct, detectable, sounding, sharp, sonic, definite, discernible, perceptible, sensory. ANTONYMS: (adj) inaudible, unintelligible, undetectable, silent, faint

auditing: (n) investigation

aurora: (n) daybreak, sunrise, dawn, morning, prime, cockcrow, dawning, dayspring, first light, Apollo, Eos. ANTONYM: (n) sunset

authorship: (n) source, paternity, writing, pencraft, fatherhood, origin, authorism, bookcraft, drafting; (n, v) composition; (v) publication

automaton: (n) robot, machine, android, mechanism, automata, zombi, zombie, anomaly

averseness: (n) aversion, declination, hesitation

aversion: (n) antipathy, distaste, abhorrence, disinclination, dislike, grudge, aversion, nausea, enmity, revulsion; (n, v) disgust.

ANTONYMS: (n) attraction, love, inclination, predilection, desire, fondness, goodwill

awaited: (adj) expected, appointed, scheduled, forthcoming, prospective

awakened: (adj) excited, aroused, awakens, awoke, interested

awakening: (n) arousal, waking up, revival, disenchantment, awakening, introduction, provocation; (adj) arousing, moving, animating; (v) awake. ANTONYM: (n) suppression

awaking: (n) waking, awakening

awe-struck: (adj) bewildered

awfulness: (n) terribleness, horridness, frightfulness, atrociousness, fearfulness, gravity, solemnity, ghastliness, horror, horribleness, terror. ANTONYMS: (n) insignificance, delight

awhile: (adj) in transitu, en passant; (adv) briefly

awkwardness: (n) embarrassment, stiffness, unwieldiness,

inconvenience, gawkiness, inelegance, troublesomeness, ineptitude, ineptness, gaucherie; (adj, n) delicacy. ANTONYMS: (n) gracefulness, grace, comfort, coordination, pride, urbanity, ease, assurance, liveliness, confidence, cooperation

awoke: (adj) awakened

babe: (n) infant, baby, chick, sweetie, suckling, nursling, child, newborn, chit, girl, darling. ANTONYMS: (n) grownup, adult, adolescent

babes: (n) babies, babe

bachelorship: (n) bachelorhood, celibacy, single, singleness, spinsterhood, unmarried

bade: (v) bid, command, bad

bailliff: (n) officer, underwriter, castellan, solicitor, seneschal, secretary, proctor, official, middleman, functionary, broker

baking: (adj) hot, scorching, roasting, burning, boiling, sweltering, torrid; (n) cookery, cooking, stoving, firing. ANTONYM: (adj) fresh

ballad: (n) song, folk song, carol, poem, ballade, recitative, solfeggio, pastoral, recitative, ditty, bravura

balusters: (n) bannister, banister, handrail, balustrade

bandage: (v) bind, wrap, dress, envelop; (adj, n) truss, tie; (n) swathe, binding, roller, gauze; (adj) string. ANTONYM: (v) undress

banish: (v) dispel, expel, displace, relegate, oust, expatriate, eject, dismiss, transport, cast out; (adj, v) exile. ANTONYMS: (v) keep, embrace, adopt, invite, include

banns: (n) announcement

bantam: (adj) petite, little, diminutive, tiny, small, midget, Lilliputian, piddling, petty, stunted; (n) dwarf. ANTONYMS: (adj) giant, huge, large

barbarian: (n) Goth, vandal, brute; (adj) heathen, barbaric, barbarous, uncivilized, uncultured, wild, rude, foreign. ANTONYMS: (adj) cultured, refined; (n) native, citizen

barbarous: (adj) barbaric, savage, gothic, brutal, heathen, truculent, rude, fell, ferocious, fierce, uncivilized. ANTONYMS: (adj) nice, cultured, civilized, sophisticated, refined, humane

bared: (adj) naked, unclothed, exposed

barefaced: (adj) insolent, brassy, open, bold, bald, audacious, blatant, impudent, overt, presumptuous,

- unconcealed. ANTONYMS: (adj) shamed, reserved, respectful, furtive, discreet, prudish, veiled, ashamed
- barking:** (adj) latrant; (n) abay, latration
- barrack:** (v) jeer, gibe, cheer, encourage, tantalize; (n) casern, tiling, casemate, planchment, plafond; (n, v) scoff
- barricade:** (n, v) barrier, blockade, barricado; (v) block, obstruct, hinder, dam; (n) obstruction, fence, rampart, hurdle. ANTONYMS: (n) opening; (v) open, expose, assist
- barter:** (n, v) trade, swap, truck, traffic, swop, switch; (v) bargain, change; (n) commutation, permutation, interchange
- bashful:** (adj) timid, diffident, ashamed, coy, backward, modest, shy, retiring, shrinking, mousy, blate. ANTONYMS: (adj) confident, loud, unabashed, swaggering, forward, brazen, brave, outgoing
- basting:** (n) tacking, dampening, moistening, tack, stitch, needlepoint, needlework, hemming, embroidery, tapestry, darning
- bated:** (adj) weak, faint, decreased
- bathe:** (adj, v) steep, lave, immerse, soak; (v) take a bath, tub, clean, rinse, bath; (n, v) swim; (n) bathing. ANTONYMS: (v) smudge, stain, soil, dip
- bathed:** (adj) traveled
- bather:** (n) traveler, traveller, surfer, floater, aquanaut, natator
- bathing:** (n) bathe, bath, shower, diversion, recreation, dip, washing, wash, purification, washup
- bayonet:** (n, v) spear; (n) sword, cutlass, Creese, stiletto, cimeter, broadsword, brand, dagger; (v) butt, eviscerate
- beaded:** (adj) beady, bejeweled, bejewelled, bespangled, covered, decorated, jeweled, sequined, spangled, spangly, gemmed
- beaker:** (n) goblet, bail, bowl, canakin, Billy, chalice, tumbler, cup, glass, container, jar
- beaming:** (adj) bright, radiant, glowing, glad, beamy, cheerful, refulgent, sunny, luminous, resplendent, incandescent. ANTONYMS: (adj) gloomy, dark, dusky, frowning, sad, sullen, tenebrous
- bearable:** (adj) endurable, sufferable, supportable, livable, admissible, allowable, sustainable, possible, reasonable, permissible, acceptable. ANTONYMS: (adj) insufferable, intolerable
- beckoning:** (adj) irresistible
- bedded:** (adj) lay, laminal, laminar, layered, foliate, foliated. ANTONYMS: (adj) unstratified, bedless
- bedding:** (n) litter, bed, bed linen, quilt, cover, stratification, spread, blanket, bed clothing, bottom, foundation
- bedstead:** (n) bed, berth, cot, bedframe, furniture, shakedown, pallet, stretcher, tester, stead, hatch
- beeches:** (n) Fagus
- beetle:** (v) project, jut, bulge; (adj) beetling, impend, bestride, mount, ride, protrusive; (n) mallet; (adj, v) hang over
- beetling:** (adj) soaring, prominent, protrusive, projecting, towering; (v) overhanging, jutting over
- befall:** (v) bechance, become, happen, fall, arise, come about, occur, betide, chance, transpire, pass
- begrudge:** (v) envy, covet, resent, stint, hang fire; (adj, v) pinch; (adj) hold back, screw, gripe, withhold, starve. ANTONYMS: (v) congratulate, wish
- beguile:** (v) attract, charm, enchant, allure, captivate, bluff, entrap, enthrall, lure, fascinate; (n, v) cheat. ANTONYMS: (v) protect, irritate, irk, bore, advise, guard, annoy, repel
- beheld:** (adj) visual
- behold:** (v) see, view, contemplate, regard, perceive, observe, look, consider, discern, descry, watch. ANTONYMS: (v) Miss, disregard, ignore, overlook
- beholden:** (adj) thankful, indebted, obliged, indebted to, appreciative, beholding; (adj, v) under obligation, bound; (v) bounden. ANTONYMS: (adj) unbound, ungrateful
- beholder:** (n) witness, looker, observer, onlooker, viewer, eyewitness, bystander, auditor, audile, passer by, watcher
- bellows:** (n) blower, lung, bellowing, blowpipe, organ; (v) air blower, air pump, fan, punkah, ventilator
- benevolent:** (adj) good, charitable, generous, kind, philanthropic, gracious, loving, amiable; (adj, n) beneficent, compassionate, kindly. ANTONYMS: (adj) malicious, unfeeling, mean, selfish, unkind, misanthropic, nasty, hardhearted, inhumane
- benumb:** (n, v) numb; (adj, n, v) blunt; (adj, n) obtund; (adj) anaesthetize; (v) daze, damp, stiffen, dull, petrify, paralyze, freeze
- bestowed:** (adj) presented, conferred, awarded, accurate
- betray:** (n) informer, Judas, turncoat, squealer, renegade, rat, cheat, cheater, conspirator, deceiver, source
- betwixt:** (n) midst; (prep) among, amid; (adv) atwixt
- bewailing:** (n) cry, grief, noise; (adj) lamenting; (v) querulous
- bewilderment:** (n) astonishment, quandary, confusion, surprise, wonder, bemusement, maze, chaos, jumble, mess; (adj, n) perplexity. ANTONYMS: (n) order, clarity
- bewitch:** (adj, n, v) fascinate; (adj, v) charm, attract; (v) enchant, entrance, enrapture, witch, spell, beguile, enamor; (n, v) allure. ANTONYM: (v) disgust
- bide:** (v) abide, await, endure, bear, remain, last, dwell; (adj, v) tarry, wait; (adj) tolerate, stand. ANTONYMS: (v) go, move, hurry
- binging:** (n) residence, habitation
- bigly:** (adv) hugely, largely, extensively, greatly, liberally, majorly, grossly, enormously, massively, elderly, grandly
- blackguard:** (n) ruffian, rogue, dog, rascal, heel, hound, cad; (adj) base, vile; (v) vituperate, revile
- blackness:** (n) black, darkness, sable, gloom, nigritude, night, inkiness, dark, murk, murkiness, obscurity
- blamable:** (adj) faulty, culpable, reprehensible, blameworthy, blameable, blameful, censurable, delinquent, reprovable, condemnable, accountable
- blankly:** (adj, adv) inanely, vacuously, expressionlessly; (adv) empty, hollowly, voidly, cleanly, impassively, stupidly, whitely, inexpressively. ANTONYM: (adv) brightly
- bleached:** (adj) blanched, artificial, attenuate, attenuated, biased, colored, coloured, dyed, faded, faint, fair
- bleat:** (v) blat, kvetch, gripe, moan, whimper, cry, blate, quetch, utter, emit; (n) baaing
- bleating:** (n) bleat, baaing
- blemish:** (n, v) stain, scar, flaw, blot, slur; (n) defect, stigma, fault; (v) deface; (adj, n) imperfection; (adj, v) disfigure. ANTONYMS: (v)

- enhance, beautify, embellish, improve; (n) perfection, enhancement
- blight:** (n, v) blast, decay, plague; (v) damage, wither, blemish, perish; (n) bane, pest, curse, rust. ANTONYMS: (v) aid, help, guard, protect, enhance, improve; (n) health, boon, bounty
- blinded:** (adj) blindfolded, blinder, blindly, reckless, unsighted, blindfold, dizzy
- blindness:** (n) cecity, sightlessness, ablepsy, ignorance, prestriction, execration, cataract, fog, anopia; (adj, n) darkness; (adj) anopsy
- blinking:** (adj) flickering, bally, blooming; (adj, n) winking; (n) shimmer, blink, wink, twinkling, nictation, blink of an eye, nictitation
- bliss:** (n) happiness, joy, ecstasy, pleasure, paradise, blessedness, felicity, elation, beatitude, heaven, blessing. ANTONYMS: (n) misery, sorrow, agony, grief, anguish, sadness, suffering, gloom, hell, dissatisfaction
- blissful:** (adj) happy, heavenly, merry, joyful, delighted, glad, cheerful, delightful, ecstatic, elated, blest. ANTONYMS: (adj) unhappy, grieving, sad, sorrowful, depressed, unpleasant, down, dreadful
- blithe:** (adj) cheerful, lighthearted, breezy, pleasant, merry, carefree, buoyant, facetious, gay, happy, animated. ANTONYMS: (adj) unhappy, sorrowful, miserable, downhearted, depressed, anxious, sad, heavy, gloomy, serious, troubled
- blitheness:** (n) gaiety, gladness, glee, cheerfulness, buoyancy
- bloodhound:** (n) sleuthhound, hound, sleuth, blood hound
- blooming:** (adj) rosy, thriving, flourishing, healthy, prosperous, ruddy, booming, blossoming, cherry, verdant, green. ANTONYMS: (adj) arid, pale
- blot:** (n, v) spot, blemish, smudge, mark, slur, taint, shame; (v) tarnish, blob; (n) blotch; (adj, n) fault. ANTONYMS: (v) dampen, grace, soak, wet, beautify, improve, enhance
- blowed:** (n) blown, blowzy
- bluntly:** (adv) frankly, directly, rudely, bluffly, coarsely, forthrightly, candidly, curtly, brusquely, gruffly, openly. ANTONYMS: (adv) deceitfully,
- hesitantly, indirectly, guardedly, politely
- blurred:** (adj) fuzzy, indistinct, foggy, blurry, bleary, vague, out of focus, bleak, cloudy, clouded, dim. ANTONYMS: (adj) sharp, definite, distinct, precise, certain
- blush:** (n, v) glow, color; (v) redden, crimson; (n) red, bloom, rosiness, ruddiness, redness; (adj) bashful; (adv) blushing. ANTONYMS: (v) blanch, pale, blench; (n) paleness
- blushing:** (adj) rosy, coy, blushful, flushed, red, shy, bashful, overmodest, ruddy; (adv) blushing, ablush. ANTONYM: (adj) pale
- bobbin:** (n) coil, reel, arbor, spindle, pin, axle, roll, roller, drum, winder, quill
- bode:** (v) augur, portend, presage, foretell, foreshadow, betoken, bespeak, predict, signal, prognosticate, prophesy
- bodement:** (n) presage, portent, auspices, auspice, omen, prognostic, abodement
- bodice:** (n) corsage, stays, corset, brassiere, top, slip, waist, corselet
- boldly:** (adj, adv) courageously, valiantly, heroically; (adv) fearlessly, daringly, bravely, intrepidly, impudently, audaciously, shamelessly, brashly. ANTONYMS: (adv) discreetly, modestly, nervously, hesitantly, shyly, fearfully, meekly, submissively, secretly, respectfully, diffidently
- boldness:** (n) prowess, face, daring, valor, nerve, assurance, heroism, audaciousness, spirit, cheek, valour. ANTONYMS: (n) cowardice, shyness, timidity, meekness, reticence
- bony:** (adj) osseous, gaunt, lean, thin, emaciated, scrawny, skinny, angular, lanky, meager, boney. ANTONYMS: (adj) plump, boneless, fat, stout
- bordered:** (adj) fringed, edged, delimited, surrounded
- bordering:** (adj) abutting, adjoining, conterminous, contiguous, frontier, next, neighboring, nearby, near, approximate, fringent
- bosom:** (n) heart, interior, boob, thorax, chest, bust, tit; (n, v) embrace; (v) cherish, hug; (adj) intimate. ANTONYMS: (n) outside, exteriority
- bothering:** (v) teasing, tormenting, carking; (n) harassment, provocation
- bough:** (n) arm, limb, bow, member, tigella, ramage, offshoot, ramification, spray, sprig, stem
- boulder:** (n) bowlder, rock, cliff; (adj) ball, sphere, globe
- bounded:** (adj) restricted, limited, delimited, encircled, enclosed, confined, leap, spring, bordered, circumscribed, constrained. ANTONYMS: (adj) unbounded, unconfined, unlimited, free
- bounding:** (n) jumping, confinement; (v) confine, salient; (adj) terminal, moving, subsultory
- boundless:** (adj) limitless, endless, unlimited, infinite, bottomless, incalculable, immense, immeasurable, interminable, unbounded, vast. ANTONYMS: (adj) limited, restricted, confined, finite, incomplete, negligible, small
- bountiful:** (adj) ample, abundant, plentiful, generous, liberal, profuse, fruitful, luxuriant, lush, rich, openhanded. ANTONYMS: (adj) sparse, miserly, wanting, spare, scarce, scanty, scant, lean, lacking, insufficient, barren
- bower:** (n) arbour, alcove, pergola, hermitage, grotto, framing, framework, summer house; (v) inclose, embower, enclose
- bowing:** (n) obeisance, playing, gesticulation, capitulation, genuflection, scraping, submission; (adj) bowed, bent, fawning, submissive
- boxed:** (adj) bordered, enclosed
- braced:** (adj) prepared, buttressed, firm
- bracelet:** (n) annulus, armllet, circlet, wristband, necklace, ring, hoop, areola, circle, anklet, annulet
- bracelets:** (n) trinkets, jewels, necklaces, charms, costume jewelry, ornaments
- braided:** (adj) curled, decorated, artful, tressed, braided
- bran:** (adj) farina, sporule, flour, paddy, rice, meal; (n) stubble, cellulose, roughage, fiber, bren
- branched:** (adj) bifurcate, branching, ramous, ramose, divided, biramous, branchy, prongy, bearing branches, split, pronged
- brandish:** (n, v) flourish; (v) display, wield, flaunt, shake, agitate, swing, bandy, beckon, raise, jerk. ANTONYMS: (v) conceal, lower, sheathe
- bravely:** (adv) courageously, fearlessly, valiantly, boldly,

- intrepidly, dauntlessly, gallantly, audaciously, undauntedly, heroically, doughtily. ANTONYMS: (adv) timidly, fearfully, execrably, nervously
- braving:** (n) try, effort, endeavour, facing, attempt, confronting, coping with, grappling, face, tackling
- brazen:** (adj) audacious, impudent, brassy, insolent, bold, brash, impertinent, blatant, flagrant, forward, saucy. ANTONYMS: (adj) shy, abashed, prudish, reserved, quiet, discreet, respectful, ashamed, veiled, modest
- bread-and-butter:** (adj) economic, immature
- breeches:** (n) knickers, inexpressibles, knickerbockers, brogues, short, smalls, overalls, small clothes, pants, trousers, pantaloons
- breezy:** (adj) windy, blowy, gusty, jaunty, gay, merry, jolly, blithe, jocund, chilly, bright. ANTONYMS: (adj) still, morose, spiritless, sad, quiet, peaceful, heavyhearted, heavy, depressed, bland, becalmed
- brethren:** (n) congregation, assembly, brother, people, laity, family, flock, fold
- brickwork:** (n) masonry, bricklaying, nogging, stonework
- bridle:** (n, v) curb, check, control, snaffle, rein, leash; (n) arrest, reins, brake; (v) inhibit, contain. ANTONYMS: (v) unbridle, unharness, release
- brig:** (n) barque, hermaphrodite brig, snow, jail, bridge, prison, big house, penal institution, ship
- brighten:** (adj, v) clear up; (v) light, illuminate, burnish, clear, gild, glow, perk up, cheer, irradiate, enliven. ANTONYMS: (v) upset, sadden, overcast, fade, dim, depress, blacken, spoil
- brightening:** (n) blooming, polishing, limb, illumination, first blush, break of day
- brilliance:** (n, v) brightness; (n) brilliance, lustre, luster, splendor, glitter, glory, radiance, splendour; (adj, n) gorgeousness; (v) gloss
- brim:** (n) rim, periphery, verge, edge, lip, hem, rand, margin, perimeter, brink, limit
- brimming:** (adj) teeming, brimful, brimful of, full, brimfull, brimfull of, replete, overflowing, chock-full, spilling over, packed. ANTONYMS: (adj) empty, unfilled
- bringer:** (n) spreader, supplier, transmitter, teller, contributor, purveyor, donor, source
- bristle:** (n) fiber, hair, whisker; (v) teem, burn, seethe, rage, arise, fume, blow up; (n, v) brustle. ANTONYM: (v) calm
- bristled:** (adj) briary, briery, barbed, bristling, burry, biting, burred, echinated, horrent, prickly, spiny
- bristling:** (n) brisling; (adj) thorny, muricated, pectinated, studded, thistly, bristled, bushy, teeming, horrid, horrent
- broached:** (adv) astir, afoot
- broad-minded:** (adj) large-minded, liberal, Catholic, progressive, charitable, enlightened, humane
- broadsword:** (n) steel, backsword, glaive, blade, brand, claymore, saber
- brokenly:** (adv) interruptedly, disconnectedly, crackedly, irregularly, faultily, fragmentarily, tamely, intermittently, ruggedly, discontinuously, defectively
- bronzed:** (adj) bronze, browned, tan, suntanned, sunburned, ruddy, brunet, brown, brunette. ANTONYM: (adj) pale
- brood:** (n, v) breed; (v) sulk, think, incubate; (n) offspring, issue, progeny, young, posterity, family; (adj, n) herd. ANTONYMS: (v) reassure, delight, console
- broom:** (v) sweep, to sweep, broam, shovel, rake, screen, sieve; (n) brush, Scots heather, Calluna vulgaris, heath
- browned:** (adj) brunet, tanned, suntanned, brunette, done
- brute:** (adj) brutal, harsh, gruff, brutish; (adj, n) animal, savage; (n) barbarian, fiend, creature, monster; (adv) beastly. ANTONYMS: (adj) weak, refined, mild, gentle; (n) gentleman
- buff:** (n) devotee, fan, addict, enthusiast, aficionado, admirer; (adj, n) tan, beige; (v) shine, furbish, polish. ANTONYMS: (v) corrode, dull, erode; (n) detractor
- bugle:** (v) trumpet, clarion, pibroch, slogan; (n) horn, ophicleide, trombone, herb, cornopean, cornet, bugleweed
- bulged:** (adj) bulgy, convex
- buoyant:** (adj) cheerful, light, optimistic, lighthearted, airy, hopeful, floaty, bright, blithe, elastic; (adj, n) sanguine. ANTONYMS: (adj) heavy, weighted, down, depressed, somber, miserable, serious, melancholy, downbeat
- burnished:** (adj) polished, bright, shiny, lustrous, shimmering, sparkly, glittery, shining; (adj, v) sunny; (v) meridian, orient
- bushel:** (v) repair, mend, fix, doctor; (n) basket, handbasket, mountain, filling; (adj) cargo, darned, filled
- bustily:** (adv) actively, occupiedly, briskly, industriously, engagedly, energetically, assiduously, lively, officiously, fussily, maddlesomely. ANTONYM: (adv) inactively
- businesslike:** (adj) tidy, efficient, neat, orderly, practical, pragmatic, systematic, matter-of-fact, purposeful, workaday, realistic. ANTONYMS: (adj) unbusinesslike, slipshod, inefficient, disorganized, amateur
- bustle:** (adj, n, v) hurry; (n, v) flurry, ado, fuss, hustle; (adj, n) stir, movement; (n) bother, commotion, disorder; (adj, v) hasten. ANTONYMS: (n) inactivity, stillness, idleness; (v) laziness, relaxation
- bustle:** (adj) lively, busy, boisterous, buzzing, brisk, alive, vibrant, noisy, tumultuous; (v) stirring, full of incident. ANTONYM: (adj) inactive
- buttercup:** (n) kingcup, crowfoot, herb, goldcup; (adj) anemone, asphodel, rhododendron, daffodil, windflower, geranium, lily
- buttocks:** (n) bottom, ass, arse, bum, rump, butt, tail, hip, behind, nates, posterior
- butress:** (n, v) support, prop; (n) crutch, stay, reinforcement; (v) underpin, fortify, sustain, bolster, reinforce, strengthen. ANTONYM: (v) undermine
- buttresses:** (n) ramparts, defenses
- bygone:** (adj) ancient, former, gone, obsolete, outmoded, previous, archaic, old, late; (n) preterite, antique. ANTONYMS: (adj) future, current, coming, modern
- bystander:** (n) spectator, witness, eyewitness, observer, beholder, looker-on, viewer, watcher, passer by, outsider, looker
- byway:** (n) byroad, detour, path, walk, side road, trail, road, way, course, crossroad, diverticle
- byword:** (n) aphorism, saw, saying, maxim, personification, proverb, sentence, motto, slogan, expression, catchphrase
- cabala:** (n) kabbala, kabbalah, cabbala, secret, anagoge, spell,

- arcanum, exorcism, charm, mystery, occultness
- cadence:** (n) beat, tempo, measure, rhythm, cadency, descent, time; (n, v) pace; (v) gait, step, rate
- caged:** (adj) jailed, imprisoned, incarcerated, confined, enslaved, in prison, behind bars, restrained, trapped, locked up
- cain:** (v) matador, garroter, thug, bravo, assassin, sabreur, terrorist, Moloch, cutthroat, slayer, butcher
- cajolery:** (n) cajolement, blarney, adulation, enticement, palaver, flattery, persuasion, wheedling, humbug, soft soap, allurement
- calibre:** (n) bore, size, quality, level, diam, dimension, nature, inferiority, grade, diameter, degree
- calmed:** (adj) composed, thankful. ANTONYM: (adj) worried
- canary:** (n, v) fink, snitch, tattletale; (n) informer, singer, canary bird, canary yellow, yellowness, warbler, vocalist, squealer
- candlemas:** (n) Holy Thursday, Ascension Day, Ash Wednesday, agape, birthday, bissextile, Candlemas day, bicentennial
- candlestick:** (n) candelabra, sconce, chandelier, candle holder, girandole, candleholder, holder, electrolier, gaselier, girandola, luster
- candour:** (n) candidness, frankness, forthrightness, fairness, rectitude, purity, straightforwardness, equity, truth, sincerity, simplicity
- canine:** (n) canine tooth, canid, dogtooth, eyetooth, cuspid, fang; (adj) laniary, bovine, animal, feline, fishy
- cannonade:** (v) bombard, bomb, roll, assail; (n) barrage, fire, storm, thunder, siege, obsession, boom
- canter:** (n, v) run, jump; (n) amble, caracole, caracoler, Fisk, frisk, prance; (v) gallop, jog, sit
- capella:** (n) genus Gallinago, genus Capella
- capricious:** (adj) fanciful, whimsical, irregular, freakish, arbitrary, fickle, changeable, impulsive, volatile, variable, unpredictable. ANTONYMS: (adj) dependable, predictable, stable, steady, steadfast, placid, logical, fixed, consistent, serious
- captive:** (adj, v) attract, charm, fascinate; (v) bewitch, enchant, take, lure, hypnotize; (n, v) allure, tempt, entice. ANTONYMS: (v) repulse, disillusion, offend, bore, annoy
- captive:** (n) convict, prisoner of war, slave, detainee, jailbird, gaolbird; (adj) confined, imprisoned, rapt, jailed, amoroso. ANTONYMS: (adj) free, uninterested, unconfined, liberated, emancipated, disillusioned; (n) guard, captor
- captivity:** (n) incarceration, imprisonment, interment, slavery, thralldom, thrall, thralldom, limbo, restraint, fetters, enslavement. ANTONYMS: (n) release, emancipation, liberty
- carcase:** (n) body, skeleton, dead body
- carelessly:** (adv) incautiously, hastily, recklessly, heedlessly, casually, sloppily, imprudently, inconsiderately, rashly, negligently, unwarily. ANTONYMS: (adv) thoroughly, diligently, carefully, warily, laboriously, thoughtfully, attentively, daintily, methodically, discreetly, economically
- carelessness:** (n) negligence, inattention, indifference, nonchalance, thoughtlessness, abandon, incaution, disregard, omission, forgetfulness, dereliction. ANTONYMS: (n) attention, caution, alertness, vigilance, carefulness, thoughtfulness, assiduousness, economy, regard, prudence, forethought
- caressing:** (adj) caressive, soft; (n) petting, foreplay, stimulation, dalliance, smooching, snuggling, arousal, hugging, cuddling
- careworn:** (adj) tired, drawn, worn, weary, harassed, under pressure, wan, pinched, stressed, fraught, bony. ANTONYM: (adj) relaxed
- carouse:** (n, v) carousal, wassail; (adj, n, v) booze; (adj, v) bouse; (v) riot, drink, roister; (n) bender, revelry, racket; (adj) tippie. ANTONYM: (v) lament
- carting:** (n) cartage, portorage, portage, transport
- casement:** (n) embrasure, casement cloth
- caste:** (n) rank, class, sort, variety, estate, tribe, race, genus; (adj) degree, baccalaureate, condition
- castor:** (n) caster, roller, castoreum, castorite, wimple, tile, hat, genus castor, billycock, fur, alpha geminorum
- catastrophe:** (n) disaster, adversity, tragedy, cataclysm, misfortune, bale, denouement, misery, misadventure, woe, finale. ANTONYMS: (n) joy,
- miracle, wonder, success
- caterpillar:** (n) cutworm, larva, Aurelia, cabbageworm, armyworm, bollworm, cankerworm, worm, maggot, orphan, cocoon
- cauldron:** (n) caldron, copper, kettle, pot, container
- cavern:** (n) hollow, cove, vault, hole, enclosure, antrum, lair, antre, socket, den; (v) cavern out
- cavil:** (v) carp, split hairs, equivocate, quarrel, protest, repudiate, nitpick, knock, reproach; (adj) refine; (n) censoriousness
- ceaseless:** (adj) eternal, uninterrupted, constant, perpetual, everlasting, endless, continuous, unremitting, continual, unending, nonstop. ANTONYMS: (adj) intermittent, temporary, sporadic, completed, restricted, limited, fleeting, finished, concluded, ending, inconstant
- ceasing:** (n) stopping, subsidence
- celibate:** (adj) continent, unmarried, single, chaste, maiden, virgin, virtuous, pure; (n) religionist, celibacy. ANTONYMS: (adj) promiscuous, sexual
- chafe:** (v) rub, irritate, provoke, nettle, annoy, gall, grate, abrade, anger, rile, graze. ANTONYMS: (v) cool, pacify, soothe, protect, relieve, appease, smooth
- chafed:** (adj) uncomfortable, sore, painful, galled, angry; (v) fretted, agitated
- chagrin:** (n) mortification, vexation, annoyance, shame, disappointment, letdown, humiliation; (n, v) disquiet, gangrene; (v) disappoint, mortify. ANTONYMS: (v) please, delight; (n) pride, satisfaction
- chaise:** (n) shay, carriage, equipage, rig, coach, daybed, chaise longue, bed, cabriole chair, chair
- chance:** (n) sanctuary, Golgotha, quire, transept, vestry, crypt, nave, presbytery, choir, calvary, asylum
- changeable:** (adj) inconsistent, erratic, capricious, irregular, mobile, mutable, slippery, uncertain, unsettled, unstable, mercurial. ANTONYMS: (adj) fixed, stable, unchangeable, consistent, predictable, regular, dependable, immutable, certain, invariable, lasting
- chapped:** (adj) cracked, balmy, unsmooth, barmy, bats, batty, bonkers, buggy, roughened, coarse, alligatored

chaps: (n) chops, fauces, crack
chargeable: (adj) guilty, amenable, indictable, responsible, due, assessable, payable, rateable, attributable, accusable, answerable. ANTONYM: (adj) innocent
chariot: (n) car, wagon, carriage, waggon, vehicle, wain, equipage, char
charms: (n) trinkets, jewelry, jewels
charred: (adj) scorched, well done, overcooked, baked, overdone
charwoman: (n) cleaning woman, char, cleaning lady, woman, charlady, hack, cleaner, maidservant, maid, housemaid, domestic
chary: (adj) careful, cagey, cagy, guarded, frugal, wary, reluctant, safe, stingy, watchful, illiberal. ANTONYMS: (adj) careless, rash, imprudent, reckless, heedless, trusting, forgetful, unwary, eager
chastened: (v) lamblike, resigned, content; (adj) refined, reprimanded, rebuked, reproved, subdued, contrite, remorseful
chastisement: (n) castigation, rebuke, discipline, punishment, penalty, reprimand, chastening, reproval, penalization, lashing, scolding. ANTONYMS: (n) persuasion, reward
chatter: (n, v) babble, gossip, prattle, gab, cackle, natter; (adj, n, v) jabber; (adj, v) prate, palaver; (v) blabber, patter. ANTONYM: (v) drawl
chatty: (adj) gabby, garrulous, loquacious, familiar, informal, communicative, gossipy, voluble, talky, conversable, expansive. ANTONYMS: (adj) taciturn, quiet, formal, silent, laconic, reticent, restrained, reserved
chaw: (n, v) bite; (n) quid, bit, mastication, cud; (v) manducate, munch, masticate, deliberate, gnaw, crunch
cheapening: (n) blasphemous behavior, blasphemy, profanation
cheat: (n, v) trick, con, fake, sham; (n) fraud, bilk, impostor; (v) defraud, beguile, betray, fleece. ANTONYMS: (v) support, repay, help, contribute, aid
cheated: (adj) embittered, resentful
cheerfulness: (n) glee, happiness, exhilaration, hilarity, mirth, merriment, gladness, cheer, good spirits, pleasure, joviality. ANTONYMS: (n) sadness, grimness, seriousness, misery, resentment,

uncheerfulness, solemnity, lethargy, bleakness, gravity, gloominess
cheerless: (adj) sad, dismal, dark, drab, dreary, gloomy, dull, murky, dispiriting; (adj, v) disconsolate, joyless. ANTONYMS: (adj) bright, happy, uplifting, lighthearted, sunny, smart, cheery, warm
cheery: (adj) bright, joyful, jovial, buoyant, sunny, gay, genial, glad, upbeat, vivacious, blithe. ANTONYMS: (adj) sad, depressing, miserable, funereal, unwelcoming, unfriendly, serious, dull, downbeat, down, troubled
cherish: (v) care for, nurture, treasure, entertain, cultivate, bosom, prize, esteem, harbor; (n, v) hug, foster. ANTONYMS: (v) hate, scorn, reject, denounce, despise, neglect
chestnuts: (n) Castanopsis, Fagaceae, Castanea, genus Castanea, beech family
chicken-hearted: (adj) chicken, white-livered, yellow, pusillanimous, cowardly, frightened
childishly: (adv) foolishly, babyishly, silly, infantilely, stupidly, immaturely, simply, juvenily, absurdly, ridiculously, frivolously
childlike: (adj) ingenuous, simple, babyish, young, innocent, pure, unsophisticated, juvenile, immature, childly, childish. ANTONYMS: (adj) old, untrusting, experienced, cunning, complicated, jaded, worldly
chime: (n) carillon, melody; (adj) harmonize; (v) go, jingle, clang, peal, tinkle, buzz, ring, chime
chimes: (n) bells, echo, refrain, repetend, ritornello, glockenspiel
chimneys: (n) chimney
chinchilla: (n) pelt, rodent, gnawer, fur, coating
chink: (v) jingle, tinkle; (n) cleft, crevice, Chinaman, aperture, hiatus, scissure, blunt; (n, v) clink, break
choke: (v) asphyxiate, block, stifle, back up, clog up, gag, suffocate, foul, strangle, smother, obstruct. ANTONYMS: (v) free, open, release, unblock
choked: (adj) clogged, smothered, congested, annoyed, high-strung, strained, neurotic, tense, angry, anxious, insecure
choking: (n) strangulation, throttling, slugging, asphyxiation; (adj) suffocative, suffocating, smothering, breathless, clogging, bitter, blinding
cholera: (n) Asiatic cholera, asphyxia,

epidemic cholera
christening: (n) naming, denomination, chrism, designation, identification
chronicles: (n) archives, history, archive, records
chrysanthemum: (n) flower, bloom, blossom
chuck: (n, v) snicker, snigger, giggle, chortle, titter, crow; (v) chuck, laugh, cackle, exult; (n) laughter
churl: (adj, n) niggard; (n) peasant, clown, curmudgeon, crosspatch, skinflint, countryman, tyke, tike, scrooge; (adj) miser. ANTONYMS: (n) aristocrat, gentleman
cider: (v) Brazil tea, ice water, claret; (n) inebriant, alcoholic beverage, hard cider, pomade, sicer, sider, alcohol, beverage
circling: (v) snaky, serpentine; (adj) rotating, spinning, circular, spiral, moving; (n) circulation, circuit, cycling; (adv) around
circutious: (adj) roundabout, winding, devious, tortuous, meandering, oblique, complicated, labyrinthine, crooked, collateral, circumlocutional. ANTONYMS: (adj) straight, direct
circumspection: (n) care, wariness, chariness, cautiousness, calculation, precaution, vigilance, discernment, judgment; (adj, n) discretion, prudence. ANTONYM: (n) recklessness
circumstantially: (adv) minutely, detailedly, particularly, by chance, incidentally, fortuitously, contingently, precisely, presumptively, specifically, specifically
civilly: (adv) politely, respectfully, graciously, complaisantly, urbane, polishedly, considerately, domestically, genteelly, obligingly, refinedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) abruptly, uncivilly
clad: (adj) dressed, attired, clothed, coated, garbed; (n) cladding; (prep) gowned; (v) costume, shod, dress, attire. ANTONYMS: (adj) undressed, unclothed
clammy: (adj) viscous, sweaty, sticky, muggy, moist, humid, damp, viscid, sultry, dank; (n) ropy. ANTONYMS: (adj) arid, dried, fresh
clang: (n, v) chime, clangor, ring, clash, clank, clatter, sound; (adj, n, v) peal; (v) boom, clink; (n) crash
clattering: (n) crash; (adj) clattery

- clearness:** (n) clarity, brightness, distinctness, perspicuity, lucidity, explicitness, sharpness, simplicity, purity, limpidity, intelligibility.
ANTONYMS: (n) ambiguity, opacity, dirtiness, vagueness, unclearness, obscurity, indistinctness, clutter, haziness, mustiness
- clergyman:** (n) minister, chaplain, priest, pastor, churchman, preacher, parson, rector, dominie, vicar; (adj) divine. ANTONYMS: (n) layman, layperson
- cleverness:** (n) ingenuity, adroitness, wisdom, aptitude, acumen, intelligence, skill, dexterity, astuteness, brightness, smartness. ANTONYMS: (n) slowness, clumsiness, imbecility, foolishness, ineptness, simplicity, straightforwardness, uselessness, frankness
- clicking:** (n) tick
- clink:** (n, v) clank, jingle, chink, ring, rattle; (v) tinkle, sound; (n) clang, jail, clash, click
- cloaked:** (adj) veiled, covered, hidden, covert, disguised, concealed, furtive, hidden away, draped, clothed, absorbed.
ANTONYM: (adj) overt
- clockwork:** (n) wheelwork.
ANTONYMS: (n) inaccuracy, impreciseness, inconsistency
- clog:** (n, v) block, bar, glut; (v) choke, obstruct, foul, hinder, encumber, back up; (n) obstruction, patten.
ANTONYMS: (v) free, clear, open, unblock
- clogged:** (adj) choked, jammed, blocked, teeming, thick, swarming, stuffed, stopped up, overfull, overcrowded, filled to capacity
- cloister:** (n) abbey, priory, monastery, arcade, friary, piazza, nunnery, circus, veranda; (v) encircle, insulate
- closeness:** (n) tightness, proximity, familiarity, parsimony, nearness, adjacency, affinity, propinquity, fidelity, compactness, meanness. ANTONYMS: (n) isolation, distance, farness, dryness, openness, space, animosity, inaccuracy, freshness, remoteness
- closet:** (n) cupboard, cubicle, cell, latrine, bathroom, wardrobe, water closet; (adj) clandestine, confidential, secret, private.
ANTONYM: (adj) open
- clothed:** (adj) dressed, wrapped, cloaked, robed, covered, attired, vested, absorbed, decent; (v) accustomed, arrayed. ANTONYM: (adj) unclotted
- clouded:** (adj, n) cloudy; (adj) gloomy, dark, overcast, obscure, blurred, foggy, misty, hazy, bleary; (v) cymphanous. ANTONYM: (adj) clear
- cloudless:** (adj) bright, clear, fair, light, sunny, unclouded, pure, distinct, legible, perspicuous; (v) unalloyed
- cloudy:** (adj) dull, gloomy, nebulous, murky, dark, turbid, foggy, muddy, misty, sunless, vaporous.
ANTONYMS: (adj) clear, bright, sunny, cloudless
- clown:** (n) fool, joker, jester, boor, harlequin, joke, comedian, rustic, comic, acrobat; (v) antic
- clubhouse:** (n) edifice, baseball club, building, ball club, casino, cabaret
- cluck:** (v) cackle, clack, click, chuckle, utter, emit, chuck, fuss, blab, clatter; (n, v) cry
- clump:** (n, v) cluster, bundle; (n) lump, group, clot, knot, tuft, chunk, clod, ball; (v) plod
- clustered:** (adj) agglomerated, agglomerative, bunched, bunched, gregarious, concentrated, conglomerate, collective
- clutched:** (adj) tense, worried, anxious, neurotic
- coachman:** (n) teamster, cabman, charioteer, carter, carman, Jehu, postboy, drayman, wagoner, postilion; (v) whip
- coals:** (n) ashes, fire, residue, embers
- coastguardsman:** (n) bluejacket
- coated:** (adj) clad, bloomed, caked, laminated, clothed
- coating:** (n) skin, painting, facing, covering, finish, application, sheathing, envelope, mantle, overcoat, cover. ANTONYM: (n) middle
- coaxing:** (n) blarney, flattery, sweet talk, temptation, enticement, soft soap; (adv) coaxingly; (adj) ingratiatory, persuasive, oily
- cocked:** (adj) erect, upright, vertical
- coerced:** (adj) bound
- coil:** (n, v) spiral, curl, roll, circle, loop, reel; (v) round, wind, involve; (adj, v) twist; (adj) coiling.
ANTONYMS: (v) uncoil, untwist, unwind, straighten
- cold-hearted:** (adj) heartless, frigid, pitiless, cold, unmerciful, unemotional, stony, cruel, coldhearted, hard, unkind
- coldness:** (n) chilliness, coolness, indifference, distance, apathy, iciness, reserve, frost, frigidity, unconcern; (adj, n) cold.
ANTONYMS: (n) friendliness, sympathy, sensitivity, hotness, heat, responsiveness, concern, brightness, kindness
- collateral:** (n) warranty, guarantee, mortgage, guaranty, security, pledge, bond; (adj) secondary, indirect, oblique, subsidiary.
ANTONYMS: (adj) primary, chief, fundamental, principal, lineal
- collectedly:** (adv) coolly, calmly, quietly, placidly, serenely, soberly, steadily, tranquilly, sedately, stillly, levelheadedly
- colourless:** (adj) colorless, drab, pale, neutral, wan, pallid, ashen, clear, white, washy, bloodless.
ANTONYM: (adj) colorful
- colt:** (n) novice, filly, foal, calf, horse, beginner, kitten, pup, fledgling, freshman, greenhorn
- columnar:** (adj) columned, stelene, columnlike, columniform, basaltiform
- coma:** (n) lethargy, trance, stupor, sleep, insensibility, fuzz; (n, v) dream; (v) doze, forty winks, wink of sleep, hibernation. ANTONYMS: (n) awareness, cognizance
- comb:** (v) brush, ransack, search, dress, eliminate, groom; (adj) weed; (n) crest, combing, caruncle, currycomb
- combating:** (adj) militant, rival, opposed; (n) hostility
- combustion:** (n) fire, burning, burn, blaze, firing, lighting, kindling, incineration, ignition, conflagration, arson
- comeliness:** (n) charm, grace, loveliness, fairness, beauty, attractiveness, pulchritude, goodness, blondness, mense, form
- comely:** (adj) beautiful, good-looking, decent, fair, attractive, decorous, shapely, proper; (adj, adv, v) seemly; (adj, adv) sightly, lovely.
ANTONYMS: (adj) repulsive, homely, plain, revolting, unattractive, ugly
- comer:** (n) newcomer, arriver, traveler, traveller, contender, competitor, competition, visitor, whiz kid, Young Turk; (adj) fresh
- comforting:** (adj) soothing, consoling, consolatory, satisfying, gratifying, encouraging, restful, placatory, tranquil, appeasing; (n) relief.

- ANTONYMS: (adj) hostile, discomfoting, disconcerting, distressing, disturbing, overwhelming, surprising, troublesome, irritating, tense, upsetting
- comfortless:** (adj) dreary, desolate, bleak, uncomfortable, inconsolable, gloomy, lonely; (adj, v) disconsolate, forlorn; (v) joyless, sick at heart
- comforts:** (n) amenities, bread and butter, convenience, conveniences
- commandingly:** (adv) peremptorily, commanding, impressively, imperiously, superiorly, imposingly, grandly, domineeringly, imperatively, bossily, overbearingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) weakly
- commencement:** (n) opening, start, origin, birth, kickoff, inauguration, inception, onset, outset, origination, source. ANTONYMS: (n) middle, termination, finishing, finish, ending, conclusion, culmination
- commendable:** (adj, n) praiseworthy; (adj) admirable, creditable, good, worthy, deserving, meritorious, applaudable; (adv) praiseworthily, laudably, admirably. ANTONYMS: (adj) unworthy, despicable, contemptible, disgraceful, rotten, lamentable, poor
- commendation:** (n, v) acclaim, applause, praise; (n) approval, citation, approbation, tribute, credit, plaudit, acclamation, admiration. ANTONYMS: (n) disapproval, criticism, censure, demotion
- commotion:** (n) tumult, ado, disturbance, turmoil, stir, din, flurry, fuss, bedlam, tempest; (n, v) agitation. ANTONYMS: (n) peace, order, calm, serenity, calmness, stillness, quiet, tranquility, inactivity
- companionable:** (adj) sociable, affable, convivial, gregarious, cordial, clubbable, congenial, friendly, jovial, genial, cosey. ANTONYMS: (adj) nasty, antagonistic, cold, unfriendly, different, frosty, shy, hostile
- companionship:** (n) company, society, fellowship, camaraderie, partnership, friendship, fraternity, amity, coexistence, brotherhood, communion. ANTONYMS: (n) animosity, enmity, solitude
- compassionately:** (adv) kindly, humanely, mercifully, pityingly, benevolently, graciously, tenderly, clemently, caringly, humanitarianly, indulgently. ANTONYMS: (adv) severely, unkindly, malevolently, meanly, roughly, inhumanely
- complacency:** (n) contentment, conceit, satisfaction, self-satisfaction, comfort, entire satisfaction, peace of mind, gratification; (adj) amiability, soft tongue, mansuetude
- complacent:** (adj) self-satisfied, contented, smug, satisfied, gracious, accommodating, comfortable, placid, proud, arrogant, self-righteous. ANTONYMS: (adj) dissatisfied, discontented, insecure, modest, troubled, uneasy, unsatisfied, concerned, anxious
- complainingly:** (adv) querulously, petulantly, grumpily, grouchy, peevishly, crabby, crossly, tetchily, cantankerously, crankily, complaining. ANTONYMS: (adv) calmly
- complaisant:** (adj, v) civil, polite; (adj) benign, accommodating, amiable, debonair, friendly, courteous, tractable, attentive, affable. ANTONYMS: (adj) antagonistic, contrary, difficult, disagreeable, discontented
- complemental:** (adj) supplementary, supplemental, unessential, completing
- complexion:** (n, v) tint; (n) cast, character, appearance, look, hue, aspect, flush, glow, dye, fashion
- complication:** (n) difficulty, intricacy, tangle, labyrinth, confusion, problem, muddle, development, complicity, maze, mess. ANTONYMS: (n) solution, simplicity, answer, help, clarity
- compose:** (v) compose, comprise, constitute; (adj, v) component; (n) composition, arranging, arrangement, placement, makeup, constitution, manufacturing
- composure:** (n) calmness, serenity, poise, calm, equanimity, temper, aplomb, tranquillity, peace, temperament, disposition. ANTONYMS: (n) panic, discomposure, anger, nervousness, perturbation, anxiety, agitation, turbulence, awkwardness
- comprehend:** (v) grasp, catch, see, comprise, appreciate, feel, sense, apperceive, read; (adj, v) understand; (n, v) embrace. ANTONYMS: (v) mistake, misapprehend, exclude, misunderstand, misconceive
- comprehended:** (adj) understood, apprehended
- comprehensiveness:** (n) completeness, fullness, entirety, detail, intelligence, scope, range, flavor, wholeness, unity, totality. ANTONYMS: (n) narrowness
- compressed:** (adj) flat, condensed, dense, concentrated, compacted, tight, pointed, packed, concise, close, brief
- compressing:** (n) pressure, compression, squeezing, condensation, applying pressure; (adj) pinching. ANTONYMS: (n) decompression
- concave:** (n) indentation, depression, concavity; (adj) cavernous, biconcave, cupped, dipped, arched, indented; (adj, n) crescent; (v) stove in. ANTONYMS: (adj) curved
- concealment:** (n) suppression, confidentiality, concealing, secrecy, screen, disguise, hiding, privacy, camouflage, blind, covering. ANTONYMS: (n) discovery, disclosure, exposure, expression, openness, uncovering, revelation
- conceited:** (adj) arrogant, cocky, vain, boastful, proud, smug, affected, assuming, egotistical, haughty, pompous. ANTONYMS: (adj) modest, insecure, meek, selfless, unassuming
- conceivable:** (adj) imaginable, thinkable, believable, comprehensible, likely, earthly, potential, credible, plausible, cogitable, reasonable. ANTONYMS: (adj) unthinkable, difficult, implausible, impossible, unimaginable
- conclave:** (n) congress, caucus, convocation, meeting, vestry, consistory, conventicle, convention, synod, gathering, conference
- convulsively:** (adv) decisively, convincingly, ultimately, definitively, absolutely, lastly, concludingly, determinately, categorically, cogently, decidedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) unconvincingly, questionably, arguably
- concourse:** (n) assemblage, swarm, multitude, throng, company, merging, crowd, aggregation, meeting, gathering, legion
- concourse:** (n) coincidence, accord, assent, concord, consent, agreement, approval, compliance, concourse, conjunction, confluence. ANTONYMS: (n) disagreement, conflict, refusal, rejection
- concussion:** (n) shock, collision, blow,

- impact, shake, shudder, bump, jolt, percussion, crash, vibrate
- condescension:** (n) arrogance, lordliness, disparagement, patronage, affability, disdain, pride, superciliousness, contempt, stoop, depreciation. ANTONYMS: (n) respect, acceptance, admiration
- conditionally:** (adv) provisionally, qualifiedly, contingently, dependently, supposing, guardedly, hypothetically, temporarily; (n) if, in case, provided
- confidante:** (n) comrade, intimate, camarade, companion, compeer, familiar, lady's maid, guest, confrere, soul mate, associate. ANTONYMS: (n) enemy, foe, rival
- confine:** (n, v) bound, border, limit; (v) bind, restrain, circumscribe, tie, incarcerate, hold; (n) boundary, bounds. ANTONYMS: (v) release, free, liberate, broaden
- confinement:** (n, v) childbirth, delivery; (n) detention, custody, restraint, internment, prison, labor, containment, incarceration, arrest. ANTONYMS: (n) release, death, liberation
- conflagration:** (n) blaze, inferno, flame, wildfire, combustion, holocaust, burning, bonfire, empyrosis, flagration; (n, v) deflagration
- confluence:** (n) meeting, concurrence, junction, assembly, union, conflux, crowd, convergence, coming together, aggregation; (v) corrivation. ANTONYM: (n) split
- confounded:** (adj) bemused, accursed, execrable, baffled, cursed, befuddled, confused, puzzled, aghast, perplexed; (adj, v) abashed
- confoundedly:** (adj) tremendously, severely, desperately, with a vengeance; (adv) confusedly, accursedly, abashedly, bewilderedly, cursedly, puzzledly, extremely
- congealed:** (adj) firm, solidify, frozen, jelled, jellied, stiff, thick, concrete
- congratulation:** (n) compliment, greeting, congratulate, congratulations, acknowledgement, gratulation, acknowledgment
- conical:** (adj) pyramidal, tapering, copped, conelike, coniform, taper, cone, tapered, copped, pointed
- conjecture:** (n) supposition, speculation, assumption, surmise, hypothesis; (v) suppose, believe, anticipate, assume, speculate; (n, v) estimate. ANTONYMS: (n) certainty; (v) demonstrate, know, learn, prove
- conjectured:** (adj) supposed, opinionative
- conjoined:** (adj) concomitant, conjunct, associated, concurrent, united, inseparable, coincident, attending, associate, accompanying, adjunct
- conjugal:** (adj, v) marital; (adj) connubial, nuptial, bridal, married, wedded, spousal, marriage, wedding, house, familial. ANTONYMS: (adj) unmarried, single, public, divorced
- conjunction:** (n) coincidence, concurrence, association, coalition, alliance, cohesion, anastomosis, concomitance, confluence, amalgamation; (v) joinder. ANTONYMS: (n) detachment, disconnection, division, separation
- connivance:** (n) complicity, tacit consent, acquiescence, conspiracy, plot, connivency, commendation, involvement, approval, responsibility, secret approval
- conquered:** (adj) overcome, vanquished, overwhelmed, crushed, subdued, profligate, routed, overthrown, done for, under enemy control, baffled. ANTONYMS: (adj) victorious, liberated
- conscience-stricken:** (adj) remorseful, bad, contrite, penitent, sorry, guilty
- conscientious:** (adj) scrupulous, painstaking, honest, thorough, meticulous, dutiful, close, principled, strict; (adj, v) ethical, moral. ANTONYMS: (adj) sloppy, unconscientious, immoral, irresponsible, unscrupulous, conscienceless, corrupt, dishonest, inexact, slack, slipshod
- consecrated:** (adj) consecrate, blessed, sanctified, hallowed, holy, dedicated, divine, devoted, adopted; (adj, prep) set apart; (prep) dedicate. ANTONYM: (adj) secular
- considerate:** (adj, n) thoughtful, benevolent, nice, gentle, sympathetic, humane; (adj) magnanimous, kind, polite, delicate, discreet. ANTONYMS: (adj) uncaring, thoughtless, tactless, inconsiderate, selfish, rude, unkind, unforgiving, offhand, disrespectful, unsympathetic
- considerateness:** (n) attentiveness, discretion, solicitude, tact, kindness, caution, circumspection, condition, good manners, politeness, circumstance. ANTONYM: (n) rudeness
- constancy:** (n) allegiance, devotion, resolution, fidelity, loyalty, steadfastness, faithfulness, steadiness, firmness, perseverance, unchangeableness. ANTONYMS: (n) inconstancy, inconsistency, changefulness, instability, disloyalty, unfaithfulness, unreliability, dishonesty
- constellation:** (adj, n) galaxy; (n) cancer, centaur, Andromeda, asterism, group, zodiac, Capricorn, carina, Cassiopeia; (adj) star
- consternation:** (n) alarm, shock, fear, apprehension, astonishment, fright, confusion; (adj, n) terror, awe, dread, horror. ANTONYMS: (n) peacefulness, composure, happiness, tranquility, hopefulness, comfort, equanimity
- consummation:** (n) accomplishment, completion, fulfillment, fruition, performance, execution, climax, attainment, perfection, end, realization
- contemplation:** (n) consideration, reflection, thought, attention, cogitation, musing, introspection, speculation, animus, deliberation; (n, v) study
- contemporaneous:** (adj) concurrent, coetaneous, coeval, synchronous, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, coexistent, cotemporaneous, present, parallel. ANTONYM: (adj) separate
- contemptible:** (adj) abject, mean, base, pitiful, little, worthless, unworthy, miserable, ignoble, abominable, shameful. ANTONYMS: (adj) estimable, admired, deserving, worthy, honorable, respectable, respectful, noble, generous, commendable, good
- contemptibly:** (adv) despicably, meanly, shamefully, cruelly, callously, shockingly, nastily, spitefully, offensively, unkindly, disgracefully. ANTONYMS: (adv) respectfully, commendably
- contemptuously:** (adv) scornfully, sneeringly, insultingly, disparagingly, superciliously, derisively, condescendingly, disrespectfully, haughtily, contumeliously, sardonically. ANTONYM: (adv) approvingly
- contented:** (adj) content, happy,

- comfortable, quiet, cheerful, smug, complacent, satisfied, easy, proud, delighted. ANTONYMS: (adj) discontented, unhappy, depressed, unsatisfied, sad, anxious
- contiguous:** (adj) adjoining, close, conterminous, abutting, near, nearby, immediate, bordering upon, bordering, touching, connected. ANTONYMS: (adj) remote, removed, separated, apart
- contingencies:** (n) contingency reserve
- continuance:** (n) duration, abidance, existence, endurance, protraction, adjournment, resumption, prolongation, time, standing, perseverance. ANTONYMS: (n) discontinuation, destruction
- contour:** (n) contour line, outline, form, profile, shape, line, configuration, silhouette, curve, circuit, edge. ANTONYM: (n) core
- contradict:** (v) deny, oppose, belie, conflict, confute, controvert, contravene, disprove, refute, invalidate, impugn. ANTONYMS: (v) agree, match, correspond, approve, corroborate, prove, support, reinforce
- contradictoriness:** (n) inconsistency, oppositeness, repugnance, incompatibility
- contrasting:** (adj) diverse, conflicting, counter, diametric, distinct, assorted, contrastive, dissimilar, incongruent, miscellaneous; (n) division. ANTONYMS: (adj) like, uniform
- contretemps:** (n) adversity, casualty, misfortune, check, hitch, encounter, screw loose, skirmish, mischance, rub, mishap
- contrite:** (adj) apologetic, sorry, remorseful, regretful, rueful, bad, ashamed, humble, sorrowful, dreary; (adj, v) repentant. ANTONYMS: (adj) unrepentant, indifferent, hurtful, mean, proud, unremorseful
- contrivance:** (n) device, appliance, gadget, artifice, plot, dodge, resource, plan, contraption, machine, apparatus
- contrived:** (adj) affected, unnatural, false, forced, labored, spurious, feigned, unreal, strained, built artificially formal. ANTONYM: (adj) sincere
- convalescence:** (n) recuperation, rally, convalesce, upturn, improvement, rehabilitation, restitution, restoration, retrieval, healing, progress. ANTONYM: (n) decline
- conventual:** (n) cenobite, palmer, prior, mendicant, pilgrim, lay brother, monk, friar; (adj) monastic, cloistered, unworldly
- converging:** (n) convergency, convergence, meeting, joining, connection, coming together, connexion; (adj) concurrent, connivent, connecting, coming
- converse:** (n, v) chat, discourse, argue; (v) confer, confabulate, speak; (n) conversation, colloquy, contrast; (adj, n) opposite; (adj) counter. ANTONYMS: (adj, n) equal; (adj) similar, complementary; (n) similarity
- convexity:** (n) bulge, camber, knob, projection, convexness, convex shape, solid, form, shape, protuberance, gibbosity
- conveyance:** (n) transfer, vehicle, assignment, alienation, transference, delivery, transportation, negotiation, portage; (n, v) carriage, ecstasy
- convulsion:** (adj, n, v) spasm; (n) fit, paroxysm, commotion, attack, clonus, shake, seizure, upheaval, cramp; (adj, n) disturbance. ANTONYM: (n) peace
- convulsions:** (n) convulsion, spasm, epilepsy, eclampsia, mirth
- convulsive:** (adj) spastic, galvanic, fitful, paroxysmal, violent, choreic, unsteady, hysterical; (v) unquiet, restless, saltatory
- cooled:** (adj) refrigerated, frozen; (n) cooler
- cooler:** (n) beverage, freezer, drinkable, potable, drink, air conditioner, penitentiary, choky, prison, chokey, clink
- coolness:** (n) chill, cool, composure, assurance, cold, calmness, alienation, frigidity, equanimity, chilliness, poise. ANTONYMS: (n) friendliness, panic, approachability, mustiness, turbulence, agitation
- coppery:** (adj) copper Colored, chromatic
- copse:** (n) brush, coppice, brake, brushwood, forest, underwood, grove, spinney, thicket, undergrowth, canebrake
- copying:** (n) duplicating, duplication, imitation, replication, repetition, reproduction, tracing, repeating, printing, resistance; (adj) imitative
- coquette:** (n) vamp, jilt, minx, woman; (v) coquet, dally, romance, chat up, puritan, speak, prude
- coquettish:** (adj) flirtatious, coy, kittenish, charming, coquet, arch, fickle
- cordially:** (adv) warmly, genially, kindly, sincerely, heartfely, ardently, friendly, jovially, earnestly, affectionately, harmoniously. ANTONYMS: (adv) disagreeably, frostily
- cords:** (n) trousers, bands, line, strings, corduroys, raised bands
- corinthian:** (n) Aristarchus, euphemist, arbiter elegantiarum, Stagirite, hedonist, virtuoso, critic, conoscente, dilettante, amateur, judge
- coronet:** (n) corona, chaplet, tiara, snood, necklace, circlet, wreath, diadem, cap of maintenance, laurel, ribbon
- correcting:** (n) amendment, correction, rectification, adjustment, compensation, reading
- corroborated:** (adj) corroborate, substantiated, verified
- corroborative:** (adj) corroboratory, collateral, confirmative, confirming, affirmative, corroborant, substantiating, verifying, verificatory, validatory, substantiative
- corrugated:** (adj) waved, wrinkly, undulate, corrugate, wavy, crimped, grooved, ridged. ANTONYM: (adj) flat
- cosmopolitan:** (adj) universal, international, sophisticated, global, Catholic, ecumenical, planetary, widely distributed, oecumenical; (adj, n) cosmopolite; (n) creeping wood sorrel. ANTONYMS: (adj) insular, country, endemic, parochial, rustic
- coughing:** (n) coughs, breathing out
- countenance:** (n) aspect, expression, brow, complexion; (n, v) face, sanction, support, favor; (v) allow, tolerate, uphold. ANTONYMS: (v) reject, oppose, discourage, disapprove, prohibit
- counteract:** (v) antagonize, counterbalance, check, balance, cancel, hinder, neutralize, contradict, resist, compensate, contravene. ANTONYMS: (v) help, cooperate, assist, approve, coordinate, support, back, reinforce
- countrified:** (adj) rural, provincial, pastoral, country, countryfied, boorish, bucolic, bumpkinly, Arcadian, leafy; (adj, prep) rude

- courageously:** (adv) intrepidly, valiantly, boldly, daringly, fearlessly, gallantly, heroically, hardily, dauntlessly, audaciously, stoutheartedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) timidly, execrably, fearfully, nervously
- courteous:** (adj, v) civil; (adj) affable, attentive, gracious, decorous, chivalrous, bland, thoughtful, urbane, mannerly, gentlemanly. ANTONYMS: (adj) rude, impolite, boorish, insulting, unmannerly, gruff, improper, vulgar, unhelpful, neglectful, graceless
- courting:** (n) wooing, courtship, bundling, appeal, attraction, case, causa, cause, flirtation, suit
- courtly:** (adj) civil, stately, polite, elegant, gallant, dignified, respectful, noble, formal; (adj, n) refined; (adv) wooly. ANTONYMS: (adj) boorish, rude, unrefined, unpolished, uncivil, churlish, impolite, rough
- courting:** (n) courting, wooing, love, bundling, the soft impeachment, prayer, entreaty, gallantry, addresses, cause, affection
- cove:** (n) bay, cave, harbor, bight, inlet, recess, creek, glen, man, fellow, gully
- coverlet:** (n) blanket, bedspread, cover, bedcover, bed cover, tarpaulin, drugget, coverlid, spread, mantle, quilt
- covertly:** (adv) surreptitiously, furtively, privately, clandestinely, stealthily, privily, underhandedly, undercoverly, mysteriously, obscurely, quietly. ANTONYMS: (adv) blatantly, overtly, publicly, brazenly
- covet:** (v) envy, begrudge, long, crave, aspire, grudge, hanker, want, wish for, long for, wish. ANTONYMS: (v) spurn, renounce, reject, ignore, forswear
- coveted:** (adj) sought after, desirable, in demand. ANTONYM: (adj) unpopular
- cowd:** (adj) afraid, browbeaten, bullied, timid, crestfallen, frightened, hangdog, intimidated, passive
- cowl:** (n) bonnet, cowl, kerchief, protection, helmet, cow, condition, chock, soe, tonsure
- cowshed:** (n) barn, cow barn, cowbarn, byre, cow house
- cozy:** (adj, n) cosy, cosey; (adj) comfy, snug, familiar, homely, informal, easy, close, intimate; (n) cozie. ANTONYMS: (adj) uncomfortable, tense, unwelcoming, bleak, insecure, impersonal, harsh
- crabbed:** (adj) abstruse, sour, grumpy, morose, crusty, surly, churlish, moody, irritable, huffy; (adj, n) austere
- crackle:** (v) crunch, crepitate, rustle, sputter, snap, vary, resound, sizzle, crinkle; (n) crepitation, crackling
- cramped:** (adj) cramp, limited, close, constrained, contracted, crowded, narrow, poky, restricted, small, tight. ANTONYMS: (adj) roomy, open, uncrowded, vast, liberated
- cranes:** (n) Gruiformes, Gruidae, family Gruidae
- cravat:** (n) neckerchief, neckcloth, stock, ascot, collar, handkerchief, scarf, neckwear, necktie, ruff
- crazed:** (adj) deranged, crazy, wild, mad, insane, crackled, loopy, non compos mentis, lunatic, demented, barmy
- creak:** (v) pipe, screech, twang, skreigh, resound, jangle, gnash, confess; (n) creaking; (adv) creakingly; (adj) ancient
- creaking:** (adj, v) creaky; (adj) squeaking, harsh, squeaky, noisy, arthritic; (v) rickety; (n) scream
- crease:** (n, v) fold, crinkle, plait, pucker, furrow, line; (v) crumple, cockle, rumple, ruck; (n) pleat. ANTONYMS: (v) iron, flatten
- credible:** (adj, v) reputable, respectable; (adj, n) meritorious; (adj) praiseworthy, laudable, worthy, admirable, believable; (n) estimable, dignity; (v) up to the mark. ANTONYMS: (adj) unworthy, disrespected, disgraceful, discreditable, lamentable, poor, blameworthy
- credulous:** (adj) gullible, unsuspecting, simple, unsuspecting, unquestioning, green, trusting, unwary, innocent, believing, illogical. ANTONYMS: (adj) suspicious, wary, disbelieving, suspecting, skeptical, cynical, untrusting, shrewd, rational, smart, mistrustful
- crimson:** (adj, n) carmine, ruby, scarlet, maroon; (v) blush, flush, redden; (adj) bloody, ruddy, cherry; (n) deep red
- croak:** (n) jar, vat, suede croak, container, banger, urn, jalopy, bowl, amphora; (v) begrime, smut
- crocketed:** (adj) decorated
- crocus:** (n) saffron; (adj) topaz
- crook:** (adj, n, v) bend, curve; (n) criminal, cheat, scoundrel, gangster, robber; (n, v) turn, hook; (v) bow, wind
- crooked:** (adj) bent, corrupt, dishonest, curved, unfair, deformed; (adj, n, v) awry; (adj, v) irregular, askew, wry, indirect. ANTONYMS: (adj) straight, honest, principled, even, aboveboard, lawful, level, moral, flat, aligned, honorable
- cropping:** (n) harvest, napping, masking
- cross-roads:** (n) intersection, crossing, crossroad
- crosswise:** (adj, adv) across, crossways; (adv) athwart, diagonally, traverse, slantwise, bias, transversely; (adj) diagonal, crossed, transversal
- crochuing:** (adj) sneaking, huddled, obsequious, squat, hunkered, cowering, hunkered down; (v) submissive, resigned
- crowding:** (n) plough crowding, bunch, jostlement, overcrowding
- crowning:** (adj) top, ultimate, topmost, complementary, final; (adj, v) paramount, supreme; (n) tapering, coronation, finishing piece; (v) preeminent. ANTONYMS: (adj) bathetic, indecisive
- crueilly:** (adv) harshly, ferociously, fiercely, viciously, inhumanly, mercilessly, pitilessly, heartlessly, roughly, unkindly; (adj, adv) bitterly. ANTONYMS: (adv) kindly, mercifully, sympathetically, tamely, peacefully, humanely, compassionately, sensitively, respectfully, innocently, genially
- crumb:** (adj, n) morsel, seed; (n) fragment, speck, scrap, grain, atom, trace, spot, iota; (adj) scantling. ANTONYMS: (n) pile, mass, lot, heap, chunk
- crunch:** (v) munch, scrunch, chew, crunch, champ, bite, grind, shatter, cranch; (n, v) crackle, squeeze. ANTONYM: (v) smooth
- crutch:** (n, v) support; (n) staff, groin, stick, prop, ankle, stilt, crutches, zigzag, sickle, scythe
- crux:** (n) core, difficulty, heart, essence, nucleus, pivot, turning point, gist, substance, hinge, Southern Cross. ANTONYMS: (n) extra, periphery
- cuckoos:** (n) order Cuculiformes
- cudgel:** (n) bludgeon, truncheon, stick, staff, switch, mace, baton; (v)

- beat, bat, hit, drub
culminating: (adj) uppermost, best, crowning, perfect, supreme, top
culmination: (n) apex, crest, climax, peak, top, zenith, pinnacle, apogee, completion, vertex, consummation. ANTONYMS: (n) commencement, opening, prelude, trough, nadir
culpability: (n) fault, guilt, blameworthiness, responsibility, criminality, guiltiness, onus, culpableness, liability, disgrace; (v) crime
cumbersomely: (adv) ponderously, weightily, unwieldily, heavily, clumsily, heftily, onerously, embarrassingly, ineptly, bulkily, awkwardly
curate: (n) rector, clergyman, minister, chaplain, pastor, Stipendiary curate, priest, vicar, incumbent, reverend, canon
cured: (adj) recovered, corned, aged, mellow, whole, better, pickle cured, salted, vulcanised, well, vulcanized
curling: (adj) curled, curly, moving, curled up; (adv) curlingly; (n) croquet, pallone, polo, tipcat, golf, curling edge
cursed: (adj) damned, doomed, execrable, cussed, wretched, unlucky, accused, blamed, blasted, confounded; (v) accurst. ANTONYMS: (adj) commendable, honorable, nice, sweet, kine
curse: (n) abuse
cursing: (adj) cursed, execrative; (n) blasphemy, anathema, swearing, swear word, malediction, excretion, denunciation, cursedness; (v) beshrew
curtailed: (adj) shortened, short, truncated, condensed, cut, reduced, imperfect, tail, scrim, unfinished, lower
curtailing: (n) contraction
cuss: (v) blaspheme, swear, imprecate; (n) malediction, blighter, chap, expletive, oath, bloke, lad, fellow
cylops: (adj) Antaeus, atlas, Broddingnagian, Hercules, superman, Samson, mammoth; (adj, n) giant; (n) flat, Simple Simon, water flea
cynically: (adv) sarcastically, derisively, scornfully, mockingly, doubtfully, contemptuously, skeptically, suspiciously, negatively, incredulously, satirically. ANTONYMS: (adv) optimistically, kindly
cypher: (n, v) cipher; (v) compute, code, calculate, figure; (n) cryptograph, nil, nought, null, nonentity, nothing
daintily: (adv) nicely, finely, fragily, elegantly, fastidiously, gracefully, refinedly, squeamishly, exquisitely, lightly, prettily. ANTONYMS: (adv) inelegantly, thickly
dainty: (adj, v) nice; (adj, n, v) delicacy; (adj) fastidious, savory, tasteful, squeamish, particular, mincing, refined; (adj, n) tidbit; (n) luxury. ANTONYMS: (adj) coarse, vulgar, rough, inelegant, harsh, gross, awkward, accepting, heavy, careless, thick
dairymaid: (n) farmhand, fieldhand, dey
dally: (v) flirt, act, linger, trifle, toy, coquette, hesitate, play, dawdle, waste time, lag. ANTONYMS: (v) hurry, rush, hasten, lead
dandy: (n) beau, fop, coxcomb, dude, buck, clipper, cockscomb; (adj) nifty, capital, fine, peachy. ANTONYMS: (adj) terrible, ghastly, awful, inferior
dangling: (adj) suspended, pendent, pendant, limp, floppy, pendulous; (n) suspension, abeyance, break, abatement; (adv) adangle. ANTONYM: (adj) upright
dank: (adj) damp, wet, moist, humid, sticky, soggy, sultry, muggy, juicy, rheumy, musty. ANTONYMS: (adj) arid, parched, bright
dares: (v) assume, deem
daringly: (adv) fearlessly, intrepidly, venturesomely, bravely, audaciously, gallantly, foolhardily, pluckily; (adj, adv) valiantly, courageously, heroically. ANTONYMS: (adv) timidly, fearfully
darkening: (adj) dark, blue, gloomy, causing dejection; (v) darken; (n) change of color, eclipse
darkly: (adv) murkily, dimly, obscurely, duskily, somberly, shadily, mistily, secretly, dismally, heavily, overcastly. ANTONYM: (adv) openly
dart: (n, v) dash, run, flit; (v) bound, flash, shoot, rush, race, gallop; (adj, n) arrow, rocket. ANTONYMS: (v) plod, trudge, slog, linger, dawdle, dally, delay, amble; (n) tonic
darting: (adj) arrowy, moving; (v) Sally
dashing: (adj) stylish, dapper, gallant, showy, smart, snappy, impetuous, rakish, raffish, brave; (adj, n) spruce. ANTONYMS: (adj) boring, unstylish, dull, bumbling, bland, awkward, drab, graceless
dawning: (n) daybreak, sunrise, start, beginning, aurora, cockcrow, dayspring, morning, birth, first light, break of day. ANTONYM: (n) sunset
daybreak: (adj, n) break of day; (n) sunrise, prime, morning, light, dawning, cockcrow, dayspring, aurora, sunup, daylight. ANTONYMS: (n) sunset, sundown, darkness, eventide, nightfall
dazzle: (v) bedazzle, blind, captivate; (n, v) sparkle, shine, flash, glare, awe; (adj) dazzling, confuse; (n) brightness. ANTONYMS: (v) bore; (n) dullness
dazzled: (adj) confused, dazzle, bewildered, blind, blinder, fascinated, unsighted
deadened: (n, v) dampen, blunt, benumb, stun, obtund; (adj, n, v) damp; (v) muffle, mute, cushion; (adj, v) quell; (adj) allay. ANTONYMS: (v) accentuate, amplify, enliven, heighten, strengthen, build, invigorate, increase
deadened: (adj) dead, numb, numbed, without sensation, duller, unfeeling, under, frozen, insensible, insensitive, knocked out
deafening: (adj) earsplitting, thunderous, shrill, piercing, noisy, massive, roaring, enormous, gigantic, tremendous; (v) thundering. ANTONYM: (adj) tranquil
dearest: (n) dear, darling, love, honey, lover, sweetheart, loved one, baby; (adj) precious, intimate, sweet
dearly: (adv) affectionately, precious, darlingly, sweetly, petly, expensively, belovedly, intimately, highly, heartfelty, lovely
deathly: (adj) mortal, cadaverous, deathlike, fatal, lethal, ghastly, macabre, pale, wan, baneful; (adv) mortally. ANTONYMS: (adj) blooming, robust, lively, harmless, benign, animated, healthy
debasement: (adj) degrading, demeaning, opprobrious, libelous, humiliating, pejorative, infra dig, corrupting, outrageous; (adv) debasingly; (n) disgrace
debauch: (v) corrupt, debase, deprave, demoralize, vitiate, violate, whore, pollute; (n) Saturnalia, orgy;

- (n, v) riot. ANTONYMS: (v) upgrade, praise, laud, elevate, honor
- decalogue**: (n) morality, Ten Commandments, morals
- decayed**: (adj) spoiled, corrupt, dilapidated, rank, rusty, rotting, decaying, rotted, putrid; (adj, v) wasted; (v) stale. ANTONYMS: (adj) matured, restored, strengthened
- decaying**: (adj) rotten, decayed, rotting, stale, decadent, stinking, decomposed, smelly, shabby, seedy; (n) fading. ANTONYM: (adj) pristine
- deceive**: (v) cheat, circumvent, bamboozle, pretend, hoax, fool, cozen, trick, beguile; (n, v) dupe; (n) fraud. ANTONYMS: (v) guide, inform, undeceive, protect
- deceived**: (adj) mistaken, misguided
- decency**: (n) dignity, modesty, decorum, kindness, morality, courtesy, correctness, goodness, virtue, respectability, propriety. ANTONYMS: (n) indecency, offensiveness, corruption, immorality, wickedness, unsuitability, unkindness, rudeness, impropriety, badness, nastiness
- decently**: (adv) becomingly, decorously, fairly, correctly, seemly, fitly, courteously, justly, appropriately, rightly. ANTONYMS: (adv) rudely, improperly, disreputably, inappropriately, immorally
- deceptive**: (adj) deceitful, dishonest, false, fallacious, lying, deceiving, misleading, untrue, spurious, insidious, unfounded. ANTONYMS: (adj) real, honest, straightforward, open, frank, upright, genuine, correct, actual, valid, innocent
- decisively**: (adv) resolutely, conclusively, firmly, finally, fatefully, crucially, definitively, positively, absolutely, definitely, flatly. ANTONYMS: (adv) irresolutely, unconvincingly, indecisively, aimlessly, insignificantly, halfheartedly, hesitantly
- declamation**: (n) speech, recitation, oration, rhetoric, elocution, ranting, oratory, public speaking
- deem**: (v) believe, assume, consider, count, hold, think, feel, view, suppose, regard, imagine. ANTONYMS: (v) disregard, doubt
- deeming**: (v) deem
- deepen**: (v) intensify, amplify, develop, rise, redouble, heighten, strengthen, raise, magnify, increase, darken. ANTONYMS: (v) lower, contract, shorten, reduce, lessen, decrease, lighten, diminish
- deepened**: (adj) concentrated, gathered
- deepening**: (n) amplification, aggravation
- defenseless**: (adj) unprotected, helpless, defenceless, naked, unguarded, undefended, exposed, bare, weak; (adj, v) indefensible; (v) unarmed. ANTONYMS: (adj) strong, fortified, defended, secure, guarded, protected, impervious, defensible, armed, invulnerable
- defiant**: (adj) bold, rebellious, audacious, resistant, brazen, stubborn, unruly, mutinous, rude, recalcitrant, obstinate. ANTONYMS: (adj) submissive, respectful, accepting, acquiescent, compliant, conforming, cooperative, loyal, meek, amenable
- defiantly**: (adv) insubordinately, insolently, rebelliously, disobediently, boldly, obstinately, recalcitrantly, brazenly, mutinously, audaciously, stubbornly. ANTONYMS: (adv) passively, submissively, respectfully, loyally, discreetly, amenably, meekly
- deformity**: (n) malformation, disfigurement, defect, blemish, disfiguration, defacement, disability, abnormality, distortion, clubfoot; (adj, n) irregularity
- defunct**: (adj) deceased, inanimate, late, extinct, departed, lifeless; (n) reliquiae, dust, earth, mortal remains, relics. ANTONYMS: (adj) existing, thriving, surviving, operating, alive, current
- defy**: (n, v) dare; (v) brave, resist, ignore, confront, revolt, oppose, withstand, disobey, contradict; (n) defiance. ANTONYMS: (v) obey, acquiesce, surrender, yield, comply, accept
- dejection**: (n) discouragement, depression, sadness, despair, sorrow, woe, grief, melancholy, blues, desolation, despondency. ANTONYMS: (n) cheerfulness, ecstasy, encouragement, hopefulness, joy, cheer
- deliberateness**: (n) intentionality, pace, rate, thoughtfulness, circumspection, prudence, careful consideration, clumsiness, dilatoriness, calculation, backwardness
- deliberative**: (v) contemplative, introspective, studious, philosophical, sedate, wistful, museful, speculative, pensive, reflective; (adj) platonic
- delicacy**: (adj, n) weakness, fragility, tidbit; (n) finesse, daintiness, delicate, elegance, sensitivity, luxury, treat, airiness. ANTONYMS: (n) sturdiness, toughness, durability, frankness, inelegance, ruggedness, vulgarity, tactlessness, insensitivity, inaccuracy, clumsiness
- delicately**: (adv) exquisitely, softly, tenderly, gracefully, subtly, sensitively, daintily, precisely, elegantly, ticklishly, weakly. ANTONYMS: (adv) inelegantly, tactlessly, thickly, imprecisely, clumsily, ungracefully, unsubtly, heavily, carelessly, roughly, severely
- delightedly**: (adv) elatedly, jubilantly, pleasedly, overjoyedly, joyfully, exultantly, gleefully, entrancedly, joyously, cheerfully; (adv, v) happily
- deliverance**: (n) salvation, rescue, release, freedom, escape, emancipation, delivery, relief, liberation, liberty, salvage. ANTONYMS: (n) downfall, suppression
- delusion**: (n) hallucination, deception, cheat, chimera, misunderstanding, mirage, trick, fallacy, error, aberration, falsehood. ANTONYMS: (n) comprehension, fact, truth
- demeanour**: (n) behavior, behaviour, conduct, demeanor, comportment, deportment, manner, citizenship, correctitude, carriage, attitude
- demonstrative**: (adj, v) characteristic, typical; (adj) outgoing, explanatory, expansive, demonstrable, effusive, illustrative, indicative, expressive; (n) demonstrative pronoun. ANTONYMS: (adj) cold, unemotional, shy, unemotional, restrained, inexpressive, inconclusive, impassive, distant, cool, mysterious
- demoralizing**: (adj) disheartening, discouraging, overwhelming, scary, shocking, uncomfortable, intimidating, unsettling, distressing, upsetting, unhealthy. ANTONYM: (adj) comfortable
- demure**: (adj) humble, modest, coy, reserved, prim, bashful, shy, retiring, timid; (adj, v) sober, grave. ANTONYMS: (adj) bold, outgoing,

- extroverted, loudmouthed, boisterous, decadent, exciting, indecorous, brazen
- demurely:** (adv) soberly, primly, virtuously, staidly, reservedly, solemnly, sedately, bashfully, seriously, gravely, properly. ANTONYMS: (adv) improperly, brazenly, brashly, boldly
- denoting:** (adj) significant
- depart:** (v) go, deviate, de cease, diverge, start, stray, wander, leave, die, vary, part. ANTONYMS: (v) stay, arrive, enter, come, abide, conform, continue, remain, appear, converge, return
- deplore:** (v) bemoan, regret, bewail, mourn, wail, moan, weep, condemn, grieve, censure, deprecate. ANTONYMS: (v) praise, rejoice, delight, support
- deploring:** (n) woe, grief; (adj) plaintive
- deprecating:** (adj) deprecatory, belittling, ironic, deprecative, slighting, deadpan, critical, captious, depreciatory, deprecative, insulting
- derangement:** (n) lunacy, disorder, disturbance, insanity, jumble, upset, confusion; (adj, n) aberration, craziness, alienation; (adj) madness
- derision:** (n) contempt, mockery, scorn, banter, jeering, disdain, scoff, insult, irony, sport, gibe. ANTONYMS: (n) applause, esteem, admiration, praise, approval
- derisive:** (adj) ironic, sarcastic, derisory, contemptuous, cynical, mordant, sardonic, jeering, scornful, quizzical, satirical. ANTONYMS: (adj) complimentary, approving, flattering, praising, sympathetic
- derivable:** (adj) inferable, dogmatic, inducible, obtainable, traductive
- deriving:** (n) etymologizing, ancestry, account, thought
- designation:** (n) appointment, title, name, appellation, assignment, cognomen, description, appellative, identification, nomination, classification
- desirability:** (n) appeal, advisability, charm, goodness, attraction, suitability, allure ment, attractiveness, expediency, lure, oomph. ANTONYMS: (n) repulsion, foolishness
- desolate:** (adj, v) desert, forlorn; (adj) bare, barren, alone, bleak, deserted, cheerless, disconsolate; (v) devastate, destroy. ANTONYMS: (adj) cheerful, inhabited, happy,
- sheltered, mobbed, overcrowded, ecstatic, hopeful; (v) create, construct, build
- desolation:** (n) devastation, misery, destruction, depression, grief, wretchedness, bleakness, loneliness, waste, ruin; (adj, n) desertion. ANTONYMS: (n) ecstasy, joy, productiveness, fertility, fecundity, cheer, fruitfulness, preservation, hopefulness, cheerfulness
- despairing:** (adj) hopeless, desperate, despondent, forlorn, desolate, dejected, pessimistic, sad, brokenhearted, miserable, inconsolable. ANTONYMS: (adj) hopeful, optimistic, rosy, happy, confident, cheerful
- despise:** (v) disdain, loathe, depreciate, abhor, dislike, detest, slight, hate; (n, v) contempt; (n) contempt, deride. ANTONYMS: (v) respect, love, adore, appreciate, cherish, like, praise, accept
- despised:** (adj) scorned, despicable, hated, abject, disparaged, mean, attaching disgrace, unpopular, unloved, reviled, opprobrious
- destitute:** (adj) impoverished, needy, bankrupt, broke, poor, helpless, impecunious, penniless, necessitous; (adj, v) forlorn, devoid. ANTONYMS: (adj) wealthy, privileged, prosperous, solvent
- desultorily:** (adv) disconnectedly, ramblingly, irregularly, immethodically, erratically, indiscriminately, spasmodically, discursively, fitfully, purposelessly, capriciously
- desultory:** (adj) indiscriminate, aimless, spasmodic, purposeless, capricious, superficial, cursory, random, rambling, immethodical, fitful. ANTONYM: (adj) wholehearted
- detach:** (v) disengage, part, break off, unhook, remove, disentangle, cut off, disconnect, separate, dissociate; (n, v) detail. ANTONYMS: (v) fasten, add, associate, connect, unite, couple, link
- deteriorating:** (adj) retrograde, regressing, shabby, retrogressive, regressive, decadent, failing, crumbly, decaying; (n) fading; (v) worsen. ANTONYM: (adj) burgeoning
- detest:** (n, v) hate; (v) abominate, loathe, despise, execrate, dislike, nauseate, contemn, dislike intensely;
- (n) loathing, abhorrence. ANTONYMS: (v) adore, like, cherish, admire
- deuce:** (n) devil, couple, two, dyad, demon, duo, duet, Twain, Dickens, brace, craps
- devil-may-care:** (adj) reckless, rash, happy-go-lucky, jaunty, rollicking, unmindful, easygoing, careless, wanton, foolhardy, negligent
- devilry:** (n) mischief, devilment, evil, atrocity, roguery, rascality, blaze, brutality, heartless, ruthless, ferocious
- dewlap:** (n) tegument, skin, palea, cutis
- dewy:** (adj) wet, dank, bedewed, humid, moist, damp, fresh, new, roric, undried, rorid
- dexterity:** (n) agility, cleverness, ability, aptitude, skill, deftness, expertise; (adj, n) art, cunning; (n, v) adroitness, address. ANTONYMS: (n) clumsiness, awkwardness, ineptitude, inability, uselessness, inexperience, ineptness, inaccuracy
- dexterous:** (adj) adept, deft, skillful, expert, clever, able, agile, cunning, handy, neat; (adj, v) crafty. ANTONYMS: (adj) inept, awkward, uncoordinated, incompetent, useless
- dexterously:** (adv) adroitly, skillfully, expertly, craftily, skilfully, dextrously, handily, cleverly, proficiently, aptly; (adj, adv) readily. ANTONYMS: (adv) ineptly, incompetently, awkwardly
- diabolics:** (adj) diabolic, demoniac, demonic, infernal, hellish, unholy, fiendish, wicked, satanic, atrocious, evil
- dialogues:** (n) dialog
- diaphanous:** (adj) sheer, filmy, gauzy, thin, translucent, lucid, clear, hyaline, gossamer, daintly, hyaloid. ANTONYMS: (adj) thick, opaque, heavy, robust
- dibble:** (n) drill, wimble, stylet; (v) delve, harrow, plow, lop and top, hoe, rake, weed, plough
- dicky:** (n) donkey, dickie, ass, apron, shirtfront, backseat
- dictum:** (n) aphorism, axiom, command, saying, pronouncement, bidding, statement, byword, saw, apothegm, affirmation
- diffidently:** (adv) modestly, timidly, reservedly, shily, retiringly, timorously, hesitantly, reluctantly, unassumingly, coyly, fearfully. ANTONYMS: (adv) confidently, brashly, arrogantly, decisively

digression: (n, v) deviation, diversion; (n) departure, aside, excursion, divagation, aberrance, deflection, deflexion, divergence, difference. ANTONYMS: (n) consistency, uniformity, regularity
dilated: (adj) wide, inflated, ampulliform
diligent: (adj) busy, active, assiduous, painstaking, careful, earnest, studious, attentive, laborious, industrious, zealous. ANTONYMS: (adj) careless, negligent, dilatory, idle, inactive, languid, slack, sluggish, lethargic, weary, indolent
diminishing: (adj) abating, declining, dwindling, lessening, waning; (n) decrease, shrinking, reducing, reduction; (adv) diminishingly; (v) diminish. ANTONYMS: (adj) increasing, growing, burgeoning
diminution: (n, v) decrease, decline; (n) deduction, reduction, abatement, cut, contraction, rebate, decrement, curtailment, declension. ANTONYMS: (n) growth, expansion, restoration, enlargement
diminutive: (adj) minute, Lilliputian, small, petite, tiny, bantam, baby, exiguous, short, miniature, midget. ANTONYMS: (adj) big, huge, gigantic, large, giant, tall
dimly: (adv) obscurely, darkly, faintly, dully, duskily, vaguely, shadowily, hazily, gloomily, somberly; (adj, adv) palely. ANTONYMS: (adv) clearly, strongly, distinctly
dimple: (n) depression, dint, indentation, hollow, cavity, dip, pit, spot hole, follicle, lacuna, hole. ANTONYMS: (n) hump, lump
dine: (v) feed, lunch, breakfast, dining, meal, give, have supper, take tea, grub, consume, entertain. ANTONYM: (v) abstain
disadvantageously: (adv) injuriously, harmfully, adversely, unfavorably, inconveniently, prejudicially, damagingly, badly, inopportunistly, unfavourably, inexpediently
disagreeable: (adj) nasty, offensive, uncomfortable, distasteful, cantankerous, cross, ungrateful, abhorrent, horrible, bad, painful. ANTONYMS: (adj) pleasant, friendly, amiable, inoffensive, acceptable, desirable, easygoing, happy, pleasing, sweet, nice
disagreeably: (adv) nastily, unappealingly, offensively, cheerlessly, badly, distastefully,

objectionably, unsympathetically. ANTONYMS: (adv) agreeably, sweetly, warmly, attractively
disapproval: (n) condemnation, disapprobation, censure, blame, criticism, dislike, disfavor, dissent, objection, dispraise, denunciation. ANTONYMS: (n) blessing, commendation, favor, respect, pleasure, acceptance, praise, admiration, enthusiasm
disbelieving: (adj) unbelieving, skeptical, questioning, leery, not persuaded, unsure, uncertain, suspicious, quizzical, nervous, mistrustful. ANTONYMS: (adj) believing, credulous, unsuspecting, certain, convinced
discern: (v) differentiate, see, comprehend, detect, distinguish, make out, perceive, find, note; (n, v) descry; (adj, v) recognize. ANTONYMS: (v) Miss, neglect, disregard, observe, overlook
discernible: (adj) observable, apparent, visible, appreciable, conspicuous, detectable, evident, noticeable, obvious, audible, palpable. ANTONYMS: (adj) indiscernible, unrecognizable, indistinguishable, obscure, obscured, unnoticeable, invisible, undetectable
discerning: (adj) apprehensive, perceptive, acute, shrewd, discriminating, discreet, penetrating, refined, judicious, sharp, conscious. ANTONYMS: (adj) indiscriminate, undiscriminating, disregarding, negligent, overlooking, undiscerning, unobservant, unperceptive, insensitive, obtuse, tasteless
disciple: (n) adherent, follower, devotee, scholar, pupil, believer, proselyte, cohort, learner, partisan, votary. ANTONYMS: (n) leader, teacher, God, instructor
disconcerted: (adj) confused, confounded, bewildered, blank, embarrassed, disturbed, troubled, worried, ashamed, discombobulated, bemused. ANTONYMS: (adj) composed, soothed, unabashed, relaxed
disconcerting: (adj) disquieting, upsetting, baffling, alarming, disconcertingly, disturbing, worrying, embarrassing, discomfiting, shocking, confusing. ANTONYMS: (adj) soothing, comforting, pleasing

discontentedly: (adv) unhappily, malcontently, displeasedly, querulously, disaffectedly, gloomily, sadly, despondently, dejectedly, forlornly, sorrowfully. ANTONYM: (adv) contentedly
discord: (n, v) conflict, clash; (n) disagreement, variance, division, difference, dissension, dissonance, strife, split, contention. ANTONYMS: (n) agreement, harmony, unity, accord, concordance, consent, silence, concord; (v) match
discoverable: (adj) determinable, visible, observable, discernible, calculable, findable
discredit: (n, v) disgrace, dishonor, degrade, reproach, shame, doubt, defame, slur; (v) disbelieve, decry, impeach. ANTONYMS: (n, v) honor; (v) believe, credit, dignify, praise, trust, verify, support, laud, commend, accept
disdain: (n, v) despise, contemn, slight, ridicule; (n) contempt, derision, arrogance, haughtiness, pride; (v) scoff, disparage. ANTONYMS: (n) humility, admiration, reverence, worship, approval, regard; (v) approve, admire, praise, accept, participate
disdainfully: (adv) contemptuously, superciliously, haughtily, proudly, cavalierly, derogatorily, contumeliously, sneeringly, arrogantly, insultingly, condescendingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) humbly, hopefully
disembodied: (adj) bodiless, unembodied, incorporeal, discorporate, bodyless, spiritual, impalpable, disembodied, un bodied; (adj, prep) separate; (prep) disconnected
disengaged: (adj) vacant, unemployed, disentangled, free, freed, untrammelled, devoid, unreserved, detached, liberated, loosened
disfavour: (n) disapproval, dislike, displeasure, reprobation; (v) disadvantage, hinder; (adj) handicapped
disgraceful: (adj) dishonorable, scandalous, shocking, degrading, disreputable, infamous, base, ignominious, outrageous, black, ignoble. ANTONYMS: (adj) admirable, honorable, reputable, exalted, commendable, respectable, noble, glorious

disguised: (adj) cloaked, concealed, masked, secret, hidden, veiled, in disguise, incognito, blind; (adj, v) private; (n) groggy. ANTONYMS: (adj) recognizable, unmasked, uncovered, uncloaked, revealed, open, obvious

disheartened: (adj) dejected, depressed, despondent, dispirited, demoralized, disappointed, sad, downcast, down, low, daunted. ANTONYMS: (adj) cheerful, enthusiastic, happy, positive, hopeful

dishonour: (v) discredit, disgrace, attain, shame, degrade, desecrate, violate, rape, outrage; (n) stigma, opprobrium

disillusion: (v) disappoint, let down, realize, dismay, fail, dissatisfy; (n) disenchantment, disillusionment, edification, sophistication, disappointment. ANTONYMS: (v) enchant, inspire, please

disinclination: (n) dislike, distaste, indisposition, reluctance, antipathy, opposition, disaffection, disrelish, unwillingness, disfavor; (n, v) disgust. ANTONYMS: (n) inclination, disposition, desire, tendency, keenness, willingness

disinterested: (adj) indifferent, detached, fair, unbiased, objective, neutral, dispassionate, equitable, evenhanded, uninterested, impassive. ANTONYMS: (adj) biased, interested, prejudiced, eager, passionate, riveted, concerned, partial, personal

disinterestedness: (n) fairness, disinterest, nonpartisanship, detachment, indifference, equity, aloofness, neutrality, disadvantage, unfriendliness

disjointed: (adj) disconnected, confused, split, broken, dislocated, rambling, unconnected, disordered, fragmentary, discontinuous, muddled. ANTONYMS: (adj) jointed, united, affiliated, attached, connected, continuous

dismantled: (adj) razed, destroyed
disparage: (v) depreciate, deprecate, belittle, derogate, decry, censure, condemn, criticize; (n, v) disgrace, discredit, defame. ANTONYMS: (v) praise, compliment, flatter, approve, commend, respect, laud

dispensing: (n) dispensation, distribution, giving out, supply, administration, dispensary, provision, central weighing

disperse: (v) dispel, spread, circulate, break up, disband, scatter, dissipate, diffuse, dispense, disseminate, break. ANTONYMS: (v) gather, collect, converge, centralize, capture, congregate, garner, concentrate, swarm, crowd, aggravate

disputing: (adj) opposed; (v) disputant

disquiet: (v) discompose, perturb; (n, v) worry, alarm, trouble, disorder, dismay, discomfort, concern; (n) anxiety, apprehension.

ANTONYMS: (n) reassurance, quiet, tranquility, serenity, calmness, optimism; (v) soothe, settle, relax, compose, tranquilize

disquieting: (adj) alarming, worrying, distressing, troublesome, disturbing, shocking, uncomfortable, discompose, restless, unsettling, uneasy. ANTONYMS:

(adj) reassuring, soothing, settling, pacifying, calming, comforting

disregarded: (adj) unnoticed, neglected, unseen, written off, wretched, unvalued, unheeded, overlooked, lost, irrecoverable; (v) unregarded

disregardful: (adj) neglectful, negligent, careless, slack, delinquent, oblivious, lax, defiant, derelict; (v) remiss

dissatisfied: (adj) discontent, disgruntled, disappointed, put out, displeased, malcontent, grumpy, annoyed, disaffected; (adj, v) querulous, complaining.

ANTONYMS: (adj) content, contented, happy, fulfilled, gratified, pleased, idealistic

dissembler: (n) deceiver, charmer, trickster, dissimulator, sham, impostor, dissimuler, phoney, cheat, Tartuffe, tartufe

dissertation: (n) discourse, disquisition, discussion, debate, paper, speech, tract, exposition, sermon, memoir, lecture

distaste: (n, v) disgust, aversion, disinclination; (n) antipathy, dissatisfaction, repulsion, hatred, disrelish, revulsion, displeasure, disfavor. ANTONYMS: (n) attraction, liking, taste, desire, love

distended: (adj) inflated, bloated, turgid, puffed, bombastic, distent, expanded, enlarged; (adj, v) puffy; (v) blowzy, bigswoln

distension: (n) dilatation, dilation, intumescence, extension, expansion, distention, diastole, inflation, bulge,

enlargement, tumefaction

distinctness: (n) clearness, sharpness, definition, otherness, perspicuity, discreteness, articulate sound, separation, uncloudedness, dissimilarity; (adj) conspicuousness. ANTONYMS: (n) indistinctness

distinguishable: (adj, adv) appreciable, perceptible, definite, visible; (adj) distinct, apparent, marked, differentiable, recognizable; (adv) observable, noticeable.

ANTONYM: (adj) inseparable

distracted: (adj) demented, inattentive, abstracted, crazy, frenzied, distraught, preoccupied, distressed, confused; (adj, v) mad, disconcerted. ANTONYMS: (adj) attentive, alert, assured, calm, mellow

distracting: (adj) unsettling, vociferous, unruly, troublesome, troublemaking, misleading, embarrassing, divulsive, disruptive; (v) riveting, exciting

distraction: (adj, n) desperation, raving; (n) beguilement, pastime, diversion, confusion, entertainment, disturbance, daze, recreation; (adj) madness. ANTONYMS: (n) fascination, attentiveness, attention, noninterference, calmness, concentration

distressing: (adj) sorrowful, deplorable, pitiful, painful, bad, depressing, disturbing, sore, lamentable, hurtful, worrying. ANTONYMS: (adj) reassuring, heartwarming, pleasing, unemotional, soothing, comforting, comfortable, cheerful, appealing, happy

distrust: (n, v) mistrust, discredit; (n) suspicion, misgiving, disbelief, uncertainty, hesitation; (v) suspect, disbelieve, question; (adj) distrustful. ANTONYMS: (n) confidence, faith, trustfulness, certainty, belief, optimism; (v) believe, entrust, depend, confide

disturber: (n) troubler

disused: (adj) antiquated, old, outmoded, deserted, ancient, antique, neglected, derelict, unoccupied, old-fashioned, abandoned

ditto: (adj) same, alike; (n, v) duplicate; (v) repeat, reiterate, restate; (adj, n) equivalent; (n) replica, reproduction, counterpart, facsimile

divergence: (n) disagreement,

- dissimilarity, difference, deviation, contrast, departure, split, divarication, variation, digression; (adj, n) variance. ANTONYMS: (n) meeting, agreement, amalgamation, concurrence, conformity, concord, similarity
- diverging:** (adj) branching, divergingly, centrifugal, divaricate, oblique
- diversified:** (adj) diverse, different, heterogeneous, manifold, divers, varied, altered, multifarious, motley, assorted, miscellaneous
- diverting:** (adj, v) entertaining; (adj) comical, fun, amusing, droll, comic, laughable, funny, humorous, recreative, intriguing
- divination:** (n) augury, prediction, necromancy, palmistry, sorcery, witchcraft, fortune telling, oracle, prophecy, foretelling, soothsaying
- divinity:** (n) God, theology, divineness, immortal, godship, godhead, spirit, demiurge, apologetics, demigod; (adj, n) the Deity. ANTONYM: (n) devil
- docilely:** (adv) obediently, tamely, mildly, submissively, pliantly, compliantly, yieldingly, softly, gently, dutifully, willingly
- doctoring:** (n) doping, corruption
- dogged:** (adj) obdurate, stubborn, willful, bullheaded, insistent, obstinate, tenacious, wilful, untiring, resolute, persistent. ANTONYMS: (adj) yielding, compromising, indifferent, undetermined
- dogging:** (adj) dogs, persisting, continuous, uninterrupted
- doings:** (n) conduct, behavior, behaviour, deportment, demeanour, proceeding, episode, traffic; (v) act, deed, job
- domicile:** (n) dwelling, abode, residence, home, house, address, lodging, place, habitat; (v) lodge; (n, v) sojourn
- dominative:** (adj) governing
- doorpost:** (n) jamb, post
- dormant:** (adj) inactive, torpid, inert, smoldering, suspended, inoperative, potential, sluggish, quiescent, latent, quiet. ANTONYMS: (adj) overt, extinct, dynamic, alive, awake
- dotted:** (adj) speckled, dappled, specked, spotted, dashed, stippled, scattered, spotty, dot, mottled, broken
- doubly:** (adv) twice, twofold, two times, in two ways, dualistically
- doubtingly:** (adv) distrustfully, skeptically, suspiciously, sceptically, uncertainly, questioningly, hesitantly, cynically, apprehensively, incredulously; (adj) doubting. ANTONYM: (adv) optimistically
- dough:** (n) cash, money, batter, kale, lucre, pastry, pelf, shekels, gelt; (adj) clay, butter
- dozy:** (adj) sleepy, soporific, dozing, somnolent, sluggish, lethargic, comatose, drowsing, cerenuous; (v) torpescent, lethargical. ANTONYMS: (adj) observant, awake, alert
- drab:** (adj) dreary, gloomy, dingy, cheerless, somber, boring, dowdy, dark, colorless, dull, depressing. ANTONYMS: (adj) colorful, vivid, brilliant, chic, flashy, interesting, cheerful, distinctive, smart, strong
- dragon:** (v) coerce, force, bulldoze, enforce, persecute, bully, browbeat; (n) cavalry, cavalryman, horse, artillery
- drapery:** (n) drape, clothing, dress, blind, raiment, costume, toilette, furnishings, trim, guise, toilet
- drawback:** (n) catch, hitch, snag, shortcoming, defect, detriment, failing, inconvenience, disability, hurdle, encumbrance. ANTONYMS: (n) benefit, bonus, edge, strength
- dreared:** (adj) awful, terrible, cowardly, causing horror, dire, direful, desperate, dreadful, fearful, fearsome; (v) drad
- drastically:** (adj, adv) frightfully, shockingly; (adv) fearfully, appallingly, hideously, horrendously, horribly, atrociously, ghastly, tremendously, horridly. ANTONYMS: (adv) pleasantly, wonderfully, happily, hardly, superbly, well
- dreariness:** (n) desolation, tedium, dullness, gloominess, boringness, dullness, depression, boredom, sadness, bleakness, gloom. ANTONYMS: (n) brightness, cheerfulness, splendor
- dreary:** (adj) depressing, drab, dull, cheerless, drear, miserable, gloomy, dark, dismal, stuffy, disconsolate. ANTONYMS: (adj) interesting, cheerful, sunny, brilliant, lively, light, exciting, clear, cheery, pleasant, exotic
- drrenched:** (adj) saturated, soaked, soaking, damp, soppy, wet through, sodden, sopping, wringing wet, soaked to the skin, dripping wet
- dribbling:** (n) trickle, drip, actuation
- drinker:** (n) tippler, drunkard, imbibor, toper, guzzler, bacchanal, bacchant, carouser, alcoholic, boozor, potator
- drip:** (n, v) drop, trickle, leak, escape; (n) leakage; (v) distill, weep, seep, trill, fall, percolate. ANTONYMS: (v) flow, pour, surge, flood
- dripping:** (adj) wet, damp, drenched, sodden, soaked, soggy; (adj, adv) sopping, soaking; (adj, v) reeking; (n) dribble, a drop. ANTONYM: (adj) lacking
- droning:** (adj) buzzing, humming, abuzz, booming, monotonous, noisy; (n) bourdon, dawdler, drone pipe, idleness, monotone. ANTONYM: (adj) varied
- drown:** (v) drench, submerge, overwhelm, choke, engulf, flood, swamp, inundate, suffocate, asphyxiate; (adj, n, v) sink. ANTONYMS: (v) float, swim, amplify, dry
- drowning:** (n) masking, demersion
- drunkard:** (n) alcoholic, drinker, boozor, dipsomaniac, rummy, inebriate, toper, sot, bibber, lush, imbibor
- dubiously:** (adv) suspiciously, uncertainly, problematically, fishily, vaguely, incredulously, skeptically, equivocally, distrustfully, questionably, undecidedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) clearly, certainly
- duddgeon:** (n) resentment, huff, pique, umbrage, spleen bitterness, virulence, gall, rancor; (adj) dumps, mumps, scowl
- duet:** (n) twosome, deuce, brace, pair, duo, duetto, dyad, two, Twain, Gemini, twins
- dulcet:** (adj, n) sweet; (adj) musical, melodious, harmonious, melodic, honied, candied, mellifluous, canorous, mellow, honeyed
- dulcimer:** (n) zithern, zither, vielle, pianino, spinet, cither, virginals, eolian harp
- dully:** (adv) slowly, sluggishly, stupidly, tediously, drearily, heavily, tamely, boringly, monotonously, tiresomely, bluntly. ANTONYMS: (adv) animatedly, luminously, brightly, brilliantly
- dunce:** (n) dolt, blockhead, loggerhead, ignoramus, numskull, ass, bonehead, booby, dunderhead, dullard, dummy. ANTONYMS: (n) thinker, scholar, intellectual, genius

dungeon: (n, v) keep; (n) prison, cell, jail, penitentiary, fastness, oubliette, Bastille, bridewell, detention, house of correction

dusky: (adj) dark, cloudy, gloomy, black, swarthy, dull, murky, obscure, dingy, sooty, somber.

ANTONYMS: (adj) light, bright, sunny, radiant, clear

dusting: (n) sprinkling, dry spraying, film, coating

dutchman: (n) Netherlander, mynheer, make up piece; (adj) dago, tenderfoot, slant, wop, greaser, Polak, mick, easterner

dutiful: (adj) duteous, good, faithful, docile, devoted, deferential, compliant, loyal, pious, meek, constant. ANTONYMS: (adj) unfaithful, undutiful, disrespectful, irresponsible, negligent, assertive, impious, irreverent, neglectful, thoughtful, uncaring

dwell: (adj, v) inhabit; (v) reside, bide, live, stay, lodge, delay, occupy, continue, be, settle. ANTONYM: (v) wander

dwelt: (v) dwell, inhabit

earnest: (adj, v) devout; (adj) eager, solemn, heartfelt, diligent, studious, sincere, intense, ardent, staid; (n) guarantee. ANTONYMS: (adj) flippant, halfhearted, uncertain, insincere, unimportant, nonchalant, lethargic, apathetic, unenthusiastic, indifferent, frivolous

earnestly: (adj, adv) seriously; (adv) eagerly, intently, zealously, solemnly, ardently, fervently, heartily, gravely, warmly, passionately. ANTONYMS: (adv) indifferently, insincerely, unconcernedly, jokingly

earnestness: (n) seriousness, sincerity, gravity, fervor, devotion, graveness, staidness, honesty; (adj, n) ardor, zeal, intentness.

ANTONYMS: (n) slackness, lightness, carelessness, frivolousness, cheerfulness, insincerity, flippancy

earshot: (n) earreach, audience, auditory modality, stone's throw, audition, auditory sense, range; (n, v) sound

earthly: (adj, n) terrestrial; (adj) carnal, worldly, conceivable, human, geotic, secular, terrene, temporal, telluric, sublunary. ANTONYMS: (adj) spiritual, divine, ethereal, immortal, impossible, improbable, inconceivable, celestial

earthwork: (n) fortification, bulwark, embankment, trench, rampart, parapet, mound, agger, wall

eastward: (adj) eastbound, eastern; (adv) eastwards

easy-going: (adj) carefree, indulgent, easygoing, tranquil, tolerant, slack, lax, tender, amiable, breezy, unsociable

eaves: (n) arch, balcony, cupola, dome, penthouse, eave, overhang, attic, loft, projection, roof space

eccentricity: (n) abnormality, idiosyncrasy, oddness, peculiarity, anomaly, crankiness, irregularity, quirk, strangeness, weirdness, curiousness. ANTONYMS: (n) usualness, normalcy, conventionality, concentricity, conformity

ecclesiastically: (adv) spiritually, ecclesiologically

echoing: (adj) resonant, hollow, resounding, deep, booming, loud, ringing, spacious, vast; (n) imitation, roll. ANTONYMS: (adj) thin, weak, cramped

eclipse: (v) darken, overshadow, cloud, shade, outdo, surpass, dim, transcend, outshine, outweigh; (n) disappearance. ANTONYMS: (n) rise; (v) fail, brighten, clear, disclose

eclipsing: (n) occultation

economize: (v) economise, save, preserve, skimp, husband, retrench, cut back, stint, economizing, save up, spare. ANTONYMS: (v) waste, spend, squander, expand

eddies: (n) turbulence

edged: (adj) cutting, sharp, bordered, pointed, bounded, keen, penetrating, sharper, stinging, unkind, bleak

edifice: (n) building, structure, house, hall, fabric, aviary, bagnio, bathhouse, abattoir, bawdyhouse, clubhouse

effaced: (adj) obliterated

effacing: (n) accomplishment, implementation, completing, finishing, fulfillment, carrying out; (adj) effectual

effectual: (adj, n) efficient, efficacious, able; (adj) forceful, telling, authoritative, operative, potent, adequate, impressive, powerful. ANTONYMS: (adj) ineffectual, incapable, weak, impotent, ineffective, unproductive, unsuccessful, useless

effectually: (adv) efficaciously, effectively, validly, adequately,

potently, tellingly, strongly, decisively; (adj) nicely, fully, head and shoulders. ANTONYM: (adv) ineffectually

effeminate: (adj) womanish, delicate, epicene, sissy, emasculate, tender, ladylike, cissy, easy, voluptuous; (adj, v) feminize. ANTONYMS: (adj) macho, manly, masculine

egress: (n) exit, egression, outlet, door, emergence, departure, emersion, emission, way out, dissilience; (v) emerge.

ANTONYMS: (n) entry, ingress

elaped: (adj) gone, forgotten, lapsed, back, beyond, onwards, over and done

elastic: (adj) flexible, springy, soft, pliable, resilient, limber, pliant, yielding, ductile, buoyant; (n) rubber band. ANTONYMS: (adj) rigid, stiff, inflexible, inelastic, unadaptable, intolerant, firm, hard, unyielding

elasticity: (n) spring, tone, buoyancy, suppleness, springiness, flexibility, resiliency, resilience, pliability, tonicity; (adj) elastic force.

ANTONYMS: (n) stiffness, inflexibility, rigidity

elated: (adj) joyful, delighted, jubilant, exultant, gleeful, happy, triumphant, overjoyed, proud, ecstatic; (n) buoyant. ANTONYMS: (adj) dejected, disappointed, sad, unhappy, miserable, down, depressed, despairing, blue, sorrowful, desolate

elevating: (adj) inspiring, exhilarating

elicited: (adj) evoked, elicit

elongated: (adj) extended, long, lengthy, lengthened, prolonged, oblong, lengthen, stretched, protracted, oval, extensive

elude: (adj, v) evade, circumvent; (v) dodge, duck, avoid, skirt, escape, baffle, defy, shirk, bilk.

ANTONYMS: (v) face, encounter, meet, acquire

eluding: (n) chemise, case, cutting, slip, berth; (adj) intangible

elusion: (n) escape, eluding, dodging, subterfuge, getaway, fallacy, shirking, trickery, case, cutting; (n, v) evasion

embellishments: (n) trimmings, arrangements, added extras, fixing, trappings

embittering: (adj) onerous

embodied: (adj) incarnate, corporate, corporeal, corporal, bodied,

- personified, incorporated,
combined, tangible, associated, in
person
- embodiment:** (n) shape, epitome,
incarnation, avatar, amalgamation,
union, unification, incorporation,
coalescence, cast; (adj) integration
- embossed:** (adj) raised, brocaded,
stamped, decorated, prominent,
bossy; (n) relief
- embroidery:** (n) needlework,
ornamentation, fancywork, sewing,
drawnwork, crewelwork, cutwork,
decoration, adornment, ornament,
stitchery. ANTONYM: (n)
understatement
- emerald:** (adj) green, verdigris, verd
antique, malachite, verdant,
brilliant; (n) beryl, gem, viridity,
greenness, chalcedony
- emigrate:** (n, v) migrate; (v)
immigrate, transplant, depart,
demigrate, leave. ANTONYMS: (v)
remain, immigrate
- emphatic:** (adj) decided, categorical,
expressive, forceful, pronounced,
assertive, loud, important,
emphatical, insistent; (adj, v)
absolute. ANTONYMS: (adj)
insignificant, unassertive,
understated, unemphatic,
halfhearted
- emphatically:** (adv) decidedly,
definitely, positively, categorically,
flatly, distinctly, absolutely,
explicitly, forcefully, firmly,
expressly
- emptying:** (n) evacuation, draining,
discharge, voidance, drainage,
remotion, removal, voiding,
elimination, unloading; (adj)
cathartic
- enact:** (v) constitute, pass, command,
act, ordain, order, prescribe,
legislate, play, perform; (adj, v)
establish. ANTONYMS: (v) cancel,
abolish, annul, fail, reject, repeal,
veto, revoke, stop
- enactment:** (n) constitution, edict, act,
law, acting, statute, canon,
institution, establishment, fiat; (n, v)
passage
- encampment:** (n) camp, campsite,
bivouac, campground, camping site,
camping ground, camping,
cantonment, barracks, camping area,
bivouacking
- encased:** (adj) incased, sheathed
- enchanter:** (n) magician,
necromancer, sorcerer, wizard,
warlock, sorceress, witch
- encircled:** (adj) enclosed, bounded,
circinate, circular, decorated,
delimited, ringed, wreathed,
bordered, annulated, annular
- encircling:** (adj, prep) surrounding;
(prep) around; (adj) comprehensive,
encompassing, roundabout,
circuitous, rotary, circumferential,
inclusive; (v) encircle
- enclosing:** (n) enclose, inclosure,
boxing, encasement, introduction,
insertion, intromission,
surrounding, incasement, grip,
envelopment
- encrustation:** (n) incrustation,
calculus, cover, covering, calculi,
coating, tartar, scaling, cheekiness
- encrusted:** (adj) crusted, crustlike,
covered, smudged, dirty, filthy,
peeling, grubby, soiled, flaking,
curmudgeonly. ANTONYM: (adj)
smooth
- encumbrance:** (n) check, hindrance,
load, burden, barrier, impediment,
tie, obstacle, imposition, charge,
onus
- endowed:** (adj) gifted, clever, cute,
felicitous, competent, blessed,
artistic, brilliant, ingenious, talented,
qualified
- endurance:** (adj, n) sufferance; (n)
stamina, tolerance, courage,
permanence, continuance, energy,
fortitude, tenacity, duration,
toughness. ANTONYMS: (n)
weakness, inconsistency,
impatience, frailty, discontinuation,
discontinuance, death
- enduring:** (adj) durable, abiding,
lasting, permanent, continuing,
constant, hardy, immortal, eternal,
stable; (adv) enduringly.
ANTONYMS: (adj) impatient,
transient, fleeting, mortal, modern,
insubstantial, inconstant, fickle,
erratic, unstable
- enervated:** (adj) debilitated, limp,
tired, lethargic, weak, languid, faint,
colorless, adynamic, asthenic,
enfeebled. ANTONYMS: (adj)
activated, invigorated, strengthened,
energized, strong
- engraving:** (n) print, sculpture, plate,
picture, carving, copperplate,
aquatint, printmaking,
engravement, cutting, chasing
- engrossed:** (adj) rapt, engaged, intent,
occupied, preoccupied, busy,
fascinated, obsessed, thoughtful,
hooked; (adj, v) immersed.
ANTONYMS: (adj) disinterested,
bored, distracted, indifferent,
unconcerned, uninterested,
- inattentive, careless
- enjoined:** (adj) lawful
- enlargement:** (n) magnification,
amplification, expansion, increase,
dilation, addition, development,
distension, distention, growth,
extension. ANTONYMS: (n)
contraction, decrease, lessening,
shrinkage, deterioration, drop,
erosion
- enlarging:** (adj) growing,
augmenting, increscent, expanding;
(n) amplification, addition
- enlightenment:** (n) light, information,
education, culture, civilization,
instruction, wisdom, illumination,
notice, Age of Reason; (n, v)
knowledge
- enlisting:** (n) accomplishment,
achievement, recruitment
- enlivened:** (adj) bouncy, active,
spirited, alive, bouncing
- enriched:** (adj) educated
- ensconced:** (v) imbedded, situate,
posited
- enshrined:** (adj) hallowed
- ensue:** (v) come, arise, happen, result,
succeed, occur, transpire, turn out,
befall, come after, stem.
ANTONYMS: (v) forerun, preface,
antecede, dwindle, recede
- entailed:** (adj) eldest, eigne
- entangled:** (adj) complicated,
intricate, embroiled, complex, foul,
confused, matted, tangled,
inextricable, knotty; (v) entangle
- entertainer:** (n) host, performer,
comedian, actor, humorist, artist,
musician, bombshell, busker, artiste,
comic
- entreaty:** (n) plea, prayer, request,
petition, adjuration, supplication,
suit, demand, desire, invocation; (v)
solicitation
- entrenchment:** (v) bulwark, fosse,
moat; (n) intrenchment, fortification,
invasion, trench, trespass,
retrenchment
- enunciation:** (n) delivery, elocution,
articulation, pronunciation, speech,
declaration, announcement, accent,
assertion, inflection, expression
- enveloped:** (adj) convoluted,
enclosed, cover, bounded,
Byzantine, clothed, involved, misty,
swallowed, vested, emotionally
involved
- enviable:** (adj) invidious,
advantageous, envious, happy,
pleasing, attractive. ANTONYMS:
(adj) unwelcomed, undesirable,
undesired, unpleasant

ephesians: (n) epistle of Paul the apostle to the Ephesians
epistle: (n) letter, note, communication, message, correspondence, post card, favor, missive, writing, memo, dispatch
epitome: (n) abstract, type, resume, compendium, model, digest, ideal, conspectus, synopsis, recapitulation; (adj, n) brief
equanimity: (n) aplomb, poise, calmness, calm, temper, peace, imperturbability, temperament, serenity, tranquility; (adj, n) stoicism. ANTONYMS: (n) panic, anger, excitableness, fear, hysteria, nervousness, agitation, anxiety
equestrian: (n) rider, trooper, trainer, buster, roughrider, horsewoman, horseback rider, breaker, postilion; (adj) mounted
equidistant: (adj) halfway, middle, center, median, parallel, equal
erection: (n, v) building, structure; (n) assembly, construction, erecting, architecture, installation, creation, foundation, framework; (adj) elevation
ermine: (n) purple, pelt, fur, weasel, pall, shorttail weasel, mantle, toga, millinery, robes of state
eros: (adj) yearning
errand: (n) chore, mission, job, task, assignment, embassy, duty, charge, messenger, communication, work
erring: (adj) devious, vagabond, erratic, erroneous, perverse, fallible, mistaken, migrant, fugitive; (adj, n) notorious; (adv) adrift. ANTONYMS: (adj) reliable, right, pure, inerrant, correct, trustworthy, righteous
erratically: (adv) irregularly, variably, fitfully, inconstantly, changeably, unevenly, volatily, unpredictably, whimsically, arbitrarily, capriciously. ANTONYMS: (adv) deliberately, regularly, predictably, firmly, dependably, always, peacefully, evenly, constantly
escapade: (n) lark, adventure, prank, caper, exploit, romp, dangerous undertaking, crotchet, capriccio; (adj, n) monkey trick; (adj) boutade
espalier: (n) trellis tree, trellis, treillage
espial: (n) detection, discovery, catching, find, ken, glance, uncovering, spy, look, spotting, becoming infected
essentials: (n) basics, rudiments,

details, facts, information, introduction, necessities, particulars, the whole story, brass tacks, specifics
esteem: (n) deference, admiration; (n, v) respect, value, consideration, account; (v) appreciate, deem, adore, admire, count. ANTONYMS: (v) scorn, hate, disdain, insult, despise, abominate, abhor, dislike, reject; (n) disesteem, disapproval
esteemed: (adj) dear, reputable, respected, honorable, noble, honored, prestigious, important, distinguished, August, respect. ANTONYM: (adj) disreputable
etched: (adj) inscribed, incised, graven, graphic, carven, carved, clean-cut
eternally: (adv) always, permanently, incessantly, perpetually, constantly, ceaselessly, endlessly, unendingly, unceasingly, lastingly; (adj, adv) forever. ANTONYMS: (adv) briefly, sporadically
ethereal: (adj) airy, celestial, unworldly, delicate, intangible, aeriform, spiritual, aery, vaporous, incorporeal, diaphanous. ANTONYMS: (adj) earthly, heavy, indelicate, worldly, tangible, thick, robust, concrete
evade: (v) escape, avoid, parry, dodge, skirt, duck, sidestep, circumvent, hedge, fudge; (adj, v) equivocate. ANTONYMS: (v) face, address, accept, meet, acquire
evanescent: (adj) passing, temporary, fleeting, transitory, fugitive, momentary, transient, cursory, temporal, intangible, short-lived
evasion: (n, v) equivocation, avoidance, subterfuge, prevarication; (n) escape, quibble, dodge, excuse, elusion, casuistry, circumvention. ANTONYMS: (n) facing, confrontation, confronting, meeting
evasively: (adv) shiftily, deceptively, elusively, indirectly, deceitfully, shufflingly, falsely, misleadingly, ambiguously, cautiously, carefully. ANTONYM: (adv) carelessly
evenness: (n) monotony, balance, equilibrium, regularity, equivalence, uniformity, consistency, level, composure, steadiness, flatness. ANTONYMS: (n) inconsistency, asymmetry, variety
even-tempered: (adj) tranquil, placid, equable, philosophical, collected, dispassionate, composed, even,

impassive, imperturbable, unruffled
eventide: (n) eve, dusk, night, twilight, nightfall, eleventh hour, sunset, daytime, daylight, day, curfew
evolutions: (n) evolution
exacting: (adj) fastidious, austere, strict, trying, stern, difficult, hard, finicky, nice; (adj, v) exigent; (adj, n) exact. ANTONYMS: (adj) lenient, relaxed, tolerant, unexacting, unfastidious, basic, careless, relaxing
exaltation: (n) elation, ecstasy, apotheosis, worship, praise, rapture, deification, grandeur, adoration; (n, v) sublimation; (v) laud. ANTONYMS: (n) abasement, belittlement, debasement, degradation, humiliation, sorrow, derogation, disparagement
examiner: (n, v) inspector; (n) assessor, tester, supervisor, overseer, analyst, controller, questioner, searcher; (v) inquisitor, inquirer
exasperating: (adj) annoying, bothersome, maddening, infuriating, trying, irritating, tedious, vexatious, vexing, galling, exacerbatng. ANTONYMS: (adj) pleasing, pleasant, satisfying
excellently: (adv) splendidly, beautifully, exquisitely, magnificently, finely, marvelously, goodly, worthily, grandly, primely, superbly. ANTONYMS: (adv) poorly, badly, terribly
excepting: (conj, prep) but, bar; (n, prep) except for, exclusive of; (prep) aside from, besides, apart from, barring, excluding, with the exception of; (v) saving. ANTONYM: (prep) including
excitability: (n) irritability, impetuosity, responsiveness, vehemence, petulance, cholera, indiscretion, feeling, crossness, excitableness, nervousness
excitable: (adj) nervous, irritable, combustible, hasty, edgy, fiery, sensitive, volatile, passionate, warm, quick. ANTONYMS: (adj) unexcitable, calm, unflappable, easygoing, easy, tranquil, reliable, mild
excitedly: (adv) passionately, feverishly, wildly, frantically, nervously, ardently, enthusiastically, eagerly, animatedly, fervently, cheerfully. ANTONYMS: (adv) lifelessly, patiently, peacefully, nonchalantly,

- indifferently, despondently, unenthusiastically
- exclaiming:** (n) deuce, Dickens, ejaculation, exclaim, devil, interjection, ecphonesis
- exclamation:** (n) clamor, ejaculation, exclaiming, utterance, whoop, interjection, shout, expletive, deuce, Dickens, ecphonesis
- excrescence:** (n) outgrowth, bump, protuberance, growth, jut, wart, nub, protrusion, hump, caput, process
- excruciating:** (adj) agonizing, harrowing, painful, sharp, intolerable, acute, violent, insupportable, intense, torturing; (v) cutting. ANTONYMS: (adj) bearable, painless, pleasant, pleasing, soothing, wonderful, dull
- excusing:** (n) defense; (adj) exculpatory, lenient, extenuating, easy, tolerant
- exemplar:** (n) pattern, archetype, model, standard, classic, case, representative, prototype, protoplast, ideal, precedent
- exertion:** (n) application, exercise, endeavor, attempt, struggle, trouble, diligence, strain, labor, pull, essay. ANTONYMS: (n) idleness, inactivity, inertia, relaxation, laziness, ease
- exhalation:** (n) emanation, expiration, breathing out, steam, vapour, emission, fumes, vapor, puff, effusion, wind
- exhaling:** (adj) expiring, ending, dying, breathing
- exhausting:** (adj) difficult, grueling, tiring, tiresome, exhaustingly, strenuous, draining, wearing, wearisome, wearying, hard. ANTONYMS: (adj) undemanding, refreshing, easy, light
- exhibiting:** (n) advertising; (adj) exhibitory, ostensive
- exorbitant:** (adj) unreasonable, immoderate, steep, unconscionable, inordinate, extravagant, outrageous, enormous, extortionate, extreme, high. ANTONYMS: (adj) reasonable, inexpensive, moderate, modest, sensible, fair
- expanse:** (n) breadth, expansion, space, region, compass, extent, orbit, latitude, acreage, dilation, length. ANTONYM: (n) closeness
- expectant:** (adj) hopeful, encointe, anticipative, big, gravid, eager, heavy, confident, with child, watchful; (adj, v) pregnant.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) uninterested, apathetic, indifferent
- expended:** (adj) spent, finished, dead, departed, unpursed, bypass, bygone, deceased, gone, completely exhausted; (v) expending
- expiration:** (n) ending, end, conclusion, finish, close, exhalation, termination, exit, death, lapse, expiry. ANTONYM: (n) beginning
- expiring:** (adj) moribund, failing. ANTONYM: (adj) well
- explorer:** (n) adventurer, traveler, pioneer, researcher, tourist, scout, discoverer, diver, excursionist, soul, mortal
- expostulation:** (n) dissuasion, deprecation, objection, admonition, reprehension, dehortation, increpation, reprobation, rebuke, reproach, reproof
- extemporize:** (adj, v) ad-lib; (v) extemporise, perform, execute, improvise; (adv) ad lib. ANTONYMS: (v) plan, prepare
- extemporized:** (adj) impromptu, unarranged, unrehearsed, unprepared, unplanned, informal, ad lib, ad-lib, spontaneous, off the cuff, unpremeditated
- extinguished:** (adj) extinct, out, dead, quenched, allayed, destroyed; (n) defunctness, complete annihilation, experimental extinction, extermination, extinction
- extraneous:** (adj) exterior, foreign, exotic, external, adventitious, outer, outside, irrelevant, unrelated, extrinsic, immaterial. ANTONYMS: (adj) relevant, intrinsic, necessary, essential, integral, native, needed, basic, pertinent
- extravagant:** (adj) wasteful, luxurious, prodigal, exaggerated, profligate, costly, expensive, lavish, immoderate, profuse, undue. ANTONYMS: (adj) restrained, frugal, parsimonious, plain, stingy, understated, thrifty, reasonable, moderate, cautious, tasteful
- extremity:** (n) end, member, boundary, bound, close, appendage, limit, limb, ending, fringe, conclusion. ANTONYMS: (n) trunk, average, minimum, head, leniency
- exuberance:** (adj, n) abundance; (n) copiousness, ebullience, happiness, life, affluence, spirit, excess, overflow, joy; (adj) plenty. ANTONYMS: (n) apathy, shortage, scarcity, listlessness, lethargy, depression, boredom, sadness,
- misery
- exultation:** (n) jubilation, joy, delight, ecstasy, elation, rejoicing, revelling, transport, joyousness, bliss, glee. ANTONYMS: (n) depression, desolation, misery, sorrow
- eyelid:** (n) lid, palpebra, chapeau
- eyesight:** (n) sight, seeing, discernment, vision power, ability to make discerning judgments, view, sightedness, optics, beholding
- eyewitness:** (n) witness, bystander, onlooker, observer, beholder, watcher, passer by, earwitness, passerby, viewer, outsider
- fabricated:** (adj) fictitious, false, fake, ben trovato, unfounded, pretended, feigned, forged, sham, improbable, made-up. ANTONYMS: (adj) factual, truthful, honest, true
- facade:** (n) appearance, outside, face, front, veneer, pretense, disguise, surface, guise, semblance, frontispiece. ANTONYMS: (n) interior, substance, rear, genuine
- factitious:** (adj) artificial, unnatural, fictitious, man-made, ostensible, bogus, unreal, synthetic, surreptitious, forced, false
- factotum:** (n) housekeeper, retainer, seneschal, shepherd, servant, servant of all work, maid, drudge, croupier, agent, laboring oar
- faïn:** (adj) willing, prepared, ready, favorable, heart and soul, prone; (adv) gladly, lief, readily, willingly; (v) optative
- fainting:** (n) swoon, syncope, deliquium, lipothymy, prostration, stupor; (adj) lipothymic
- faintness:** (n) weakness, debility, indistinctness, languor, fuzziness, blurriness, fogginess, dullness, ambiguity, lassitude, infirmity. ANTONYMS: (n) acuteness, strength, harshness, clearness, loudness, clarity
- fallow:** (adj) dormant, yellow, unbroken, uncultivated, citrine, aureate, idle, unplanted, unseeded; (n) tillage, tilth. ANTONYMS: (adj) planted, fertile, cultivated, active, prolific, creative
- falsetto:** (adj) alto, penny trumpet, voce di testa, soprano, tenor
- faltering:** (n) falter, pause, vacillation; (adj) tentative, vacillating, doubtful, irresolute, hesitant, uncertain, unsure; (adv) falteringly. ANTONYMS: (adj) decided, firm, eloquent, decisive, sure
- fancies:** (n) stock

fanciful: (adj) mythical, fantastic, capricious, unreal, arbitrary, romantic, ideal, chimerical, notional, visionary; (adj, v) fancy.

ANTONYMS: (adj) prosaic, real, realistic, plausible, normal

fancifully: (adv) fantastically, fantastically, chimerically, unreally, imaginarily, freakishly, bizarrely, visionarily, ideally, notionally, fancily

fancy: (n) daydream, fantasy

fanny: (n) bottom, buttocks, arse, rump, rear, posterior, bum, backside, can, fundament, hindquarters

fantastical: (adj, v) fanciful; (adj) antic, chimerical, unusual, beautiful, unreal, strange, grotesque, odd, extraordinary; (v) fancy

fantastically: (adv) wonderfully, fabulously, tremendously, marvelously, extraordinarily, strangely, queerly, magnificently, grotesquely, whimsically, peculiarly. ANTONYMS: (adv) plausibly, abysmally

far-gone: (adj) spent, effete, drained, done in; (adv) head over heels

far-off: (adj) distant, far, faraway, outlying, extreme, inaccessible, last, long, obscure, unknown, wide

far-sighted: (adj) prudent, sagacious, judicious, clairvoyant, right, sensible, shrewd, thoughtful, rational

farthest: (adj) ultimate, extreme, farthestmost, utmost, uttermost, last, furthermost, endmost, greatest, most distant; (adj, adv) remotest.

ANTONYMS: (adj) closest, nearest

farthing: (n) craps, faro, ante, chuck, doit, small change; (adj) bulrush, pinch of snuff, peppercorn, old son, jot

fascinate: (adj, n, v) charm; (n, v) allure, enchant, entice; (adj, v) attract; (v) bewitch, enthral, enrapture, enthral, entrance, capture. ANTONYMS: (v) bore, tire, repel, disenchant, disinterest, appall

fashioned: (adj) formed, featured, fictitious, intentional, bent, wrought

fastened: (adj) tied, fast, buttoned, closed, tight, secure, pinned, binding, empight, steady, firm. ANTONYMS: (adj) unfastened, unbuttoned

fastening: (n) clasp, clip, buckle, attachment, lock, catch, link, bonding; (n, v) bond; (v) tie, bind

fastidious: (adj, n) exacting, critical,

accurate; (adj) delicate, particular, careful, exigent, dainty, discriminating, nice, fussy.

ANTONYMS: (adj) sloppy, unfastidious, careless, uncouth, uncritical, easy, indifferent, undemanding, slapdash, relaxed, easygoing

fated: (adj) inevitable, destined, certain, predestined, damned, unavoidable, predestinate, cursed, intended, forthcoming, sure

fates: (adj) book of fate, Parcae, sky; (n) fortune, the fates

fathomless: (adj) immeasurable, soundless, unfathomable, incomprehensible, abysmal, profound, unintelligible, deep, infinite, boundless, incalculable.

ANTONYM: (adj) fathomable

fearfully: (adv) timidly, timorously, awfully, apprehensively, horrendously, hideously, anxiously, appallingly, terribly; (adj, adv) shockingly, dreadfully.

ANTONYMS: (adv) bravely, calmly, confidently, wonderfully, rationally, unconcernedly

fearlessly: (adj, adv) daringly, boldly, heroically, courageously, valiantly; (adv) dauntlessly, bravely, gallantly, undauntedly, audaciously,

unflinchingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) nervously, cautiously, timidly

fearlessness: (n) courage, daring, valor, boldness, dauntlessness, hardihood, nerve, confidence, coolness, heroism; (adj, n) prowess.

ANTONYMS: (n) fear, fearfulness

feat: (n) deed, accomplishment, achievement, act, effort, performance, action, triumph, attainment, trick; (adj) fetis .

ANTONYM: (n) inaction

feathering: (n) plumage, quill, rotation, plume, bevelling, ink creep, feather edging

feathery: (adj) light, fluffy, plummy, soft, downy, featherlike, plumose, plumelike, velvety, creamy, tender.

ANTONYM: (adj) rough

featureless: (adj) lackluster, plain, monotonous, indistinctive, uninteresting, colorless, characterless, mediocre, unoriginal, uninspired, unimaginative.

ANTONYMS: (adj) imaginative, inspired, interesting, distinctive

feebly: (adv) faintly, unenthusiastically, dimly, hopelessly, unproductively, unpersuasively, unconvincingly,

uncertainly, reluctantly, powerlessly, insipidly.

ANTONYMS: (adv) robustly, confidently, domineeringly, vehemently, stubbornly, strongly, effectively, convincingly, competently, admirably, wholeheartedly

feelingly: (adv) sensitively, sympathetically, feeling, deeply

feigning: (v) feign; (n) pretending, pretense, dissimulation, dissembling, deceit, appearance, acting, deception,

misrepresentation, pretension

feller: (n) chap, faller, fella, fellow, lumberjack, logger, dude, Dick, woodcutter, guy, comrade

felon: (n) convict, culprit, crook, malefactor, thug, desperado, miscreant, offender, hoodlum, outlaw; (adj) felonious

femininely: (adv) femalely

femininity: (n) muliebrity, woman, womanliness, effeminateness, sex, femaleness, femininity, trait, feminely, female, womanhood.

ANTONYMS: (n) masculinity, maleness

fenced: (adj) hedged in, provisional, guarded, bounded

fencing: (n) swordplay, enclosure, paling, evasion, barrier, railing, inclosure, weir; (v) prevarication, equivocation, fraud

fend: (v) repel, resist, dispel, guard, counteract, obstruct, ward off, protect, safeguard, fend off; (n) fen

fern: (n) maidenhair, davallia, christella, pteridophyte, fan fern, bristle fern, button fern, buckler fern, cliff brake, beech fern, canker brake

ferny: (adj) ferned, braky

fervidly: (adv) fierily, ardently, fiercely, vehemently, eagerly, passionately, hotly, keenly, zealously, heatedly, violently

fetiching: (adj) attractive, engaging, tempting, winning, fetch, charming, catching, catchy, taking, fetchingly, fascinating. ANTONYMS: (adj) unattractive, repulsive, ugly

fetter: (n, v) shackle, bond, gyve, hamper, hobble, tether; (v) bind, chain, confine, handcuff, band.

ANTONYMS: (v) free, facilitate

fevered: (adj) febrile, hectic, hot, fiery

feverish: (adj) febrile, feverous, fiery, frenzied, fevered, excited, sick, fanatical; (adj, v) hot, flushed; (adj, n) hysterical. ANTONYMS: (adj)

- calm, afebrile, collected, composed, mellow
- feverishly:** (adv) excitedly, hotly, febrilely, hectically, feverously, hysterically, passionately, frantically, fanatically, heatedly, frenziedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) indifferently, peacefully, sluggishly
- fickle:** (adj, v) erratic, skittish; (adj) volatile, capricious, mercurial, mobile, variable, inconsistent, shifting, giddy, inconstant. ANTONYMS: (adj) untiring, stable, unchanging, consistent, constant, dependable, predictable, placid, loyal, faithful
- fickleness:** (n) faithlessness, levity, volatility, instability, capriciousness, changeableness, falseness, flightiness; (n, v) caprice; (v) fancy, legerete. ANTONYMS: (n) fidelity, loyalty, predictability
- fictional:** (adj) bogus, assumed, fictional, counterfeit, artificial, fake, fabulous, sham, fabricated, fanciful, apocryphal. ANTONYMS: (adj) true, honest, historical, factual
- fiddle:** (n, v) con, cheat, trick; (v) tamper, play, diddle, meddle, tinker; (n) kit, swindle, fraud
- fiddler:** (n) Fiddler's money, trumpeter, fifer, instrumentalist, musician, player, piper, violin player, twiddler, tinkerer, drummer
- fideliy:** (n) constancy, devotion, faithfulness, adherence, allegiance, loyalty, faith, dedication, exactness; (adj, n) honesty, truth. ANTONYMS: (n) infidelity, unfaithfulness, disloyalty, inaccuracy, faithlessness, dishonesty, unreliability
- fidgets:** (n) jitters, nervousness, fidgetiness, anxiety
- fiend:** (n) monster, devil, fanatic, brute, deuce, incubus, goblin, ogre, enthusiast, daemon, addict. ANTONYM: (n) angel
- fiendish:** (adj, v) infernal, diabolic, satanic, hellish; (adj) demonic, diabolical, cruel, atrocious, inhuman, wicked, brutal
- finale:** (n) close, end, ending, finish, finis, termination, catastrophe, last, epilogue, closing, denouement. ANTONYMS: (n) start, introduction, prelude
- finality:** (n) determination, decision, definiteness, decisiveness, conclusiveness, limit, final, ultimate, eventually, settlement, assuredness. ANTONYMS: (n) indecision, uncertainty, doubt, indecisiveness
- finch:** (n) bunting, bullfinch, brambling, crossbill, linnet, goldfinch, redpoll, grosbeak, redbird, serin, yellowbird
- finesse:** (n) artifice, diplomacy, delicacy, refinement, dexterity, daintiness, ability, skill; (n, v) maneuver; (adj) intrigue; (v) circumvent. ANTONYMS: (n) ignorance, tactlessness, coarseness
- firelight:** (adj) light, rushlight, starlight
- firmament:** (n) sphere, welkin, heaven, heavens, celestial sphere, expanse, arena, field, vault of heaven, domain, area
- firmness:** (adj, n) constancy; (n) determination, resolution, assurance, consistency, obstinacy, steadfastness, resolve, confidence, courage, backbone. ANTONYMS: (n) softness, instability, vacillation, unsteadiness, yielding, irresoluteness, droopiness, indefiniteness, indecisiveness, indecision, leniency
- fitful:** (adj) erratic, fickle, changeable, spasmodic, uncertain, intermittent, irregular, variable, sporadic, desultory, flickering. ANTONYMS: (adj) regular, unbroken
- fitfully:** (adv) intermittently, spasmodically, inconstantly, sporadically, unsteadily, unevenly, uncertainly, randomly, interruptedly, flickeringly, occasionally. ANTONYMS: (adv) recurrently, peacefully
- fixedly:** (adv) steadily, steadfastly, regularly, intently, stably, setly, permanently, rigidly, unwaveringly, surely, resolutely
- fixity:** (n) fixedness, fastness, firmness, fixing, immutability, constancy, inalterability, inflexibility, immobility, stronghold, fixture
- flagging:** (adj) tired, fading, lazy, slack, failing, remiss, pendulous; (v) lame, halting, enervate; (n) pavement. ANTONYM: (adj) prompt
- flagon:** (n) jar, flask, bottle, pitcher, ewer, cruse, vessel, decanter, carboy, mug, carafe
- flakes:** (n) dust
- flaming:** (adj, n) burning, ardent, glowing, passionate; (adj) blazing, ablaze, aflame, hot; (n) enthusiastic, flame, fire. ANTONYMS: (adj) extinguished, placid, gentle, quiet
- flapping:** (adj) loose, detached, baggy, streaming, flying, slack; (n) fluttering, flutter, flaps, dither, disturbance
- flare:** (n, v) blaze, flame, burst, glare; (v) burn, glint, blaze up, burn up; (n) fire; (adj) detonate, explode
- flatly:** (adv) categorically, smoothly, plainly, levelly, insipidly, evenly, firmly, monotonously, horizontally, peremptorily, directly. ANTONYM: (adv) animatedly
- flatness:** (n) dullness, monotony, plain, flat, tedium, sameness, insipidness, tediousness, platitude, smoothing, smooth. ANTONYM: (n) unevenness
- flattened:** (adj) planate, packed down, trodden, unconscious, depressed, compressed
- flatter:** (v) fawn, adulate, wheedle, cajole, soap, kowtow, blandish, grovel, butter up; (n, v) court; (n) caress. ANTONYMS: (v) insult, disparage, criticize, discourage
- flatterer:** (n) toady, sycophant, adulator, crawler, lackey, follower, coaxer, flunkey, wheedler, obsequious, apple polisher
- flattery:** (n, v) cajolery; (n) blarney, compliment, adulation, taffy, palaver, praise, gloze, sweet talk, sycophancy, soft soap. ANTONYMS: (n) insult, offense
- flaw:** (n, v) crevice, blemish, crack; (adj, n) fault, blot, blunder; (n) chink, demerit, cranny, break, chap. ANTONYMS: (n) strength, perfection
- flaxen:** (adj) flaxy, fair, blond, light, pale, golden, arenaceous, sandy, farinaceous; (n) blonde
- fleece:** (v) extort, bilk, pluck, deceive, rip off, swindle, strip, pigeon, shear; (adj, v) bleed; (n) wool
- fleeing:** (v) flee; (adj) runaway, fugitive, evanescent
- flexuous:** (adj, v) tortuous, sinuous; (adj) anfractuoso, winding, curved, devious, undulant, flabby; (v) rivulose, scolecoïd, reclivate
- flickering:** (adj) sparkling, afflicker, desultory, capricious, glistening, shimmering, glittering; (n) twinkling, flicker, fluttering; (adv) flickeringly
- flimsy:** (adj) light, weak, slight, sleazy, feeble, delicate, fragile, slender, tenuous, fine; (adj, v) limp. ANTONYMS: (adj) sturdy, strong, weighty, heavy, persuasive, reliable, robust, convincing, durable, good,

- abundant
- flinch:** (v) cower, quail, recoil, recede, blench, shrink; (n, v) cringe, start, retreat, jump, jerk
- fling:** (n, v) toss, throw, pitch, slam, hurl; (v) chuck, shoot, dash, rush, discard; (n) crack. ANTONYM: (v) collect
- flinging:** (n) casting, cast
- flirt:** (n, v) coquette; (v) dally, coquet, toy, romance, trifle, spoon; (n) dalliance, vamp, tease, flirting
- flirtation:** (n) flirt, coquetry, flirting, romp, trifling, tease, play, frolic, gambol, amour, gallantry
- flitting:** (adj) fleeting, fugitive, momentary, transient, ephemeral; (v) migration
- flooded:** (adj) floors, flooring, dumbfounded, bewildered. ANTONYM: (adj) ceilinged
- flossy:** (adj) downy, downlike, fuzzy, showy
- founce:** (v) fling, flounder, bob, bounce, dance; (n) ruffle, frill, fringe, trimming, furbelow, frame
- foulishes:** (n) added extras, trappings, superfluities, trimmings, accompaniments, additions, embellishments
- flourishing:** (adj) thriving, palmy, healthy, successful, luxuriant, booming, verdant, lush, auspicious, favorable, rich. ANTONYMS: (adj) arid, declining, fading, poor, unhealthy
- flowering:** (adj) blooming, abloom, efflorescent, flourishing; (n) bloom, blossom, flower, anthesis, inflorescence, efflorescence, florescence
- fluctuation:** (n) vicissitude, wavering, deviation, wobble, swing, undulation, variance, oscillation, hesitation, vibration, modification. ANTONYM: (n) resolution
- fluently:** (adv) easily, glibly, eloquently, liquidly, flowingly, articulately, clearly, persuasively, verbosely, talkatively, fluidly. ANTONYM: (adv) awkwardly
- fluffy:** (adj) fleecy, light, flossy, feathery, soft, hairy, silky, bushy, velvety, downlike, tender. ANTONYM: (adj) rough
- furried:** (adj) frightened, agitated; (v) galled
- furry:** (n) commotion, stir, bother, squall, breeze, ado; (adj, n) bustle, fuss, hurry; (n, v) fluster; (v) disconcert. ANTONYM: (n) quiet
- flute:** (n) wineglass, furrow, groove, fluting, tooth gap, champagne flute, corrugation, plow, wood, woodwind; (v) channel
- fluted:** (adj) corrugated, grooved, gadrooned, canalculated; (v) ribbed, sulcated
- fluttering:** (adj) flying, palpitating, fluttering, flaring, aflare, waving; (n) flutter, flapping, flicker, flitting; (adv) flutteringly
- foggy:** (adj) hazy, misty, brumous, murky, blurred, bleary, fuzzy, opaque, thick, indefinite, nebulous. ANTONYMS: (adj) precise, sunny
- foldng:** (n) foldaway, plication, foldable, bend, crease, bending, flexure, pleating, collapsable, collapsible, doubling
- fondness:** (n) affection, attachment, love, taste, regard, appetite, tenderness, partiality, endearment, liking, relish. ANTONYMS: (n) aversion, indifference, neglect, antipathy, detachment, hatred
- foolery:** (n) folly, tomfoolery, foolishness, buffoonery, clowning, inanity, romp, gambol, frolic, imbecility, lunacy
- fooling:** (n) farce, tomfoolery, horseplay, joking, prank; (adj) casual, accidental, everyday, effortless, cursory
- foolishly:** (adv) idiotically, ridiculously, stupidly, indiscreetly, silly, insanelly, injudiciously, preposterously, absurdly, senselessly; (adj, adv) madly. ANTONYMS: (adv) sensibly, solemnly, shrewdly, prudently, rationally, judiciously, carefully, rationally
- foolishness:** (n) folly, fatuity, craziness, nonsense, stupidity, indiscretion, ineptitude, mistake, fatuousness, irrationality; (adj, n) silliness. ANTONYMS: (n) prudence, sense, sensibleness, understanding, forethought, responsibility
- footing:** (n) foothold, base, bottom, foundation, status, rank, foot, pedestal, situation, relation, root. ANTONYM: (n) top
- footprints:** (n) track, road, footpath, route, path, way
- footstep:** (n) pace, footfall, track, footmark, vestige, tread, trail, stride, degree; (n, v) step, action
- footstone:** (n) monument
- forbade:** (v) prohibit, to prohibit
- forbid:** (v) prohibit, ban, disallow, bar, obstruct, exclude, deny, avert, frustrate, to prohibit, enjoin. ANTONYMS: (v) allow, let, approve, authorize, stand
- forbidding:** (adj) grim, ominous, dismal, dour, austere, abominable, ugly, hard, repulsive, redoubtable; (n) banning. ANTONYMS: (adj) alluring, inviting, pleasant, hospitable, friendly, favorable, comforting
- forcible:** (adj) forceful, active, energetic, powerful, strong, violent, coercive, vigorous, effective, convincing; (prep) conclusive. ANTONYMS: (adj) weak, gentle, peaceful
- forcibly:** (adv) forcefully, emphatically, powerfully, by force, mightily, under protest, cogently, hard, strongly, convincingly, clearly. ANTONYMS: (adv) voluntarily, weakly, gently
- forefathers:** (n) patriarchs, forefather, ancestor, colony, lineage, family
- forefinger:** (n) index finger, index, forefingers, paw, thumb, hand, exponent, antenna, feeler
- foreground:** (n) front, scene, panorama, window, vista; (v) bring out, emphasize, highlight, cozy up, cotton up, accentuate. ANTONYM: (v) background
- forelock:** (n) foretop, hair, ringlet, whorl, cotter, lock, quiff, curl, key
- foreseen:** (v) foresee, long expected; (adj) envisioned, foretold, contingent, concourse, coming, casual, adventitious, accidental, predictable
- forestall:** (v) prevent, avert, forbid, stop, preclude, obviate, foreclose, impede, debar, avoid; (adj, v) engross
- forethought:** (n) caution, care, forecast, anticipation, deliberation, premeditation, precaution, counsel, circumspection, consideration, discretion. ANTONYMS: (n) hindsight, unpreparedness, neglect, impulsiveness, carelessness
- forgetful:** (adj) oblivious, inattentive, negligent, lax, absent-minded, casual, unmindful, neglectful, heedless, unaware; (adj, v) remiss. ANTONYMS: (adj) mindful, watchful, alert, remembering, retentive
- forgetfulness:** (n) neglect, amnesia, oblivion, inattention, memory loss, omission, unknowingness, unawareness, Lethe, carelessness, loss of memory. ANTONYMS: (n)

- awareness, concentration, remembering, attention
- forgo:** (v) waive, abandon, relinquish, give up, dispense with, abdicate, resign, renounce, forswear, forsake, foreswear
- forlorn:** (adj) hopeless, desolate, despairing, unhappy, miserable, deserted, disconsolate, downcast, cheerless, wretched, abject. ANTONYMS: (adj) happy, hopeful, fine
- forsake:** (v) abandon, ditch, relinquish, abdicate, fail, leave, forgo, chuck, disclaim; (n, v) drop; (adj, v) quit. ANTONYM: (v) support
- fortifying:** (adj) fortify, healthy, hopeful, cold, invigorating, stimulating, revitalizing, refreshing, bracing, restorative, brisk
- fortitude:** (n) bravery, endurance, grit, pluck, backbone, determination, tenacity, firmness, strength; (adj, n) guts, spunk. ANTONYMS: (n) cowardice, frailty, impatience
- forwardness:** (adj) alacrity, readiness, earnestness; (n) precocity, impudence, presumption, cockiness, bumptiousness, impertinence, cheekiness, temerity
- fowls:** (n) poultry
- frankness:** (n) honesty, truth, forthrightness, candidness, freedom, sincerity, candour, plainness, bluntness, outspokenness, ingenuousness. ANTONYMS: (n) cunning, tact, delicacy, deceit, conformity, reticence, indirectness, evasiveness
- fray:** (n) conflict, action, fight, combat, disturbance, fracas, scrap; (n, v) affray, broil; (v) rub, fret
- freak:** (n, v) crotchety, caprice; (adj, n) eccentric; (n) oddity, crank, fanatic, nut, monster, fit, whim, fad
- freakish:** (adj, n) fantastic, fanciful, whimsical, crotchety; (adj) eccentric, bizarre, outlandish, abnormal, peculiar; (adj, v) changeable, fickle. ANTONYM: (adj) normal
- freeing:** (n) discharge, liberation, emancipation, extrication, disentanglement, dismissal, clearing, relief; (adj) liberating, emancipative, emancipating. ANTONYMS: (n) conviction, captivity
- freer:** (adj) unconfined
- frenzied:** (adj) frenetic, crazy, delirious, hectic, furious, wild, manic, fanatical, raging, rabid; (n) maniac. ANTONYMS: (adj) calm, controlled, mellow, composed
- freshening:** (n) airing, avivement, ventilation, exposure to air, aeration, drying, chipping, calving, revival
- freshness:** (adj) coolness; (n) impertinence, gall, greenness, impudence, insolence, newness, viridity, originality, crust, crispness. ANTONYMS: (n) oldness, clutter, humidity, mustiness
- fret:** (n, v) gall, irritate, trouble, worry; (v) agitate, chafe, rub, fray, upset, annoy; (n) anxiety
- friendless:** (adj) alone, lonely, abandoned, solitary, helpless, lonesome, forsaken, unfriended, deserted, introverted, unwanted. ANTONYM: (adj) sociable
- friendliness:** (n) friendship, geniality, amiability, affability, amicability, affection, hospitality, cordiality, brotherhood, amicableness, accessibility. ANTONYMS: (n) cruelty, aloofness, nastiness, hostility, aggression, resistance, resentment, frostiness, formality, contention, belligerence
- frill:** (n) flounce, adornment, embellishment, frills, luxury, furbelow, fringe, trimming, frame; (n, v) ruffle, disturbance
- frivolous:** (adj) empty, foolish, dizzy, petty, idle, light, flighty, unimportant, flippant, trivial, superficial. ANTONYMS: (adj) important, solemn, worthwhile, vital, weighty, staid, significant, sensible, responsible, crucial, heavy
- frolicsomely:** (adv) sportively, lively, gleefully, frolicly, gaily, waggishly, rollickingly, joyfully, coltishly, playfully, sprightly
- frosted:** (adj) rimy, frozen, nacreous, opaque, iced, icy, white, pearly, milky, frigid, crisp
- frosty:** (adj, v) icy, glacial; (adj) frigid, freezing, wintry, arctic, chill, frozen, chilly, bleak, cool. ANTONYMS: (adj) friendly, pleasant, hot, torrid, tropical, balmy, approachable
- froth:** (n, v) bubble, spume, fizz, suds, sparkle; (v) boil, effervesce, ferment; (n) effervescence, bubbles, spindrift
- froward:** (adj) wayward, willful, headstrong, cantankerous, naughty, perverse, wilful, intractable, contumacious, exceptionous, deaf to reason
- frugal:** (adj) thrifty, abstemious, sparing, austere, prudent, careful, provident, moderate, parsimonious; (adj, v) chary; (v) scant. ANTONYMS: (adj) extravagant, luxurious, wasteful, hedonistic, abundant, lavish
- frying:** (adj) burning up, boiling, hot; (n) cookery, cooking, sauteing
- full-grown:** (adj) mature, grown-up, full-fledged
- fulness:** (n) fullness, entirety, completeness, totality
- fulness:** (adj) excessive, foul, immoderate, bad, plentiful, undue, smarmy, repugnant, rank, high; (v) loathsome. ANTONYMS: (adj) shy, scanty
- fumbling:** (adj) clumsy, fumble, butterfingered, awkward, bumbling, bunglesome, clunky, cumbersome, incompetent, left-handed, unskilled
- fungi:** (n) bacteria, fungus, kingdom fungi, Thallophyta, fungus kingdom
- furlough:** (v) yard, rood, pole, palm, nail, line, inch, hand, fathom, cubit, foot
- furlough:** (n) vacation, leave, ticket of leave, pass, time off, sabbatical year; (v) dismiss, terminate, force out, lay off; (adj) On leave
- furnace:** (n) forge, heater, blast furnace, fireplace, hearth, stove, oven, kiln, electric furnace, cupola, crematorium
- furred:** (adj) hairy, hirsute, fur lined, wooly, fuzzy
- furrowed:** (adj) wrinkled, lined, wrinkle, crumpled, corrugated, corrugate, furrowy, porcate, rugged, uneven. ANTONYM: (adj) unfurrowed
- furthest:** (adj) furthestmost, extreme, farthestmost, remotest, ultimate, utmost, uttermost, most remote, final, outermost; (adv) most. ANTONYMS: (adj) nearest, near
- furtively:** (adv) stealthily, covertly, surreptitiously, sneakily, clandestinely, secretively, sly, sneakingly, underhandedly, undercoverly, craftily. ANTONYMS: (adv) deliberately, brazenly
- furze:** (n) gorse, Irish gorse, Ulex europaeus, Needle furze, shrub, bush, bramble, dyeweed
- fussy:** (adj) fastidious, busy, particular, choosy, crabbed, crabby, fidgety, picky, difficult, finical, meticulous. ANTONYMS: (adj) easy, plain, easygoing, indiscriminate, shy, understated, consistent, lax, careless, relaxed,

- sloppy
- fustian:** (adj, n) rant, jargon; (adj) bombastic, inflated, pompous, grandiloquent, highfalutin, prose run mad; (n) claptrap, blah, grandiosity
- futile:** (adj) useless, empty, ineffective, frivolous, idle, abortive, bootless, hopeless, meaningless, vain, hollow. ANTONYMS: (adj) successful, useful, fruitful, meaningful, worthwhile, promising, productive, effective
- futility:** (n) emptiness, inanity, worthlessness, vanity, uselessness, fruitlessness, frivolity, unusefulness, purposelessness, hollowness, insignificance. ANTONYMS: (n) importance, worth, worthiness, fruitfulness, effectiveness, competence, usefulness
- futurity:** (n) hereafter, futuration, timing, millennium, offing, future tense, afterlife, time to come; (v) Int he womb of time. ANTONYMS: (n) past, pastness
- fuze:** (n) fuse, primer, ignitor, light, lighter, igniter, electrical fuse, priming, flat coat, detonating fuse, fuze
- gable:** (n) pediment, gable end, wall, gable wall, William Clark gable, bell gable, corbie gable, gavel, Clark gable
- gaffer:** (n) boss, foreman, chief, ganger, fellow, chap, blade, antique, beau, elf, put
- gaily:** (adv, v) happily; (adv) gladly, jovially, joyfully, cheerfully, mirthfully, joyously, gleefully, sunnily, blithely, lively. ANTONYMS: (adv) sadly, anxiously, dully, despondently
- gainsay:** (v) disavow, negate, contradict, deny, refute, controvert, disclaim, impugn, oppose, contest, contravene. ANTONYMS: (v) agree, correspond
- gait:** (n, v) pace, step, tread, footsteps, rate, stride, action; (n) walk, carriage, movement, velocity
- gaiter:** (n) legging, legin, shoe, gambado, leggings, bickering, buskin, Gamache, fuss, galligaskin, bicker
- gallant:** (adj) fearless, brave, daring, courageous, chivalrous, bold, manly, heroic, dashing, courteous, fine. ANTONYMS: (adj) boorish, rude, selfish
- gallantry:** (adj, n) prowess, daring, spirit, fearlessness; (n) heroism, bravery, valor, courage, chivalry, courtesy, courageousness. ANTONYMS: (n) cowardice, cowardliness, rudeness
- gallop:** (v) speed, dart, dash, race, spring, tear, hasten, sprint; (adj, v) fly; (n, v) trot; (n) gait
- galooping:** (v) flying
- gaol:** (n, v) jail; (n) clink, lockup, jailhouse, hoosegow; (v) lag, jug, incarcerate, imprison, immature, confine
- gape:** (v) gawk, yawn, open, glare, goggle, split, dehisce, ogle, see; (adj, n) stare; (n, v) look
- gaping:** (adj, n) agape; (adj) vast, yawning, cavernous, discontinuous, wide, ajar, drowsy, hollow, wide open; (adj, v) oscitant. ANTONYMS: (adj) cramped, narrow
- garb:** (n, v) dress, apparel, array, garment; (n) attire, clothing, costume, frock, outfit, clothes; (v) clothe
- garish:** (adj) flashy, loud, gaudy, brassy, blatant, meretricious, showy, flash, tawdry; (adj, v) gay, gairish. ANTONYMS: (adj) drab, inconspicuous, muted, restrained, dull
- gatekeeper:** (n) doorman, commissioner, ostiary, janitor, porter, door guard, door-keeper, gate-keeper, caretaker, concierge, usher
- gaunt:** (adj) lean, thin, cadaverous, desolate, bleak, dreary, meager, bony, angular, lanky, sullen. ANTONYMS: (adj) fresh, rounded, obese
- gantlet:** (n) mitt, sleeve, wristband, gantlet, mitten, gloves; (v) corner stone, armored vest, buffer, mask, call to arms
- gauze:** (n) film, curtain, blind, bandage, mask, mantle, muslin, screen, gauze bandage, shutter, daze
- generalities:** (n) general points, general terms, generalia
- generalization:** (n) generalisation, induction, idea, abstraction, dialectics, theorisation, theorization, learning, notion, concept, colligation. ANTONYM: (n) fact
- genesis:** (n) beginning, birth, origin, ancestry, descent, cause, commencement, generation, derivation, creation, dawn. ANTONYM: (n) end
- genial:** (adj) cheerful, bright, affable, cordial, amiable, nice, friendly, convivial, warm, agreeable, suave. ANTONYMS: (adj) disagreeable, hostile, mean, discourteous, frosty, gloomy, reserved, unapproachable, abominable
- genteel:** (adj) elegant, polite, cultured, refined, graceful, courtly, courteous, fashionable, nice, civil, ladylike. ANTONYMS: (adj) uncouth, improper, vulgar
- gentlefolk:** (n) gentlefolks, gentility, jet set
- gentlemanly:** (adj) courteous, polite, chivalrous, refined, gallant, suave, mannerly, genteel, gentle, well-bred; (n) gentleman. ANTONYMS: (adj) rude, unbecoming
- gentleness:** (adj, n) kindness, courtesy, benignity, compassion; (n) kindness, lenity, mildness, sweetness, softness, benevolence, mercy. ANTONYMS: (n) severity, harshness, fierceness, cruelty, ferocity, brusqueness, abruptness, rage, callousness, sharpness, roughness
- geometrical:** (adj) nonrepresentational, mathematical
- ghostlike:** (adj) spectral, apparitional, supernatural, unearthly, haunted, eerie, ghostly, phantom, creepy, ethereal, mystic. ANTONYM: (adj) normal
- giddy:** (adj, v) flighty; (adj) dizzy, faint, silly, changeable, vertiginous, featherbrained, light, fickle, capricious; (adv) careless. ANTONYMS: (adj) serious, dull
- giggle:** (n, v) laugh, chuckle, titter, twitter, guffaw, gurgle, snort, hoot; (v) cackle, snicker, snigger
- giggling:** (n) laughter
- gilded:** (adj, v) gilt; (adj) rich, gold, golden, deluxe, gilden, fortunate, garish, advantageous, aurated, luxurious
- gills:** (n) branchia, gill, mouth, countenance, flabellum
- gimp:** (n) claudication, lameness, gameness, frame, disability of walking, fringe, furbelow, edging; (v) hobble; (adj) disabled, crippled
- ginger:** (n) fire, pep, galangal, vim, zest, zing, courage; (adj) gingery, auburn, carrot, red
- gipsy:** (n) Gypsy, Romany, bohemian, warping end, tzigane, vagrant, Rommany
- gird:** (adv, v) encircle, environ; (v) begird, circle, girt, jest; (n) jeer, scoff, deride; (n, v) fortify, brace
- girdling:** (n) cincture
- girlish:** (adj) boyish, childish,

- kittenish, juvenile, adolescent, innocent, schoolgirlish, babyish, immature, youthful, female
- girt:** (n, v) girth, girdle; (v) gird, begird, encircle, environ; (n) band, belt, zone, cingle; (adj) braced
- giver:** (n) contributor, benefactor, abnegator, almsgiver, altruist, supporter, helper, donator, grantor, provider, philanthropist
- gladden:** (adj, v) exhilarate, enliven, inspire; (v) comfort, joy, encourage, animate, console, content, satisfy; (adj) elate. ANTONYM: (v) dishearten
- gladly:** (adv, v) happily; (adv) gleefully, contentedly, cheerfully, fain, joyfully, jovially, cheerily, delightedly, gladly, readily. ANTONYMS: (adv) reluctantly, unwillingly, sadly, resentfully, miserably
- gladness:** (n) joy, gaiety, pleasure, delight, bliss, glee, happiness, exhilaration, joyfulness, mirth, cheerfulness. ANTONYMS: (n) unhappiness, dismay, displeasure
- glaring:** (adj) conspicuous, bright, blatant, egregious, obvious, plain, flaming, garish, crying, gross, glory. ANTONYMS: (adj) soft, inconspicuous, dull, minor
- glassy:** (adj, v) glossy; (adj) clear, glazed, smooth, flat, crystalline, dead, dull, hyaline, transparent; (v) glabrous. ANTONYMS: (adj) alert, bumpy, dull, expressive, murky, rough
- gleam:** (n, v) glance, beam, blaze, shine, glimmer, glow, flash, flicker, sparkle, glitter; (v) twinkle
- glide:** (adj, n, v) slide; (n, v) coast, slip; (v) float, run, fly, flow, drift, lapse, slink, skid. ANTONYMS: (v) lurch, hurtle, flounder, sink
- gliding:** (adj) sliding, flying, slipping, labent, elusory; (n) sailing, soaring, flight, glissando; (v) slither; (adv) glidingly
- glimmer:** (adj, n, v) flicker, twinkle; (n, v) gleam, shimmer, flash, sparkle, beam, glow, shine; (v) blink; (n) gleaming
- glisten:** (n, v) gleam, sparkle, flash, glance, shimmer, glitter, glisten; (v) glimmer, beam, coruscate, glint
- glistening:** (adj) shining, glossy, shiny, glisten, brilliant, beaming, sleek, lustrous, sparkling, reflecting light, gleaming. ANTONYM: (adj) dull
- glitter:** (n, v) flash, beam, shine, glisten, glimmer, glow, sparkle, flicker, shimmer; (v) glance; (n) radiance. ANTONYM: (n) dullness
- gloomily:** (adv) murky, obscurely, drearily, darkly, somberly, morosely, sadly, sorrowfully, despondently, unhappily, glumly. ANTONYMS: (adv) brightly, favorably, happily, optimistically, contentedly; (adj) auspiciously
- glorified:** (adj) celebrated, holy, overvalued, puffed up, overrated, overestimated, hyped, haloed, canonised, blessed, authorized
- glove:** (n) boxing glove, gloves, mitt, mitten, baseball mitt, baseball glove, handwear, wristband, sleeve, mittens, batting glove
- glowworm:** (n) lightning bug
- gnarled:** (adj) knotty, knotted, gnarly, asperous, crisp, deformed, crabbed, roughhewn, wrinkled, unsmooth, unpolished. ANTONYMS: (adj) smooth, unknotted, straight
- gnat:** (adj) midge, animalcule, emmet, shrimp, maggot, minnow, worm; (n) blackfly, mosquito, sandfly, black fly
- go-between:** (n) intermediary, mediator, agent, broker, matchmaker, arbiter, negotiator, arbitrator, moderator, judge, messenger
- goblet:** (n) bowl, chalice, cup, mug, grail, beaker, basin, tumbler, rummer, flask; (v) glass
- godfather:** (n) godchild, supporter, patron, godparent, godmother, gangster, executive; (v) christen
- godly:** (adj, adv) holy, saintly; (adj) religious, pious, divine, devotional, reverent, pure; (adv) piously, righteously, devoutly. ANTONYM: (adj) earthly
- goings-on:** (n) occasion, affair, episode, eventuality, extramarital affair, matter, romance, occurrence, proceeding, transaction, incident
- gong:** (n) bell, carillon, chime, cymbal, medal, Alexander Melville Bell, handbell, English painter, doorbell, bell shape, Alexander Graham Bell
- good-bye:** (n) bye, farewell, goodbye, goodbye, vale, adios, cheerio
- good-hearted:** (adj) benign, good-natured, kindly, kindhearted
- gooseberry:** (n) fish story, Ribes grossularia, shrub, bush, gooseberry bush, feaberry
- gorgeously:** (adv) splendidly, magnificently, grandly, stunningly, sumptuously, wonderfully, superbly, exquisitely, resplendently, attractively, delightfully. ANTONYM: (adv) horribly
- gourd:** (n) bottle gourd, pumpkin, melon, Lagenaria, gord, vine, noddle, exploding cucumber, fruit, flask, calabash tree
- governess:** (n) chaperon, preceptress, nanny, trainer, tutor, professor, lecturer, rectoress, educator, reatrix, instructress
- gracefully:** (adv) prettily, graciously, neatly, delicately, smoothly, charmingly, refinedly, lithely, easily, daintily, nicely. ANTONYMS: (adv) awkwardly, ungraciously, clumsily, gracelessly, vigorously, unpleasantly, unkindly, heavily
- graceless:** (adj) inelegant, clumsy, godless, depraved, gauche, abandoned, ungracious, dissolute, ungraceful, rude, barbaric. ANTONYMS: (adj) sophisticated, suave, elegant
- graciousness:** (n) benignity, goodness, kindness, gentleness, good manners, blandness, benignancy, gallantry, civility, grace, benevolence. ANTONYMS: (n) ungraciousness, impoliteness, malignity, unkindness, cruelty, incivility
- granary:** (n) garner, warehouse, storage, grange, store, storehouse, cornloft, depot, farm, lathe, entrepot
- grandeur:** (n) dignity, splendor, magnitude, brilliance, glory, pomp, elegance, majesty, magnificence, grandness; (adj, n) solemnity. ANTONYMS: (n) modesty, simplicity
- grasping:** (adj) avaricious, covetous, acquisitive, greedy, avid, voracious, rapacious, grabby, mercenary, stingy; (n) seizing. ANTONYMS: (adj) generous, altruistic
- grassy:** (adj) verdant, gramineous, weedy, herby, woody, fertile, blossoming, abundant, leafy, lush, flourishing. ANTONYMS: (adj) grassless, urban, withering
- gratefully:** (adv) appreciatively, indebtedly, obligedly, gratifyingly, delightfully, beholdenly, pleasingly, pleasantly, welcomingly, goodly, deliciously
- gratification:** (adj, n) delight; (n, v) content; (n) enjoyment, pleasure, satisfaction, fruition, complacency, joy, luxury, treat, fulfillment. ANTONYMS: (n) dissatisfaction, disenchantment, dismay, discontent,

- anxiety
- gratified:** (adj) glad, satisfied, pleased, delighted, happy, thankful, grateful, content, complacent, comfortable, cheerful
- grating:** (adj) hoarse, strident, harsh, discordant, gravelly, raspy, gruff, raucous; (n, v) lattice; (n) grate, grid.
- ANTONYMS:** (adj) pleasing, soothing, smooth, harmonious
- gratuitous:** (adj) complimentary, unnecessary, needless, superfluous, for nothing, gratis, unwarranted, costless, free of charge, unfounded; (adj, v) voluntary. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) necessary, paid, provoked, justified
- gravely:** (adv) seriously, soberly, severely, solemnly, badly, staidly, momentarily, heavily, earnestly, weightily, grievously. **ANTONYMS:** (adv) lightheartedly, mildly, slightly; (adj) soft
- graveyard:** (n) burial ground, churchyard, necropolis, burying ground, burial site, site, burial place, radioactive cemetery, memorial park, morgue
- gravitation:** (n) gravity, attraction, pull, graveness, habit, gravitational attraction, gravitational force, attractive force
- grease:** (n, v) oil, lubricating oil; (n) bribe, butter, ointment, soil, stain; (v) boodle, anoint, graft, lubricate
- greatcoat:** (n) coat, topcoat, capote, chesterfield, surcoat, Ulster
- greenish:** (adj) green, virescent, viridescent, fleecy, envious, covetous, chromatic, porraceous, gray, charcoal, achromatic color, achromatic colour, Asa gray, ash gray, charcoal gray, lightness, ash gray
- grieve:** (n, v) distress, aggrieve, afflict, sorrow, annoy; (v) trouble, lament, deplore, bemoan, fret, bewail. **ANTONYMS:** (v) rejoice, celebrate, encourage
- grieved:** (adj) sore, sad, sorry, sorrowful, upset, woeful, pained, affected, brokenhearted
- grievous:** (adj) bitter, dolorous, dreadful, deplorable, sad, tough, pitiful, atrocious, regrettable, sorrowful, sorry. **ANTONYM:** (adj) successful
- grievously:** (adv) seriously, heavily, sorrowfully, gravely, severely, mortally, mournfully, heinously, weightily; (adj, adv) painfully,
- bitterly
- griffin:** (n) griffon, gryphon
- grimace:** (n, v) scowl, glower, sneer, smile, roar; (n) face, mop, mouth, expression; (v) pull a face, wince
- grimy:** (adj) dirty, filthy, grubby, dingy, unclean, impure, nasty, begrimed, squalid, messy, muddy.
- ANTONYMS:** (adj) pure, pleasant
- grind:** (n, v) labor, toil, comminute, drudge; (v) grate, crunch, abrade, chew, scrape, mash; (n) mill.
- ANTONYMS:** (v) blunt, smooth
- grinding:** (v) cutting, excruciating, consuming, corroding; (n) abrasion, friction, sharpening, detrition; (adj) grating, extortionate, hard
- grindstone:** (v) grinder, mill, arrastra, file, grater, kern, quern, koniogy; (n) grinding wheel, whetstone, oilstone
- grisly:** (adj) grim, gruesome, forbidding, frightful, macabre, fearful, formidable, eerie, terrific, redoubtable, horrendous.
- ANTONYM:** (adj) pleasant
- gritty:** (adj) spirited, game, grainy, courageous, granular, fearless, brave, mettlesome, resolute, rough, sandy. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) clean, cowardly, fainthearted, irresolute, romantic
- groaning:** (adj) moaning, groaningly, inarticulate
- grog:** (n) liquor, grog grain, toddy, bishop, rumbo; (v) blue ruin, port wine, purl, wassail, negus
- groin:** (n) groyne, crutch, crotch, breakwater, bulwark, ankle, elbow, zigzag, scythe, region, kimbo
- grotesque:** (adj) fantastic, bizarre, funny, antic, absurd, droll, strange, baroque, weird, ugly, hideous.
- ANTONYMS:** (adj) lovely, normal, commonplace, attractive
- groundwork:** (n) bottom, basis, base, foundation, bed, ground, footing, bedrock, fundament, background, substructure
- growl:** (adj, n, v) snarl; (n, v) roar, bark, howl, yap, moan, thunder; (v) gnarl, mutter, complain, croak
- grumble:** (n, v) mutter, gripe, growl, moan, rumble, mumble, groan, roar; (v) complain, grouch; (n) complaint.
- ANTONYMS:** (n, v) praise; (v) compliment, rejoice
- grumbling:** (n) grumble, growling, murmur, murmuring, mutter, muttering; (adj, n) rumbling; (adv) grumblingly; (adj) grouchy, grumpy, irritable
- guano:** (n) excretory product, excretion, excrement, excreta
- guessing:** (adv) guessingly; (n) dead reckoning, guesswork, approximation, supposition, gibe, shot, blastoff, barb, estimation, dig
- guile:** (n) fraud, cunning, craft, duplicity, deception, trickery, deceitfulness, wiliness, craftiness, artifice, slyness. **ANTONYMS:** (n) honesty, straightforwardness, candor, frankness
- guileless:** (adj) candid, artless, forthright, sincere, innocent, ingenuous, honest, pure, simple, open, straightforward.
- ANTONYMS:** (adj) dishonest, sly, evasive
- guiltily:** (adv) blameworthy, criminally, hangdogly, wickedly, faultily, sheepishly, delinquently, sinfully, awkwardly, sorrowly, ashamedly
- guise:** (n) form, dress, aspect, costume, disguise, fashion, pretense, camouflage, attire, figure, color
- gurgle:** (v) guggle, babble, murmur, burble, boil, foam, purl, ripple; (n, v) snigger, laugh, chuckle
- gushing:** (adj) pouring, enthusiastic, burly, alive to, burbling, emotional, effusive, garrulous, torrential; (n) sincere, passionate. **ANTONYM:** (adj) taciturn
- gust:** (n) eruption, flurry, blow, blast, puff, flare, explosion, gale, storm, breeze; (adj, n) whiff
- guttural:** (adj) hoarse, throaty, gruff, croaking, husky, harsh, velar, raucous, grum; (n) dental; (v) nasal.
- ANTONYMS:** (adj) soft, smooth, high
- gymnastics:** (adj) gymnastic; (n) athletics, calisthenics, athletic sports, callisthenics, acrobatics; (v) gladiatorship
- habitable:** (adj) livable, liveable
- habitation:** (adj, n) abode; (n) domicile, residence, house, home, habitat, lodging, place, occupancy, inhabitation, inhabitation.
- ANTONYM:** (n) vacancy
- habitual:** (adj, n) common, frequent, usual; (adj) chronic, conventional, confirmed, accustomed, natural, commonplace, everyday, ordinary.
- ANTONYMS:** (adj) occasional, infrequent, mild, irregular, exceptional, erratic, abnormal, innovative
- habitually:** (adv) usually, ordinarily, normally, generally, regularly,

- frequently, commonly, routinely, wontedly, conventionally, commonplacely. ANTONYMS: (adv) unusually, seldom, erratically, exceptionally, occasionally
- haggard:** (adj) emaciated, gaunt, cadaverous, careworn, tired, worn, lean, thin, wasted, pinched, squalid. ANTONYMS: (adj) relaxed, carefree, healthy
- hail:** (v) address, cry, acclaim, applaud, summon, accost, fall, cheer, salute; (n, v) call; (n) greeting. ANTONYMS: (v) ignore, criticize
- halfpenny:** (adj) feather, bulrush, old son, jot, pinch of snuff, peppercorn, rap; (n) bawbee, doit, farthing
- half-pint:** (adj) puny, stunted; (n) lad, boy
- halloo:** (n, v) whoop; (v) squall, yell, shout, call to, incite, roar; (int) hullo, hello; (n) loo, vociferation
- halo:** (n) halation, aura, glory, ring, circle, corona, nimbus, hoop, aureola, band, anchor ring
- halter:** (n) gibbet, rein, bridle, gallows, rope, noose, cestus, collar, drop; (v) confine, cramp
- halting:** (adj) halt, hesitant, broken, crude, grotesque, barbarous; (adj, v) lame, crippled; (adv) haltingly; (v) drooping, flagging. ANTONYMS: (adj) easy, firm
- halves:** (n) semi, share
- hammered:** (adj) drunk
- hammering:** (n) beating, pounding, pound, fagging, drudgery, needle hammer, defeat, knock, failure, British pound, Ezra Loomin Pound. ANTONYM: (n) victory
- hampered:** (adj) impeded, confined, fraught, held back, in an inferior position, disadvantaged, weighed down, loaded, in a weak position, responsible, troubled
- handrail:** (n) balustrade, banister, bannister, railing, balusters, parapet, bar, rail, hand rail, barrier, grab rail
- hanker:** (v) long, aspire, desire, crave, yearn, wish, longing, sigh, languish, pine, itch
- harassing:** (adj) troublesome, carking, galling, thorny, vexatious; (v) bothering, pestering, tormenting, worrying, annoy, harass
- harbinger:** (n) forerunner, precursor, sign, portent, messenger, augury; (v) announce, annunciate, foreshadow; (n, v) augur, presage
- hardened:** (adj) hard, callous, confirmed, tough, indurated, tempered, unfeeling, inured,
- habitual, enured, veteran. ANTONYMS: (adj) inexperienced, smooth, unaccustomed, untempered, feeling, mild
- hares:** (n) Lagomorpha
- hark:** (v) harken, hear, hearken, heed, listen in; (n) look here, look you, look
- harmoniously:** (adv) musically, tunelessly, melodiously, symmetrically, melodically, cordially, unanimously, sweetly, euphoniously, quietly, symphoniously. ANTONYMS: (adv) bitterly, harshly, discordantly, inappropriately, disagreeably
- harmonise:** (v) agree, harmonize, accord, reconcile, accommodate, correspond, concur, chord, consort, conciliate, go
- harpisichord:** (n) spinet, manichord, cembalo, harpsichon, virginal, clarichord
- harrowing:** (adj) agonizing, excruciating, painful, distressing, torturous, disturbing, tormenting, traumatic, frightful, terrible; (v) rending. ANTONYMS: (adj) heartening, pleasing, safe
- harshly:** (adv) roughly, severely, sternly, sharply, cruelly, hoarsely, strictly, pitilessly, rigorously, rigidly; (adj, adv) piercingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) softly, harmoniously, quietly, gently, elaborately, leniently, smoothly, tolerantly, cheerfully, loosely, pleasantly
- harvesting:** (n) gathering, gather, harvest home, crop, reap, plucking, harvests, ingathering, reaping, farming, harvest time
- haste:** (n, v) hurry, dash, dispatch, rush; (n) celerity, expedition, rapidity, speed, bustle, hastiness, quickness. ANTONYMS: (n) delay, patience, forethought, caution
- hasten:** (adj, n, v) speed, quicken; (v) expedite, advance, hurry, hie, dash, rush; (n, v) further, forward, dispatch. ANTONYMS: (v) linger, retard, amble
- hastened:** (adj) careless
- hastening:** (n) quickening, speed, hurrying, speeding up, faster, fast, stepping up
- hasty:** (adj) fast, abrupt, cursory, fleet, sudden, rash, impetuous, careless, speedy, hurried, quick. ANTONYMS: (adj) deliberate, considered, leisurely, sensible, gradual, thorough, cautious, careful,
- roundabout, prudent, patient
- hating:** (adj) loathful, abhorring, disgusting, misanthropic, vengeful; (n) venom
- haughtiness:** (n) pride, disdain, condescension, conceit, snobbishness, lordliness, imperiousness, hauteur, contempt, superiority, arrogant. ANTONYMS: (n) humility, humbleness
- haughty:** (adj) supercilious, arrogant, assuming, contemptuous, proud, lordly, cavalier, vain, contumelious, grand; (n) boastful. ANTONYMS: (adj) modest, meek, subservient, unassuming, considerate, deferential
- hautboy:** (n) hautbois, corno di bassetto, basset horn, hoboe, serpent, basset oboe, bassoon, contrafagotto, cor anglais, corno Inglese, double bassoon
- hauteur:** (n) arrogance, pride, disdain, conceit, assumption, conceitedness, insolence, loftiness, lordliness, airs, elegance. ANTONYM: (n) modesty
- hawk:** (v) peddle, cough, expectorate, sell, vend, hunt, huckster; (n) eagle, goshawk, harrier, buzzard
- hayfield:** (n) grassland
- haymaking:** (n) labour, toil, making of hay, achievement, report, accomplishment
- haystack:** (n) rick, haycock, stack, crick, cock, standing wave
- haze:** (n) fog, cloud, confusion, vapor, blur, daze, film, cloudiness, turbidity; (n, v) mist; (v) dim. ANTONYMS: (n) clarity, brightness
- hazy:** (adj) fuzzy, cloudy, vague, blurred, foggy, nebulous, misty, indistinct, blurry, faint, dull. ANTONYMS: (adj) bright, distinct, precise, sunny, thick, detailed, definite, strong
- headstone:** (n) tombstone, monument, quoin, keystone, coign, coigne, cornerstone, stone, memorial, building block, cemetery
- headstrong:** (adj) intractable, dogged, obstinate, disobedient, unruly, willful, wayward, froward, rash, headlong; (adj, v) ungovernable. ANTONYMS: (adj) tractable, compliant, amenable, docile, malleable, agreeable, cautious
- healthful:** (adj) healthy, hale, salubrious, beneficial, hygienic, sanitary, wholesome, salutary, remedial, good, nourishing. ANTONYMS: (adj) unhealthful,

- unsanitary, unhealthy
- heaped:** (adj) dense, cumulative, concentrated, collective, coacervate, thick
- heaps:** (adj, n) lots, much; (n) masses, oodles, piles, stacks, many, tons, plenty, lot, accumulation. ANTONYM: (adj) inadequate
- hearsay:** (n) report, gossip, rumour, buzz, on dit, news, scandal, fame, talk, comment; (v) bruit. ANTONYM: (n) fact
- hearse:** (n) catafalque, coffin, entomb, urn, shell, sarcophagus, pall, cinerary urn, auto, car, automobile
- hearten:** (v) encourage, animate, cheer up, embolden, comfort, fortify, reassure, strengthen, inspire, gladden, assure. ANTONYMS: (v) dishearten, sadden
- heartily:** (adv) cordially, sincerely, enthusiastically, warmly, strongly, earnestly, vigorously, ardently, soundly, devoutly, eagerly. ANTONYMS: (adv) feebly, languorously
- heartiness:** (n) eagerness, fervor, geniality, zeal, sincerity, wholeheartedness, inwardness, ardor, avidity, craving; (adj, n) hospitality
- heartless:** (adj) hardhearted, ruthless, cruel, pitiless, obdurate, merciless, unfeeling, unkind, stony, insensitive, grim. ANTONYMS: (adj) kind, caring, hearted, warmhearted, compassionate, softhearted, merciful, sympathetic, concerned, flattering, generous
- heartlessly:** (adv) mercilessly, pitilessly, ruthlessly, inhumanly, callously, unkindly, unfeelingly, brutally, unsympathetically, harshly, insensitively. ANTONYMS: (adv) sympathetically, sensitively, mercifully, humanely
- heartlessness:** (n) coldheartedness, hardheartedness, callousness, mercilessness, unkindness, atrocity, pitilessness, brutality, malice, meanness, coldness. ANTONYMS: (n) sensitivity, humanity
- heartly:** (adj) heartfelt, healthy, genial, sturdy, cheering, fervent, wholehearted, lusty, enthusiastic, convivial; (adj, n) well. ANTONYMS: (adj) unhealthy, frail, old, weak, sluggish, unwholesome, meager
- heathen:** (adj, n) gentile, ethnic; (n) infidel, idolater, paynim, heretic; (adj) heathenish, irreligious, giaour,
- godless, barbaric
- heavenward:** (adj) skyward; (adj, adv) toward heaven; (adv) heavenwardly
- heaviness:** (n) dullness, fatness, sadness, ponderosity, ponderousness, weightiness, weight, darkness, gloom, wideness, pressure. ANTONYMS: (n) slenderness, nimbleness, weightlessness
- heaving:** (v) tremor, twitter; (adj) swelling, full, full up, jammed; (n) murmur, forcing out, groan, grumble, mutter. ANTONYM: (adj) deserted
- heed:** (n, v) consideration, concern, regard, mind, attention, notice; (n) caution, advertence, advertency; (v) attend, hear. ANTONYMS: (n, v) disregard; (n) inattentiveness
- heedless:** (adj) careless, reckless, inattentive, neglectful, negligent, thoughtless, rash, regardless, unwary, indifferent; (adj, v) wanton. ANTONYMS: (adj) heedful, attentive, mindful, conscientious, prudent, careful, cautious
- helplessness:** (n) powerlessness, defenselessness, dependence, impotency, impotence, inability, impuissance, incapability, incapacity, defencelessness, failing. ANTONYMS: (n) resistance, capacity, strength
- helpmate:** (n) helpmeet, mate, wife, partner, better half, help, husband, spouse, helper; (v) old woman, old lady
- helter-skelter:** (adj, adv) recklessly; (adj) chaotic, haphazard, capricious, reckless, upside-down; (adv) anyhow, irregularly
- hemming:** (n) seaming, needlework, tapestry, stitching, embroidery, needlepoint
- henceforth:** (adv) hence, in future, after this; (adj) following
- herbage:** (n) herb, grass, pasture, pasturage, foliage, herbaceous plant, forage, flora, eatage, vegetable kingdom
- hercules:** (adj, n) atlas; (n) atlantes, Caryatides, Samson, Alcides, giant, Goliath, Herakles, Cyclops, Persides; (adj) superman
- hereabouts:** (adv) hereabout, thereabouts
- hereby:** (adv) thereby, whereby
- hermetically:** (adv) chemically, tightly, impenetrably, sealedly, imperviously
- heroically:** (adj, adv) courageously, daringly; (adv) intrepidly, fearlessly, gallantly, boldly, grandly, nobly, resolutely, splendidly, chivalrously. ANTONYMS: (adv) halfheartedly, fearfully, execrably
- heroine:** (n) woman, persona, brave woman, role, protagonist, part, leading lady, heroess, role model, female lead, character
- hesitating:** (adj) indecisive, irresolute, undecided, doubtful, hesitate, reluctant, faltering, unwilling, hesitancy, backward, hesitatingly
- hilltop:** (n) brow, peak, summit, top, pinnacle, hill, acme, height, zenith, apex; (adj) outdoor
- hinder:** (v) impede, resist, check, hamper, obstruct, curb, handicap, delay; (n, v) bar; (adj) posterior, hind. ANTONYMS: (v) help, facilitate, assist, prompt, encourage, promote, allow, support, accelerate
- hindoo:** (n) Brahman, Vaishnava, Kshatriya, Hindustani, gentoo, Brahmin, chela; (adj) Hindi
- hindrance:** (n, v) difficulty, obstacle, block, check, delay; (n) deterrent, barrier, obstruction, impediment, inconvenience, disturbance. ANTONYMS: (n) advantage, contribution, assistance, success, boost, incentive, strength
- hinted:** (adj) veiled, roundabout, not explicit, implicit, coded, oblique
- hippocrates:** (n) Galen
- hippodrome:** (n) circus, arena, Flavian amphitheater, amphitheater, gymnasium, race course, playground, palestra, lists, racecourse, stadium
- hiring:** (n) employee, pensionary, hackney, puppet, hack, pensioner, servant, labor, soldier of fortune, tool; (adj) venal
- hiring:** (n) employment, engagement, staffing, booking
- hiss:** (v) fizz, spit, whiz, whisper, whoosh; (n) buzz, jeer, hissing, ridicule; (n, v) hoot, taunt
- hissing:** (adj) sibilant, sibilous, sibilatory; (n) whistling, heckling, scoffing, sibilance, taunts, sibilation, white noise; (v) fizzle. ANTONYM: (n) applause
- hist:** (v) shush
- hitch:** (v) fasten, attach; (n, v) catch, limp, hobble, arrest; (n) hindrance, drawback, barrier, difficulty, check. ANTONYMS: (n) advantage, ease, help; (v) detach, undo
- hither:** (adv) here, whither,

- hitherward, thither
- hive:** (adj) swarm, herd; (v) store, SE nicher; (n) concourse, hiding place, cave, cell, den, aerie, eyry
- hoarse:** (adj) gruff, husky, raucous, grating, strident, guttural, rough, throaty; (v) coarse; (adj, v) hollow, sepulchral. ANTONYMS: (adj) smooth, mellow, velvety, high
- hoarsely:** (adv) roughly, huskily, raucously, gruffly, throatily, gratingly, stridently, gutturally, thickly, croakily, raggedly. ANTONYM: (adv) smoothly
- hoary:** (adj) ancient, hoar, old, white, grey, elderly, musty, dull, canescent, antique, archaic
- hogs:** (n) Suidae, boars, family Suidae, stock
- holler:** (n, v) cry, scream, call, shout, yell, bawl, hollo, shriek, bellow; (v) exclaim, screech. ANTONYM: (v) whisper
- hollering:** (n) holla, holler, bellow, roaring, call, boom, hollo, roar, cry, yowl, holloa
- homely:** (adj) plain, common, rustic, artless, home, snug, homelike, domestic; (adj, adv) ugly; (adv) plainly, simply. ANTONYMS: (adj) sophisticated, striking, uncomfortable, bleak
- homestead:** (n, v) farm; (n) home, abode, farmhouse, farmstead, dwelling, habitation, estate, demesne, homestall, house
- homeward:** (adj) oriented, orientated
- hooded:** (v) cullulate, encuirassed, dermatoid, squamiferous, tectiform; (adj) covered, capistrate, cullulated, draped, enclosed, kerchieft
- hoof:** (n) toe, sole, hooves, bottom, keel, root, leg, ungula, unguis, animal foot; (v) step
- hooks:** (n) maulers, meat hooks
- hooped:** (adj) with stripes, stripy, striped, girded
- hopelessness:** (n) despair, despondency, discouragement, depression, desolation, sadness, dismay, hopeless, gloominess, gloom, dissatisfaction. ANTONYMS: (n) capability, power, worth, cheerfulness, effectiveness, joy, possibility, competence, happiness
- hopping:** (n) jump, jumping, leaping; (adv) leapingly
- horde:** (n) gang, crowd, crush, swarm, mob, drove, crew, cloud, shoal, throng, herd. ANTONYM: (n) few
- horizontally:** (adv) evenly, flatly, planely, straightly, frigidly, dully, barwise, smoothly, recumbently, prostrately; (adj) crosswise
- horned:** (adj) cornuted, somn, horny, sharp, cuckolded, cornigerous, bearing horns, having horns. ANTONYM: (adj) hornless
- horribly:** (adv) horrifically, awfully, terrifically, hideously, atrociously, appallingly; (adj, adv) frightfully, terribly, fearfully, shockingly; (adj) ghastly. ANTONYMS: (adv) pleasantly, wonderfully, kindly, sweetly
- horseback:** (n) hogback, body part
- horseman:** (n) cavalier, rider, jockey, horse fancier, horseback rider, trooper, trainer, knight, cavalryman, animal fancier, postilion
- horseshoe:** (n) bow, arc, arch, carve, crescent, arcade, loop, curve, brake shoe, lunule, vault
- horsewhip:** (v) flog, lash, scourge, trounce, flagellate, lick, give the stick, birch, give a dressing, dress down, dress
- hotbed:** (n) nursery, hothouse, nidus, nest, cradle, birthplace, seminary, situation, breeding ground, focus, nerve center
- hotly:** (adv) heatedly, passionately, fervidly, fervently, pepperily, sultrily, intensely, sharply, torridly; (adj, adv) violently, vehemently. ANTONYMS: (adv) impassively, mildly
- hound:** (v) bloodhound, chase, hunt, follow, badger, course, bait, pursue; (n) greyhound, blackguard, cad. ANTONYM: (v) soothe
- howling:** (n) howl, cry; (adj) fierce, fantastic, gross, glaring, marvelous, wonderful, wondrous; (adj, n) weeping, sniveling
- hubbub:** (n) commotion, uproar, disorder, din, noise, bustle, tumult, bedlam, brouhaha; (n, v) racket, brawl. ANTONYM: (n) calm
- huckster:** (v) chaffer, higgler, peddle, hawk, haggle, vend, dicker; (n) costermonger, chapman, higgler, vendor
- huddled:** (adj) crouched, crouching, hunkered down, hunkered
- humane:** (adj, n) gentle, compassionate, beneficent, gracious; (adj) clement, kind, charitable, merciful, good, tender, benignant. ANTONYMS: (adj) inhumane, foul, harsh, selfish
- humankind:** (n) man, world, human
- race, mankind, humanity, humans, human beings, mortality, human being, universe, humanness
- humblly:** (adv) lowly, meanly, modestly, submissively, low, shyly, lowly, naturally, regretfully, remorsefully, repentantly. ANTONYMS: (adv) conceitedly, haughtily, pompously, ostentatiously, unrepentantly, affluently, brashly, pretentiously
- humbug:** (n) deceit, cheat, claptrap, fake, faker, deception, boloney; (n, v) hoax, cant, duplicity; (v) hum
- humdrum:** (adj, v) dull, monotonous, uninteresting, tedious, stupid; (adj) banal, commonplace, flat, prosaic, dreary, everyday. ANTONYMS: (adj) exciting, surprising, remarkable, stunning, romantic, exotic, extraordinary, interesting
- humid:** (adj) wet, moist, dank, damp, sultry, steamy, watery, wettish, clammy, sticky, soggy. ANTONYMS: (adj) fresh, cool, arid, temperate
- humility:** (n) diffidence, modesty, submission, shyness, meekness, lowliness, timidity, trait, humiliation, resignation; (adj) veneration. ANTONYMS: (n) haughtiness, affectation, conceit, arrogance
- humming:** (adj) droning, zippy, reeking, bustling, grunting, stinking; (n) buzzing, vocalizing, sound, murmur, growling
- hurdler:** (n) long jumper, high jumper
- hurdles:** (n) hurdling
- hurry:** (n) hastening, speed, quickening, rushing, early, speeding, speeding up, stepping up, amphetamine, forward, eager
- hurst:** (n) Holt, tope, grove
- husbandry:** (n) cultivation, farming, economy, frugality, culture, conservation, thrift, tillage, dairying, horticulture, gardening
- hush:** (adj, n, v) calm, silence, quiet, still, lull; (n) peace; (v) shut up, gag, quieten, muffle; (adj, v) soothe. ANTONYMS: (n) noise, turmoil; (v) Louden
- hushed:** (adj) calm, silent, still, subdued, placid, muffled, noiseless, soft, soundless, tranquil, gentle. ANTONYM: (adj) noisy
- husky:** (adj) hoarse, gruff, burly, big, dry, raucous, beefy, strapping, brawny, sturdy; (n) Eskimo dog. ANTONYMS: (adj) high, puny,

- small, smooth, soft
- hustings:** (n) rostrum, pulpit, platform, ambo, amphitheater, electioneering, tribune, theater, state, reading desk, lecture room
- hyacinth:** (n) zircon, amethyst, cape hyacinth, carbuncle, common hyacinth, hyacine
- hymn:** (n) song, canticle, chant, anthem, carol, chorale, doxology; (v) glorify, laud, sing, extol
- hyperbolic:** (adj) inflated, stilted, exaggerative, highfalutin, hyperbolic, increased, rhetorical, enlarged
- idealization:** (n) glorification, thought, appreciation, defence, defence mechanism, defence reaction, glory, idea, idolization
- idealize:** (v) deify, idealizing, realize, see, view, regard, reckon, poetize, perfect, unrealize, concoct
- idiosyncrasy:** (n) mannerism, eccentricity, foible, peculiarity, oddity, feature, attribute, personality, quirk, diathesis; (adj, n) individuality
- idiotically:** (adv) foolishly, stupidly, absurdly, ridiculously, silly, insanely, senselessly, mindlessly, crazily, imbecilely, inanely.
- ANTONYM: (adv) wisely
- idleness:** (n) lethargy, laziness, torpor, inactivity, idling, unemployment, sloth, inaction, inertia, faineance, idlesse.
- ANTONYMS: (n) energy, activity, bustle, liveliness, responsibility
- idly:** (adj, adv) foolishly; (adv) vainly, vaguely, listlessly, forgetfully, distractedly; (adj) thoughtlessly.
- ANTONYM: (adv) energetically
- idol:** (n) fetish, deity, effigy, divinity, graven image, image, hero, favorite, star, simulacrum, beloved
- idolater:** (n) heathen, pagan, idolatress, idolizer, idol worshiper, devotee, adorer, infidel, Baalite, bigot, fanatic
- idolized:** (adj) adored, beloved, loved, precious, worshipped
- illimitable:** (adj) endless, infinite, boundless, limitless, unlimited, immense, eternal, measureless, interminable, unmeasurable, unmeasured
- ill-mannered:** (adj) graceless, uncivil, barbaric, boorish, impertinent, uncouth, rough, impolite, surly, ill, discourteous
- illuminating:** (adj) illuminate, informative, edifying, illuminatingly, instructive, descriptive, brilliant, light, elucidate, illustrative, lighten. ANTONYMS: (adj) hidden, unilluminating, secretive
- illustrious:** (adj, n) glorious, celebrated, excellent, grand; (adj) famous, bright, eminent, famed, distinguished, brilliant, well-known. ANTONYMS: (adj) unknown, obscure, ordinary, undistinguished, lowly
- imagining:** (n) conception, daydream, fantasy, opinion; (v) imagine; (adj) imaginative
- imbecile:** (adj) foolish, idiotic, fatuous, dumb, imbecilic, simple; (n) idiot, moron, cretin, ass, oaf.
- ANTONYM: (adj) genius
- imbecility:** (n) folly, foolishness, idiocy, fatuity, weakness, stupidity, feeble-mindedness, lunacy; (adj, n) debility, feebleness; (adj) infirmity
- imbedded:** (v) embosomed, rooted, mewed up, in the bosom of, posited, situate; (adj) encysted
- imitative:** (adj) mock, counterfeit, derivative, fake, false, fictitious, bogus, bastard, onomatopoeic, base, sham. ANTONYMS: (adj) genuine, real, nonimitative
- immemorial:** (adj) ancient, prescriptive, pristine, primaeval, primeval, traditional, old, eternal, customary
- immersed:** (adj) submerged, engrossed, deep, underwater, sunk, dipped, covered, engaged, profound, rapt, riveted.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) detached, superficial, bored
- immobility:** (adj, n) fixity; (n) fixedness, stillness, stationariness, motionlessness, immovability, immovableness; (adj) vitality, stiffness, stabiliment, solidity.
- ANTONYMS: (n) bustle, movement
- immortal:** (adj) eternal, enduring, undying, endless, monumental; (adj, v) deathless, imperishable, celebrated; (n) deity, God, divinity. ANTONYMS: (adj) obscure, earthly, forgettable, perishable, temporary
- immortality:** (n) sempiternity, perpetuity, athanasia, glory, aye, fame, everness, immortal, permanency, deathlessness, undying. ANTONYM: (n) mortality
- immutable:** (adj) unchangeable, permanent, changeless, eternal, inflexible, unchanging, irrevocable, stable, unalterable, invariable, fixed. ANTONYMS: (adj) changeable, variable, flexible
- impassable:** (adj) impervious, impenetrable, impracticable, invincible, insuperable, inaccessible, unpassable, innavigable, inextricable, closed, impossible. ANTONYMS: (adj) passable, open
- impassioned:** (adj) fervent, fanatical, fiery, burning, passionate, hot, torrid, vehement, keen, zealous; (adj, v) enthusiastic. ANTONYMS: (adj) impassive, indifferent, calm
- impassive:** (adj) expressionless, calm, cool, stolid, stoic, callous, impervious, quiet, peaceful, emotionless, dull. ANTONYMS: (adj) expressive, mobile, involved, demonstrative, affected, passionate, sympathetic, spirited, knowing, enthusiastic
- impassivity:** (n) impassiveness, apathy, stolidity, lethargy, phlegm, emotionlessness, stoicism, frigidity, insensibility, unconcern, sluggishness
- impelled:** (adj) prompted, provoked, determined, compulsive, encouraged, goaded, motivated, bound
- impenetrable:** (adj) impassable, thick, incomprehensible, hard, mysterious, unfathomable, unintelligible, impervious, opaque, heavy, obscure. ANTONYMS: (adj) penetrable, readable, straightforward, apparent, simple, sparse, vulnerable, accessible, transparent, understandable, open
- imperially:** (adv) commandingly, imperiously, urgently, pressingly, authoritatively, obligatorily, essentially, magisterially, necessarily, instantly, critically
- imperceptible:** (adj) invisible, intangible, insensible, faint, evanescent, inaudible, negligible, indiscernible, unseen, unnoticeable, gentle. ANTONYMS: (adj) obvious, overwhelming, clear, visible, perceptible, heavy, noticeable, definite, considerable, conspicuous, strong
- imperfect:** (adj) faulty, deficient, defective, unfinished, incomplete, poor, flawed, partial, inadequate, broken, fallible. ANTONYMS: (adj) perfect, whole, unblemished, adequate, complete, sound, boundless, capable, flawless
- imperfectly:** (adv) faultily,

- defectively, badly, deficiently, incompletely, partially, poorly, inadequately, sketchily, incorrectly, halfway. ANTONYMS: (adv) perfectly, flawlessly, correctly, well
- imperious:** (adj) haughty, domineering, authoritative, arbitrary, imperative, masterful, dictatorial, commanding, lordly, magisterial, despotic. ANTONYM: (adj) subservient
- imperiousness:** (n) haughtiness, domineeringness, lordliness, overbearingness, tyranny, assumption
- impersonation:** (n) embodiment, personification, mimicry, personation, masquerade, caricature, charade, apery, imposture, performing; (v) simulation
- impersonator:** (n) actor, mimic, cheater, copycat, trickster, player, aper, ape, cheat, double, impressionist
- impertinence:** (n) audacity, gall, impudence, insolence, disrespect, effrontery, brass, boldness, impertinency, sauciness, freshness. ANTONYMS: (n) politeness, seriousness, reticence
- impetuosity:** (n) eagerness, haste, heat, violence, vehemence, impulsiveness, impetuosity, excitability, temerity, precipitation, fervency. ANTONYMS: (n) deliberation, patience, consideration, carefulness
- impish:** (adj) playful, wicked, naughty, elfish, puckish, prankish, bad, badly behaved, sly, frolicsome, kittenish. ANTONYM: (adj) good
- implements:** (n) equipment, apparatus, gear, tackle, rigging, outfit, hardware, trappings
- implore:** (v) beg, beseech, supplicate, ask, conjure, crave, pray, importune, appeal, plead, solicit. ANTONYMS: (v) demand, grant, reject
- implovingly:** (adv) beseechingly, pleadingly, importunately, beggingly, suppliantly, appealingly
- importing:** (n) importation, mercantilism, commercialism, commerce
- impossibility:** (n) impossibility, option, nonexistence, absurdity, inability, impracticability, alternative, choice, contradiction, contradiction in terms, doubtfulness. ANTONYMS: (n) possibility, probability
- impossibly:** (adv) unusually, unthinkably, doubtfully, implausibly, incredibly, insufferably, oddly, unbearably, surprisingly, unbelievably, unimaginably. ANTONYM: (adv) tolerably
- impracticable:** (adj) unfeasible, infeasible, impractical, unrealistic, unworkable, impervious, unusable, unattainable, useless; (v) crotchety, fussy. ANTONYMS: (adj) viable, feasible, possible, accustomed
- impregnable:** (adj, v) fast; (adj) secure, inexpugnable, unassailable, unconquerable, invulnerable, insurmountable, unshakable, irresistible, strong, safe. ANTONYMS: (adj) vulnerable, tenuous
- impressible:** (adj) impressionable, sensitive, soft, delicate, sensible, adhesive, easily affected, fine, gentle, courteous, easy
- impressionable:** (adj) susceptible, responsive, thin-skinned, susceptible, receptive, tender, touchy, sensible, sentimental, vulnerable, sensitive. ANTONYMS: (adj) unimpressionable, rebellious, invulnerable
- impropriety:** (n) barbarism, obscenity, indecorum, error, rudeness, indelicacy, incorrectness, solecism, wrongness; (adj) immorality, inaptitude. ANTONYMS: (n) decency, correctness
- impulsive:** (adj) capricious, hasty, driving, rash, instinctive, changeable, hotheaded, quick-tempered, impellent, headlong, passionate. ANTONYMS: (adj) cautious, considered, predictable, unflappable, prepared, sensible, gradual, overdue, patient, placid, premeditated
- impulsively:** (adv) hastily, rashly, spontaneously, capriciously, suddenly, instinctively, intuitively, carelessly, precipitately, hotheadedly, anxiously. ANTONYMS: (adv) late, predictably, deliberately, patiently, sensibly
- impure:** (adj) defiled, dirty, unclean, squalid, sordid, filthy, bastard, foul, immoral, profane, contaminated. ANTONYMS: (adj) unmixed, clean
- impurities:** (n) dross, bastard, scum, cinder
- inactive:** (adj) dead, dull, inert, dormant, sluggish, slow, passive, still, stagnant, slack, torpid. ANTONYMS: (adj) active, lively, moving, dormant, extinct, working, energetic, live, diligent, proactive, creative
- inadequacy:** (n) imperfection, defect, inability, failure, shortage, incompetence, fault, deficit, inadequate, dearth, disproportion. ANTONYMS: (n) adequacy, sufficiency, efficiency, abundance, virtue, superiority, perfection, fruitfulness, competence, capability
- inalienable:** (adj) untransferable, unassailable, absolute, inviolable, infeasible, inseparable, inherent, unassignable, unforfeitable; (v) incommunicable
- inanimate:** (adj) defunct, dull, breathless, inorganic, inactive, lifeless, exanimate, deceased, extinct, unconscious, spiritless. ANTONYMS: (adj) living, animate, spirited
- inanity:** (n) lethargy, emptiness, starvation, lassitude, inanity, vacancy, airiness; (adj) collapse, prostration, deliquium, apoplexy
- inattentive:** (adj) negligent, neglectful, forgetful, reckless, careless, unaware, regardless, inconsiderate, mindless, inadvertent; (adj, v) remiss. ANTONYMS: (adj) attentive, alert, observant, carefree, cautious, conscientious, considerate, diligent, prudent
- incantation:** (n) spell, magic, sorcery, enchantment, witchcraft, conjuration, magic spell, chant, wizardry, open sesame, adjuration
- incapacity:** (n) inability, impotence, incapability, disqualification, inadequacy, disablement, inefficiency, powerlessness, insufficiency, incompetency; (adj) imbecility. ANTONYMS: (n) capacity, ability, strength
- incertitude:** (n) uncertainty, dubiousness, dubiety, indecisiveness, suspense, misgiving, irresolution, indecision, disbelief, distrust, doubtfulness. ANTONYM: (n) certainty
- incessant:** (adj) endless, continual, everlasting, eternal, constant, continuous, perpetual, unremitting, interminable, persistent; (adj, v) frequent. ANTONYMS: (adj) intermittent, occasional, sporadic, broken, finite

incidental: (adj) fortuitous, accidental, contingent, adventitious, collateral, chance, occasional, incident, attendant, concomitant, episodic. ANTONYMS: (adj) basic, direct, intended, significant

incipient: (adj) initial, budding, nascent, imperfectly formed, commencing, first, undeveloped; (adj, v) introductory; (v) inceptive; (n) beginning

incivility: (n) disrespect, impoliteness, discourtesy, impertinence, insolence, rudeness, indecorum, boorishness, unmannerliness, indecency, crudity. ANTONYMS: (n) civility, refinement

incline: (v) cant, dispose, bend; (n, v) slope, bias, dip, tilt; (n) ascent, gradient, grade, inclination. ANTONYMS: (v) indispose, level; (n) hollow, descent

inclining: (adj) oblique, shelving; (n) leaning, tendency, disposition, movement, proclivity, sentiment, propensity, predilection, partiality

inclosing: (adj) inclusive, surrounding

inclosure: (n) enclosing, fence, incasement, encasement, circumscription, boxing, envelopment, introduction, intramission, papers; (n, v) boundary

inclusive: (adj) included, broad, comprehensive, sweeping, overall, total, general, whole, extensive, complete; (v) include. ANTONYMS: (adj) local, narrow, sketchy, elite, partial, restricted

incomprehensible: (adj) inapprehensible, inscrutable, inarticulate, abstruse, cryptic, unfathomable, puzzling, obscure, inexplicable, inconceivable, unaccountable. ANTONYMS: (adj) comprehensible, explicable, understandable, intelligible, legible, obvious, straightforward

incongruity: (n) disharmony, contradiction, disagreement, incongruence, disparity, discrepancy, discord, unconformity, disproportion, absurdity, paradox. ANTONYMS: (n) congruity, normality, agreement

incongruous: (adj) inappropriate, improper, absurd, inapt, incompatible, conflicting, inconsistent, incoherent, inexpedient; (adj, n) contradictory,

dissonant. ANTONYMS: (adj) appropriate, befitting, consistent, reasonable

inconsequence: (n) illogicality, independence, irrelevance, inconsequentness, inconsistency, insignificance, unimportance. ANTONYM: (n) importance

inconsequent: (adj) inconsequential, irrelevant, unimportant, desultory, incoherent, immaterial, discrepant, petty, inconsistency, disjointed, illegitimate

inconsiderable: (adj) inconsequential, immaterial, small, petty, slight, negligible, trivial, fractional, minute, imperceptible, slender. ANTONYM: (adj) major

incontrovertably: (adv) irrefutably, incontrovertibly, without doubt, evidently, for sure, certainly, clearly, of course, unquestionably, definitely, indubitably. ANTONYMS: (adv) questionably, arguably

inconvenient: (adj) inopportune, awkward, disadvantageous, bothersome, improper, unfavorable, troublesome, hard, inapt, untoward, unfortunate. ANTONYMS: (adj) convenient, suitable, opportune, timely, advantageous

incorporeal: (adj) immaterial, spiritual, disembodied, insubstantial, intangible, bodiless, ethereal, incorporeal, impalpable, metaphysical, incorporate. ANTONYM: (adj) tangible

incredulity: (n) doubt, unbelief, skepticism, incredulousness, distrust, wonder, surprise, suspicion, suspiciousness, mistrust, scepticism. ANTONYMS: (n) faith, understanding, belief

incredulous: (adj) dubious, doubtful, suspicious, unbelieving, faithless, skeptical, doubting, lacking faith, questioning, cynical, mistrustful. ANTONYM: (adj) convinced

incumbrance: (n) impediment, hindrance, obstruction, clog, fardel, imposition, charge, hitch, burden, worry, vexation

incurable: (adj) incorrigible, immedicable, cureless, inveterate, irretrievable, irrecoverable, terminal, irremediable, irreparable, remediless, chronic. ANTONYM: (adj) mild

indecisive: (adj) undecided, hesitant, unsure, inconclusive, weak, irresolute, dubious, indefinite,

vague, precarious, hesitating. ANTONYMS: (adj) decisive, conclusive, resolute, consistent, determined, focused, confident, sure

indecisively: (adv) undecidedly, hesitantly, waveringly, vacillatingly, weakly, inconclusively, hesitatingly, undeterminedly, doubtfully, vaguely, tentatively. ANTONYMS: (adv) firmly, precisely, admirably, intelligently, confidently

indecorous: (adj) indecent, unbecoming, impolite, unseemly, coarse, indelicate, inappropriate, untoward, immodest, unsuitable, tasteless. ANTONYMS: (adj) polite, decorous, proper, dignified, correct, decent

indecorum: (n) indecency, indecorousness, incivility, impropriety, familiarity, discourtesy, misdeed; (adj) misbehavior, immorality, scandal, laxity. ANTONYM: (n) decorum

indefinable: (adj) ineffable, unspeakable, vague, indeterminate, undefinable, inexpressible, elusive, indefinite, undefined, nondescript, equivocal. ANTONYMS: (adj) concrete, precise

indelible: (adj) ineffaceable, memorable, fixed, ineradicable, lasting, irrevocable, ingrained; (adj, v) indestructible; (n) impressive, deep; (v) incorruptible. ANTONYMS: (adj) erasable, fleeting

indefinable: (adj) indefinable, ineffable, unutterable, vague, beyond expression, nameless, inexpressible, nondescript, terrible, intangible, termless. ANTONYMS: (adj) explainable, conceivable, concrete

indestructible: (adj) immortal, eternal, everlasting, indestructible, undying, durable, perdurable, permanent, indelible, incorruptible, lasting. ANTONYMS: (adj) fragile, destructible, vulnerable, ephemeral, soft, perishable, temporary

indifferently: (adv) carelessly, coldly, nonchalantly, listlessly, unconcernedly, uninterestedly, neutrally, middlingly, casually, unbiasedly, disinterestedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) passionately, obsessively, carefully, eagerly, energetically, warmly, anxiously, enthusiastically, sympathetically

indignant: (adj) angry, incensed, furious, enraged, wrathful, hurt, rage, provoked, hot, anger, irate.

- ANTONYMS: (adj) cool, content, unaffected
- indignantly**: (adv) irately, angrily, wrathfully, enragedly, sorely, acrimoniously, cynically, sulkily, hotly, exasperatedly, furiously
- indigo**: (adj, n) blue; (n) anil, Indigofera tinctoria, shrub, dyestuff, indigo plant, indigotin; (adj) bice, azure, cerulean, mauve
- indiscriminate**: (adj) random, haphazard, sweeping, general, confused, aimless, disorderly, motley, indiscriminating, irregular; (adj, v) miscellaneous.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) discerning, discriminating, selective, specific, systematic, isolated, methodical, deliberate
- indiscriminately**: (adv) promiscuously, arbitrarily, randomly, at random, every which way, irregularly, chaotically, sweepingly, unsystematically, messily, wholesaley. ANTONYM: (adv) systematically
- indistinct**: (adj) indefinite, inarticulate, faint, dull, fuzzy, indeterminate, hazy, neutral; (adj, n) confused, cloudy, dark.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) clear, slight, separate, certain, precise, audible, strong, definite
- indistinctly**: (adv) vaguely, dimly, hazily, mistily, inarticulately, shadowily, obscurely, unclearly, fuzzily, confusedly, ambiguously.
- ANTONYMS: (adv) precisely, audibly, coherently, distinctly
- individualized**: (adj) detailed, personal, personalised, personalized
- indolently**: (adv) lazily, sluggishly, slackly, slowly, languidly, torpidly, listlessly, lethargically, carelessly, inertly, shiftlessly. ANTONYMS: (adv) nimbly, vigorously, dynamically
- indomitable**: (adj, v) firm, gritty, iron; (adj) dogged, invincible, inflexible, tough, irresistible, rigid, dauntless, undaunted.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) feeble, submissive, weak, irresolute
- indulged**: (adj) pet, privileged, cherished, admired
- indulgence**: (adj, n) gratification, delight; (n) allowance, extravagance, debauchery, hobby, tolerance, luxury, enjoyment, leniency, pardon. ANTONYMS: (n) denial, virtue, intolerance, uprightness, necessity, indifference, dismay,
- severity
- indulging**: (n) pampering, excess, indulgence, orgy, folly, foolery, gratification
- inelasticity**: (n) stiffness, rigidity, inflexibility, rigidness, flaccidity, unelasticity, firmness; (adj) laxity, inelastic
- ineradicable**: (adj) indelible, ingrained, ineffaceable, permanent, inveterate, fixed, impossible to remove, chronic, inextirpable; (n) incorrigible, incurable. ANTONYM: (adj) eradicable
- inertia**: (n) idleness, lethargy, inaction, passivity, laziness, inertness, indolence, apathy, lassitude, languor, inactiveness.
- ANTONYMS: (n) energy, activity, activeness
- inertly**: (adv) inactively, passively, torpidly, motionlessly, lazily, dully, quiescently, stagnantly, flatly, statically, listlessly. ANTONYM: (adv) aggressively
- inexcusable**: (adj) irremissible, unpardonable, reprehensible, unwarrantable, unforgivable, unwarranted, unfair, untenable, not excusable, intolerable, unexcusable.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) understandable, forgivable, justifiable, justified, laudable, wonderful
- inexpressible**: (adj, v) indescribable; (adj) ineffable, unspeakable, unutterable, indefinable, incommunicable, nameless, untold, beyond description, unexpressible, undefinable. ANTONYM: (adj) definite
- inexpressibly**: (adv) unspeakably, indescribably, beyond words
- infatuation**: (adj) devotion, fascination, enchantment, gross credulity; (adj, n) passion, fervor, fanaticism; (n) crush, idolatry, love, hobby. ANTONYM: (n) indifference
- inferiority**: (n) poorness, degeneracy, subordination, minority, disadvantage, calibre, vulgarity, quality, subordination, meanness, deterioration. ANTONYMS: (n) superiority, advantage, excellence, preeminence
- infernal**: (adj) devilish, fiendish, diabolical, demonic, damned, cursed, blasted, unholy, wicked; (adj, v) diabolic, satanic
- infirmity**: (adj, n) frailty, foible, imbecility; (n) feebleness, impotence, disability, decrepitude, illness, sickness, disease, weakness.
- ANTONYMS: (n) health, wellness, strength
- inflamed**: (adj) impassioned, excited, angry, hot, flaming, ablaze, irritated, passionate, painful, burning; (n) red
- inflection**: (n) accent, inflexion, flection, modulation, flexion, intonation, declension, bending, conjugation, accentuation, emphasis
- informant**: (n) betrayer, sneak, informer, squealer, deponent, author, attestant, communicator, fink; (v) mouthpiece, teller
- infringement**: (n) violation, infraction, encroachment, breach, trespass, contravention, transgression, breaking, crime, assault, invasion
- infuriated**: (adj, v) enraged; (adj) furious, incensed, angered, mad, exasperated, provoked, boiling, livid, wrathful, annoyed.
- ANTONYM: (adj) pleased
- infuse**: (v) implant, inculcate, instill, steep, imbue, impregnate, brew, indoctrinate, engraft, fill, soak.
- ANTONYM: (v) dip
- ingenuity**: (adj, n) ability; (n) adroitness, ingeniousness, cunning, imagination, acumen, resource, originality, skill, wit, inventiveness.
- ANTONYM: (n) ineptness
- ingenuous**: (adj, n) frank; (adj) naive, guileless, honest, forthright, innocent, straight, artless, downright, green, hearty.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) disingenuous, dishonest, cunning, sophisticated, scheming, worldly, jaded, hesitant, experienced
- inhabitant**: (n) denizen, resident, occupant, citizen, tenant, occupier, population, native, liver, indweller; (v) habitant. ANTONYM: (n) stranger
- iniquity**: (adj, n) depravity; (n) inequity, wickedness, immorality, injustice, crime, sin, vice, darkness, villainy, sinfulness. ANTONYMS: (n) goodness, good
- injudicious**: (adj) foolish, unwise, indiscreet, unadvised, careless, improper, thoughtless, rash, hasty, ill-judged, incautious. ANTONYMS: (adj) wise, sensible, careful, prudent, judicious, discreet, advisable
- injure**: (n, v) damage, harm, impair; (v) contuse, disfigure, maim, bruise, blemish, wound, insult; (adj, v) abuse. ANTONYMS: (v) heal, enable, repair, protect, help
- inlet**: (n) bay, cove, gulf, entry,

- entrance, arm, gateway, loch, armlet, intake, recess
- inmate:** (n) captive, convict, gaolbird, denizen, prisoner, con, patient, jailbird, lodger, occupant, resident. ANTONYM: (n) outpatient
- inmost:** (adj) innermost, inward, deep, intimate, private, inner, interior, internal, personal, secret, intrinsic. ANTONYM: (adj) outermost
- innermost:** (adj) inward, intimate, inner, interior, close, internal, middle, center, hint, hearty; (adj, n) inside. ANTONYMS: (adj) external, outermost, outer
- inkeeper:** (n) victualer, landlord, Boniface, hostess, hotel keeper, victualler, padrone, emcee, horde
- innocently:** (adv) innocuously, ingenuously, inoffensively, naively, purely, simply, artlessly, unsophisticatedly, blamelessly, spotlessly, cleanly. ANTONYMS: (adv) artfully, meaningfully, indecently, immorally, illicitly, intentionally, knowingly, unkindly, suspiciously, offensively, deliberately
- innumerable:** (adj) countless, numberless, incalculable, multitudinous, infinite, innumeros, unnumbered, uncounted, myriad, immeasurable, untold. ANTONYM: (adj) finite
- inoffensive:** (adj, n) harmless, innocent; (adj) innocuous, innoxious, safe, unoffending, euphemistic, hurtless, pleasant, gentle, tame. ANTONYMS: (adj) rude, unsavory, unpleasant, harmful, dysphemistic, malicious, exciting
- inquire:** (v) demand, ask, explore, enquire, inspect, research, consult, pry, request, wonder; (n, v) question. ANTONYM: (v) answer
- inquiring:** (adj) inquisitive, quizzical, interested, analytical, probing, intrusive; (adj, n) questioning; (v) inquire; (n) enquiry, question, examination. ANTONYM: (adj) uninquiring
- inquiringly:** (adv) enquiringly, inquisitively, nosily, curiously, pryingly, interestedly, searchingly, inquiring, quizzically, intrusively
- inroads:** (n) wear
- insanity:** (adj, n) craziness, derangement, frenzy, aberration; (n) delirium, dementia, mania, folly, lunacy, idiocy; (adj) madness.
- ANTONYMS: (n) sanity, sense
- inscribed:** (adj) etched, incised, graven, written, carved, carven
- inscription:** (n) epigraph, entry, dedication, autograph, epitaph, registration, lettering, writing, record, superscription, title
- insensibility:** (n) callousness, hardness, indifference, dullness, stupidity, stupor, impassiveness, coma, physical insensibility, impassivity, trance
- inseparable:** (adj) indissoluble, inextricable, inherent, indiscernible, built-in, indispensable, infrangible, innate, unseparable; (v) severable, unseparated. ANTONYMS: (adj) separable, dividable, isolatable
- insides:** (n) bowels, innards, entrails, intestines, filling, belly, gut, viscera, stomach
- insignificance:** (n) unimportance, insignificance, indifference, immateriality, inconsiderableness, slightness, smallness, meanness, littleness, futility, inconsequentiality. ANTONYMS: (n) seriousness, importance, gravity, appropriateness, value, fame
- insignificant:** (adj) inconsequential, inconsiderable, humble, poor, immaterial, trivial, unimportant, light, infinitesimal, indifferent, small. ANTONYMS: (adj) significant, enormous, major, important, huge, substantial, considerable, great, colossal, valuable, influential
- insistent:** (adj) exigent, pressing, emphatic, persistent, crying, importunate, instant, clamant, imperative, adamant, obstinate. ANTONYMS: (adj) satisfied, irresolute, gentle
- inst:** (adj) instant, insistent, exigent, demanding attention, crying, present
- installing:** (n) installment, start, instalment, commencement, beginning, initiation, induction, facility, episode
- instantaneous:** (adj) immediate, prompt, sudden, precipitate, momentary, abrupt, precipitous, precipitant, swift, momentaneous, quick. ANTONYMS: (adj) gradual, delayed, considered
- instantaneously:** (adv) directly, instantly, at once, forthwith, suddenly, promptly, abruptly, momentarily, outright, right away, in a flash. ANTONYM: (adv) eventually
- insubstantial:** (adj) frail, fragile, thin, unreal, slight, weak, light, imaginary, incorporeal, illusory; (adj, v) unsubstantial. ANTONYMS: (adj) heavy, sturdy, concrete, substantial, palpable, real, constant, sound, robust, serious, strong
- insulted:** (adj) affronted, offended, injured, huffy
- insulting:** (adj) contemptuous, insolent, injurious, offensive, scurrilous, defamatory, opprobrious, rude, disgraceful, disdainful, impolite. ANTONYMS: (adj) courteous, conciliatory, polite, generous, cordial
- insuperable:** (adj) unconquerable, indomitable, impassable, invincible, unsurmountable, unbeatable, impregnable, overwhelming, formidable, inexsuperable, unassailable. ANTONYM: (adj) vulnerable
- insupportable:** (adj, v) insufferable, intolerable; (adj) indefensible, unbearable, excruciating, unjustifiable, unendurable, impossible, unsupportable, heavy, obnoxious. ANTONYM: (adj) bearable
- intangible:** (adj) immaterial, incorporeal, ethereal, indefinite, spiritual, elusive, imperceptible, insubstantial, airy, indefinable; (n) intangible asset. ANTONYMS: (adj) concrete, palpable, touchable, actual
- intellect:** (n) mind, intelligence, understanding, reason, brains, head, intellectual, apprehension, psyche, genius, brainpower. ANTONYM: (n) stupidity
- intentionally:** (adv) deliberately, advisedly, consciously, purposely, on purpose, knowingly, willfully, studiously, expressly, purposefully, intendedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) accidentally, innocently
- intentness:** (adj, n) earnestness, zeal; (adj) ardor, emprossement; (n) concentration, absorption, engrossment, intentiveness, earnest, complete attention, handsel
- interfering:** (adj, n) meddling; (adj) officious, busy, disturbing, meddlesome, nosy, busybodied, curious, overbearing, domineering; (n) hindrance
- interminable:** (adj) endless, eternal, incessant, infinite, illimitable, immeasurable, unending, ceaseless, timeless, continual, unlimited.

ANTONYMS: (adj) temporary, finite, intermittent, sporadic, concise

intermingled: (adj) amalgamated, integrated, coalesced, blended, incorporated, assorted, consolidated, incorporate, amalgamate, fused

intermittent: (adj) broken, sporadic, fitful, discontinuous, spasmodic, irregular, periodic, uneven, recurrent; (adj, v) occasional; (adv) intermittently. ANTONYMS: (adj) constant, repeated, continual, steady, regular, recurring, frequent, spasmodic, unbroken, common

interposed: (adj) interjacent, intercedent, intervenient, parenthetical, intermediate colors, mediate

interposing: (adj) meddlesome

interposition: (adj, n) mediation; (adj) intercession; (n) intervention, interpolation, insertion, interruption, intermediation, interjection, location, locating, placement

interruption: (n) disruption, intermission, halt, pause, suspension, discontinuance, hiatus; (n, v) break, hindrance, impeding; (v) interrupt. ANTONYMS: (n) permanence, help, respect

intersected: (adj) decussated

interlocked: (prep) clasped together, interlocked, interfolded; (adj) related, matted, inseparable, disheveled, tangled, entangled

intervening: (adj) middle, interstitial, intervene, interposed, intermediate colors, mediate, mesne; (adj, v) intercurrent, interjacent; (v) intervenient; (n) middler. ANTONYM: (adj) permanent

interwoven: (adj) interlinking, interlacing, interlocking, complex, interwove, twine, contextural, entangled, inseparable, knotted, related

intractably: (adv) mulishly, obdurately, inflexibly

intrinsically: (adv) essentially, naturally, internally, inwardly, immanently, instinctively, really, in and of itself, as such, per se; (adj, adv) innately

introspective: (adj, v) thoughtful, reflective, pensive, meditative; (v) deliberative, philosophical; (adj) reflex, brooding, deep in thought, directed back, dreamy

intrude: (v) interfere, trespass, encroach, infringe, impose, obtrude,

disturb, interrupt, impinge, barge in, butt in. ANTONYM: (v) disregard

intruding: (adj) aggressive, interfering, intrusive

inured: (adj) accustomed, callous, enured, habituated, casehardened, confirmed, emotionally hardened, broken in, given, tough, trained

inversion: (n) reversal, turnover, transposition, everting, eversion, anastrophe, retroversion, subversion, movement, negation, reversion

invidious: (adj) obnoxious, hateful, discriminatory, offensive, outrageous, jealous, abominable, odious, loathsome, covetous; (adj, v) spiteful. ANTONYMS: (adj) pleasant, desirable

invigorated: (adj) brisk, reinvigorated, impudent, impertinent, energizing, energising, clean, bracing, refreshed

invincibly: (adv) insuperably

invisibly: (adv) unvisibly, indiscernibly, latently, untraceably, unnoticeably, barely. ANTONYMS: (adv) obviously, noticeably, conspicuously

inwardly: (adv) inside, interiorly, innerly, within, secretly, intrinsically, intimately, privately, spiritually, incomingly; (adj) inwards. ANTONYM: (adv) openly

inwards: (adv) in, indoors, inwardly, within, at home, here; (n) gut; (adj) inner, interior, domestic, intimate. ANTONYMS: (adv) out, outward

iridescent: (adj) opalescent, pearly, chatoyant, changeable, shimmering, colorful, shining, prismatic, pavonine, opaline, clear

irksome: (adj, v) wearisome, tiresome; (adj) boring, dull, annoying, tedious, trying, burdensome, bothersome, irritating, prosaic. ANTONYMS: (adj) delightful, pleasant, refreshing, soothing

ironical: (adj) sarcastic, satirical, dry, burlesque, wry, sardonic, satiric, derisive, caustic, quizzical; (n) humorous

irrepressible: (adj) uncontrollable, uncontainable, unmanageable, wanton, inextinguishable, rampant, effervescent; (v) ungovernable, volcanic, stanchless, simmering. ANTONYM: (adj) orderly

irresistibly: (adv) charmingly, necessarily, overwhelmingly, charismatically, fiercely, temptingly,

overpoweringly, appealingly, beguilingly

irritate: (adj, v) incense; (v) gall, fret, chafe, harass, grate, displease, vex, goad, aggravate, anger. ANTONYMS: (v) soothe, pacify, please, help, calm, encourage, placate

ivied: (adj) leafy

jamb: (n) doorpost, abutment, mullion, vertical, cheek, upright, doorjamb, coaming, currant jam, door jamb, beam

jammed: (adj) packed, congested, full, overcrowded, fixed, wedged, crammed, stuffed, blocked, clogged; (adj, v) stuck. ANTONYMS: (adj) free, loose

jamming: (n) interference, electronic jamming, disturbance, obstruction, blocking, overcrowding, hole, fix, crush, canting; (adj) extemporaneous

jangle: (n, v) jingle, clank, ring, clang, rattle, bang, tinkle; (n) clatter; (v) jar, clink; (adj, n) wrangle

jauntily: (adv) cheerfully, airily, brightly, sprucely, smartly, merrily, dashingly, nattily, buoyantly, breezily, lightly

jerking: (adj) arrhythmic, arrhythmical, jerky, unsteady; (n) movement, jolt, dork, jar

jest: (n) gag, gibe, quip, game; (n, v) jape; (v) banter, jeer, deride, gird, sneer, clown

jilt: (v) betray, balk, desert, forsake, drop, reject, walk out on, throw over, cozen, cully; (n) woman

jilted: (v) crossed in love, lovelorn; (adj, v) rejected; (adj) abandoned, spurned, unloved

jolting: (adj) jolty, bumpy, bouncing, jouncing, unsmooth, moving, bouncy; (n) concussion

journeying: (adj) itinerant, wayfaring, vagabond; (n) excursion, digression, expedition, travelling, movement, outing, passage, pilgrimage

jove: (n) Jovian, Jovianist, thunderer

joyial: (adj, n) gay; (adj) jolly, genial, glad, festive, joyful, gleeful, merry, jocund, cheerful, blithe. ANTONYMS: (adj) miserable, gloomy, frosty, serious, hostile

joyful: (adj) gay, glad, elated, cheerful, gleeful, cheery, delighted, joyous, jolly, blissful, blithe. ANTONYMS: (adj) miserable, sorrowful, unhappy, despairing,

unpleasant, staid, sorry, disappointed, depressed, heavy

joyousness: (n) joyfulness, mirth, joy, exhilaration, exultation, gaiety, cheerfulness, excitement, exuberance, glee, gladness.
ANTONYMS: (n) unhappiness, sadness

judas: (n) betrayer, spyhole, Judah, peephole, St Jude, snake in the grass, serpent, saint Jude, Judas Iscariot, conspirator, cockatrice

judicious: (adj, v) discreet; (adj) careful, discerning, sensible, prudent, rational, sagacious, sound, cautious, reasonable, advisable.
ANTONYMS: (adj) stupid, tactless, indiscriminate, reckless, illogical, extreme, untimely

judiciously: (adv) prudently, sagaciously, shrewdly, discreetly, discerningly, politically, cautiously, logically, rationally, sensibly, soundly. ANTONYMS: (adv) foolishly, injudiciously, unwisely, illogically, imprudently

juggernaut: (n) Jagganath, Jagannatha, Jagannath, idol, graven image, avatar, lares et penates, Siva, Buddha, fetish; (v) *felo de se*

juggler: (n) performer, magician, cheat, conjurer, prestidigitator, deceiver, trickster, jockey, prestigator, conveyer

jumbled: (adj) confused, disorganized, disordered, untidy, muddled, mixed, cluttered, incoherent, chaotic, promiscuous; (adj, adv) topsy-turvy.
ANTONYMS: (adj) tidy, systematic, coherent, clear, organized, sound

junction: (n, v) joint; (adj, n) crisis; (n) articulation, event, junction, connection, affair, point, time, conjuncture; (v) joining

justifiable: (adj) legitimate, defensible, excusable, lawful, logical, legal, reasonable, admissible, rightful, warrantable, sound.
ANTONYMS: (adj) inexcusable, unreasonable, invalid, gratuitous, unjustifiable, illogical, unlawful, unworthy, untenable

justifying: (adj) extenuating, mitigating; (n) justification, defense

jutting: (adj) prominent, protruding, protrusive, salient, protuberant, hence; (n) protrusion, protuberance, extrusion, hump, gibbosity

juxtaposition: (n) apposition, proximity, contact, contiguity, abuttal, location, locating,

placement, position, positioning, comparison

keener: (v) Indian giver, floater, repeater

keenly: (adv) eagerly, zealously, piercingly, acutely, cuttingly, ardently, strongly, lively, penetratingly, fervently, avidly.
ANTONYMS: (adv) unenthusiastically, apathetically, faintly, reluctantly, patiently, passively, halfheartedly, vaguely

kerb: (n) curb, curbstone, ribband, kerbstone, bridle, curbing, Amex, check, curb bit, American Stock Exchange

kerseymere: (n) cassimere

kiln: (n) heater, drier, stove, oven, oast, hearth, limekiln, dry kiln, brickkiln, dryer; (v) dry

kindle: (adj, v) inflame; (v) fire, excite, arouse, burn, flame, awaken, incite, enkindle, stir; (n, v) light.
ANTONYMS: (v) enkindle, dampen, calm, extinguish, quench, stifle

kindled: (adj) enkindled, lighted, lit, burning

kindling: (n) combustion, firing, ignition, lighting, tinder, fire, firewood, dismissal; (v) ignite, agitate, kindle

knavish: (adj) tricky, dishonest, crafty, sly, roguish, guileful, foxy, dodgy, cunning, false, corrupt

knelt: (v) genuflect, cringe, stoop, bob, cry for quarter, dip, duck, humble oneself; (n) kneeling, knee, movement

kneeling: (n) homage, kowtow, kneelingly, prostration, genuflection, genuflection, curtsy, courtesy, obeisance

knuckles: (n) brass knuckles, knuckle duster, weapon, arm, knucks, hand

laboured: (adj) labored, forced, arduous, hard, strained, difficult, laborious, grievous, grave, weighty, unnatural

labouring: (adj) drudging, work, working, busy, toiling

labyrinth: (n) inner ear, tangle, confusion, complication, internal ear, web, unit, system; (adj, n) network; (v) eel, labyrinthian

lacing: (n) seaming, shoelace, cord, whipping, bootlace, beating, licking, twist, lashing, flogging, string

ladders: (n) washboard

laden: (adj) burdened, full, loaded, ladened, filled, hampered, heavy, charged, encumbered; (v) lade, load.
ANTONYMS: (adj) empty, lacking

lain: (adj) artless, unsophisticated, unaffected, naive, untutored, simple, pure, natural, native, artificial

lame: (adj) crippled, disabled, halting, feeble, halt, weak, paralytic; (adj, n) game; (adj, v) paralyze, maim, becripple

lamed: (adj) lame, impeded, injured, disabled

lameley: (adv) crippledly, limpingly, disabledly, weakly, haltingly, poorly, hobblingly, paralytically, infirmly, faintly, unsatisfactorily

lameness: (n) limp, claudication, gameness, gimpiness, feebleness, halt, limping, crippleness, disability of walking

lamentation: (n) dirge, grief, mourning, plaint, regret, complaint, cry, crying, wail, moan, condolence.
ANTONYM: (n) celebration

lammas: (n) Michaelmas, Lammas Day

lance: (n) pike, javelin, shaft, lancet, assegai, fishgig, fizgig; (v) dart, impale, open, gore

lanceolate: (adj) lanceolated, simple, lanceolar, pointed

lanced: (adj) bistoury; (n) knife, gimlet, probe, lancer, needle, gig, piercer, Rimer, scoop, fizgig

landlady: (n) landlord, madam, proprietor, hostess, innkeeper, landholder, lady of the house

languidly: (adv) languorously, listlessly, wearily, lethargically, slowly, dreamily, limply, weakly, torpidly, indolently, impassively.
ANTONYMS: (adv) dynamically, vigorously

languor: (adj, n) inactivity, inertia, feebleness; (n) lethargy, fatigue, infirmity, lassitude, weakness, indifference, ennui; (adj) atony.
ANTONYM: (n) energy

lank: (adj) gaunt, angular, emaciated, meager, thin, skinny, spindly, spare, scrawny; (adj, v) lean, barren

lantern: (n) beacon, light, dormer, tube, lighting fitting, bedside light, street light, street lamp, oil lamp, lime light, lanthorn

lapse: (n, v) decline, drop, mistake; (adj, n, v) fall; (v) expire, elapse, collapse, go by; (n) oversight, error, fault. ANTONYMS: (v) behave, start, rise, renew, improve

lapsed: (adj) fallen, elapsed, slip, defunct, forgotten, invalid, irreligious, lost, nonchurchgoing, finished

- lapsing:** (n) backsliding, lapse, atavism, relapse, relapsing, reversion, reverting, recidivism, failure
- larks:** (n) family Alaudidae
- larynx:** (n) voice box, tonsils, windpipe, spiracle, gullet, gorge, vocal cords, cartilaginous structure
- lash:** (n, v) beat, chastise, scourge, goad; (v) flog, bind, batter; (adj, v) strap, tie, lace; (n) hit. ANTONYMS: (v) unlash, untie
- latch:** (v) bar, fasten, grab; (n, v) bolt; (adj, n, v) lock; (n) hasp, clasp, door latch, hook; (adj) link, yoke
- lateness:** (n) slowness, delay, sluggishness, timing, dilatoriness, late, slothfulness, earliness, late maturity, tardiance, posteriority. ANTONYMS: (n) promptness, punctuality, earliness
- laterally:** (adv) sidelongly, obliquely, sidewise, sidely, collaterally, sidewardly, sideway, lengthways, sideling; (adj) crabwise, parallel. ANTONYM: (adv) logically
- latitude:** (n) freedom, scope, breadth, room, expanse, range, compass, climate, clime, space, reach. ANTONYM: (n) constraint
- latterly:** (adv) lately, lastly, late, subsequently, finally, of late, newly, ultimately, secondly, freshly, afterward. ANTONYM: (adv) initially
- lattice:** (n) grill, grille, grid, net, fretwork, network, gridiron, wicket, web, netting; (v) trellis
- laughable:** (adj) absurd, amusing, humorous, comical, ludicrous, ridiculous, farcical, droll, comic, foolish, jocular. ANTONYMS: (adj) serious, tragic, adequate, generous, impressive
- laurel:** (n) bays, honor, rose-laurel, cassia, cinnamon, sweet bay, Daphne, bay tree, palm, garland, fame
- leaden:** (adj) heavy, gray, sluggish, grey, inert, torpid, grave, languid, drab, burdensome, livid. ANTONYM: (adj) bright
- leadwork:** (n) plumbage
- leafless:** (adj) bald, bare, aphyllous, leaveless, hairless. ANTONYM: (adj) leafy
- leafy:** (adj) green, verdant, lush, foliose, foliate, leafed, luxuriant, foliaceous, leaved, bowery, flourishing. ANTONYMS: (adj) leafless, urban, withering
- leagued:** (v) brief, dense, firm, compact, confederated, not verbose, not diffuse, solid, pithy; (adj) confederate, allied
- leant:** (adj) inclined
- leaping:** (n) jump, bounce, bound, leap, spring, saltation, bouncing; (v) jumping; (adj, v) bounding; (adj) springing; (adv) leapingly
- leased:** (adj) chartered, rented, occupied. ANTONYM: (adj) unchartered
- leathery:** (adj) stringy, coriaceous, leatherlike, gristly cartilaginous, leathery, tough as whitleather, hard, stiff, gristly, gnarled, rugged
- lecturing:** (n) instruction, talk
- ledger:** (n) book, account book, daybook, account, book of account, ledger, books, calendar, diary, ephemera, crossbar
- leer:** (n, v) glance; (n) grin, wink, smirk, look, gaze, nudge, shrug, tip the wink; (v) simper, ogle
- leeward:** (n) lee side, direction, Bruce Lee, Henry Lee, Gypsy Rose Lee, Lee Yuen Kam; (adv) upwind, against the wind, into the wind
- leggings:** (n) gramashes, pedal pushers
- legible:** (adj) readable, distinct, fair, plain, clean, definite, explicit, understandable, direct, cloudless, light. ANTONYM: (adj) unreadable
- lengthen:** (adj, v) elongate; (v) enlarge, prolong, draw, draw out, increase, expand, stretch, protract, continue, drag out. ANTONYMS: (v) clip, curtail
- lengthened:** (adj) elongated, prolonged, long, protracted, expanded, elongate, longer, lingering, extensive, stretched out, lengthy
- leopard:** (n) panther, cheetah, cat, pelt, opal, marble, ophite, nacre, ocelot, pard, fur
- leopards:** (n) cheetahs, family Felidae, Felidae, jaguars, cats
- lessened:** (adj) diminished, hurt, lower, mitigated, pointed, tapering, vitiated, atrophied, short, attenuate, attenuated
- lettering:** (n) print, epigraph, script, superscription, writing, type, dedication, epitaph, typeface, font, handwriting
- leveller:** (n) grader
- levi:** (n) St Matthew, saint Matthew the apostle, gospel according to Matthew, Matthew, saint Matthew
- levity:** (n) flightiness, frivolity, flippancy, buoyancy, lightness, giddiness, inconstancy, frivolousness, humorousness, jocosity; (n, v) fickleness. ANTONYMS: (n) gravity, seriousness
- liberality:** (n, v) charity, almsgiving; (adj, n) bounty; (n) largess, munificence, benevolence, beneficence, generosity, tolerance; (adj) largesse, gift. ANTONYM: (n) illiberality
- licence:** (n, v) permit, allow, licence; (n) allowance, freedom, permission, liberty, authority, authorization, certificate; (v) certify. ANTONYMS: (v) decertify; (n) restriction
- lichen:** (n) crotal, crotle, crottal, basidiolichen, mold, moss, arctic moss, conferva, beard lichen, beard moss, crotles
- licked:** (adj) dumbfounded
- licking:** (n) thrashing, rout, debacle, beating, drubbing, discomfiture, whipping, lacing, lick, hiding, reverse. ANTONYM: (n) victory
- lief:** (adj, v) leef; (adv) fain, willingly; (adj) glad, acceptable
- lifeless:** (adj) inanimate, dull, insipid, defunct, inactive, flat, exanimate, dreary, tedious, inert, lackluster. ANTONYMS: (adj) lively, stiff, alive, interesting, awake, moving, upright, bright, brilliant, firm, inspiring
- lighted:** (adj) illuminated, lit, light, ablaze, bright, ignited, burn, burning, ignite, kindled, lighten
- lighten:** (v) assuage, alleviate, light, illuminate, brighten, lessen, allay, clear, mitigate, relieve, illumine. ANTONYMS: (v) darken, intensify, increase, dye, depress, aggravate, exacerbate
- lightening:** (v) lighten, lightning; (n) mitigation, change of color, whitening, alleviation, brightening, consolation, assuagement; (adj) comforting, fulgurant
- light-hearted:** (adj) merry, blithe, sunny, cheerful, vivacious, bright, festive, airy, buoyant, lighthearted, light
- lightness:** (n) brightness, buoyancy, frivolity, flightiness, delicacy, airiness, agility, levity, light, nimbleness, flippancy. ANTONYMS: (n) darkness, gravity, weight, harshness, seriousness
- likeness:** (n) resemblance, copy, effigy, image, affinity, similarity, correspondence, facsimile; (adj, n) figure, form, semblance.

- ANTONYMS: (n) difference, diversity, dissimilarity, unlikeness, contrast
- lilies:** (n) lily
- liliputian:** (adj) pigwidgeon, elf, dapper, chit, urchin, pigmy, pollard, pygmy, dwarf
- limber:** (adj, v) flexible, pliable; (adj) supple, lithe, agile, flexile, elastic, ductile, svelte, willowy, lissome. ANTONYMS: (adj) stiff, inflexible
- limp:** (adv, n, v) hobble; (adj, v) flabby; (n, v) hitch; (adj) flaccid, slack, flexible, drooping, flimsy, weak, loose; (v) hop. ANTONYMS: (adj) taut, firm, hard, rigid, upright, alive, strong, stiff, tight
- lineament:** (n) line, character, characteristic, contour, quality, forehead, brow, turn, profile, silhouette; (adj) diagnostic
- lineaments:** (v) exposition, tract, length, expanse, area, extent; (n) face
- linger:** (v) loiter, delay, dally, hover, stay, hesitate, hang around, procrastinate, dawdle, tarry, saunter. ANTONYMS: (v) hurry, end, rush, depart, lead
- lingering:** (adj) long, chronic, extended, dilatory, protracted, prolonged, residual, lengthy, inactive, dull; (n) delay. ANTONYM: (adj) quick
- listless:** (adj) indifferent, dull, indolent, careless, languid, inert, inattentive, dispirited, slow, uninterested, spiritless. ANTONYMS: (adj) lively, animated, energetic, strong, spirited
- listlessly:** (adv) sluggishly, spiritlessly, indifferently, languidly, slowly, weakly, indolently, supinely, lazily, inanimately, slackly. ANTONYMS: (adv) brightly, nimbly
- lithe:** (adj, v) limber, flexible; (adj) graceful, slender, lissom, supple, lissome, svelte, agile, ductile, elastic. ANTONYMS: (adj) clumsy, stiff, inflexible
- livid:** (adj) furious, irate, ashen, mad, blue, gray, ghastly, leaden, colorless, angry, enraged. ANTONYMS: (adj) flushed, happy, pleased
- loaf:** (adj, v) lounge; (v) hang around, loiter, loll, linger, laze, mess about, be idle; (adj, n) block; (adj) lump, poke. ANTONYM: (v) work
- locking:** (n) lockup, bolting, interlocking, engagement, cordoning off, closing off, binding, guarding
- lodging:** (n) abode, apartment, accommodation, housing, hostel, residence, quarter, home, lodgement, address, hospice
- lodgings:** (n) digs, accommodation, domiciliation, lodging, billet, housing, quarters, residence, pad, living quarters, launchpad
- lofty:** (adj, v) high, elevated; (adj) exalted, eminent, arrogant, grand, tall, haughty, great, distinguished, majestic. ANTONYMS: (adj) short, lowly, base, modest, deferential, humble
- loitering:** (n) delay, dalliance; (adj) slow, dilatory, delaying, inactive, truant, trifling, tardy; (v) loiter; (adv) loiteringly
- long-delayed:** (adj) belated, slow
- longingly:** (adv) cravingly, piningly, eagerly, contemplatively, wishfully, nostalgically, melancholy, wistfully, pensively, languishingly, reflectively
- long-suffering:** (n) long-sufferance, patience, endurance; (adj) forbearing, tolerant, enduring, persevering, passive, meek, resigned, stoic
- looming:** (adj) threatening, impending, menacing, pending; (v) illusion, anamorphosis, false light, distortion, phasma, appear, mirage. ANTONYM: (adj) distant
- looped:** (adj) coiled, coiling, curly, intoxicated, curved, helical, continuous, interminable, round, whorled
- loophole:** (n) crevice, gazebo, alternative, keyhole, balistraria, aperture, eyelet, watchtower, pigeonhole, mousehole; (v) machicolation
- looping:** (v) circulate; (n) iteration
- loosen:** (n, v) relax, release, ease; (adj, v) loose, disengage; (v) detach, undo, ravel, discharge, fluff, untie. ANTONYMS: (v) fasten, compress, fix, tense, stiffen, bend
- loosened:** (adj) disentangled, loose, freed, disengaged, extricated, unsnarled
- loosening:** (n) relaxation, unfastening, ease, undoing, liberalization, adjustment, alteration, liberalisation, easiness; (adj) solutive, laxative
- lopped:** (adj) docked, truncated, lopped off, cropped, mutilated
- lopping:** (n) trimming, contraction
- loquacity:** (n) garrulity, garrulousness, communicativeness, talkativeness, gab, verbiage, prate, verbosity, effusiveness, futility, eloquence
- lordly:** (adj, v) dignified, proud, noble; (adj) haughty, grand, August, domineering, disdainful, arrogant, imperious, lofty. ANTONYM: (adj) humble
- loser:** (n) flop, washout, underdog, lame duck, dud, also-ran, geek, oaf, nerd; (adj) defeated, stupid. ANTONYMS: (n) winner, achiever
- loveliness:** (n) comeliness, fairness, grace, attractiveness, charm, glamour, pulchritude, beautifulness, good looks, cuteness, fineness. ANTONYMS: (n) unattractiveness, unpleasantness, awkwardness
- lowness:** (n) depression, baseness, tallness, meanness, deepness, sordidness, baby blues, completeness, dejection, truncation, abundance
- low-toned:** (adj) gentle
- lucifer:** (n) Satan, Beelzebub, the Devil, match, fusee, fuze, friction match, light, archfiend, Vesta, vesuvian
- lumbering:** (adj) heavy, clumsy, ungainly, ponderous, maladroit, gruelling, hulking, accented, all thumbs, unwieldy; (n) logging. ANTONYMS: (adj) nimble, adroit, agile, graceful, elegant, dainty
- luminosity:** (n) brightness, light, illumination, glow, luminance, brilliance, radiance, brilliancy, luminescence, gleam, shine. ANTONYMS: (n) dullness, darkness
- luminous:** (adj) glowing, brilliant, lustrous, lucent, sunny, lambent, radiant, light, aglow; (adj, n) lucid, clear. ANTONYMS: (adj) dark, obscure
- luminousness:** (n) illumination, luminescence, glow, light, brightness, incandescence, luminance, light source, clearness, flawlessness, Christ Within. ANTONYM: (n) dirtiness
- lumps:** (n) repulse, deserts, due, grit, punishment
- luncheon:** (n) meal, tiffin, dejeuner, dinner, repast, party; (v) nunchion
- lurch:** (n, v) stumble, pitch, stagger; (v) reel, tilt, cant, rock, sway, shake, teeter, wobble. ANTONYM: (v) hesitate
- lurid:** (adj) ghastly, grisly, gruesome, loud, frightful, sharp, shocking, gaudy, sensational, hideous,

- horrific. ANTONYMS: (adj) subtle, muted, bland, dull, modest
- lurking:** (n) ambush; (adj) snaky, backstair, backstairs, clandestine, concealed, dormant, latent, potential, skulking, sneaky
- lustre:** (n) brilliance, gloss, brilliancy, grandeur, splendour, effulgence, splendor, shininess, shine, sheen, brightness
- lustrous:** (adj, v) bright, splendid; (adj) glossy, brilliant, lucid, shiny, shining, light, luminous, sleek, radiant. ANTONYM: (adj) unhealthy
- lustrously:** (adv) shinily, radiantly, splendidly, lucidly, brightly, polishedly, lightly, splendidly, gleamingly, glossily, glowingly
- luxuriant:** (adj, n) lush; (adj) abundant, lavish, exuberant, dense, thick, fertile, flourishing, fecund, opulent, profuse. ANTONYMS: (adj) barren, meager, unhealthy, arid, withering, sparse, shabby, unadorned
- luxuriate:** (v) revel, relish, bask, wallow, enjoy, thrive, prosper, mushroom, grow, savor, soak up. ANTONYM: (adj) dislike
- lymph:** (adj) lymphate, limp, rheum, sanies, serosity, lymphatic; (n) karyolymph, crystal, glass, water, vitrite
- lyric:** (n) tuneful, poem, song, language, verse; (adj) lyrical, choral, vocal, instrumental, operatic; (v) write
- macaroni:** (n) fop, buck, Italian paste, exquisite, beau, man about town, pasta, dude, blood, blade, alimentary paste
- mace:** (n) cudgel, bludgeon, hammer, official, shillelah, spice, sprig, stick, nutmeg, rod, scepter
- madding:** (adj) frantic
- magnanimity:** (adj, n) generosity, liberality; (n) largesse, greatness, charity, munificence, tolerance, nobleness, nobility, kindness, largess. ANTONYM: (n) pettiness
- magnanimously:** (adv) exaltedly, kindly, handsomely, greatly, chivalrously, selflessly, unselfishly, gallantly, grandly, bigly, considerably
- magnesia:** (n) mineral, periclaese
- magnetism:** (n) attraction, charisma, charm, allure, magnetics, appeal, glamour, magic, magnet, pull; (adj) gravity. ANTONYMS: (n) repulsiveness, ugliness
- magnificence:** (adj, n) splendor, brilliancy, gorgeousness; (n) glory, pomp, brilliance, grandness, greatness, dignity, majesty, loftiness. ANTONYMS: (n) paucity, modesty, shabbiness, poverty, austerity, unattractiveness
- magnifying:** (adj) cumulative
- maggie:** (n) pie, chatterbox, gossip, mag, babbler, chatterer, prater, cotinga, accumulator; (v) parrot, poll
- mailed:** (adj) armored
- majestic:** (adj) grand, awesome, stately, imperial, royal, exalted, glorious, kingly, August; (adj, v) imposing; (adj, adv) regal. ANTONYMS: (adj) pathetic, pitiful, modest, lowly, undignified
- malformation:** (n) freak, distortion, disfigurement, defect, abnormality, monstrosity, clubfoot, deformation, anamorphosis, contortion, fault
- malicious:** (adj) evil, vicious, venomous, spiteful, unkind, cruel, poisonous, mean, mischievous, pernicious, nasty. ANTONYMS: (adj) kind, harmless, kindhearted, loving, unmalicious, compassionate, good, merciful, pleasant, provoked
- malignant:** (adj) malevolent, malicious, evil, malefic, fatal, spiteful, virulent, sinister, mischievous, pernicious, venomous
- maligned:** (adj) reviled
- malt:** (n) milkshake, grist, beer, malted milk, wort, alcohol, malt liquor, inebriant, alcoholic beverage, food grain
- malted:** (n) malt, shake, milkshake, malted milk, malt liquor
- maltster:** (n) shaper, maker
- mane:** (n) encolure, head of hair, crest, wool, tresses; (adj) brush, beard, ringle, whisker, tress, moustache
- manfully:** (adv) gallantly, bravely, manlikely, virilely, mightily, masculinely, courageously, valiantly, doughtily, intrepidly. ANTONYM: (adv) unmanfully
- mangled:** (adj, prep) lacerated, rent; (adj) deformed, mutilated, lacerate, disabled, broken, maimed, distorted, damaged, blasted
- manhood:** (n) majority, maturity, valor, resolution, personality, humanity, integrity, bravery; (adj) manliness, ripe age, maturity full age
- manifold:** (adj) diverse, different, many, various, multiplex, multiplied, frequent; (v) duplicate, copy, multiply; (n) diversity
- manly:** (adj) manlike, masculine, manful, virile, brave, gallant; (adv) manfully, boldly, hardily, virilely; (adj, adv) stately. ANTONYMS: (adj) weak, unmanly, cowardly; (adv) unmanfully
- mannerism:** (n) airs, habit, foible, characteristic, affectation, trick, attitude, pose, affected manner, manner; (adj) individuality
- matrimonialness:** (n) civility, gentility
- mannish:** (adj) male, manly, unwomanly
- mantelpiece:** (n) chimneypiece, characteristic, shelf, chimneybreast, blanket, cape, sill, clavy, curtain, drape, drapery
- marshalling:** (n) roundup
- mastered:** (adj) down pat, low, downhearted, perfecter, dispirited, depressed, declining, downcast, down in the mouth, cut down, beaten
- mastering:** (adj) victorious
- materially:** (adv) physically, substantially, corporeally, significantly, really, essentially, corporally, vitally, solidly, momentarily, fundamentally
- mathematically:** (adv) arithmetically, scientifically, punctually, algebraically, algebraicly
- matrimonial:** (adj) marital, conjugal, married, bridal, nuptial, spousal, wedded, marriage, wedding, hymeneal, household. ANTONYMS: (adj) unmarried, divorced, public
- maturer:** (adj) overripe, ripe, ripened
- mawkishness:** (n) bathos, insincere pathos, emotionality, emotionalism, anticlimax
- mazy:** (adj) labyrinthian, knotty, complex, involved, tortuous, sinuous, intricate, anfractuous; (v) rivulose, reclivate, scolecoïd
- mead:** (n) field, metheglin, hydromel, lea, meadow, sweet wine, grassland, sward, pasture, green, pasturage
- meanly:** (adv) poorly, nastily, averagely, humbly, ungenerously, tightly, rudely, stingily, parsimoniously, scurvily, mediocrecly. ANTONYMS: (adv) generously, sympathetically, compassionately, genially, respectfully, pleasantly, affluently
- meanness:** (n) parsimony, closeness, pettiness, avarice, selfishness, baseness, stinginess, niggardliness, miserliness, nastiness; (adj, n) degeneracy. ANTONYMS: (n)

generosity, extravagance, decency
measureless: (adj) immense, infinite, boundless, limitless, incalculable, endless, illimitable, countless, cosmic, unlimited, unmeasured.
 ANTONYM: (adj) negligible
mechanically: (adv) mechanically, instinctively, routinely, involuntarily, industrially, unconsciously, automatically, intuitively, impulsively, technically, technologically. ANTONYMS: (adv) manually, consciously
medievalism: (n) antiquarianism
mediocrity: (n) indifference, medium, balance, averageness, mean, person, somebody, someone, soul, ordinariness; (adj, n) moderation.
 ANTONYM: (n) excellence
meditate: (n, v) muse; (v) contemplate, consider, cogitate, reflect, speculate, wonder, ruminate, ponder, think, bethink
meditating: (n) conception
meditations: (n) contemplation, consideration, cogitation
meditative: (adj, v) thoughtful, pensive; (adj) wistful, reflective, broody, museful, ruminative, musing, brooding; (v) philosophical, sedate
meditatively: (adv) thoughtfully, reflectively, wistfully, musingly, contemplatively, ponderingly, ruminatively, broodingly, thinkingly, broodily, musefully.
 ANTONYMS: (adv) unthinkingly, rashly
meek: (adj) lowly, docile, gentle, tame, low, submissive, compliant, mild, modest, quiet, kind.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) assertive, bossy, haughty, arrogant, overbearing, rebellious, disobedient, wild, harsh, brash
meekly: (adv) humbly, submissively, tamely, compliantly, obediently, docilely, peacefully, lowly, modestly, placidly, kindly.
 ANTONYMS: (adv) haughtily, harshly, wildly, arrogantly, assertively, brashly
melancholy: (adj, v) dreary; (adj, n) gloom, melancholic; (adj) depressed, dejected, dismal, gloomy, doleful; (n, v) low spirits; (n) gloominess, depression. ANTONYMS: (n) happiness, cheerfulness, hopefulness, optimism; (adj) happy, bright, cheery, satisfied
mellow: (adj, v) ripe, mollify, smooth, soften; (adj) gentle, luscious, mild,

soft, juicy; (v) melt, ripen.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) harsh, frantic, fresh, bright, strict, young, frenetic
mellowed: (adj) mature, easygoing, high, maturer, ripe
mellowness: (n) maturity, fullness, timber, timbre, softness, quietness, smoothness, abundant wealth, fertility, equanimity, cornucopia.
 ANTONYMS: (n) harshness, panic
melodious: (adj) harmonious, musical, sweet, tuneful, mellow, dulcet, soft, gentle, full, canorous, mellifluous. ANTONYMS: (adj) harsh, unmelodious, inharmonious, tuneless, grating, loud
melting: (n) thawing, fusion, melt, dissolution, warming, thaw, liquefaction, fusion range; (adj) lustrous, pathetic; (adj, n) dissolving
mend: (adj, v) improve; (v) correct, cure, heal, doctor, better, amend, restore, convalesce; (n, v) fix, patch.
 ANTONYMS: (v) worsen, tear, smash, decline, deteriorate; (n) fracture
mending: (n) fix, repair, fixing, maintenance, restoration, reparation, improvement, darning, mend, amendment, correction
mentor: (n) advisor, instructor, coach, teacher, guide, adviser, consultant, counsellor, monitor, counselor, tutor. ANTONYM: (n) follower
merciful: (adj) humane, gracious, lenient, compassionate, kind, clement, benign, kindly, gentle, beneficent, forgiving. ANTONYMS: (adj) pitiless, merciless, unforgiving, spiteful, harsh, impatient, severe, hardhearted
mercifully: (adv) mildly, sympathetically, indulgently, humanely, benignly, clemently, benevolently, softly, leniently, kindly, benignantly. ANTONYMS: (adv) spitefully, severely, unfortunately
merciless: (adj) brutal, pitiless, unmerciful, remorseless, heartless, implacable, inhuman, hard, grim, barbarous, unfeeling. ANTONYMS: (adj) charitable, kind, humane, soft, caring, tolerant
mercilessly: (adv) remorselessly, heartlessly, unmercifully, ruthlessly, unfeelingly, cruelly, relentlessly, brutally, callously, unrelentingly, unkindly. ANTONYMS: (adv) humanely, mercifully
mercurial: (adj) changeable, erratic,

fickle, quick, flighty, agile, inconstant, changeful, quicksilver, fidgety; (v) mobile. ANTONYM: (adj) steady
merging: (n) confluence, concourse, merger, meeting, conflux, unification, coming together, amalgamation, merge, integration; (adj) blending. ANTONYM: (n) segregation
meridian: (n) culmination, line of longitude, zenith, peak, top, apex, acme, pinnacle, climax, clime; (v) glassy
merrily: (adv) gaily, cheerfully, blithely, cheerily, gladly, gleefully, mirthfully, brightly, jovially, joyfully, gayly. ANTONYMS: (adv) sadly, anxiously, miserably, unhappily, carefully, despondently
merriment: (n) fun, amusement, cheerfulness, hilarity, glee, jollity, frolic, gaiety, happiness, festivity; (adj, n) mirth. ANTONYMS: (n) misery, gloom, seriousness, despondency, boredom
merry-go-round: (n) carousel, recreation, comedy, diversion
merrymaking: (n) merriment, jollification, celebration, revel, revelry, conviviality, gaiety, jinks; (adj, n) jollity, joviality; (adj) festive board
meshes: (n) cobweb, mouse trap, toils, maze; (adj) awkwardness, knot, Gordian knot, delicacy, ticklish card to play
meshwork: (n) network, net, reticulation, graticule, grid, web, system, earnings, electronic network, engagement, interlock
metamorphosis: (n) alteration, change, conversion, transformation, metamorphism, translation, transmutation, transfiguration, revision, modification, transmogrification
mettle: (n) heart, courage, spunk, fortitude, guts, character, spirit, bravery, valor, boldness; (adj, n) pluck
midsummer: (n) summer, solstice, June solstice, June
midway: (adj) middle, center, intermediate, central, median; (n) tract, middle of the road, intermediary, battle of midway; (adv) in the middle; (prep) between. ANTONYM: (adj) extreme
mien: (n, v) deportment, carriage, bearing, demeanor; (n) look, countenance, appearance, guise,

- manner, aspect, air
- migratory:** (adj, v) itinerant; (v) ambulatory, vagrant, rambling, roving, Peripatetic, discursive, gadding, monadic; (adj) nomadic, vagabond. ANTONYM: (adj) nonmigratory
- mildewed:** (v) moldy, rusty, seedy, spotted, decayed; (adj, v) fusty; (adj) trite
- mildewy:** (adj) moldy, mouldy
- milestone:** (n) landmark, event, marker, breakthrough, happening, age, juncture, occasion, incident; (adj) millitary
- milk-and-water:** (adj) insipid, weak, bland, innocuous
- milkmaid:** (n) farmhand, fieldhand, farm worker
- millpond:** (n) pond, lake, fishpond, dew pond, dam, pool
- mincing:** (adj) mince, prim, mannered, twee, pretentious, foppish, affected, la-di-da, simpering, nice, sentimental
- minded:** (prep) inclined; (adj, prep) disposed; (adj) willing, apt, ready, prone, orientated, favorable, oriented, prepared, partial
- miniding:** (adj) intent
- mingled:** (adj) miscellaneous, complex, indiscriminate, heterogeneous, medley, confused, eclectic, motley, different; (v) blended, blent
- mingling:** (adj) blending, merging, confluent, blended; (n) mixture, mixing, commixion, interchange, exchange, commixture; (adv) minglingly
- ministrant:** (adj) ministering, attending, ancillary, helpful; (n) rector, parson, pastor, servant, curate; (v) subservient
- mirth:** (adj, n) merriment, jollity; (n) amusement, happiness, delight, joy, hilarity, cheerfulness, festivity, gladness, exhilaration. ANTONYMS: (n) gloom, sadness, misery
- mischievous:** (adj) bad, injurious, detrimental, naughty, deleterious, impish, harmful, playful, maleficent, arch; (adj, v) hurtful. ANTONYMS: (adj) harmless, serious
- misdirected:** (adj) led astray, undirected, wry
- miser:** (n) stinginess, curmudgeon, hunks, muckworm, niggard, skinflint, cheapskate, parsimony, moneygrubber, Jew, miserliness
- miserably:** (adv) pathetically, pathetically, pitifully, unhappily, sorrowfully, pessimistically, tragically; (adj, adv) piteously, grievously, woefully; (adj) miserable. ANTONYMS: (adv) happily, hopefully, brightly, affluently, enthusiastically, fortunately, profusely, contentedly
- misfortune:** (n) accident, hardship, misadventure, disaster, calamity, mischance, catastrophe, mishap, bad luck, misery, affliction. ANTONYMS: (n) joy, bonus, opportunity, privilege, success, happiness
- misfortune:** (n) misfortune
- misgiving:** (adj, n) apprehension, care; (n) fear, dread, distrust, doubt, hesitation, mistrust, suspicion, uncertainty, scruple. ANTONYMS: (n) confidence, certainty, trust
- misshapen:** (adj) deformed, malformed, shapeless, crooked, ugly, contorted, monstrous, unshapely, grotesque, deformity, perverted. ANTONYMS: (adj) straight, attractive
- missive:** (n) epistle, note, message, communication, billet, memorandum, encyclical, correspondence, alphabetic character, correspondence, circular
- mistakenly:** (adv) incorrectly, wrongly, falsely, wrong, inaccurately, untruely, fallaciously, misguidedly, faultily, amiss, foolishly. ANTONYMS: (adv) rightly, accurately, deliberately
- mistiness:** (n) cloudiness, murkiness, fogginess, muddiness, nebulosity, haze, nebulousness, dimness, darkness, vagueness, blurriness. ANTONYMS: (n) brightness, clarity
- mistletoe:** (n) viscum album, false mistletoe, Loranthus europaeus, parasitic plant, missel, mistletoe, old world mistletoe
- misty:** (adj) hazy, foggy, cloudy, brumous, dim, indistinct, nebulous, fuzzy, dark, dull, blurred. ANTONYMS: (adj) clear, distinct
- misunderstand:** (v) misinterpret, misconstrue, mistake, misread, misjudge, miscomprehend, miscalculate, confuse, misapply; (n, v) misconceive; (n) misunderstanding. ANTONYMS: (v) grasp, appreciate, interpret
- misunderstood:** (adj) mistreated, confused
- mixen:** (adj) dunghill, sink, privy, mixed, jakes, laystall, midden, bog
- moan:** (n, v) grumble, gripe, whine, lament, cry, howl; (v) bewail, complain, mourn; (n) complaint, lamentation. ANTONYMS: (v) compliment; (n) praise
- moaning:** (n, v) lamentation; (adj) groaning, whining, funereal, inarticulate, dirgeful; (n) complaining, mourning
- moans:** (adj) moaning
- mockery:** (n) gibe, jeer, irony, farce, charade, derision, parody, mock, scorn, imitation, burlesque. ANTONYM: (n) approval
- mocking:** (adj) derisive, ironic, jeering, mock, quizzical, sarcastic, taunting, derisory, teasing, sardonic, sneering. ANTONYMS: (adj) respectful, approving, complimentary, sympathetic; (n) praise
- mockingly:** (adv) jeeringly, sneeringly, ironically, derisively, scornfully, sarcastically, satirically, mockly, scoffingly, sardonically, gibingly
- moderating:** (adj) abstemious, extenuating. ANTONYM: (adj) intensifying
- modernism:** (n) contemporaneousness, contemporaneity, practice, pattern, novelty, innovation, genre, currency, currentness, modernness
- modesty:** (n) reserve, bashfulness, humility, diffidence, humbleness, demureness, coyness, gentleness, continence; (adj, n) decency, honesty. ANTONYMS: (n) arrogance, immodesty, spectacle, flamboyance, abandon, bigheadedness, pretension, decadence, boldness
- moiety:** (n) mediety, portion, part, parcel, section, piece, bit, division, cut, class
- molest:** (v) harass, assail, assault, plague, bother, harry, attack, annoy, haunt, beset, chevy. ANTONYM: (v) defend
- moll:** (n) gun moll, criminal, strumpet, mistress, harlot, streetwalker, hooker, felon, woman, malefactor
- momentary:** (adj) brief, fugitive, transient, short, instantaneous, ephemeral, passing, momentaneous, temporary, impermanent, temporal. ANTONYMS: (adj) lasting, lengthy, long
- momento:** (n) keepsake, relic
- monochromatic:** (adj)

- homochromatic, monochromic, colored, colorful, coloured, monochromous. ANTONYM: (adj) polychrome
- monochrome:** (adj) monochromatic, monochromous, colorful, coloured, constant; (n) painting, photo, camaieau, cameo, exposure; (v) polychrome
- monotonous:** (adj) dull, flat, boring, dreary, tedious, insipid, monotone, monotonous; (adj, v) dry, uninteresting, stupid. ANTONYMS: (adj) exciting, varied, stimulating, lively, exotic, enthralling, brilliant, flexible
- monotony:** (n) boredom, dullness, evenness, sameness, tediousness, flatness, dreariness, tautophony, tiresomeness; (adj) dull work, humdrum. ANTONYMS: (n) variety, variation
- moodily:** (adv) morosely, peevishly, glumly, sulkily, grumpily, capriciously, temperamentally, petulantly, saturninely, crossly, erratically. ANTONYM: (adv) cheerily
- moodiness:** (n) temperament, depression, capriciousness, grumpiness, petulance, sullenness, humorousness, ill humor, ill humor, jocularly, unhappiness. ANTONYM: (n) cheeriness
- moody:** (adj) gloomy, dark, irritable, morose, capricious, glum, grumpy, fickle, petulant, dour, sullen. ANTONYMS: (adj) equable, happy, reliable, stable, calm
- moorish:** (adj) marshy, fenny, boggy, moory; (n) Moorish architecture
- mope:** (v) sulk, fret, moon around, moon about, moon, despond, amble, saunter; (n) dillydallier, dallier, lounger. ANTONYMS: (v) grin, smile, delight
- morals:** (n) ethics, moral, light, hedonism, ethical motive, conscience, motivation, motive, need, behavior, moral philosophy
- morbid:** (adj) diseased, gruesome, macabre, corrupt, pathologic, unwholesome, peccant, sick, unhealthy, pathological; (adj, v) sickly
- morning:** (n) dawn, daybreak, forenoon, period, prime, aurora, a, amount of time, break of dawn, break of day, break of the day
- morrow:** (n) morning, future, mean solar day, day
- morsel:** (n, v) bite, mouthful; (n) crumb, chew, particle, fragment, taste, piece, nibble; (adj, v) gobbet, mite
- mortally:** (adv) lethally, deadly, pestilently, perniciously, extremely, humanly, grievously, poisonously, individually, killingly, dangerously. ANTONYM: (adv) mildly
- mossy:** (adj) floral, mosslike, moldy, hoary, musty, covered, musciform, stodgy, hoar, chromatic, canescent
- moth:** (n) gelechiid, bombycid, geometrid, helminth, lasiocampid, lymantriid, arctiid, moth and rust, moths, worm-eaten, lasiocampid moth
- motto:** (n) catchword, adage, epigraph, maxim, slogan, device, proverb, saw, saying, shibboleth, aphorism
- mouldering:** (adj) moldering, becoming rotten, rotten, rotting
- mouldy:** (adj) moldy, mildewy, fusty, musty, stale, trite, hackneyed, well-worn, putrid, mould, frowsty
- mournful:** (adj) sad, miserable, melancholy, funereal, dolorous, dark, pensive, gloomy, lugubrious, lamentable; (adj, n) plaintive. ANTONYMS: (adj) joyful, happy, emotionless
- mournfully:** (adv) sadly, sorrowfully, glumly, woefully, unhappily, plaintively, grievously, funereally, dejectedly, dolorously, poignantly. ANTONYMS: (adv) cheerfully, joyfully
- mourning:** (n) lament, lamentation, bereavement, gloom, woe, memorial, sorrowfulness, sadness, sorrow; (n) grieving; (v) lamenting
- muddled:** (adj) bewildered, disorganized, messy, addled, disordered, incoherent, bemused, unintelligible, chaotic, upset, jumbled. ANTONYMS: (adj) organized, precise, lucid, coherent, distinct, clear
- muffled:** (adj) hushed, muted, hollow, inarticulate, faint, soft, subdued, low, quiet; (v) allusive, covert. ANTONYMS: (adj) clear, distinct, audible, slight
- muggy:** (adj) moist, damp, close, humid, wet, airless, stuffy, oppressive, hot, clammy, soggy. ANTONYMS: (adj) airy, dry
- multifarious:** (adj, v) diverse, heterogeneous, different; (adj) manifold, multifaceted, complex, varied, miscellaneous, multiple, many, multiform. ANTONYM: (adj) homogeneous
- multiplied:** (adj) cumulative; (n) generation, calculation
- munching:** (n) feeding
- murderous:** (adj) cutthroat, homicidal, gory, bloodthirsty, cruel, brutal, fierce, mortal, deadly, lethal, killing. ANTONYM: (adj) easy
- murky:** (adj) dark, gloomy, cloudy, dusky, dingy, misty, dim, muddy, opaque, dirty, black. ANTONYMS: (adj) bright, light, obvious, sunny
- murmur:** (n, v) grumble, mumble, hum, whisper, mutter, whine, babble, drone; (v) complain, bubble, breathe
- murmuring:** (n) murmuration, murmur, complaint, grumble, muttering, mutter, murmur vowel; (adj) whispering, humming, droning, murmurous
- mute:** (v) meditate, ponder, deliberate, consider, cogitate, reflect, brood, ruminate, speculate, think, mull. ANTONYM: (v) wander
- musng:** (adj) contemplative, meditative, thoughtful, pensive; (n) meditation, consideration, reflection, rumination, reverie, thought, cogitation
- musngly:** (adv) thoughtfully, ponderingly, meditatively, contemplatively, reflectively, ruminatively, broodingly, deep in thought. ANTONYM: (adv) unthinkingly
- musngs:** (n) contemplation, cogitation, consideration
- musketry:** (n) proficiency, rifle, musket, facility, army unit
- muster:** (v) assemble, gather, congregate, collect, convene, rally, marshal, accumulate; (n) levy, gathering; (n, v) draft. ANTONYM: (v) demobilize
- mutilation:** (n) damage, dismemberment, wound, disfigurement, gash, blow, buffet, bruise, distortion, impairment, mayhem. ANTONYM: (n) enhancement
- mysteriously:** (adv) enigmatically, strangely, obscurely, secretly, uncannily, mystically, darkly, puzzlingly, weirdly, abstrusely, occultly. ANTONYM: (adv) normally
- mystic:** (adj, v) secret, recondite; (adj) mysterious, occult, cryptal, cryptic, esoteric, inscrutable, weird, magical; (adj, n) psychic
- mystified:** (adj) metagrabolized,

- puzzled, perplexed, metagrobolized, bemused, unclear, at a loss, metagrobolised, baffled, flummoxed, having difficulties. ANTONYMS: (adj) enlightened, clear
- mystifier:** (n) puzzler
- nailed:** (adj) fixed, tight, stationary, stable, secure, decided, firm, immobile
- naively:** (adv) ingenuously, credulously, unsophisticatedly, artlessly, inexperiencedly, simply, candidly, frankly, trustingly, childishly, unaffectedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) deliberately, astutely, sensibly, dishonestly, artfully
- naivety:** (n) artlessness, innocence, naiveness, credulousness, gullibility, ingenuousness, sincerity, simplicity, naturalness, candor; (adj) bonhomie. ANTONYM: (n) sophistication
- nameless:** (adj) unknown, unnamed, unidentified, unsung, undistinguished, unspecified, inexpressible, strange, indescribable, obscure, unspeakable. ANTONYM: (adj) famous
- naming:** (n) appointment, identification, denomination, appellation, nomination, indication, delegacy, assignment, mention; (adj, n) appellative; (adj) designating
- nankeen:** (n) cloth, fabric
- nape:** (n) nucha, scruff, occiput, rear, back end, backside, chine
- napping:** (adj) asleep, unthinking, unready, snoozing, slumbering, sleeping, off guard, off your guard, off his guard, off her guard, careless. ANTONYM: (adj) awake
- narration:** (n) description, recital, narrative, explanation, history, tale, report, relation, story, recitation, rehearsal
- narrowing:** (n) contraction, tightening, coarctation, stricture, angustation; (adj) dwindling, tapering, constrictive, constricting, binding; (adj, n) tapering off. ANTONYM: (n) expansion
- narrowness:** (n) thinness, width, intolerance, illiberality, tightness, smallness, pettiness, sheerness, slimness, meanness, skinniness. ANTONYMS: (n) wideness, stoutness, thickness, width, coarseness, inaccuracy
- natives:** (n) nation, populace, community, citizens, public
- naturalized:** (adj) established, vernacular, accomplished, constituted, conventional, domesticated, exotic, foreign, planted, firm, effected
- neap:** (n) neap tide, neaped timber, high water, high tide, highwater; (adj) debased
- nearing:** (n) approach; (adj) impending, forthcoming, oncoming, coming, imminent, looming; (prep) on the verge of, toward
- nearness:** (n) closeness, contiguity, vicinity, familiarity, adjacency, proximity, propinquity, presence, immediacy, neighborhood, nearby. ANTONYMS: (n) distance, farness, remoteness
- nebula:** (n) Omega nebula, fog, nebulosity, spot, bubbling, cloudiness, film, diffuse nebula, gaseous nebula, mistiness, nubecula
- nebulous:** (adj) hazy, indistinct, dark, muddy, indefinite, vague, nebulous, dim, murky, formless, shapeless. ANTONYMS: (adj) defined, precise, definite
- neckerchief:** (n) kerchief, neckcloth, scarf, shawl
- needy:** (adj) indigent, poor, impoverished, necessitous, underprivileged, penniless, impecunious, deficient, miserable, deprived, poverty-stricken. ANTONYMS: (adj) rich, affluent, independent, solvent, privileged, satisfied
- negation:** (n) contradiction, negate, opposition, disavowal, deny, cancellation, rebuttal, refusal, refutation, rejection, abnegation. ANTONYMS: (n) acceptance, confirmation, affirmation, substantiation, reinforcement, agreement
- neglectful:** (adj, v) negligent, remiss; (adj) heedless, derelict, careless, forgetful, delinquent, nonchalant, regardless, reckless, lax. ANTONYMS: (adj) attentive, helpful, mindful, conscientious, dutiful
- negligent:** (adj) neglectful, heedless, forgetful, reckless, inattentive, inadvertent, indifferent, slow, lax, untidy; (adj, v) remiss. ANTONYMS: (adj) strict, diligent, conscientious, careful, dutiful, prompt, prudent, responsible, sensible, cautious
- nerveless:** (adj) coolheaded, feeble, weak, cool, powerless, spineless, impuissant, flaccid, marrowless, composed, imperturbable
- nervousness:** (n) nerves, trepidation, disquiet, tension, jumpiness, restlessness, jitters, agitation, worry, fearfulness, edginess. ANTONYMS: (n) boldness, confidence, reassurance, calm, relief, peace, equanimity
- nestling:** (n) chick, bairn, toddler, baby bird, bambino, changeling, fry, kiddy, nesting, pullet, tadpole
- nether:** (adj) lower, inferior, down, low, chthonic, chthonian, infernal, subjacent, less, lesser; (adj, adv) under
- nettled:** (adj) annoyed, harried, stung, steamed, roiled, riled, pissed, peeved, miffed, loaded, huffy. ANTONYM: (adj) unconcerned
- newborn:** (n) baby, babe, neonate, child, newborn baby, tot, toddler; (adj) young, unfledged, neonatal, callow
- newness:** (n) freshness, recency, originality, innovation, inexperience, new, uniqueness, age, novelty, recentness, new state. ANTONYMS: (n) mustiness, oldness
- nice-looking:** (adj) neat, attractive, handsome
- niceties:** (n) details, facts, information, ins and outs, particulars, propriety, workings, trivia, minutiae
- nicety:** (n) detail, exactness, fastidiousness, nuance, refinement, exactitude, justness, precision, correctness, daintiness, elegance
- nightcap:** (n) drink, dram, game, cap, mobcap, drop
- nightly:** (adv) every night, by night; (n) night; (adj) nocturnal. ANTONYM: (adj) daily
- nimble:** (adj) lively, adroit, agile, brisk, spry, alert, expeditious, energetic, clever, lithe; (adj, v) light. ANTONYMS: (adj) clumsy, heavy, stiff, slow, awkward, sluggish, unfit
- nipping:** (adj) bitter, keen, barbed, frosty, crisp, cutting, inclement, fresh, pinching, snappy, raw
- nobleman:** (n) patrician, aristocrat, lord, peer, marquis, nobility, grandee, baron, duke, armiger, burgrave
- nocturnal:** (adj) nightly, vespertine, nighttime, nocturnals, overnight, night, autumnal. ANTONYM: (adj) daytime
- nohow:** (adv) in no way, not at all, noway
- noiseless:** (adj) quiet, silent,

- soundless, hushed, voiceless, mute, stealthy, dumb, soft, calm, tranquil. ANTONYM: (adj) heavy
- noiselessly:** (adv) silently, soundlessly, stilly, softly, mutely, delicately, wordlessly, gently, speechlessly; (adj, adv) stealthily; (adj) noiseless. ANTONYMS: (adv) heavily, audibly
- noiselessness:** (n) quiet, quietness, still
- nomenclature:** (n) language, classification, appellation, denomination, linguistic communication, linguistic process, locution, lyric, markup language; (v) name
- nominally:** (adv) formally, smally, nominatively
- nonce:** (n) hour, nowadays, crisis, moment, instant, epoch, present, time being, minute, day
- nonconformity:** (n) disagreement, discordance, unorthodoxy, inconformity, rebellion, originality, nonconformance, heresy, difference, eccentricity, incongruity. ANTONYMS: (n) conformity, compliance
- nook:** (n) angle, niche, recess, hole, coign, bay, compartment, oriel, cove, refuge, haven
- noontide:** (n) noon, midday, high noon, summit, top, apex, zenith, acme, pinnacle, climax, culmination
- northerly:** (adj, adv, n) north; (adj, n) northern; (adv) northwards, northward, in the north, septentrionally, to the north, northerly; (adj) boreal
- northward:** (adj, adv) north; (adj) northbound; (adv) northerly, northwards, in the north, to the north
- notch:** (n, v) mark, dent, hack, nick, score,nock, hollow, scratch; (n) gap, incision; (v) indent. ANTONYM: (v) fill
- notched:** (adj) serrated, jaggy, serrate, toothed, erose, rough, uneven, indented, ragged, apprenticed, indented. ANTONYM: (adj) smooth
- noteworthy:** (adj) important, notable, eminent, remarkable, significant, considerable, distinguished, famous, extraordinary, particular, outstanding. ANTONYMS: (adj) insignificant, unexceptional, ordinary, general, dubious
- notoriety:** (n) publicity, reputation, fame, infamy, disrepute, note, notability, prominence, flagrancy, distinction; (adj, n) renown. ANTONYM: (n) obscurity
- nourished:** (adj) fostered
- novelties:** (n) odds and ends
- numerously:** (adv) frequently, multiplely, variously, severally, sundrily, abundantly, profusely, commonly, infinitely, rifely, numberlessly
- nutmeg:** (n) Myristica, muscat, mace, nutmeg tree; (adj) meaningless
- nymphean:** (adj) nymphal
- oats:** (n) Avena, grain, millet, cereal, cereal grass, common oats, genus Avena, Haver, holder, maize, buckwheat
- objectionable:** (adj) distasteful, offensive, nasty, exceptionable, undesirable, disagreeable, unwelcome, disgusting, unacceptable, repugnant, obnoxious. ANTONYMS: (adj) agreeable, desirable, acceptable, inoffensive
- oblige:** (v) coerce, force, drive, constrain, make, bind, accommodate, obligate, necessitate, enforce, impel. ANTONYMS: (v) displease, request, hinder
- obliquely:** (adj) circuitous, devious, lateral, side, roundabout, slanting, evasive, collateral, sloping, inclined, tortuous. ANTONYMS: (adj) direct, level, perpendicular, parallel, overt, explicit, straight, clear, upright; (n) nominative
- obliquely:** (adj, adv) athwart, transversely, askew; (adv) aslant, indirectly, slopingly, slantingly, sideways, sidelong, skewly, askance. ANTONYM: (adv) straight
- obliteration:** (n) annihilation, eradication, abolition, deletion, devastation, destruction, demolition, extinction, atomization; (adj) extirpation, extinguishment. ANTONYMS: (n) construction, creation, protection
- oblivion:** (n) limbo, Lethe, void, absolution, forgiveness, oblivionness, silence, remission, pardon; (n, v) amnesty; (adj) nonbeing. ANTONYMS: (n) consciousness, fame
- oblivious:** (adj) careless, inattentive, mindless, heedless, neglectful, unaware, ignorant, unwitting, Lethean, deaf, blind. ANTONYMS: (adj) aware, watchful, mindful, careful, sharp
- oblong:** (adj) oval, elliptical, rectangular, rounded; (v) longitudinal; (n) block, quadrangle
- obscuration:** (n) darkness, gloom, concealment, defilement, mumbo jumbo, shadow, shade, obscurement, obscuration of smoke, film, impuration
- obscured:** (adj) hidden, blind, covered, clouded, darkened, covert, dim, intangible, unnoticed, ulterior, privy
- obscuring:** (adj) blinding; (n) confusion
- obscurity:** (n) gloom, darkness, shade, dimness, obscureness, night, oblivion, haze, ambiguity, shadow, cloudiness. ANTONYMS: (n) clarity, fame, light, simplicity, prominence, celebrity, brightness
- observable:** (adj, adv) noticeable, perceptible; (adj) discernible, apparent, appreciable, visible, evident, noteworthy, notable, detectable, remarkable. ANTONYMS: (adj) hidden, imperceptible, invisible
- obstinacy:** (n) stubbornness, firmness, bullheadedness, determination, contumacy, mulishness, impenitence, resolve, resoluteness, impenitency, pertinacity. ANTONYMS: (n) cooperation, compliance
- obtrusive:** (adj) blatant, conspicuous, officious, impudent, intrusive, pushy, saucy, prominent, forward, protrusive, rude. ANTONYMS: (adj) unobtrusive, helpful
- obtuseness:** (n) bluntness, dullness, stupidity, dimness, ignorance, stolidity, density, heaviness, drowsiness, impenetrability, obtusity. ANTONYM: (n) acuteness
- obviousness:** (n) blatancy, apparency, noticeability, noticeableness, clarity, conspicuousness, unavoidability, unoriginality, triteness, simplicity, predomination. ANTONYM: (n) originality
- occupant:** (n) tenant, inhabitant, dweller, denizen, occupier, inmate, holder, citizen, householder, dalesman, coaster
- occupier:** (n) tenant, inhabitant, resident, dweller, denizen, inmate, metropolitan, coaster, colonial, dalesman, holder
- ochreous:** (adj) ochereous
- ocularly:** (adv) optically, visually, ophthalmically
- offend:** (v) irritate, affront, insult, contravene, injure, disgust, infringe,

- displease, abuse, wound, anger.
ANTONYMS: (v) please, delight, praise, attract
- offensiveness:** (n) distastefulness, coarseness, blatancy, insolence, meanness, obnoxiousness, ugliness, bad taste, disgustingness, cruelty, extreme unpalatability.
ANTONYMS: (n) decency, tastefulness, propriety, kindness, pleasantness
- offhand:** (adj, adv) impromptu, extemporaneous, extempore; (adj) casual, extemporaneous, careless, cavalier, nonchalant, brusque, abrupt, improvised. ANTONYMS: (adj) careful, considerate, warm, serious, civil, cautious, conscientious, concerned, caring, intended, prepared
- officiating:** (n) umpirage, adjudication, refereeing; (adj) acting
- offish:** (adj) remote, unapproachable, aloof, distant, unsociable, reserved, cool, solitary, prudish, uncommunicative, lacking cordiality
- oil:** (adj, v) bland, soapy; (adj) fatty, fat, oleaginous, unctuous, slick, buttery; (adv) unctuously, smoothly, oleaginously. ANTONYM: (adj) lean
- olympus:** (n) Olimbos
- omen:** (n, v) harbinger, bode, herald, augury; (n) indication, portent, forerunner, foreboding, sign, mark, auspice
- ominously:** (adv) inauspiciously, portentously, forbiddingly, balefully, threateningly, menacingly, blackly, direly; (adj, adv) gloomily, fatefully, unpromisingly.
ANTONYMS: (adv) favorably, innocently
- onward:** (adv) ahead, forwards, before, forth, onwards, along, in advance, frontward, forrader; (adv, prep) on; (adj) progressive.
ANTONYM: (adv) backward
- oozing:** (n) ooze, leakage, exudation, seepage, sweating, extravasation, distillation, flow, leak, discharge; (adj) seeping
- opacity:** (n) opaqueness, obscurity, cloudiness, murkiness, indistinctness, muddiness, fogginess, opaque, dark, quality, dullness. ANTONYMS: (n) clarity, transparency
- opiate:** (adj, n) narcotic, hypnotic; (adj) anodyne, soporific, somniferous; (n) drug, sedative, anesthetic, anaesthetic; (v) poppy, balm
- oppressed:** (adj) laden, persecuted, broken, burdened, drawn, gloomy, aggrieved, downcast, heavy, ladened, loaded
- oracular:** (adj) prophetic, ambiguous, mystic, cryptic, prophetic, sibylline, mysterious, delphic, obscure, opinionated, dogmatic
- ordained:** (adj) destined, prescribed, appointed, predestined, fated, preordained, meant, legal, lawful, dedicated, inevitable
- ordinarily:** (adv) generally, usually, regularly, normally, frequently, customarily, habitually, routinely, middlingly, plainly, familiarly.
ANTONYMS: (adv) unusually, rarely, strangely, exceptionally
- orifice:** (n) mouth, gap, hole, aperture, vent, port, puncture, inlet, muzzle, chops, nozzle
- originality:** (n) novelty, imagination, ingenuity, initiative, freshness, newness, invention, creativity, heterodoxy, innovation; (adj, n) individuality. ANTONYMS: (n) normality, unoriginality
- originating:** (adj) originative, original, incipient, originant
- ornament:** (n) decoration, adornment, embellishment, decor; (v) beautify, decorate, deck, embellish, adorn; (n, v) garnish, dress. ANTONYM: (v) strip
- ornamented:** (adj) embellished, beautified, fancy, flowery, ornate, adorned, bedecked, decked, festooned, feathered, florid
- ostensible:** (adj) seeming, alleged, specious, superficial, nominal, manifest, outward, pretended, unreal, supposed, colorable.
ANTONYMS: (adj) real, actual, genuine
- outburst:** (n) explosion, spurt, eruption, fit, burst, flash, effusion, gush, ebullition, blast, rage
- outhouse:** (n) outbuilding, privy, jakes, barn, penthouse, bathroom, can, John, lav, lavatory
- out-of-doors:** (n) outdoors, outside; (adj) airy; (adv) without
- outpouring:** (n) outpour, effusion, flow, outflow, gush, jet, barrage, leakage, outburst, effluence, overflow
- outrider:** (n) herald, precursor, prodrome, prodromus, vancouver, pioneer, guard, escort, attendant, scout
- outspoken:** (adj) direct, open, frank, candid, ingenuous, forthright, blunt, explicit, round, sincere, straightforward. ANTONYMS: (adj) devious, guarded, quiet, reticent, evasive, reserved, tactful
- outwardly:** (adv) exteriorly, superficially, apparently, outside, seemingly, without, ostensibly, evidently, extrinsically, outerly, outsidely. ANTONYMS: (adv) internally, underneath
- oval:** (adj) elliptical, elliptic, ovate, oviform, ovoid, oblong, egg-shaped, rounded, prolate, round; (n) ovule
- overcoat:** (n) greatcoat, coat, cloak, robe, topcoat, surcoat, coating, overcoating, capote, chesterfield, gown
- overflowing:** (adj) full, copious, exuberant, flooding, bountiful, generous, brimming, profuse; (n, v) flood, inundation, deluge.
ANTONYMS: (adj) sparse, scarce
- overgrowth:** (n) richness, hypertrophy, gigantism, giantism, profuseness, exuberance, rankness, excessive size, overflow, overdistension, abundance
- overhanging:** (adj, v) projecting; (v) beetling; (adj) covering, imminent, impending, pendent, obumbrant, hanging over, overspreading, depending, hanging
- overhear:** (v) catch, eavesdrop, listen, overhear, understand, fold up, befool, fascinate, entrance, enchant, enamour
- overpowered:** (adj) beaten, conquered, inundated, engulfed, flooded, routed, vanquished, subdued, subjugated, overflowing, mild
- overrate:** (v) misjudge, overreckon, magnify, overstrain, overweigh, overdo, overvalue, miscalculate, overprize, overpraise, overcapitalize. ANTONYMS: (v) underestimate, underrate, undervalue
- overshadowing:** (adj) consuming, major, overwhelming, uncontrollable, unbearable, intense
- overspread:** (v) cover, spread, disseminate, distribute, scatter, diffuse, disperse, broadcast, overlay, mantle, clothe
- overtake:** (v) catch, attain, catch up with, exceed, overpower, overcome, go by, gain, devastate, outstrip, beat
- overtaking:** (n) passing, overtake, pass, going, expiration, loss, departure, exit
- overthrown:** (adj) overcome,

- conquered, battered, overpowered, dejected, cast down, dissolute, doomed, flooded, discomfit, mat
- overtook:** (v) overtake
- overtures:** (n) overture
- overturned:** (adj) upturned, upside down, inverted, reversed, wrong way up, confused, broken, wrong side up, topsy-turvy, disturbed, disquieted
- ovine:** (adj) Ovis, ovile
- owing:** (adj) due, unpaid, unsettled, outstanding, overdue, owed, payable, undischarged, indebted, fulfilling obligation, lawful. ANTONYM: (adj) settled
- owning:** (n) admission, avowal, confession, courteous recognition, acknowledgment
- pacified:** (adj) appeased
- pacing:** (n) *accelerando*, *andante*, *allegro*, *allegretto*, pace, walk, tempo, musical time, maneuvering alongside another vessel, cardiac pacing
- paddock:** (n) field, enclosure, pasture, meadow, corral, compound, pound, stall, ground, hutch, parrock
- pail:** (n) bucketful, jug, tub, pailful, cannikin, pails, skeel, tankard, pot, pipkin, vessel
- pained:** (adj) offended, aggrieved, distressed, displeased, sore, grieved, miserable, injured, wounded, worried, upset. ANTONYM: (adj) unaffected
- paleness:** (adj, n) pallor; (n) pallidness, wanness, whiteness, achromasia, blondness, lividity, luridness, lividness, fairness, pale. ANTONYM: (n) strength
- palimpsest:** (n) manuscript, tabula rasa
- palisade:** (n, v) fence, palisado, wall; (n) paling, pale, post, barricade, fencing; (v) circumvallate, fence in, sangar
- palliative:** (adj) mitigatory, alleviatory, alleviative, corrective, mitigative, extenuating, enantiopathic; (n) palliation, relief, justification, mitigating circumstances. ANTONYM: (adj) painful
- pallid:** (adj) ghastly, wan, bloodless, lurid, cadaverous, sickly, ashen, white, pasty, livid, watery. ANTONYMS: (adj) healthy, rosy, vivid
- pallor:** (n) pallidness, wanness, complexion, achromasia, lividity, lividness, luridness, pale, skin color, whiteness, sallowness. ANTONYMS: (n) rosiness, coloration, bloom
- palpable:** (adj) tangible, obvious, evident, apparent, clear, transparent, indubitable, noticeable, lucid, patent, perceptible. ANTONYMS: (adj) imaginary, intangible, impalpable, doubtful, furtive, imperceptible, insignificant, obscure, unclear
- palpably:** (adv) patently, noticeably, clearly, manifestly, obviously, plainly, transparently, unmistakably, evidently, tangibly, markedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) imperceptibly, insignificantly
- palpitating:** (adj) fluttering, throbbing, aflare, flittering, flying, unsteady, vibrant, flaring
- palpitation:** (adj, n) tremor, trembling, quivering, shaking, trepidation; (n) beat, pulse, quiver, shakiness; (adj) flutter; (v) pulsation
- palter:** (v) prevaricate, bargain, tergiversate, mislead, be off, forfeit, go back from, lie, higggle, trifle; (adj) shuffle
- pancake:** (n) hot cake, flapjack, bliny, hotcake, battercake, blini, blintz, blintze, flapcake; (v) ashcake; (n, v) crash
- pane:** (n) window pane, paneling, pane of glass, panelling, windowpane, window-pane, board, square, sheet of glass, leaf, box
- panes:** (n) Fauni
- pang:** (n) pain, torture, ache, agony, twinge, affliction, sting, stab, distress, ailment, cramp
- panorama:** (n) view, aspect, prospect, landscape, scene, vista, countryside, background, exposure, perspective, sight
- panoramic:** (adj) general, wide, broad, periscopic
- panting:** (adj) gasping, breathless, blown, winded, puffed; (v) palpitation; (n) heaving, gasp, asthma, heave, puff
- pantomime:** (n, v) gesture; (n) dumb show, mummery, acting, playacting, performing, playing, pantomimist; (v) mimic, roleplay, playact
- papery:** (adj) chartaceous, thin, papyraceous, thinner, sleazy, paper, flimsy. ANTONYM: (adj) tough
- parabola:** (n) curve, conic section, conic
- paradoxical:** (adj) contradictory, conflicting, ambiguous, illegible, contrary, strange, inconsistent, questionable, ironic; (v) enigmatic, problematical
- paralyzed:** (adj) palsied, crippled, disabled, helpless, torpid, powerless, prostrate, enervated, dead, impotent, inert
- parapet:** (n) bulwark, breastwork, fortification, railing, bastion, battlement, wall, banister, handrail, earthwork; (v) sunk fence
- parasol:** (n) sunshade, canopy, awning, umbrella, marquee, beach umbrella, shade, cover, tilt, tent
- paring:** (adj) clipping, dribble, shiver; (n) shaving, splinter, chip, rind, flinders, grazing; (adj, n) sliver; (v) pare
- parley:** (v) negotiate, converse, confer, consult; (n, v) talk, treat; (n) conversation, interview, colloquy, meeting, consultation
- parson:** (n) cleric, clergyman, rector, pastor, curate, preacher, ecclesiastic, divine, priest, vicar, father
- partiality:** (n) favor, fondness, leaning, fancy, favour, predilection, liking, prejudice, favoritism, bias, affection. ANTONYMS: (n) impartiality, fairness, indifference, horror, antipathy
- parting:** (n) adieu, division, leave, departure, disunion, goodbye, leaving, segregation, dying, rupture; (adj) valedictory. ANTONYMS: (n) joining, meeting, connection, Reunion
- partitioned:** (adj) divide, enclosed, partitioned off, separate
- passably:** (adv) reasonably, middling, moderately, tolerably, adequately, enough, well enough, okay, impartially, indifferent; (adj) pretty well. ANTONYMS: (adv) insufficiently, intolerably, unsatisfactorily, inadequately
- passer:** (n) passerby, passenger, forward passer, genus passer
- passer-by:** (n) eyewitness
- passionately:** (adj) fervently, vehemently, violently, fiercely, eagerly, zealously, fervidly, fierily, enthusiastically, heatedly, stormily. ANTONYMS: (adv) mildly, apathetically, calmly, halfheartedly, impassively, jokingly, gently
- passionless:** (adj) frigid, indifferent, emotionless, soulless, spiritless, dispassionate, impassive, apathetic, unimpassioned, calm, unemotional
- passivity:** (n) passiveness, apathy, indifference, inactivity, torpor,

- torpidity, compliance, listlessness, patience, obedience, tameness
- pastime:** (n) game, avocation, entertainment, recreation, hobby, distraction, interest, fun, pursuit, amusement, sideline
- pathos:** (v) emotion, inspiration, impression, affection; (n) poignancy, pity, ruth, commiseration, grief, poignance, sympathy
- patterned:** (adj) steady, stippled, speckled, mottled, attractive, covered, dappled, decorative, dotted, showy, marked
- pauper:** (n) poor man, mumper, bum, poor person, starveling; (adj) poor, indigent, penniless; (v) bust, fold
- paved:** (adj) cobbled
- pawing:** (n) intimacy
- peacefulness:** (n) calm, calmness, peace of mind, serenity, tranquillity, stillness, repose, quietness, ease, hush, heartsease. ANTONYMS: (n) bustle, wildness, upheaval, turmoil, agitation, disturbance, harshness
- peal:** (n) ding, noise, clang, dingdong, blast; (v) chime, knell, toll, echo; (adj, n) swell; (n, v) bang
- peculiarity:** (n) idiosyncrasy, distinction, particularity, oddness, eccentricity, distinctiveness, abnormality, characteristic, attribute, difference, individuality. ANTONYM: (n) similarity
- peculiarly:** (adj, adv) particularly, curiously, unusually, uncommonly, singularly; (adv) especially, oddly, strangely, specifically, weirdly, specially. ANTONYMS: (adv) typically, ordinarily, slightly
- pedigree:** (n) descent, extraction, stock, ancestry, family, breed, origin, family tree, line, parentage, house
- peeping:** (n) cheeping, tweeting, chirping; (adj) inquisitive
- pegasus:** (n) Rocinante, Bucephalus
- pellucid:** (adj) limpid, transparent, lucid, clear, bright, crystalline, crystal clear, lustrous, perspicuous, liquid, crystal
- penchant:** (n) partiality, leaning, inclination, taste, predilection, fondness, liking, relish, fancy, proclivity, disposition. ANTONYMS: (n) indifference, antipathy, horror
- penetralia:** (n) recesses, recess, bowels, innermost recesses
- penetrated:** (adj) perforated, entered
- penknife:** (adj, n) blade; (n) switchblade, pocketknife, clasp knife, pocket knife, carving knife,
- stiletto; (adj) cutlery, edge tool, whittle, razor
- penned:** (adj) fenced in, confined, captive, in captivity, jailed, imprisoned, enclosed
- pensively:** (adv) thoughtfully, reflectively, wistfully, contemplatively, sadly, ponderingly, musingly, mournfully, abstractedly, dreamily, broodingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) rashly, unthinkingly, alertly
- penumbra:** (adj, n) shade; (adj) umbra; (n) eclipse
- peony:** (n) paeony, flower, piony
- perceiving:** (n) feeling, sensing, hearing, looking at, recognition, thought, vision, lipreading; (adj) conscious, percipient, reasonable
- perceptible:** (adj) conspicuous, appreciable, evident, discernible, obvious, visible, palpable, apparent, detectable, manifest, observable. ANTONYMS: (adj) intangible, unclear, inaudible, inconspicuous, obscure, undetectable, invisible
- perceptibly:** (adv) discernibly, apparently, appreciably, manifestly, clearly, sensibly, markedly, conspicuously, recognizably, really, patently. ANTONYMS: (adv) inaudibly, invisibly
- perch:** (adj, n, v) roost; (v) light, settle, sit, alight, squat, land; (adj, v) lodge, abide, dwell; (n) pole
- perdition:** (adj, n) downfall, fall, ruin; (n) hell, inferno, infernal region, nether region, deprivation, bane, destruction, overthrow. ANTONYM: (n) heaven
- peremptorily:** (adv) absolutely, positively, imperatively, flatly, dogmatically, magisterially, commandingly, imperiously, authoritatively, decidedly, decisively
- perennial:** (adj) lasting, eternal, continual, constant, abiding, durable, perpetual, permanent, enduring, ceaseless; (adj, v) evergreen. ANTONYMS: (adj) biennial, occasional
- perforated:** (adj) pierced, punctured, penetrated, porous, cut, entered
- perforce:** (n) on compulsion; (adv) needs
- perish:** (v) expire, pass away, debase, go, fade, decay, depart, fall, pass, ruin, annihilate. ANTONYMS: (v) survive, live, appear
- perishable:** (adj) mortal, temporary, frail, corruptible, transitory, dying words, dying day, caduce, dying;
- (adj, v) unstable; (v) precarious. ANTONYM: (adj) durable
- perished:** (adj) decayed, emperished, rotting, annihilated, fallen, lost, moldy, nonexistent, putrefied, dead, decomposed
- perjured:** (v) perjure; (adj) treacherous, untrue, false, mendacious
- perjury:** (v) mendacity; (n) bearing false witness, lying under oath, false evidence, violation, lie, infringement, infraction, falsehood, offense, offence
- permanence:** (n) constancy, stability, endurance, strength, immortality, firmness, perdurability, lastingness, duration, perpetuity; (adj, n) continuance. ANTONYMS: (n) interruption, fimsiness, instability
- permanency:** (n) durability, perdurability, perpetuity, duration, imperishability, immortality, lastingness, length, enduringness, strength, imperishableness
- perpendicular:** (adj) upright, vertical, steep, plumb, straight, right, sheer, orthogonal, normal, precipitous, true. ANTONYMS: (adj) horizontal, parallel, inclined, oblique, prone, gentle
- perpendicularity:** (n) orthogonality, rectangularity, opposition, oblongness
- perpendicularly:** (adv) uprightly, erectly, straightly, upright, orthogonally, sheerly, precipitously, normally, plumb; (adv, v) sheer; (adj, adv) directly
- perplexed:** (adj) confused, puzzled, baffled, confounded, doubtful, distracted, disconcerted; (adj, v) intricate, complicated, lost, involved. ANTONYMS: (adj) unperplexed, assured, clear, knowing
- perplexing:** (adj) enigmatic, puzzling, embarrassing, intricate, complex, baffling, complicated, bewildering, knotty, troublesome; (adj, n) difficult. ANTONYMS: (adj) simple, enlightening, soothing, understandable, explicable
- perplexity:** (n) confusion, dilemma, bewilderment, maze, labyrinth, embarrassment, quandary, complication, enigma; (adj, n) difficulty, distress. ANTONYM: (n) understanding
- persecute:** (v) molest, chase, badger, harry, follow, plague, bait, afflict, beset; (adj, v) oppress; (adj)

- aggrieve. ANTONYMS: (v) comfort, support
- persistently**: (adv) stubbornly, constantly, continually, firmly, tenaciously, unremittingly, continuously, incessantly, insisently, doggedly, pertinaciously. ANTONYMS: (adv) sporadically, acutely, aimlessly, inconsistently, spasmodically, halfheartedly
- personation**: (n, v) impersonation; (n) mimicry, enactment, apery, playacting, playing, personification, portrayal, caricature, imposture; (v) simulation
- personified**: (adj) embodied
- perspiration**: (n) diaphoresis, hidrosis, sudor, sweating, extravasation, secretion, exertion, exudation, effort, lather, water
- pert**: (adj) impertinent, bold, impudent, insolent, forward, fresh, brazen, saucy, malapert, irreverent, cheeky. ANTONYM: (adj) listless
- pertaining**: (adj) relative, concerning, belonging, apposite, material, not absolute
- pertinent**: (adj) apropos, appropriate, relevant, applicable, fitting, suitable, related, adequate, opportune, pat; (adj, n) apposite. ANTONYMS: (adj) inappropriate, unrelated, immaterial
- perturbed**: (adj) disturbed, agitated, hot and bothered, confused, uneasy, concerned, worried, unsettled, troubled, upset, distraught. ANTONYMS: (adj) untroubled, relaxed
- perusal**: (n) examination, scrutiny, study, survey, inspection, poring over, studying, literary scholarship, perusing, lection, look
- peruse**: (v) examine, look through, inspect, study, leaf, flip, flick, learn, review, to read, browse. ANTONYM: (v) skim
- perusing**: (n) poring over, studying
- pervade**: (adj, v) fill; (v) infiltrate, penetrate, diffuse, imbue, percolate, occupy, impregnate, saturate, pass through, charge
- pervading**: (adj) penetrating, general, profound, permeating, permeant, overmastering, lowly, deeply felt, intellectually deep, deep, almighty
- pestilent**: (adj) mortal, deathly, pernicious, deadly, baneful, fatal, harmful, noxious, pestiferous, plaguey, bothersome. ANTONYM: (adj) delightful
- petal**: (n) corolla, flower, valve, petal of marguerite, flower petal, floral leaf
- petted**: (adj) cherished, domesticated, indulged, admired, cade
- petulance**: (n) touchiness, testiness, tetchiness, crossness, cholera, fretfulness, peevishness, temper, acerbity; (adj) petulant, flippancy
- phaeton**: (n) coach, tourer, automobile, chariot, holidaymaker, car, machine, auto, touring car, motorcar
- phantom**: (n, v) apparition, phantasm, vision, phantasma; (n) spectre, specter, appearance, shade, shadow, wraith, spirit
- pharisaical**: (adj) hypocritical, Jesuitical, overrighteous, pious, pietistic; (adj, v) sanctimonious, pietistical; (v) canting, righteous over much, unctuous
- philosophic**: (v) platonian, staid, stayed, stoical; (adj) thoughtful, rational, patient, learned, ideologic, ideological. ANTONYM: (adj) nonphilosophical
- phosphorescent**: (adj) bright, light, glowing, fluorescent, phosphoreous; (v) meteoric, in a blaze, ablate, blazing, rutilant, relucant
- phosphoric**: (adj) phosphorous, phosphorical
- physic**: (n) medicine, aperient, cathartic, medication, healing, medicament, drug; (n, v) cure, doctor, remedy; (v) heal
- physiognomy**: (n) face, kisser, phiz, visage, mug, look, brow, contour, aspect, physnomy, metoposcopy
- pie**: (adj) mottled, piebald, multicolored, motley, mixed, multicoloured, colorful, varicoloured, multicolour, varicolored, particoloured. ANTONYMS: (adj) limited, plain
- pierced**: (adj) punctured, perforate, penetrated, cut, cleft
- piercing**: (n) sharp, cutting; (adj, v) keen, penetrating, biting, bitter, harsh, shrill; (adj) high, raw, loud. ANTONYMS: (adj) quiet, dull, soft, hot
- piercingly**: (adv) shrilly, penetratingly, keenly, poignantly, bitingly, bitterly, loudly, cuttingly, stabbingly, shrewdly; (adj, adv) stridently. ANTONYM: (adv) softly
- piety**: (n) godliness, devoutness, faith, righteousness, holiness, reverence, religion, religiousness, piousness, sanctity, goodness. ANTONYMS: (n) sin, profanity, wickedness
- pigmy**: (adj, n) pygmy; (adj) tiny, exiguous, petty, minikin, pigwidgeon, urchin, elfin; (n) elf, manikin, atom
- pillbox**: (n) blockhouse, bunker, toque, gun emplacement, case, millinery, turban
- pimpernel**: (n) water-pimpernel, burnet bloodwort, Poterium Sanguisorba, salad burnet, pernel, herbaceous plant, bog pimpernel, herb
- pimpled**: (adj) acned, pustulate
- pimples**: (n) acne vulgaris, hives, rash, skin complaint
- pinchbeck**: (adj) imitative, supposititious, bogus, spurious; (n) clinquant, gimcrack, gewgaw, frippery, finery; (v) meretricious, plated
- pinched**: (adj) haggard, drawn, emaciated, cadaverous, narrow, penurious, thin, penniless, adenoidal; (adj, n) necessitous; (n) distressed. ANTONYM: (adj) relaxed
- pinching**: (adj) biting, niggardly, fresh, piercing, cutting, inclement, keen, bitter, niveous, bleak; (adv) pinchingly
- pip**: (n) pipe, pipage, conduit, line, chimneypot, drainpipe, main, edging; (adj) high, shrill, reedy
- pipkin**: (n) jug, mug, pail, bucket, pitcher, skeel, tankard, tub
- pippin**: (n) pip
- pipquant**: (adj) peppery, spicy, engaging, tasty, salty, strong, sharp, gamy; (adj, n) pungent, racy, trenchant. ANTONYMS: (adj) bland, dull, insipid, faint
- pique**: (v) nettle, insult, outrage, irritate, fret; (n) grudge, annoyance, umbrage, irritation; (n, v) anger, spite
- piqued**: (adj) irritated, irate, hurt, irked, intoxicated, indignant, up in arms, in a huff, offended, huffy, excited. ANTONYM: (adj) unconcerned
- piquing**: (adj) crisp
- pitchfork**: (v) bolt, fulminate, drive, sling, branch; (n) hayfork, hand tool, shakefork
- piteously**: (adj, adv) sadly; (adv) pitifully, wretchedly, ruefully, woefully, poorly, plaintively, sorrowly, grievously, sorrowfully, dolefully
- pitifully**: (adv) sadly, piteously, wretchedly, sorrowfully, touchingly,

- distressingly, poorly, meanly, movingly, ruefully, woefully.
ANTONYMS: (adv) cheerfully, happily
- pitiless:** (adj) merciless, brutal, harsh, cruel, ruthless, implacable, remorseless, inexorable, inhuman, heartless, hard. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) merciful, charitable, soft, compassionate, warmhearted, sympathetic, flexible, caring, tolerant
- pitying:** (adj) sympathetic, merciful, pity, pityingly, gloomy, meritless, pitiful, sorry, sorry for, humane, dreary
- pivot:** (n) axle, axis, fulcrum, pin, hub, nucleus, pintle; (v) revolve; (n, v) swivel, wheel, turn
- placid:** (adj) calm, composed, easygoing, equable, gentle, quiet, pacific, tranquil, cool, peaceable; (adj, v) peaceful. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) rough, energetic, stormy, frenetic, excitable, agitated, unstable, bothered, harsh, boisterous
- placidity:** (n) peace, equanimity, calm, serenity, tranquility, calmness, tranquillity, placidness, repose, quiet, ataraxia
- placidly:** (adv) coolly, calmly, tranquilly, peacefully, stilly, quietly, composedly, silently, meekly, impassively, collectedly.
ANTONYMS: (adv) agitatedly, boisterously
- plank:** (n) timber, beam, slat, girder, panel, parachute, matchboard, footbridge, hardboard; (v) flump; (n, v) planch
- plantation:** (n) orchard, farm, garden, shrubbery, hacienda, planting, settlement, colony, parterre, grove, planter
- plated:** (v) pinchbeck, overlaid, superimposed, tinsel; (adj) silver
- plaudits:** (n) acclaim, plaudit, acclamation, cheer, éclat, applause, hand, exaltation, flattery, clapping, ovation
- plausibility:** (n) credibility, possibility, probability, admissibility, believability, credibleness, fair appearance, plausibleness, presumption, reasonableness; (adj, n) verisimilitude
- plausibly:** (adv) credibly, probably, convincingly, realistically, sensibly, reasonably, rationally, truly, practically, possibly, logically.
ANTONYMS: (adv) improbably,
- incredibly, unimaginably, illogically, irrationally, unconvincingly, implausibly
- play-acting:** (n) make-believe
- playful:** (adj) frisky, humorous, kittenish, mischievous, skittish, impish, naughty, merry, lighthearted, frivolous, frolicsome. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) serious, lethargic, solemn, staid, subdued, heavy
- playfully:** (adv) sportively, jocularly, puckishly, impishly, merrily, naughtily, roguishly, frolicsomely, lightheartedly, archly, skittishly
- plebeian:** (adj) low, vulgar, ignoble, humble, coarse, mean; (n) pleb, commoner; (adj, n) proletarian; (adj, v) ordinary, general. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) cultivated, proletarian, patrician, refined; (n) aristocrat, noble
- pleiades:** (n) Great Bear, Little Dipper, pencil, zodiac, Southern Cross, signs of the zodiac, constellation, cluster, Big Dipper, group
- plenteously:** (adv) bountifully, plentifully, generously, profusely, richly, exuberantly, fertilely, fully, amply; (adj, adv) abundantly, copiously
- plethora:** (n) abundance, overplus, overabundance, nimiety, overflow, plenty, store, repletion, surfeit, surplus, redundancy. **ANTONYMS:** (n) scarcity, insufficiency, lack, shortage
- plinth:** (n) footstall, pedestal, dado, shank, zocle, support, wainscot, socle, skirting board, stand, dais
- ploughboy:** (n) plowboy, child, male child, boy
- ploughed:** (v) plucked. **ANTONYM:** (adj) unplowed
- pluck:** (adj, n) nerve; (v) cull, jerk, gather, pick, fleece, grab; (n) grit, courage, boldness; (n, v) pull. **ANTONYMS:** (n) cowardice, gutlessness; (v) undercharge
- plum:** (n) damson, greengage, plum tree, prune, drupe, marmalade, lac, licorice; (adv) plumb, clean; (adj) mauve
- plumpness:** (n) embonpoint, obesity, roundness, fatness, fleshiness, chubbiness, portliness, fullness, rotundity, stoutness, globularness. **ANTONYM:** (n) thinness
- plummy:** (adj) feathery, plumose, plumelike, plumed, decorated, featherlike, plumate, crested
- poacher:** (n) alligatorfish, scorpaenoid, lurcher, armed bullhead, gormandizer, sea poker, smuggler, glutton, sea poacher
- poetical:** (adj) imaginative, rhetorical, poetic, figurative, inventive
- point-blank:** (adj, adv) straight; (adj) direct, outspoken, ingenuous, candid, straightforward; (adv) smack
- poised:** (adj) balanced, calm, composed, steady, equanimous, assured, urbane, serene, stable, massed, gathered. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) awkward, unprepared, coarse
- poking:** (n) thrusting, jabbing, jab, driving force, dalliance, Phytolacca Americana, dig, biff, drive, carrier bag, garget
- polishing:** (n) shining, brightening, print polishing, brushing, mechanical polishing, bobbing; (adj) cultural, abrasive
- politic:** (adj, v) tactful; (adj) discreet, judicious, circumspect, shrewd, prudent, suave, calculating, tricky, cute, chary. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) injudicious, unwise, impolitic, foolish
- pollen:** (n) powder
- pollute:** (adj, v) defile, taint, debase, infect, poison, maculate, desecrate; (adj, n, v) corrupt; (v) foul, dirty, befoul. **ANTONYMS:** (v) clean, purify, respect
- pommy:** (n) pommety
- pompous:** (adj) grand, arrogant, ostentatious, affected, pretentious, overblown, showy, inflated, majestic, lordly; (adj, prep) bloated. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) modest, straightforward, unceremonious, quiet, unassuming, natural, deferential, relaxed, meek
- ponder:** (v) meditate, consider, cogitate, deliberate, think, reflect, conceive, mull, mull over; (n, v) muse, study. **ANTONYMS:** (v) decide, wander, ignore
- poniard:** (n) dagger, bodkin, dirk, cutlass, stiletto, stylet, bilbo, Toledo, tuck, brand; (v) stab
- poplar:** (n) poplar tree, abele, cottonwood, hackmatack, wood, white poplar, angiospermous tree, gray poplar, flowering tree, black poplar, balsam poplar
- poppet:** (n) puppet, launching poppet, poppet valve, tailstock spindle
- pore:** (n) stoma, interstice, emunctory, gully hole; (v) speculate,

- meditate, contemplate, concentrate, centre, engulf, engross
- portico:** (n) portal, arcade, entrance, veranda, corridor, mouth, lips, inlet, chops, balcony, orifice
- potentiality:** (n) potential, potency, capability, latency, likelihood, prospect, aptitude, power, capableness, perfectibility, compass
- pout:** (v) brood, sulk; (adj, v) frown, protrude; (adj) lower, glower, scowl, gloam, look downcast; (n) eelpout, hornpout
- powerlessness:** (n) incapacity, impotence, weakness, impotency, impuissance, incapability, helplessness, defencelessness, defenselessness, incompetence, ineffectiveness. ANTONYMS: (n) strength, ability, capacity
- practicality:** (n) expediency, feasibility, practicability, utility, convenience, practicalities, pragmatism, practicalness, sensibleness, realism, handiness
- praiseworthy:** (adj, v) laudable; (adj) admirable, meritorious, worthy, creditable, good, deserving, honorable, applaudable, exemplary; (adj, n) excellent. ANTONYMS: (adj) blameworthy, disgraceful, despicable, dishonorable, poor, unworthy
- pranks:** (n) trouble
- prattle:** (n, v) gossip, babble, chat, gab, jabber, chitchat; (adj, n, v) chatter, prate, palaver; (v) cackle, clack
- preaching:** (n) sermon, lecture, homily, preaching, baccalaureate, speech, pulpit, exhortation, kerygma; (v) preach; (adj) hence
- preamble:** (n) introduction, prelude, foreword, preface, overture, preliminary, prologue, opening, proemium, protasis, prolepsis. ANTONYMS: (n) conclusion, finale
- precarious:** (adj) dangerous, insecure, hazardous, doubtful, unstable, unsafe, uncertain, delicate, disputable, tricky, risky. ANTONYMS: (adj) stable, secure, certain
- precaution:** (n) foresight, care, prevention, discretion, anticipation, caution, circumspection, prudence, safeguard, protection; (adj) precautionary
- precede:** (v) lead, head, forego, antecede, antedate, anticipate, introduce, forerun, pass, preface, go. ANTONYMS: (v) succeed, postdate
- precipice:** (n) abyss, chasm, escarpment, gulf, steep, crag, verge, brink, abysm, ravine, drop
- preclude:** (v) forbid, obviate, avert, hinder, forestall, bar, debar, foreclose, prevent, anticipate, obstruct. ANTONYM: (v) encourage
- pre-eminently:** (adv) principally, eminently
- preface:** (n, v) prelude, preamble, proem; (n) beginning, introduction, preliminary, exordium, overture; (v) introduce, precede, premise. ANTONYMS: (n) addendum, conclusion, postscript
- prefix:** (n, v) preface; (n) preamble, foreword, introduction, area code, prelude, proem, proemium, prolepsis; (v) attach, prepose
- preliminaries:** (n) introduction, preparation, opening, initiation, training, preface, preamble
- preposterous:** (adj) absurd, irrational, ludicrous, nonsensical, foolish, ridiculous, laughable, derisory, monstrous, inconsistent; (adj, v) extravagant. ANTONYMS: (adj) sensible, reasonable, impressive, plausible
- precience:** (n) forecast, precognition, anticipation, prevision, foreknowledge, forethought, vision, presentiment, prediction, hunch, insight
- prescriptive:** (adj) customary, immemorial, accustomed, traditional; (v) presumptive
- preservative:** (adj) protective, conservative, defensive, conservational; (n) preserver, preserving agent, antiseptic, chemical compound, brine; (adj, n) additive
- presumptive:** (adj) credible, specious, presumable, putative, apparent, easy of belief, circumstantial, ben trovato, colorable; (adj, v) hypothetical; (v) conjectural
- preternatural:** (adj) unearthly, occult, outlandish, miraculous, uncanny, transcendental, extraordinary, abnormal, weird, nonnatural, otherworldly
- preternaturally:** (adv) supernaturally, irregularly, transcendently, extraordinarily, occultly, abnormally, strangely, outlandishly, uncannily, miraculously
- pretense:** (n) pretense, pretension, color, pretence, mask, plea, guise, sham, appearance; (n, v) excuse, cloak
- prettily:** (adv) beautifully, charmingly, pleasantly, handsomely, finely, neatly, gracefully, picturesquely, elegantly, delightfully, pleasingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) unattractively, unpleasantly
- pricker:** (n) prickle, awl, spine, sticker, thorn, pricking needle, stabber, bodkin, spur, back, cartridge pricker
- primal:** (adj) primordial, primitive, fundamental, primaeval, cardinal, central, key, aboriginal, early, first, initial. ANTONYM: (adj) modern
- primrose:** (n) auricula, polyanthus, primula, oxlip, paige, primerole, herbaceous plant, herb; (adj) sensuous
- privity:** (adj) confidential, covert, personal, clandestine, ulterior, occult, latent, secret; (n) outhouse, lavatory, loo
- proclaiming:** (adj) predicating, predicant, declaring, affirming, oracular, hence
- proclaim:** (v) assert, feign, affirm, avow, state, pretend, claim, confess, allege, aver; (n, v) protest. ANTONYM: (v) repress
- projecting:** (adj) projected, protruding, jutting, protrusive, pendent; (adj, v) overhanging, jutting over, salient; (v) beetling, protuberant, convex
- prolong:** (v) extend, delay, protract, keep up, expand, elongate, drag out, maintain, lengthen, draw out, procrastinate. ANTONYMS: (v) stop, cancel, curtail, quit
- prompter:** (n) autocue, supporter, tempter, call boy, helper, theater prompter, help, device, assistant
- promptness:** (n) promptitude, agility, celerity, readiness, eagerness, expedition, dispatch, rapidity, alacrity, punctuality, speed. ANTONYMS: (n) slowness, sluggishness, tardiness, delay
- pronged:** (adj) branched, divided, bifurcate, biramous, sharp, tined, split, prongy, pointed, having branches, double
- prophecy:** (n) oracle, augury, prognostication, forecast, vaticination, prevision, prediction, prognosis, omen, revelation, foreboding
- prophet:** (n) augur, oracle, vaticinator, seer, predictor, diviner, forecaster, visionary, foreteller, priest, clairvoyant

prophetic: (adj) oracular, mantic, prophetic, prognostic, visionary, biblical, vaticinal, sibylline, foreshadowing, fatidical, pythonic. ANTONYMS: (adj) unprophetic, unimaginative

proportionate: (adj, v) proportional; (adj) proportionable, equal, harmonious, comparable, balanced, sufficient, relative, appropriate, adequate, equitable. ANTONYM: (adj) disproportionate

proportionately: (adv) relatively, pro rata, in proportion, correspondingly, symmetrically, commensurately, adequately, balancedly, equally, harmoniously, appropriately

propriety: (adj, n) decency, modesty, correctness, aptitude; (n) decorum, fitness, etiquette, civility, grace, politeness, manners. ANTONYMS: (n) impropriety, rudeness, unsuitableness, indecorum, decadence, tactlessness, corruption, vulgarity, indecency

prosaic: (adj) commonplace, dull, monotonous, pedestrian, prosy, ordinary, uninteresting, trite, boring, humdrum, everyday. ANTONYMS: (adj) idealistic, imaginative, sensitive, inspired, exciting, inspiring, interesting, original, romantic

prosaically: (adv) prosaically, prosingly, humdrumly, dully, tediously, commonplacely, pedestrianly, uninterestingly

prostrate: (adj, v) prone, exhaust, level, fatigue; (v) fell, overwhelm, overcome, floor, overthrow; (adj) deject, knock down. ANTONYM: (adj) upright

prostration: (n) depression, exhaustion, kneeling, breakdown, weakness, dejection, inanition, genuflexion, curtsy; (adj) decline; (adj, n) syncope

protector: (n) guard, guardian, patron, champion, custodian, conservator, escort, hero, paladin, supporter, benefactor

protuberance: (n) prominence, bulge, swelling, bump, hump, lump, nub, node, knob, protrusion, jut

proverb: (n) adage, byword, aphorism, dictum, saying, axiom, parable, motto, expression; (n, v) maxim, saw

providence: (n) forethought, fortune, fate, discretion, God, destiny, care, economy, caution, precaution, chance. ANTONYM: (n)

improvidence

providential: (adj) lucky, happy, divine, fortuitous, opportune, miraculous, favorable, blessed, seasonable; (adj, v) auspicious; (v) propitious. ANTONYM: (adj) unfortunate

provocation: (n) challenge, aggravation, exasperation, incitement, instigation, annoyance, excitement, stimulation, affront, incentive, defiance. ANTONYMS: (n) conciliation, arbitration, deterrent, disincentive, pleasure

provoking: (adj) provocative, annoying, aggravating, galling, maddening, vexatious, agitative, tempting, agitating; (adj, v) irritating, insulting. ANTONYMS: (adj) conciliatory, courteous, satisfying

provokingly: (adv) annoyingly, maddeningly, exasperatingly, irritatingly, aggravatingly, gallingly, vexatiously

proxy: (n) attorney, deputy, agent, agency, delegate, alternate, surrogate, procurator, authority, vicar; (adj, n) replacement

prudence: (n) foresight, economy, frugality, caution, care, forethought, providence, circumspection, judgment, deliberation; (adj, n) wisdom. ANTONYMS: (n) imprudence, profligacy, generosity, hindsight, recklessness, extravagance

psalm: (n) hymn, chant, psalmody, anthem, song, Salm; (v) sing

psalter: (n) Book of Psalms, sauter
pucker: (n, v) wrinkle, fold, gather, ruckle; (v) crumple, crinkle, furrow, plait, purse, knit, rumple. ANTONYM: (v) smooth

puff: (adj, n, v) gasp; (n, v) blow, whiff, gust, drag; (v) boast, inflate, huff, heave, brag, distend

pugilism: (n) fisticuffs, bout, fight, mill, spar, athletics, event, fistfight, packing, professional boxing, prize fight

pulpit: (n) platform, dais, ambo, lectern, hustings, stump, rostrum, forum, desk, stand, state

pulsation: (n) pulse, beat, pounding, impulse, heartbeat, throb, tremor, pulsing, palpitation, throbbing, beating

pulsing: (adj) beating, pulsating; (n) pulse, pulsation, impulse, caprice, heartbeat, impulsion, beat, nerve impulse, heart rate

punctured: (adj) perforated,

perforate, flat, cut, disillusioned
punishable: (adj) culpable, guilty, criminal, corrective, chastisable, corrigible, liable to penalty, liable to punishment, deserving

chastisement, docile, illegal
puppet: (adj, n) doll; (n) pawn, instrument, tool, creature,

marionette, dolly, fantoccini, hireling, protege, mammet
purification: (n) defecation, purge, refinement, catharsis, purgation, purging, refining, cleaning, cleansing, cleanup, rectification. ANTONYMS: (n) debasement, dirtying, contamination

puritan: (adj) blue, puritanic, puritanical, Methodist, formalist, religionist; (n) precisian, devotee, sanyasi, yogi; (v) coquette

purl: (v) babble, eddy, bubble, flip, guggle, whirl, embroider, swirl, whirlpool, whisper; (n) purl stitch

purport: (n, v) aim, amount; (n) intent, drift, intention, meaning, end, effect, design; (v) mean, propose

pursuits: (n) diversion, duties

putt: (n) golf stroke, putting
quaint: (adj) odd, funny, picturesque, comical, fanciful, curious, whimsical, strange, queer, peculiar, droll. ANTONYMS: (adj) modern, ordinary, dull

qualm: (n) misgiving, doubt, nausea, distrust, compunction, uncertainty, regret, hesitation, apprehension, fear; (adj, n) suspicion

qualms: (n) nausea, doubts, unwillingness. ANTONYM: (n) willingness

quartered: (n) quartering, quarters
quarto: (n) folio, size, quart, book, octavo

queer: (adj) fantastic, odd, eccentric, funny, curious, gay, peculiar, strange, quaint, fishy, outlandish. ANTONYMS: (adj) conventional, normal, well

quell: (adj, v) appease, pacify, calm; (v) overpower, crush, allay, put down, suppress, conquer, defeat, quash. ANTONYMS: (v) prompt, submit, resist, aggravate, incite
quelled: (adj) quenched, allayed, extinguished, extinct

quench: (adj, v) extinguish, allay, slake; (v) appease, quash, put out, destroy, assuage, annihilate, calm, chill. ANTONYMS: (v) stimulate, light

quenched: (adj) extinct, quelled, outslaked, squelched, dead, kayoed, permanently inactive, prohibited, proscribed, put out

querulous: (adj) petulant, irritable, fretful, discontented, tetchy, complaining, fractious, touchy, cross, grumpy, grouchy

quicken: (v) accelerate, hasten, hurry, dispatch, animate, expedite, advance, enliven, precipitate; (n, v) forward, speed. ANTONYMS: (v) decelerate, delay

quicken: (adj) hasty, rapid, passionate, intoxicated

quicken: (n) hurrying, hastening, speedup; (v) hasten, lively, flowing, having life, ignited, laving; (adj) bracing, moving

quiescent: (adj) dormant, calm, passive, inert, immovable, serene, immobile, latent, placid, stationary, quiet. ANTONYM: (adj) active

quieted: (adj) composed

quietude: (n) quietness, calmness, peace, composure, placidity, tranquillity, repose, serenity, tranquillity, hush, silence

quivering: (adj, n) trembling, tremor, quaking, trepidation; (n) palpitation, quiver, vibration; (adj) flutter, quavering, shivering, tremulous.

ANTONYM: (adj) steady

racked: (adj) assured, confident, miserable

radiance: (n) gleam, glory, brilliance, luster, lustre, beam, brightness, effulgence, sparkle, light; (adj, n) brilliancy. ANTONYMS: (n) darkness, gloominess

radiant: (adj, v) bright, glittering, lustrous, beamy, glorious; (adj) beaming, luminous, effulgent, lucid, glowing, beautiful. ANTONYMS: (adj) gloomy, dark, pale, unhappy

radiated: (adj) radial, stellar, stelliform, penciled, diffuse

radiating: (adj) radiate, shining, glowing, radious, burning; (adv) radiately

railing: (n) balustrade, rail, barrier, guardrail, banister, fence, pale, paling, breastwork, handrail; (adj, n) invective

raiment: (n, v) dress, garb, apparel, garment, clothes; (n) costume, attire, clothing, array, habit; (v) clothe

raindrops: (n) rain, raindrop

rains: (n) wet

rake: (n, v) tilt; (adj, v) comb; (v) hoe, harrow, graze, draw, plow; (n) debauchee, roue, slant, blood.

ANTONYM: (v) glance

ramble: (n, v) journey, stroll, saunter, wander, roam, meander, excursion, hike, tramp, walk, promenade.

ANTONYM: (v) settle

rambling: (adj) disjointed, incoherent, desultory, discursive, erratic, excursive, meandering, diffuse, loose, errant; (adj, n) wandering. ANTONYMS: (adj) coherent, abrupt, conclusive, pithy, taciturn, compact

rampart: (n) wall, fortification, earthwork, guard, embankment, barricade, defense, barrier; (v) battlement, circumvallation; (n, v) vallum

ranking: (n) rank, arrangement, rating, position, place, placement, scale; (adj) commanding, outstanding, overlooking, peremptory

rapidity: (n) expedition, quickness, promptness, dispatch, celerity, haste, velocity, pace, fleetness, promptitude, speed. ANTONYM: (n) tardiness

rarity: (n) rareness, curiosity, infrequency, curio, peculiarity, dearth, scarcity, tenuity, paucity, scarceness, antique. ANTONYM: (n) frequency

rash: (adj, n) foolhardy, hasty, precipitate, eruption; (adj) imprudent, reckless, impetuous, heedless, audacious, sudden; (adj, adv) thoughtless. ANTONYMS: (adj) cautious, careful, sensible, wise, considered, deliberate, prudent, modest, slow, responsible, patient

rashly: (adj, adv) hastily, headlong; (adv) thoughtlessly, recklessly, impetuously, imprudently, carelessly, indiscreetly, headily, heedlessly, wildly. ANTONYMS: (adv) thoughtfully, prudently, late, pensively, sensibly, responsibly, cautiously, deliberately, patiently

ratify: (v) approve, sanction, acknowledge, authorize, endorse, affirm, pass, attest, establish, adopt; (n, v) corroborate. ANTONYM: (v) reject

rattle: (n, v) jingle, jangle, clatter; (n) click, clang, clack; (v) bang, confuse, shake, patter, disconcert

rattled: (adj) hot and bothered, perturbed, upset, unsettled, puzzled, disconcerted, discomposed, bewildered, beside oneself, abashed, addled.

ANTONYM: (adj) calm

ready-made: (adj) reach-me-down, trite

reaper: (n) mower, combine, Grim Reaper, cutter, death, fieldhand, binder, farm worker, header, farmhand, thresher

reaping: (n) harvesting, crop, attainment, farming

reappear: (v) recur, come back, appear, repeat, be restored, get back, happen again, haunt, persist, revert, resume. ANTONYM: (v) disappear

reappearance: (n) emersion, recurrence, repetition, resurrection, homecoming, reanimation, comeback, egress, restoration, revival, reproduction

reassert: (v) reaffirm, affirm, maintain, justify, confirm, reconfirm, warrant, uphold, justified, evidence, demonstrate

rebellious: (adj) insubordinate, mutinous, disaffected, defiant, disobedient, contrary, contumacious, insurgent, stubborn, unruly, malcontent. ANTONYMS: (adj) docile, conventional, obedient, conformist, content, conforming, cooperative, loyal, meek, submissive, obliging

rebelliousness: (n) defiance, disobedience, noncompliance, contumacy, willfulness, unruliness, obstreperousness, naughtiness, intractableness, intractability, insolence. ANTONYMS: (n) obedience, compliance, loyalty

rebounding: (adj) leaping back, driven back, repercussive

rebut: (n, v) reprimand, rebuff, reproach, chide, blame, reproof, lecture, check; (v) castigate, berate; (n) admonition. ANTONYMS: (n, v) praise, compliment; (v) commend, acknowledge, approve; (n) approval

recede: (v) decline, withdraw, retire, fall back, diminish, retreat, abate, give, draw back, decrease, lose. ANTONYMS: (v) approach, gain, proceed, surge, stay, increase, appear, level

receding: (n) disappearance, fadeout, recession, niche; (adj) moving back, low, hairless, balding, going out, recessive, retiring

recess: (n) niche, pause, intermission, holiday, nook, vacation, hollow, alcove, interval, interruption; (n, v) break. ANTONYM: (n) continuation

recessed: (adj) buried, concave, hollow, dug in, depressed

- recesses:** (n) penitential, bowels, inside
- reciprocating:** (adj) reciprocatory
- recklessly:** (adv) rashly, carelessly, imprudently, hastily, heedlessly, negligently, foolhardily, inattentively, wildly, wantonly, neglectfully. ANTONYMS: (adv) prudently, responsibly, calmly, discreetly, sensibly, cautiously
- recklessness:** (n, v) imprudence; (n) rashness, carelessness, desperation, extravagance, heedlessness, negligence, temerity, adventurism, audacity, neglect. ANTONYMS: (n) care, carefulness, consideration, forethought, parsimony, deliberation, discretion, regard, restraint, thoughtfulness
- reclining:** (adj, v) leaning; (adj) recumbent, decumbent, accumbent, lying, lying down, obligatory, idle, prone, prostrate; (n) relaxation
- recollect:** (v) recall, remember, recognize, call to mind, remind, mind, think, call up, reminisce, refresh, retrieve. ANTONYM: (v) forget
- recollection:** (n, v) mind; (n) reminiscence, recall, anamnesis, remembrance, recognition, memento, memorial, commemoration, memoir, retrospect
- recommerce:** (v) renew, restart, regenerate, rejuvenate, start again, take up, take it from the top, start afresh, shuffle the cards, reshuffle the cards, pick up
- recompense:** (n, v) pay, redress; (n) compensation, amends, atonement, payment, consideration, indemnification, indemnity; (v) compensate, reimburse. ANTONYMS: (v) penalize, receive; (n) penalty
- reconciled:** (adj) consistent, resigned, serene, meet; (v) made friends, affriended. ANTONYM: (adj) unreconciled
- reconnoitre:** (v) explore, scout, reconnaissance, investigate, examine, inspect, probe, survey, observe, make a reconnaissance
- reconsideration:** (n) revision, afterthought, rethink, second thoughts, turnabout, turnaround, reversal, scruple, second thought, amendment, change of mind
- recumbent:** (adj) prostrate, accumbent, lying, reclining, flat, procumbent, lying down, horizontal, prone, incumbent, idle
- redde(n):** (adj, v) flush; (v) color, crimson, glow, go red, encrimson, rubify, rubricate, rose; (adj) mantle, color up. ANTONYMS: (v) blench, blanch
- reddened:** (adj) red, ablaze, aflame, flushed, crimson, inflamed, blazing, aroused, blemished, red as scarlet, spotty
- reddening:** (n) flush, rubescence; (v) redden
- rede:** (v) interpret, explain; (n) advice
- redeemed:** (adj) ransomed, blessed
- redness:** (n) red, blush, glow, crimson, carmine, catarrh, cellulitis, cerise, mastoiditis, colitis, enteritis
- redundance:** (n) exuberance, excess, nimety, plethora, overplus, overflow, affluence, abundance, plenty, copiousness, pleonasm
- reeds:** (n) Poaceae, grass family, Gramineae, family Gramineae, family Graminaceae, bamboo, Gramineae
- reeking:** (adj) dripping, overly diluted, odorous, noisome, high, fetid, stale; (v) sloppy, soft, soaking, sodden
- reel:** (n, v) coil, roll; (v) waver, rock, stagger, totter, spin, teeter, falter; (n) bobbin, spool
- re-enact:** (v) rehearse, interpret
- re-establish:** (v) restore, reconstruct, renew, regenerate, reestablish, return
- refinery:** (n) works, oil refinery, industrial plant, petroleum refinery, plant, refining plant
- reflectively:** (adv) contemplatively, meditatively, wistfully, thoughtfully, speculatively, ruminatively, studiously, regretfully, sadly, longingly, reflexively
- refrain:** (v) desist, cease, fast, avoid, leave off, withhold, stop, spare; (adj, v) forbear; (n) chorus, hold. ANTONYMS: (v) participate, act, consume, persist
- refreshment:** (n) bite, drink, recreation, collation, repose, relief, rest, entertainment, treat; (v) invigoration; (n, v) regalement
- regardful:** (adj) observant, mindful, deferential, respectful, careful, dutiful, heedful, obedient, deferent, considerate, thoughtful
- registry:** (n) register, record, entry, enrolment, cadaster, cadastre, nationality, schedule, recording, booking; (v) enrollment
- regularity:** (n) constancy, evenness, punctuality, orderliness, uniformity, steadiness, method, accuracy, discipline, system, exactness. ANTONYMS: (n) lateness, asymmetry, irregularity, disorder, variability, variety, abnormality
- rein:** (n) bridle, curb, restraint, check, strap; (v) leash, harness, contain, rule, rein in, confine
- rejoicing:** (n) exultation, jubilation, happiness, joy, mirth, pleasure, elation; (adj) jubilant, exultant; (v) rejoice; (adv) rejoicingly. ANTONYM: (n) sadness
- rejuvenated:** (adj) convalescent, revitalized, revived, invigorated
- relays:** (n) race
- relinquished:** (adj) forsaken, deserted, derelict, unoccupied, given, surrendered
- remembrance:** (n, v) recollection, mind; (n) commemoration, memorial, recall, relic, monument, keepsake, reminiscence, recognition; (adj, n) memento
- reminiscence:** (n) memory, recall, recollection, anamnesis, memoir, nostalgia, mind, recollections, retrospect, memorial, memento
- remnant:** (n) end, relic, remains, residue, fragment, leftover, survival, trace, oddment, balance, stub
- remnants:** (n) leftovers, remains, remainder, rest, leftovers, remnant, offal, leftover, vestige, relics, refuse
- remonstrance:** (n) protest, expostulation, objection, dissuasion, censure, remonstrator, reprehension, admonition, monstration, mediation, dehortation
- remorse:** (n) penitence, contrition, repentance, regret, guilt, penance, sorrow, grief, qualm, ruefulness, compassion. ANTONYM: (n) shamelessness
- remorseful:** (adj) penitent, regretful, apologetic, sorry, repentant, regret, sad, rueful, bad, compunctious, compassionate. ANTONYMS: (adj) glad, unremorseful
- remoter:** (adj) ulterior, further, more distant
- remotest:** (adj) furthest, uttermost, endmost, extreme, last, utmost
- remount:** (v) climb on, get on, hop on, jump on, mount up
- rencounter:** (n, v) encounter; (n) meeting, conflict, appulse, syzygy, engagement, combat, fight, contest, collision, assault
- rendering:** (n) interpretation, translation, rendition, reading,

- representation, version, interpreting, depiction, execution, construction, explanation
- renounce:** (v) abandon, abdicate, abjure, relinquish, desert, reject, give up, disown, deny, quit, forgo. ANTONYMS: (v) acknowledge, reassert, assert, continue, retain, persist
- renouncing:** (adj) negative, denying, abnegative, abdicating, resigned, abdicant
- renunciation:** (n) denial, resignation, abnegation, disclaimer, rejection, renouncement, abandonment, waiver, desertion, defection, relinquishment. ANTONYMS: (n) confirmation, assertion, reassertion, acceptance
- reparation:** (n) redress, recompense, atonement, indemnity, correction, restoration; (n, v) indemnification, compensation, repair, remuneration, restitution
- repeater:** (v) floater, Indian giver, keener; (n) repeating firearm, habitual criminal, revolver, criminal, soul, master clock, somebody, someone
- repent:** (v) deplore, bewail, rue, mourn, lament, atone, sorry, bemoan, feel remorse, grieve, be sorry
- repentance:** (n) contrition, penance, remorse, regret, compunction, sorrow, guilt, contriteness, grief, attrition, atonement. ANTONYMS: (n) shamelessness, brazenness
- repentant:** (adj) contrite, remorseful, regretful, sorry, apologetic, ashamed, compunctious, penitential, rueful, humble, doing penance. ANTONYMS: (adj) impenitent, unremorseful, glad
- replying:** (adj) respondent, responsive
- repose:** (n, v) recline, peace, lie, calm; (n) composure, ease, quiet, leisure, recreation, relaxation; (v) lay. ANTONYMS: (n, v) work; (n) activity, panic, agitation
- repress:** (v) inhibit, crush, quash, control, suppress, put down, bridle, keep down, subdue, restrain, reduce. ANTONYMS: (v) declare, liberate, incite
- repressed:** (adj) inhibited, suppressed, pent-up, forgotten, subconscious, inner, composed, reserved, unconscious
- reprinting:** (n) reissue, reproduction, offprint, publication
- reproach:** (n, v) blame, rebuke, charge, abuse, disgrace, reprimand, invective; (v) accuse, chide, condemn; (n) condemnation. ANTONYMS: (n, v) praise; (v) commend, approve; (n) compliment, commendation, approval
- reproachfully:** (adv) critically, abusively, admonitorily, vituperatively, disapprovingly, wearily, contemptuously, disparagingly, disdainfully, witheringly, shamefully. ANTONYMS: (adv) approvingly, hopefully
- reproaching:** (adj) opprobrious
- reproving:** (adj) admonitory, admonishing, exemplary, disparaging, disapproving, deterrent, critical, unfavorable, cautionary; (adj, n) accusing; (n) condemning
- repugnance:** (n) horror, hatred, antipathy, inconsistency, repulsion, nausea, revulsion, loathing, detestation, aversion, hate. ANTONYMS: (n) pleasantness, love, attractiveness, adoration, liking
- repulse:** (n, v) rebuff, defeat; (v) repel, nauseate, disgust, drive back, revolt, reject, refuse, beat back; (n) refusal. ANTONYMS: (v) attract, accept, delight, yield, please; (n, v) welcome
- repute:** (n, v) reputation, report, esteem, respect, honor; (n) name, character, celebrity, standing; (v) count, regard as
- resembling:** (adj, prep) like; (adj) analogous, parallel, similar, conformable, approximate, semblative, other, probable; (prep) similar to, reminiscent of. ANTONYM: (prep) unlike
- resolutely:** (adv) determinedly, decidedly, steadfastly, decisively, unfalteringly, boldly, steadily, stubbornly, definitely, resolvedly, unwaveringly. ANTONYMS: (adv) irresolutely, indecisively, uncertainly, feebly, hesitantly, aimlessly
- resonance:** (n) ringing, sonority, vibration, reverberation, echo, plangency, timbre, timber, noise, ring, accord. ANTONYM: (n) weakness
- resounding:** (adj) booming, ringing, reverberating, loud, rolling, vibrant, emphatic, resonating, reverberant; (v) resound; (adv) resoundingly. ANTONYMS: (adj) qualified,
- marginal
- respectability:** (n) reputation, propriety, reputability, decorum, honesty, honourableness, gentility, dignity, repute, politeness; (adj) respectableness. ANTONYMS: (n) decadence, indecency, immorality
- respectfully:** (adv) reverentially, reverently, politely, courteously, civilly, attentively, graciously, submissively, obsequiously, admiringly, regardfully. ANTONYMS: (adv) impudently, contemptuously, disdainfully, rudely, insolently, audaciously, sneeringly, nastily, irreverently, disobediently, arrogantly
- restful:** (adj) quiet, peaceful, still, comfortable, placid, soft, tranquil, reposeful, relaxing, easy, peaceable. ANTONYMS: (adj) uncomfortable, unwelcoming, irritating, harsh, noisy, rushed, stimulating
- restive:** (adj) obstinate, edgy, fidgety, jittery, impatient, jumpy, intractable, restless, uptight, perverse; (adj, v) skittish. ANTONYMS: (adj) calm, patient
- restlessly:** (adv) fidgetily, apprehensively, agitatedly, fretfully, unquietly, sleeplessly, nervously, restively, edgily, anxiously, disturbedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) peacefully, unconcernedly
- retainers:** (n) entourage, suite
- reticence:** (n) reserve, reservation, uncommunicativeness, taciturnity, silence, reticency, restraint, secrecy, reservedness, muteness, humility. ANTONYMS: (n) chattiness, honesty, nerve, boldness, openness, arrogance, brashness
- retina:** (n) cornea, iris, pupil, membrane
- retreated:** (adj) withdrawn, people
- retreating:** (n) flight; (adj) moving back
- revel:** (n, v) frolic; (v) drink, celebrate, exult, wallow, rejoice, bask, riot; (n) carousal, orgy; (adj) luxuriate. ANTONYMS: (v) mourn; (n) mourning
- revelry:** (adj, n) revels; (n) debauchery, festivity, orgy, merriment, revel, carnival, mirth, gaiety, carousal, jollification
- reverberation:** (n) echo, rebound, noise, peal, replication, reaction, recoil, boom, reflectivity; (n, v) reflection; (v) reflexion. ANTONYM: (n) silence
- reverence:** (n, v) respect, regard, fear,

- worship, honor, esteem, adore; (n) deference, adoration, admiration, awe. ANTONYMS: (n) despise, disrespect, irreverence, disdain, disparagement, contempt; (v) dishonor
- reverie**: (n) dream, fantasy, air castle, brown study, reverie, trance, abstraction, castle in Spain, castle in the air; (adj) preoccupation, distraction. ANTONYM: (n) reality
- reversing**: (n) overturning, renversement, cancellation
- reviving**: (adj) bracing, restorative, renewing, refreshing, revival, brisk, enlivening, recuperative, reanimating, promoting recuperation, giving life. ANTONYM: (adj) soothing
- revolved**: (adj) disgusted
- revolving**: (adj) turning, rotating, vertiginous, rotary, gyrotory, wheeling, rotative, rotatory, rotational; (n) revolution; (v) revolve
- revulsion**: (n) horror, hatred, aversion, repulsion, repugnance, hate, distaste, dislike, detestation, abomination, abhorrence. ANTONYMS: (n) love, attraction, delight, liking, adoration
- rhythmical**: (n) measured, rhythmic; (adj) numerose, cyclical, recurrent, cadenced, periodic, serial, diatonic, poetic, numerous. ANTONYM: (adj) unrhythmical
- riband**: (n) ribbon, fascia, band, ribband, spill, slip, shred, strip, wreath, medal, list
- ribbons**: (n) cavesson, hackamore, jaquima, lines, streamer, streamers, ticker tape, paper chain, decoration, decorations, bunting
- rickety**: (adj) unstable, wobbly, decrepit, dilapidated, insecure, ramshackle, rachitic, flimsy, precarious, cranky, wonky. ANTONYMS: (adj) stable, sturdy, firm, secure
- ricochet**: (n, v) rebound, boom; (v) recoil, bound, jump, kick, glance, reverberate, skip, leap; (n) carom
- riddled**: (v) infundibular, porous, cribriform, honeycombed; (adj) damaged; (n) fuller
- rightful**: (adj) right, lawful, just, justifiable, proper, legal, equitable, licit, real, genuine, true. ANTONYMS: (adj) wrongful, illegal, unlawful, fake
- rigidity**: (n) firmness, inflexibility, rigor, hardness, stiffness, rigour, inflexibility, tension, rigidness, severity, inelasticity. ANTONYMS: (n) malleability, pliability, softness, limpness, looseness, relaxation, cooperation, weakness
- rigidly**: (adv) severely, sternly, strictly, firmly, stringently, unbendingly, rigorously, uncompromisingly, stubbornly, unyieldingly, strongly. ANTONYMS: (adv) loosely, amenably
- rigorously**: (adv) severely, strictly, stringently, carefully, harshly, exactly, austerely, closely, narrowly, stiffly, gravely. ANTONYMS: (adv) leniently, lightheartedly, negligently
- rigour**: (n) hardship, hardness, grimness, rigidity, strict, rigor, rigorously, asperity, cruelty, acrimony, severity
- rill**: (n) channel, streamlet, creek, rivulet, run, runnel, stream, bourn, beck, arroyo, watercourse
- rind**: (n) bark, crust, cortex, husk, coat, hull, paring, fur, hide, surface; (n, v) skin
- ringleader**: (n) conductor, fogleman, bellwether, agitator, troublemaker, chief, mastermind, inciter, precentor, insurgent, agent provocateur
- rippling**: (n) ripple, wave, ruffle, corrugation, moving ridge, wavelet, ripple formation; (adj) flowing, billowy
- roadstead**: (n) roads, road, harbor, haven, port, anchorage ground, inroad, invasion, raid
- roaming**: (adj) wandering, roving, errant, itinerant, Peripatetic, traveling, vagabond, astray; (n) ramble, journey, ubiquity
- roan**: (n) horse, Galloway, thoroughbred, leather, courser; (adj) dingy, pearly, drab, dun, livid, somber
- roasting**: (n) barbecuing, cookery, cooking; (adj) broiling, baking, burning, boiling, airless, blazing, close; (adj, n) scorching. ANTONYMS: (adj) airy, fresh
- robber**: (n) highwayman, bandit, mugger, outlaw, plunderer, pillager, burglar, pirate, crook, filcher, spoiler
- robed**: (adj) garmented, habilitated, dressed, appareled, clothed, garbed, fixed, dolled up, clad, polished, vested
- rocking**: (adj) vivacious, merry, spirited, spry, festive; (n) metalling, convulsion
- rogue**: (n, v) rascal; (n) knave, imp, miscreant, crook, cheat, impostor, swindler, cad, villain, scoundrel
- romanticism**: (n) utopianism, idealism, romance language, quality, sentiment, love story, love affair, Latinian language, humanities, humanistic discipline, arts. ANTONYM: (n) classicism
- romping**: (n) fun; (adj) rollicking
- rooks**: (n) etc, robins, order Passeriformes, Passeriformes
- roomy**: (adj, n) capacious; (adj) broad, extensive, large, commodious, ample, voluminous, expansive, big, rangy, comprehensive. ANTONYMS: (adj) small, narrow, airless, tiny, tight
- rostrum**: (n) podium, pulpit, snout, platform, dais, beak, bill, bow, hustings, stump, reading desk
- rosy**: (adj) hopeful, blooming, optimistic, auspicious, promising, bright, roseate, ruddy, fortunate, flushed, pink. ANTONYMS: (adj) gloomy, depressing, hopeless, unpromising
- rotting**: (adj) rotten, decaying, decayed, moldering, mouldering, decomposing, putrid; (n) rot, putrefaction, decomposition, deep etching
- rotundity**: (n) corpulence, rondure, globularness, globosity, roundness, circularity, obesity, embonpoint, plumpness, fullness, corpulency
- rough-and-ready**: (adj) makeshift, stopgap, provisional
- roughrider**: (n) cavalier, horseman, jockey, equestrian, trainer, horsebreaker, breaker, horseback rider
- roundness**: (n) rotundity, globosity, sphericity, rondure, plumpness, globularness, cylindricalness, cylindricality, shape, rotundness, circle. ANTONYMS: (n) angularity, slenderness, thinness
- rove**: (v) gad, ramble, wander, range, gallivant, stray, stroll, tramp, drift, err, meander. ANTONYM: (v) settle
- rowel**: (n, v) goad; (n) ankus, fillip, incentive, whet, whip, dram, stimulus; (adj) provocative
- ruck**: (n, v) pucker, gather, wrinkle, crinkle, crumple, fold; (n) crease, herd; (v) cockle, crimp, tuck
- ruddiness**: (n) flush, rosiness, glow, complexion, skin color, rubicundity, redness, color, complexion, high color, pinkness. ANTONYM: (n) pallor
- ruddy**: (adj) cherry, rubicund, rosy,

- flushed, florid, sanguine, reddish, glowing, blooming, crimson; (adj, adv) blushing
- rudeness:** (n) disrespect, audacity, insolence, impudence, discourtesy, incivility, effrontery, bad manners, impoliteness, impropriety, primitiveness. ANTONYMS: (n) civility, refinement, propriety, courteousness, courtesy, decency, respect, diplomacy, praise, thoughtfulness, gentleness
- rudimentary:** (adj) primary, basic, inchoate, fundamental, elementary, elemental, rudimental, embryonic, original, imperfect, incomplete. ANTONYMS: (adj) advanced, complex, developed
- rudiments:** (n) grammar, fundamentals, elements, alphabet, abecedary, primer, vade mecum, bedrock, element, fundamental principle, rudiment
- ruffled:** (adj) rippled, frilly, frilled, upset, disordered, excited, disconcerted, decorated, tousled, tangled, turbulent
- rugged:** (adj, n) rough, jagged, ragged; (adj) difficult, rocky, tough, broken, robust, hilly, strong, craggy. ANTONYMS: (adj) delicate, easy, smooth, flimsy, fragile, soft, weak, feeble
- ruinously:** (adv) calamitously, harmfully, catastrophically, cataclysmically, perniciously, wastefully, subversively, devastatingly, banefully, appallingly, detrimentally
- rumble:** (n, v) murmur, roll, roar, grumble, mutter, bang, brawl, sound; (v) growl; (n) peal, noise
- rumen:** (n) breadbasket
- runaway:** (adj, n) renegade, delinquent; (n) deserter, romp, walkaway, refugee, absconder, runaway, escapee, laugher; (adj) decided. ANTONYM: (n) challenge
- rustle:** (n, v) whisper; (v) lift, buzz, steal, pilfer, whiz, pinch, abstract, thief, purloin; (n) rustling
- rustling:** (n) rustle, whispering, whisper, larceny; (adj) murmurous, susurrous, active, sougling
- sable:** (adj) black, dark, dusky, sombre, murky, mournful; (n) ebony, fur, blackness, marten, pitch black
- sackcloth:** (n) bagging, bag cloth, sacking, cloth, garment
- saddened:** (adj) sorry, sad, depressed, dejected, upset, dismayed, unhappy, dissatisfied, troubled, disillusioned, in a state. ANTONYM: (adj) satisfied
- saffron:** (n) yellow, crocus sativus, orange yellow, yellowness, seasoner, seasoning, flavouring, flavourer, saffron crocus, flavorer; (adj) topaz
- sagacious:** (adj, v) judicious, prudent, discreet; (adj) rational, astute, acute, discerning, keen, perspicacious, intelligent, shrewd. ANTONYMS: (adj) foolish, stupid, dense
- saintly:** (adj, adv) godly; (adj) saintlike, sacred, pious, angelic, sainted, religious, devout, beatific, righteous, divine. ANTONYMS: (adj) sinful, unholy, wicked, secular
- sallow:** (adj) pasty, pallid, bloodless, sickly, wan, ashen, fair, white, tawny, sandy; (n) osier. ANTONYMS: (adj) dark, glowing
- salute:** (v) greet, hail, kiss, accolst, acknowledge, buss; (n) salutation, bow, salaam; (n, v) address, compliment
- sampler:** (n) sampling element, pattern, specimen, soil sampler, tastetester, taster, observation station, fancywork, sampling device, sampling station
- samson:** (adj) Hercules, atlas, Antaeus, superman; (n) Samson post, strapper, dogshit, bullshit, bull, bruiser, bunk
- sandiness:** (n) graininess, granularity, sabulosity, coarseness
- sanguine:** (adj) hopeful, optimistic, bloody, rubicund, confident, crimson, cheerful, buoyant, sanguineous; (adj, n) red, florid. ANTONYMS: (adj) pessimistic, gloomy, doubtful
- sapling:** (n) seedling, stripling, adolescent, sprout, plant, youth, tree, young tree, cub, young man, plantlet
- sarcastically:** (adv) satirically, mordantly, sharply, biting, ironically, tartly, cynically, scornfully, mockingly, scathingly, derisively. ANTONYM: (adv) gently
- sash:** (n) girdle, cincture, band, cummerbund, baldric, framing, waistband, framework, frame, fillet, fascia
- satan:** (n) Lucifer, devil, deuce, the Devil, Old Nick, Belial, fiend, Prince of Darkness, Dickens, archfiend, daemon
- saturated:** (adj, v) sodden; (adj) drenched, concentrated, sopping, soaked, full, soggy, soppy, wet through, pure; (v) impregnate. ANTONYM: (adj) unsaturated
- saucapan:** (n) pot, pan, stewpan, casserole, boiler, basin, skillet, jorum, rummer, tumbler, punch bowl
- sauciness:** (n) pertness, impudence, insolence, gall, cheek, flippancy, perkiness, archness, cheekiness, effrontery, sauce
- saucy:** (adj, n) pert; (adj) bold, impudent, audacious, insolent, fresh, forward, impertinent, flippant, rude, brazen. ANTONYM: (adj) respectful
- scabbard:** (n) case, vagina, casing, pod, covering, cover, pouch, pocket, fob
- scamp:** (n) rascal, imp, miscreant, scalawag, rogue, monkey, villain, brat, scallywag, rapscallion; (v) skimp
- scanning:** (n) search, scan, photography
- scented:** (adj) fragrant, perfumed, aromatic, balmy, sweet, redolent, odoriferous, spicy, savory, smelling, angelical. ANTONYMS: (adj) scentless, smelly
- schemer:** (n) plotter, politician, contriver, conspirator, designer, machinator, projector, deviser, intriguer, planner, angler
- schoolmaster:** (n) master, preceptor, pedagogue, headmaster, dominie, teacher, principal, educator, head, Lufjanus apodus, housemaster
- scoop:** (n) ladle, spade, exclusive, pocket, dipper; (v) draw, excavate, dig, scoop out, take up; (n, v) hollow
- scorched:** (adj) baked, adust, burnt, dry, seared, burned, charred, torrid, dried out, destroyed, drier. ANTONYMS: (adj) wet, humid
- scoundrel:** (n, v) rascal; (n) knave, blackguard, cad, villain, ruffian, miscreant, crook, rapscallion, varlet, scalawag
- scourge:** (n) curse, blight, affliction, plague, bane, calamity; (v) lash, flagellate, castigate, punish; (n, v) whip
- scram:** (v) get, buzz off, bugger off, leave, skedaddle, decamp, flee, beat it, abscond, disappear; (n) emergency shutdown
- scrape:** (n, v) scratch, graze, score, mark; (v) rub, pare, rake, grate, chafe, abrade; (n) abrasion
- scratching:** (n) scrape, scraping, abrasion, mark, scar, poor

- handwriting, incision, excoriation, chicken feed; (adj) hoarse, abrasive
- scrawl:** (n, v) scabble, doodle, scratch; (n) squiggle, cacography, scrape, scratching, mark, dent, chicken feed; (v) write
- scribbled:** (adj) hard to decipher, illegible, indecipherable, impossible to read, unreadable, incomprehensible
- scripture:** (adj, n) gospel; (n) bible, book, Holy Writ, canon, writ, inscription, writing, Vulgate, fact, Holy Scripture
- scroll:** (n, v) roll, list, roller, record; (n) curlicue, curl, archive, helix, book, whorl; (v) role
- scrubbing:** (n) scrub, stripping, cleaning, bush, cleansing, cleanup, mopping, sanitizing, bath, chaparral
- scruples:** (n) conscience, moral sense, sense of right and wrong, morality, ethical motive, principle, ethics, moral fiber, morals
- scrutineer:** (n) canvasser
- scythe:** (n) crotch, crutch, crane, elbow, ankle, fluke, groin, knee, zigzag; (n, v) sithe; (v) reap
- searchingly:** (adv) closely, piercingly, cuttingly, inquisitively, penetratingly, trenchantly, acutely, exhaustively, curiously, inquiringly, exploratorily
- seaweed:** (n) algae, wrack, tang, sea-moss, seaware, sea wrack, heed, sea tang, seagrass, ware, reit
- secluded:** (adj) remote, secret, reclusive, privy, cloistered, isolated, lonely, retired, sequestered, solitary; (adj, v) hidden. ANTONYMS: (adj) nearby, near, exposed, busy, accessible
- seclusion:** (n) retreat, segregation, retirement, isolation, secrecy, concealment, insulation, separation, hermitage; (adj, n) solitude, loneliness. ANTONYMS: (n) company, closeness, inclusion
- second-class:** (adj) inferior, minor, common, mean, lower
- secreted:** (adj) hidden, unseen, out of sight
- sedge:** (n) rush, nutsedge, papyrus, nutgrass, chufa, galingale, galangal, weed, rush nut, nut sedge, nut grass
- sedges:** (n) grasses
- sedulously:** (adv) industriously, assiduously, studiously, earnestly, attentively, intently, painstakingly, perseveringly, laboriously, fixedly, eagerly
- seemly:** (adj, v) befitting, becoming; (adj, adv) comely; (adj) respectable, decorous, decent, fitting, fit, appropriate; (adv) becomingly, properly. ANTONYMS: (adj) unseemly, unbecoming, unsuitable, inappropriate
- seizing:** (v) seize; (n) seizure, clutches, prehension, taking, apprehension, capture, infection; (adj) catching, galling, controlling
- seizure:** (n) arrest, confiscation, capture, seizing, apprehension, appropriation, attachment, convulsion, detention; (adj, n) attack, assumption. ANTONYMS: (n) release, restoration, surrender
- self-command:** (n) self-control, self-government, self-restraint, discipline, presence
- self-conceit:** (n) conceit
- self-consciousness:** (n) embarrassment, inhibition
- self-denial:** (n) renunciation, abstinence, austerity, restraint, temperance
- self-indulgence:** (n) dissipation, pleasure, merriment, enjoyment, decadence, excess
- selfishness:** (n) greed, egotism, greediness, meanness, individuality, opportunism, expedience, individualism, self, selfness, selfish. ANTONYMS: (n) altruism, selflessness, sensitivity, thoughtfulness, conformity, generosity
- self-mastery:** (n) self-government, self-restraint, discipline
- self-possession:** (n) composure, poise, imperturbability, serenity, aplomb, coolness, balance, restraint, self-control, morale, presence
- self-reliance:** (n) confidence, assurance, independence, manhood, enterprise
- self-reliant:** (adj) confident, independent, responsible, valiant, manly
- self-reproach:** (n) regret, repentance, shame, penitence, contrition, guilt
- self-respect:** (n) pride, self-esteem, dignity, face, honesty
- self-sacrifice:** (n) martyrdom, renunciation
- self-sustained:** (adj) closed, self-sufficient
- self-willed:** (adj) stubborn, wilful, wayward, obstinate, headstrong, perverse, intractable, masterful, pig-headed, wild, deaf
- semblance:** (adj, n) color; (n) resemblance, appearance, look, aspect, air, image, similarity, pretense, guise, pretext. ANTONYM: (n) difference
- semicircle:** (n) arch, semi-circles, half circle, half-circle, plane figure, arc, curve
- sender:** (n) communicator, shipper, transmitter, register, senders, sending entity, consignor, merchant, player
- sensibility:** (adj, n, v) feeling, notion; (n, v) sensation, appreciation, sense; (n) emotion, sensitivity, consciousness, perceptivity, awareness; (adj, n) sentiment. ANTONYM: (n) insensitivity
- sentient:** (adj) sensitive, animate, aware, responsive, susceptible, perceptive, aesthetic, sensible, tender, impressionable, alive. ANTONYMS: (adj) inanimate, insentient, unconscious, dead
- sepulchral:** (adj, v) hollow, hoarse; (v) mortuary, harsh, rough, horrisonous, grum; (adj) ghastly, raucous, husky; (n) funeral
- serene:** (adj) peaceful, calm, quiet, placid, composed, impassive, clear, pacific, gentle, cool; (adj, v) tranquil. ANTONYMS: (adj) agitated, anxious, noisy, nervous, impatient, excitable, scatterbrained, harsh, boisterous, excited, disturbed
- serenity:** (n) quiet, peace, calm, quietness, equanimity, calmness, quietude, repose; (adj, n) composure, tranquility, placidity. ANTONYMS: (n) anxiety, uproar, chaos, anger, panic, bustle, disturbance, impatience, turbulence, turmoil
- serpent:** (n) snake, ophidian, viper, snake in the grass, reptile, rattlesnake, colubrid, contrafagotto, cor anglais, hautboy; (v) goose
- serpentine:** (adj, v) snaky; (adj) insidious, crooked, snakelike, tortuous, winding, sinuous, curved, cunning; (v) circling, meander
- severance:** (n) separation, disunion, breach, interruption, division, divorce, parting, secession, rupture, breakaway, break. ANTONYM: (n) unification
- severed:** (adj) cut off, cut, broken, separate, Severn, disconnected, rent off, disrupt, disengaged, torn, disrupted
- sexton:** (n) beadle, verger, almoner, Anne sexton, Suisse, gravedigger, church officer, caretaker
- shaded:** (adj) dark, shads, sheltered,

- shadowed, umbrageous, twilight, sunless, subdued, soft, colored, darksome. ANTONYM: (adj) unshaded
- shady:** (adj) questionable, dark, fishy, doubtful, queer, suspicious, dim, uncertain, obscure, disreputable, dishonest. ANTONYMS: (adj) sunny, trustworthy, bright, reputable, aboveboard
- shaggy:** (adj) bushy, hirsute, hairy, bearded, shagged, pilous, brushy, unkempt, hispid; (adj, n) ragged; (n) rugged. ANTONYMS: (adj) sleek, tidy
- shakes:** (n) hangover, jitters, nervousness, tension, anxiety
- shambling:** (n) walking, make, shuffling; (adj) awkward, blundering, clumsy, ungraceful, graceless, inelegant, ungainly, tightfisted. ANTONYM: (adj) graceful
- shameful:** (adj) scandalous, dishonorable, opprobrious, shocking, ignominious, disreputable, despicable; (adj, v) foul, base, gross, black. ANTONYMS: (adj) honorable, noble, dignified, admirable, faultless, reputable, glorious, compassionate, praiseworthy, commendable, excellent
- shamefully:** (adv) ignominiously, ingloriously, scandalously, infamously, shockingly, discreditably, basely, outrageously; (adv, v) dishonorably, foully, nastily. ANTONYMS: (adv) commendably, compassionately, nobly
- shapeless:** (adj) amorphous, misshapen, unformed, unstructured, nebulous, inchoate, unshapely, indistinct, uncrystallized, embryonic, vague. ANTONYMS: (adj) distinct, defined, tailored
- shapely:** (adj) symmetrical, comely, graceful, neat, fit, curvaceous, slim, pleasing, busty, seemly, beautiful. ANTONYMS: (adj) straight, misshapen, unshapely
- sharpening:** (n) grinding, training, filing, dressing, acumination, aggravation; (adj) abrasive
- sharper:** (n, v) cheat; (n) rogue, impostor, swindler, chiseler, deceiver, cheater, welscher, sharpie; (v) shark, fraud
- shave:** (v) scrape, reduce, pare, cut, brush, chip, whittle, crop; (adj, v) clip, shear, lop. ANTONYMS: (v) augment, expand, lengthen
- shaved:** (adj) shave, lacking hair, hairless, beardless, shiny on top, bald, smooth on top, whiskerless. ANTONYM: (adj) unshaven
- shaving:** (adj, n) paring, sliver, shiver; (n, v) shave; (n) cut, splinter, rasher, grazing, slice; (adj) clipping, driblet
- shawl:** (n) wrap, mantle, cape, muffler, scarf, pall, mantlet Mantua, wrapper, kerchief, headscarf, stole
- sheaf:** (n) fagot, faggot, bunch, bale, package, bundle, truss, stack, parcel, fardel, packet
- shear:** (v) fleece, cut, shave, pare, chop, chip, crop, trim; (adj, v) lop, prune; (n) scissors. ANTONYM: (v) lengthen
- sheared:** (adj) Sheard, Shearn, cut
- shearing:** (n, v) shear; (n) cutting, clipping, clip, pruning, sheepshearing, embrace, pulling, cutting off; (v) fleece
- shears:** (n) clippers, clipper, shear, pair of scissors, snips, shearing machine, pruning shears; (adj, n) cutters
- shedding:** (n) molting, abscission, fluffing, effusion, moulting, biological process, desquamation, sloughing, emission; (adj, n) peeling; (adj) flaking
- sheen:** (n, v) shine, gleam; (n) polish, gloss, light, glow, lustre, glitter, brightness, brilliance; (v) burnish. ANTONYM: (n) dullness
- shimmer:** (n, v) shine, flash, gleam, sparkle, glitter, glimmer, beam, luster, sheen; (v) flicker, twinkle
- shimmering:** (adj) glittering, sparkling, gleaming, dazzling, lustrous, bright, iridescent, shimmery, flashing, glittery, glowing. ANTONYMS: (adj) dull, dim
- shoed:** (adj) shod, shodden, calced, booted, roughshod, sandaled
- shoreline:** (n) coast, coastline, seashore, beach, seaboard, strandline, bound, bank, boundary, seaside, sand
- shorn:** (adj) sheared, hairless, bald, stubbed, Shearn, Sheard, shear, clipped, not, Nott, shaven
- shortest:** (adj) direct, brusk, brusque, choleric, curt, directer, hotheaded, least, irascible, lowest, most direct
- shorthand:** (n) handwriting; (adj) written
- short-sighted:** (adj) shortsighted, unwise, stupid, narrow-minded, crazy, ill-advised, half-baked, foolish, improvident
- shouldering:** (n) assumption
- shrank:** (v) minify
- shred:** (n) rag, piece, scintilla, iota, bit, strip, remnant, sliver; (adj, n) scrap; (v) rip, tear
- shrew:** (n) shrewmouse, harridan, termagant, virago, dragon, fury, bitch, vixen, disagreeable woman, common shrew, shrow
- shrewdness:** (n) craftiness, perspicacity, astuteness, gumption, ingenuity, foxiness, craft, cunning, cleverness, sharpness, sagacity. ANTONYMS: (n) stupidity, ingenuousness, ineptness
- shrewishness:** (n) ill nature, cursing, cursedness
- shrill:** (adj) piercing, penetrating, strident, keen, shrewd; (v) shriek, screech, scream, yell; (adj, v) high, sharp. ANTONYMS: (adj) low, quiet, resonant
- shrink:** (adj, v) recoil; (n, v) flinch, wince; (v) contract, shorten, lessen, diminish, cower, reduce, quail, decrease. ANTONYMS: (v) increase, enlarge, grow, stretch, swell, bloom, rise, inflate
- shudder:** (adj, n, v) shake, quake, tremble; (n, v) quiver, twitch, thrill; (n) quivering, shivering, chill, frisson; (v) flutter
- shun:** (v) evade, escape, elude, dodge, flee, refuse, shirk, ostracize, banish, parry; (adj, v) eschew. ANTONYMS: (v) befriend, invite, seek, welcome, woo, court, participate, include
- shunned:** (adj) undesirable, friendless, abandoned
- shutter:** (n, v) close, shade; (n) curtain, shut, blind, window, skylight, deadlight, lid, louver, jealousy
- shutting:** (n) closing, conclusion, end, closure, ending, finish, mop up, culmination, closedown; (adj) confining, claudent. ANTONYM: (n) opening
- shyness:** (n) diffidence, modesty, bashfulness, humility, shame, timidity, coyness, pudency, timorousness, backwardness, timidness. ANTONYMS: (n) sociability, brashness, confidence, urbanity, arrogance
- sickened:** (adj) aghast, horrified, appalled, shocked
- sideway:** (adv) sidewise, sideways, lateral, side, laterally, sidwards,

- obliquely, crabwise
sieve: (v) filter, riddle, strain, shovel, mop, separate, broom; (n, v) sift; (n) strainer, sifter, colander
signboard: (n) sign, billboard, poster, placard, shingle, hoarding, label, plate, tag, tablet, structure
signified: (n) common sense, acceptance, good sense, horse sense, mother wit, sensation, sense, sensory faculty, sentience, sentiency; (adj) implied
signify: (n, v) intend, mark; (adj, n, v) import; (v) imply, indicate, denote, point, stand for, express, intimate, matter
signifying: (adj) indicative, implying, representative, suggestive of, demonstrating, symptomatic of, showing, indicatory, representing; (n) abuse
silenus: (n) forest God, satyr
silks: (n) garment
sill: (n) ledge, threshold, doorstep, rung, step, round, stone, cornerstone, sole, window sill, windowsill
sills: (n) drop structure, Beverly Sills
silvery: (adj) silver, argent, bright, white, gray, rich, silverish, melodious, fair, Argentine, clear
simmer: (adj, v) boil, seethe, stew; (v) cook, parboil, fizz, bubble, scald, foam, digest, bake
simmering: (n, v) boiling; (v) burning, inextinguishable, irrepressible, volcanic, hissing, peaceable; (n) decoction, cookery, cooking; (adj) active
simpleton: (n) fool, blockhead, dolt, dunce, numskull, ninny, nincompoop, booby, sap, dummy, dullard
sinew: (n) brawn, potency, power, force, might, vigour, energy, strength, beef; (adj, n) muscle, nerve
sinful: (adj) wicked, impious, bad, iniquitous, ungodly, depraved, immoral, profane, criminal, wrong, unholy. ANTONYMS: (adj) pious, virtuous, moral, right, pure
sinfulness: (n) wickedness, iniquity, evil, harm, impiety, immorality, depravity, ungodliness, unrighteousness, irreverence, corruption
singly: (adv) one by one, separately, independently, severally, solely, respectively; (adj, adv) alone, only, merely; (adj) single, particularly. ANTONYM: (adv) multiply
singular: (adj, n) extraordinary; (adj) odd, individual, particular, peculiar, phenomenal, rare, queer, single, quaint, exceptional. ANTONYMS: (adj) ordinary, normal, together, usual, customary
singularity: (n) oddity, peculiarity, individuality, eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, oddness, abnormality, uniqueness, irregularity, identity, particularity
singularly: (adv) peculiarly, uniquely, unusually, curiously, rarely, uncommonly, oddly, solely, exceptionally, individually; (adj, adv) remarkably
sinner: (n) criminal, miscreant, culprit, sinful, trespasser, transgressor, evildoer, magdalen, rascal, villain, sinners
sipping: (n) imbibing, imbibition; (adj) libant
sirius: (n) blazing star, Canicula, Sothis
sixpence: (n) bender, coin, teston, testern
skimmed: (v) flet, flotten
skinned: (adj) scraped, dartos, frustrated, raw, scratched, sensitive, sore, tender, painful
skit: (n) parody, lampoon, burlesque, libel, personality, travesty, mockery, trollop, playacting, wench; (v) squib
skittish: (adj) nervous, timid, excitable, coy, lively, fearful; (n) freakish, fantastic, crotchety, fanciful; (v) mettlesome. ANTONYMS: (adj) solemn, calm, confident
skittishness: (n) nervousness, jitteriness, jumpiness
skittle: (n) skittle pin, bowling pin
slackened: (adj) leisurely
slanted: (adj) slanting, diagonal, lopsided, tilted, sloped, sloping, oblique, skewed, aslant, askew, aslope. ANTONYMS: (adj) straight, balanced, impartial, level, upright
slanting: (adj) oblique, sloping, diagonal, askew, slanted, aslant, aslope, awry, leaning, sloped; (adj, adv) sideways. ANTONYMS: (adj) upright, direct
slaty: (adj) harder, hard, achromatic
sleek: (adj) glossy, silky, shiny, slippery, silken, satiny, satin, even; (adj, v) slick, smooth; (v) polish. ANTONYMS: (adj) rough, shaggy, coarse
sleeplessness: (n) wakefulness, restlessness, nerves, insomnia, disquietude, unrest; (v) vigil. ANTONYM: (n) sleepiness
sleight: (adj, n) trick; (n) dexterity, imposture, skill, manual dexterity, guile; (adj) facility, knack, proficiency, callidity, competence
slighting: (adj) belittling, deprecating, deprecative, deprecatory, depreciatory, pejorative, derogatory, offensive, invidious, abusive; (n) disregard. ANTONYM: (adj) polite
slily: (adj) on the sly
slinking: (adj) stealthy, surreptitious, furtive
slit: (n, v) score, rip, split, breach, slash, crack, scratch; (n) crevice, gap; (adj, n) cleft; (v) slice
sloped: (adj) slanting, oblique, sloping, inclined, aslope, diagonal, aslant, leaned, leant, colored, biased
sloping: (adj, v) oblique, slope; (adj) slanting, inclined, slanted, diagonal, leaning, sloped; (adj, adv) aslope, aslant; (v) slant. ANTONYMS: (adj) horizontal, upright
sluggish: (adj) inert, indolent, inactive, idle, slow, torpid, slack, languid; (adj, n) lazy, drowsy, heavy. ANTONYMS: (adj) energetic, fast, brisk, lively, alert, speedy, industrious
smack: (adv, n, v) slap, bang; (n, v) savor, knock, kiss, hit, buss, wallop; (n) flavor, blow; (adj, n) dash
smallness: (n) diminutiveness, minuteness, slightness, puniness, insignificance, scantiness, delicacy, scantness, narrowness; (adj) meagerness, slenderness. ANTONYM: (n) tallness
smite: (v) strike, hit, buffet, bang, clout, knock, smash, thrash, thump, batter, affect
smoky: (adj) murky, hazy, fumid, vaporous, opaque, muddy, famish, burnt; (v) sooty, smutty, dusty. ANTONYMS: (adj) clean, fresh, clear
smoothed: (adj) round, smoothened, curved. ANTONYM: (adj) sharp
smoothing: (n) fine cutting, smoothness, sleeking; (adj) sleek, even, not harsh, smooth porcelain, bland, not rough, moving equably, mild
smote: (v) smite
smudged: (adj) dirty, unclean, smirched, grubby, smudgy
snapper: (n) cracker, muttonfish, cracker bonbon, common snapping turtle, Chelydra serpentina, firecracker, kernel, inwardness, heart and soul, heart, gray snapper

snappishly: (adv) abruptly, brusquely, petulantly, snappily, grumpily, fretfully, waspishly, testily, shortly, fractiously, crustily. ANTONYM: (adv) verbosely

snarled: (adj) tangled, gnarly, knobbed, complex, twisted, snarly, gnarled, matted, untidy, knotty

snatching: (n) capture

sneer: (n, v) deride, jeer, scorn, flout, ridicule, scoff, mock, leer, grimace, gird; (n) smirk

sneeze: (n) sneezing, physiological reaction, reflex; (v) arrest, despise, loathe, act involuntarily, Neese, act reflexively

snip: (n, v) cut; (v) slice, crop, trim, nip, prune, pare, pinch, lop, sever; (n) clipping

snorting: (n) puffing, laughter, expiration, breathing out, exhalation

snowdrop: (n) daffodil, narcissus, Amaryllidaceae, family Amaryllidaceae, wood anemone, amaryllis family, anemone

snowy: (adj) white, pure, clean, blank, hoary, achromatic, snow-white, unblemished, wintry, wet, favorite

snub: (n, v) repulse, insult, cut, slight, put down; (v) disregard, offend, ignore, check, humiliate; (n) rebuke. ANTONYMS: (v) accept, acknowledge, notice, boost, include; (n) acceptance

snuff: (v) smell, kill, douse, slay, scent, snuffle, bump off, smother, snort; (adj) tobacco, nicotine

snug: (adj, v) cosy, trim; (adj) cozy, easy, comfy, tight, close, warm, secure, homely; (v) neat. ANTONYMS: (adj) baggy, uncomfortable, unwelcoming, bleak, formal, loose

snugly: (adv) cozily, cosily, comfortably, closely, tightly, pleasantly, compactly, neatly, conveniently, homely, trimly

soaked: (adj) wet, drenched, sopping, soggy, soaking, drunk, wet through, soaking wet, damp, slushed; (adj, v) sodden. ANTONYM: (adj) dry

sobbing: (adj) crying, weeping, weepy, tearful; (n) lamentation, shortness of breath, shit, prick, motherfucker, tear, lament

soberness: (n) sobriety, abstinence, moderation, seriousness, graveness, gravity, temperance, abstemiousness, solemnity, severity, earnestness

soften: (adj, v) moderate, mitigate,

mollify, assuage, relieve; (v) melt, dull, relent, mute, alleviate; (adj, n, v) palliate. ANTONYMS: (v) harden, solidify, set, congeal, exacerbate, freeze, sharpen, stand, increase

softened: (adj) diffused, muffled, muted, quiet, slow, touched, sluggish, soften, pultaceous, subdued, low-key

softening: (adj) emollient, salving, relaxing; (v) soften; (adj, n) soothing; (n) maceration, mitigation, easement, mollification, inteneration, encouragement

softness: (n) mildness, kindness, flabbiness, flaccidity, suavity, downiness, gentleness, tenderness, faintness; (adj, n) delicacy; (adj) smoothness. ANTONYMS: (n) rigidity, hoarseness, brightness, hardness, volume, harshness, tone, noise, heaviness, firmness, loudness

sojourn: (adj, v) reside, inhabit; (n) residence, abode; (adj, n, v) stay; (v) remain, lodge, abide, live; (n, v) delay, domicile

soldierly: (adj) soldierlike, military, courageous, valiant, warlike, manful, hostile, warriorlike

solemnity: (n) seriousness, sobriety, earnestness, formality, ceremony, impressiveness, austerity, sedateness, display, pomp, grandeur. ANTONYMS: (n) humor, levity, cheerfulness, understatement

solemnly: (adv) earnestly, gravely, majestically, stately, sternly, staidly, thoughtfully, soberly, formally, ceremoniously, importantly. ANTONYMS: (adv) cheerfully, flippantly

soles: (n) family Soleidae

solicitous: (adj) eager, attentive, apprehensive, careful, anxious, jealous, considerate, avid, thoughtful, fervent; (n) desirous. ANTONYMS: (adj) uncaring, serene, thoughtless

solicitousness: (n) solicitude, concern

solicitude: (n) care, consideration, anxiety, thought, apprehension, regard, attention, fear, disquietude, heed, fret. ANTONYMS: (n) negligence, serenity, thoughtlessness

solidified: (adj) fixed, firm, stiff, concrete, curdled, thick, coagulate, grumous, grumose; (v) consolidated, joined

solidity: (n) consistency, firmness, density, compactness, reliability, rigidity, substance, consistence,

hardness; (adj, n) stiffness, soundness. ANTONYMS: (n) softness, hollowness, porosity, looseness, instability, slenderness, lightness, clearness, limpness

soliloquy: (n) language, oral communication, apostrophe

solitude: (n) desolation, loneliness, seclusion, privacy, aloneness, isolation, retirement, lonesomeness, retreat, desert, solitariness. ANTONYMS: (n) companionship, closeness

somnambulist: (n) sleepwalker, somnambulator, somnambule, slumberer, sleeper, refugee, fugitive, emigrant, hypnotate

sonorousness: (n) ringing, reverberance, resonance, plangency, sound, vibrancy, rapport, quality, ring

soothe: (n, v) comfort, allay, console, solace; (v) alleviate, palliate, ease, calm, mitigate; (adj, v) appease; (adj, n, v) assuage. ANTONYMS: (v) upset, irritate, aggravate, annoy, intensify, worry, enrage, scare, provoke, incite, disturb

soothing: (adj) calming, soft, smooth, pacifying, quiet, restful, bland, calm, assuasive; (adj, n) softening; (n) alleviation. ANTONYMS: (adj) upsetting, disturbing, hostile, scary, worrying, stimulating, exasperating, annoying, invigorating, painful, intimidating

soothingly: (adv) softly, quietly, calmly, lulling, lightly, tenderly, kindly, blandly, calmly, comfortingly, sedatively

sorely: (adv) severely, tenderly, madly, very, greatly, highly, most, distressingly, extremely, hard, sensitively

sorrowfully: (adv) dolefully, mournfully, gloomily, woefully, unhappily, sorrowfully, ruefully, dejectedly, grievously, forlornly, contritely. ANTONYMS: (adv) happily, unrepentantly, joyfully, cheerfully

southward: (adv) southwards, southernly; (adj) southbound, southern

sovereigns: (n) crowned heads, royals, royalty

sowing: (v) plowing, tilling; (n) insemination, semination

spaced: (adj) space, detached, separate, isolated, drugged, distributed, disjointed, dislocated

spade: (v) grub, delve, scoop,

- excavate; (n) nigger, coon, nigra, jigaboo, boy, black person, spit
- spanned:** (adj) crossed
- sparingly:** (adv) frugally, economically, parsimoniously, cautiously, thriftily, prudently, meagerly, sparsely, poorly, stingily, moderately. ANTONYMS: (adv) amply, extravagantly, thickly, liberally, generously, densely, wastefully
- sparkling:** (adj, v) effervescent; (adj) bright, brilliant, radiant, glittery, bubbly, glittering, scintillating, shining, scintillant; (n) sparkle. ANTONYMS: (adj) dull, dirty, lifeless, lethargic
- sparrow:** (n) hedge sparrow, sparrows, passerine, house sparrow, accentor, true sparrow, spur, snag, passeriform bird, incitement
- sparrows:** (n) sparrow, finches, order Passeriformes, Passeriformes, robins, rooks, etc
- spasmodic:** (adj) spastic, convulsive, intermittent, erratic, broken, irregular, sporadic, desultory, sudden, discontinuous; (v) inconsonant. ANTONYM: (adj) continuous
- spasmodically:** (adv) convulsively, fitfully, intermittently, irregularly, desultorily, brokenly, frequently, spasically, startlingly. ANTONYM: (adv) recurrently
- spat:** (n, v) squabble, altercation, tiff, bicker, dispute, wrangle, row; (n) gaiter, argument, bickering, fuss. ANTONYM: (n) agreement
- spatter:** (n, v) splash, plash, sputter; (v) dash, slop, scatter, smear, spit, spray, squirt, soil
- speck:** (adj, n) point, atom, particle; (n) blot, flaw, smudge, blotch, blemish, grain, mote, dot. ANTONYM: (n) lot
- spectre:** (n) phantasm, shadow, shade, phantom, apparition, ghost, spook, wraith, revenant, terror, eidolon
- sped:** (v) done for
- speechless:** (adj) silent, mute, dumb, dumbfounded, voiceless, quiet, tongueless, tacit, noiseless, mum, wordless. ANTONYMS: (adj) loquacious, eloquent, talkative
- speeding:** (n) acceleration, quickening, hurrying, fastness, f number, scudding, focal ratio, amphetamine; (adj) active, hastening; (adv) faster
- spiders:** (n) horseshoe crabs,
- Araneida, order Araneae, order Araneida, scorpions, Araneae
- spike:** (n) pin, barb, ear, needle, prickle; (adj, n) point; (v) pierce, nail, transfix, spear, lace
- spire:** (n) pinnacle, minaret, top; (adj, n) steeple; (v) coil, hover; (adj) tower, column, obelisk, pillar, monument
- spirited:** (adj) animated, frisky, energetic, racy, bold, gritty, quick, enthusiastic, dashing, peppy, brave. ANTONYMS: (adj) spiritless, lifeless, feeble, cowardly, apathetic, lethargic, spineless, dull, solemn, sluggish, lackluster
- spiritually:** (adv) piously, religiously, intellectually, ghostly, inwardly, psychically, holy, internally, sacredly, incorporeally, immaterially. ANTONYM: (adv) physically
- spite:** (n) malice, grudge, hatred, malevolence, rancour, venom, rancor, maliciousness, ill will, animosity; (n, v) pique. ANTONYMS: (v) please; (n) benevolence, goodwill, love, affection, harmony
- spiteful:** (adj) malicious, malevolent, sinister, nasty, malignant, venomous, spiteful, ill-natured, vindictive, cruel, hateful. ANTONYMS: (adj) benevolent, harmless, merciful, kindhearted, friendly, pleasant, loving, benign, generous, gentle, flattering
- spitting:** (n) spiting, expectoration, ejection, sizzle, projection, forcing out, expulsion, saliva
- splashed:** (adj) dabbled, bespattered, besplashed, spattered, marked, unclean, dirty, splattered, distributed, showy, dotted
- splashing:** (n) spatter, spattering, painting, splattering, dab, plash; (adj) liquid
- spleen:** (n) spite, anger, resentment, rage, lien, malice, bitterness, rancour, huff, grudge, rancor. ANTONYM: (n) affection
- spendidly:** (adv) gallantly, brilliantly, famously, beautifully, gloriously, gorgeously, resplendently, superbly, sumptuously, excellently, grandly. ANTONYMS: (adv) badly, terribly, abysmally, modestly, simply, meagerly
- spoil:** (adj) spoiled, blighted, be stunted, destroyed, unsound, corrupt, disordered, reproduced
- fraudulently, defective, defiled, big
- spoliation:** (n) despoliation, despoilment, plunder, spoil, robbery, pillage, rapine, rape, pillaging, devastation, disservice
- spongy:** (adj) soft, absorbent, fungous, soggy, squashy, yielding, permeable, absorptive, spongy; (v) doughy; (adj, v) cushiony. ANTONYMS: (adj) impermeable, hard, solid, unyielding
- spontaneity:** (n) abandon, freedom, voluntariness, unaffectedness, suddenness, energy, recklessness, impetuosity, facility, hastiness, rashness. ANTONYMS: (n) deliberation, affectedness
- spouting:** (adj) spurting, squirting, flowing; (n) jet, running, harangue, drift, scope
- spree:** (n, v) frolic; (n) revel, fling, revelry, prank, orgy, bout, merriment, glee, mirth; (v) splurge
- sprig:** (n) branch, scion, twig, spray, bough, limb, sprout, staff, shillelah, bludgeon, brier
- springing:** (v) jumping, climbing, bounding, furious, conspicuous, prominent, ascending, projecting outwardly; (n) growth, suspension, emanation
- sprinkled:** (adj) scattered, speckled, wet, dotted
- spree:** (adj) dapper, neat, natty, jaunty, trim, rakish, stylish, dashing, snappy; (adj, v) tidy; (adj, n) bright. ANTONYMS: (adj) untidy, messy, unkept
- squander:** (v) fritter, dissipate, exhaust, lavish, blow, expend; (adj, v) consume, spend, desolate; (n) prodigality, dissipation. ANTONYMS: (v) conserve, manage
- squandered:** (adj) wasted, dissipated, emaciated, devastated, dissolute, diminished, desolated, desolate, cadaverous; (v) bewildered, employed ineffectually
- squeezing:** (n) constriction, compression, pressure, squeeze, crushing, compressing, expulsion, extrusion, distress, power play; (v) expression
- squire:** (n, v) escort; (n) landlord, gallant, attendant, beau, gentleman, esquire, landowner, landholder, armiger; (v) attend
- squirrel:** (n) hackee, spermophile, baranduki, burunduki, gopher, baranduki, barunduki, collector; (v) bank, conserve; (adj) courser
- stabling:** (n) accommodation,

livestock housing, stalling
stacks: (n) piles, set of bookshelves, rafts, plenty, oodles, mountain, scores; (adj, n) loads, myriad, lots; (adj) ample
stag: (v) spy, peach, denounce; (n) buck, dog, boar, cock, deer, roe, doe, reynard
staggerer: (n) footer, pedestrian, reeler
stagnant: (adj) quiet, motionless, inert, dead, slow, still, standing, immobile, inactive, stagnate, stationary. ANTONYMS: (adj) active, moving
staid: (adj, v) serious, sedate, grave, solemn, sober, demure; (adj) calm, quiet, composed, somber, decorous. ANTONYMS: (adj) frivolous, exciting, funny, daring, playful, bright, relaxed
stair: (n) stage, degree, footstep, rank, stairway, staircase, corbiestep, ladder, pace, steps, support
stalactite: (n) drip stone, cylinder
stalk: (n) stem, shank; (v) pursue, walk, march, follow, shadow, tail, track, trail, hunt
stalwart: (adj) brawny, brave, sturdy, strapping, resolute, hardy, powerful, sinewy, firm, stout, courageous. ANTONYMS: (adj) unreliable, weak, inconstant, feeble, delicate, cowardly, uncommitted
stammering: (n) hesitation, hesitancy, psellism, indistinct pronunciation, doubt; (adj) halting, hesitating, inarticulate, incoherent, broken, ashamed
stamping: (n) impression, blocking, coin, postage, stamping of rail
standpoint: (n) point of view, angle, outlook, viewpoint, position, perspective, side, attitude, slant, footing, view
standstill: (n) impasse, deadlock, cessation, pause, halt, stagnation, inaction, stay, stop, interruption; (adj, n) stand. ANTONYM: (n) progress
stank: (n) mine dam
staple: (n, v) nail, pin, tack; (n) raw material, material, stuff; (adj, n) basic; (adj) fundamental, central, main; (v) hook. ANTONYMS: (v) undo; (adj) minor
starlight: (n) rushlight, moonlight, firelight, candlelight
startling: (adj) wonderful, shocking, surprising, striking, alarming, appalling, marvellous, dramatic, frightful, sensational, lurid.

ANTONYMS: (adj) unremarkable, soothing, comforting
stateliness: (n) loftiness, magnificence, dignity, nobility, splendor, grandeur, greatness, grandness, starched stateliness, impressiveness, decorum. ANTONYM: (n) simplicity
stature: (n) height, altitude, standing, tallness, prestige, figure, growth, status, quality, rank, greatness
staunch: (adj) faithful, loyal, constant, solid, resolute, devoted, stalwart, secure, sturdy; (n, v) stanch; (adj, n) hardy. ANTONYM: (adj) disloyal
steadfastly: (adv) steadily, solidly, unwaveringly, resolutely, unflinching, unswerving, determinedly, faithfully, persistently, permanently, staunchly. ANTONYMS: (adv) unreliably, irresolutely, unfaithfully
steadiness: (adj, n) stability, firmness, steadfastness; (n) regularity, equilibrium, consistency, resolution, permanence, persistence, sureness; (adj) stableness. ANTONYMS: (n) unsteadiness, instability, unreliability
steady: (n) helpful, equilibrium
stealth: (n) stealing, furtiveness, stealthiness, slyness, larceny, thievery, theft, sneakiness, secretiveness, hiding; (adj) undercover. ANTONYM: (n) openness
stealthily: (adv) furtively, sneakily, surreptitiously, covertly, clandestinely, underhandedly, underhandedly, in secret, privately, sneakily; (adj, adv) noiselessly. ANTONYM: (adv) brazenly
stealthy: (adj) clandestine, secret, surreptitious, sneaky, covert, private, backstairs, concealed, feline; (adj, v) sly, insidious. ANTONYM: (adj) blatant
steaming: (adj) hot, sweltering, roasting, baking, hot under the collar, hazy, scorching; (adv) piping; (n) fumigation
steed: (n) horse, mount, charger, knight, courser, warhorse, pony, stallion, mare
steely: (adj) stern, rocky, inexorable, stony, icy, unbending, stiff, iron, austere, rugged, tough. ANTONYM: (adj) irresolute
steeped: (adj) seasoned, experienced
stentorian: (adj) booming, vocal, piercing, strident, resonant, powerful, flourishing, full, fuller,

palmy, stentorophonic
stereotyped: (adj, v) commonplace, stock, trite; (adj) hackneyed, banal, stale, corny, stereotypical; (v) established, familiar, incontrovertible. ANTONYMS: (adj) original, unconventional, fresh
sternly: (adv) severely, strictly, austere, harshly, rigidly, grimly, rigorously, stringently, seriously, relentlessly, solemnly. ANTONYMS: (adv) leniently, lightheartedly, kindly, warmly, cheerfully
stifled: (adj) strangled, suppressed, muffled, deafened, completely covered, dead, deadened, weak, deaf corn, regardless, decayed
stifling: (adj) close, oppressive, sweltering, stuffy, heavy, hot, torrid, sticky; (n) crushing, quelling, suppression. ANTONYMS: (adj) fresh, airy, cool, temperate
stile: (n) bar, flight of stairs, upright, vertical, step, barrier, montant
stillness: (n) hush, calmness, immobility, serenity, silence, quietness, peacefulness; (adj, n) calm, quiet, peace, still. ANTONYMS: (n) bustle, movement, uproar, motion, turbulence, turmoil, vigor, disturbance, chaos, agitation
stimulative: (adj) irritant, excitant, irritating, excitative, stimulating, stimulant, provocative, irritating, excitatory, bracing, moving
stinging: (adj) cutting, bitter, piquant, pricking; (adj, v) caustic, acrid, piercing, poignant, biting, pungent, keen. ANTONYMS: (adj) stingless, gentle
stings: (adj) stung
stocked: (adj) stocked with, furnished, full
stoic: (adj) stoical, matter-of-fact, stolid, apathetic; (n) unemotional person, philosopher
stoical: (adj, n) stoic; (adj) indifferent, patient, imperturbable, calm, spirited, princely, phlegmatic, exalted, elevated, lofty
stoicism: (n) indifference, unemotionality, apathy, emotionlessness, impassivity, self-control, phlegm, sluggishness; (adj, n) philosophy, equanimity; (adj) suttee
stolid: (adj) impassive, obtuse, stupid, heavy, doltish, bovine, insulse, expressionless, shallow, petty, apathetic. ANTONYMS: (adj) emotional, imaginative, exciting

stoned: (adj) intoxicated, drugged, tight, zonked, drunken, inebriate, inebriated, ecstatic, rabid, high, unconscious

stonework: (n) masonry, cyclopean masonry

stony: (adj) rocky, hard, rough, callous, cold, pitiless, flinty, unfeeling, obdurate, bleak, icy.

ANTONYMS: (adj) smooth, kind

stoop: (v) crouch, bend, deign, condescend, descend, squat, crouch, cringe, lean, lower oneself; (n) porch. ANTONYM: (v) straighten

stooped: (adj) hunched, stoop, stooping, crooked, bended, not straight, inclined, not erect, arched, asymmetrical, droopy

stooping: (adj) hunched, crooked, asymmetrical, not erect, not straight, corrupt; (n) patronage

stoppage: (n, v) arrest, stop, closure, hindrance; (n) obstruction, interruption, block, standstill, check, prevention, pause. ANTONYMS: (n) continuation, start, help

straightening: (n) tapping, straightening of a water course

straightway: (adv) presently, forthwith, directly, right, anon, immediately, at once, straightforward, promptly; (adj) straight, immediate

strait: (adj) narrow; (n) pinch, pass, inlet, need, channel, crisis, poverty, difficulty; (adj, n) quandary; (n, v) dilemma

strangeness: (n) oddity, oddness, quaintness, peculiarity, curiousness, abnormality, weirdness, foreignness, queerness, singularity, quirk. ANTONYMS: (n) familiarity, nativeness

strangled: (adj) smothered, completely covered, muffled, suppressed; (v) bowstringed

strangulation: (n) strangling, constriction, throttling, asphyxiation, execution; (v) suffocation

strapped: (adj) impecunious, poor, penniless, late, poverty-stricken, short of money, impoverished, destitute, insolvent, indigent

stratagem: (n) scheme, ruse, plan, trick, dodge, ploy; (n, v) contrivance, maneuver, deceit, intrigue; (adj, n) artifice

stratum: (n) layer, bed, level, seam, floor, ply, stage, story, horizon, class, plane

strayed: (v) stray

streaked: (adj) veined, striped,

streaky, brindled, lined, mottled, virgated, patterned; (v) areolar, cancellated, grated

streaks: (n) stripes, cords

streaming: (adj) flowing, flapping, detached, incoherent, baggy, slack, relaxed, loose, lax; (n) cyclosis; (v) disheveled

strenuous: (adj) arduous, energetic, hard, grueling, active, keen, tough, eager, dynamic, forward, difficult. ANTONYMS: (adj) weak, undemanding, refreshing, effortless, feeble, light

strenuously: (adv) energetically, zealously, arduously, severely, forcefully, earnestly, laboriously, busily, toilsomely, forwardly, hardly

strewn: (adj) spread, distributed, disordered, strewed, confused, covered, diffuse, disconnected, disjointed, circulated, dispersed

strife: (n) discord, disagreement, dissension, conflict, competition, feud, fight; (adj, n, v) dispute, debate; (n, v) controversy; (adj, n) quarrel. ANTONYMS: (n) accord, cooperation, calm, peace

striking: (adj) tough, ropy, muscular, fibrous, sinewy, glutinous, brawny, thready, tenacious, sticky, filamentous. ANTONYMS: (adj) plump, luxuriant

stripe: (n) strip, line, band, bar, stria, striation, chevron, mark, stroke, ribbon, scratch

stripling: (n) lad, boy, adolescent, teenager, youth, rocker, youngster, young man, child, pachuco; (adj) younger

stripping: (n) baring, denudation, stripping, removal, disforestation, scrubbing, strippingly, uncovering, find, back washing, cornhusking

stronghold: (n) bastion, fortress, keep, fortification, fort, bulwark, redoubt, strength; (adj, n) castle, fastness; (v) hold

strive: (v) strive

strut: (adj, n, v) swagger; (n, v) stalk, prance, stride, support; (n) buttress, brace, prop; (v) parade, boast, cock. ANTONYM: (v) conceal

studded: (adj) muricated, bristling, peopled, crowded, manifold, multinominal, multiple, multiplied, multitudinous, populous; (v) freckled

stump: (n) stub, end, pulpit; (v) confuse, stamp, baffle, perplex, nonplus, puzzle, bewilder, mystify. ANTONYM: (v) explain

stumped: (adj) bewildered, confused, at sea, without an answer, thrown, mystified, having difficulties, flummoxed, dumbfounded, baffled, at a complete loss

stung: (adj) sting, bit, annoyed, roiled, irritated, nettled, peeved, pissed, riled, stings, thrust

stunted: (adj) scrubby, little, scrawny, diminutive, puny, short, spare, weak, underdeveloped, dwarfish; (v) strangulated. ANTONYM: (adj) tall

stupefaction: (adj, n) stupor; (n) astonishment, daze, amazement, shock, bewilderment, perplexity, surprise, awe, grogginess, semiconsciousness

stupefied: (adj) stunned, amazed, astonished, bewildered, astounded, dumbfounded, stupid, confused, flabbergasted, dumfounded, groggy.

ANTONYMS: (adj) precise, unimpressed

stupefying: (adj) astounding, amazing, staggering, narcotic, miraculous, stupefyingly, inconceivable, stumbling, shocking, incredible, torpedinous

stupor: (n) lethargy, stupefaction, coma, shock, insensibility, unconsciousness, trance, sluggishness, torpor, haze, grogginess. ANTONYMS: (n) alertness, awareness, wakefulness

sturdily: (adv) strongly, firmly, stoutly, solidly, robustly, hardily, powerfully, soundly, hardly, substantially, stalwartly. ANTONYMS: (adv) lightly, flimsily, slightly

subdued: (adj) quiet, muffled, dull, restrained, muted, tame, faint, repressed, low, meek; (adj, v) resigned. ANTONYMS: (adj) enthusiastic, lively, uninhibited, unsubdued, rebellious, noisy, bright, elaborate, frivolous, upbeat

subjectively: (adv) randomly, capriciously, illogically, mentally, internally, individually, objectively, biasedly, without rhyme or reason, at random, by chance. ANTONYMS: (adv) objectively, impartially, logically

subjoined: (v) enclitical
sublimation: (n) exaltation, transmutation, transformation, purification, elevation, paragon, alteration, change, condensation, modification, shift

sublime: (adj, v) majestic; (adj)

- dignified, grand, lofty, magnificent, elevated, noble, exalted, glorious; (v) sacred, sublimate. ANTONYMS: (adj) poor, ridiculous
- sublimity:** (adj, n) nobility, elevation, majesty, loftiness, splendor; (n) magnificence, dignity, greatness, sublimeness; (adj) solemnity, heroism
- substratum:** (adj, n) substance; (n) bed, groundwork, matter, body, layer, principle, subsoil, element, substructure, brute matter
- subterranean:** (adj) underground, backdoor, profound, subaqueous, submarine, subterrene, subterrestrial, deep, hole-and-corner, subterraneous, subterranean
- succeeding:** (adj) following, subsequent, after, consecutive, posterior, ensuing, consequent, successive, consequential; (adj, adv) later; (v) succeed. ANTONYMS: (adj) outgoing, preceding
- successively:** (adv) in turn, one after the other, in succession, sequentially, serially, running, in order, gradually, subsequently, repeatedly, one after another
- sucking:** (n) suck, intake, uptake, aspiration, ingestion, consumption
- suddenness:** (n) steepness, hastiness, precipitance, precipitancy, precipitateness, sudden, craggedness, surprise, precipitousness, brusqueness, curtness
- suffocated:** (adj) suffocate; (v) asphyxiated
- suggestive:** (adj, v) expressive; (adj) obscene, spicy, allusive, graphic, smutty, significant, narrative, meaningful, epic, implicative
- sulk:** (v) mope, pout, brood, glower, stew, grizzle, frown, gripe; (n) mood, temper, sulkiness. ANTONYMS: (v) grin, smile
- sulphurous:** (adj) stifling, acerb, hot, sulphureous, infernal, brimstone, virulent, caustic, containing acid, sultry, burning hot
- sultry:** (adj) hot, humid, muggy, oppressive, stifling, sticky, ardent, sensual, stuffy, sweltering, torrid. ANTONYMS: (adj) fresh, cool, cold, temperate, dry
- summarily:** (adj, adv) briefly; (adv) shortly, succinctly, tersely, immediately, compendiously, compactly, concisely, speedily, condensedly, abridgedly. ANTONYM: (adv) eventually
- summon:** (v) assemble, convene, demand, ask, invoke, evoke, invite, muster, page, rally, convoke. ANTONYM: (v) disband
- sunbeams:** (n) sunshine, light, daylight, rays
- sundry:** (adj) several, different, diverse, assorted, miscellaneous, many, varied, mixed, divers, various; (n) sundries. ANTONYMS: (adj) uniform, homogeneous
- sunken:** (adj) concave, depressed, submerged, empty, underwater, cavernous, recessed, gaunt, low, depression, submarine. ANTONYM: (adj) convex
- sunrise:** (n) dawn, sunup, daybreak, daylight, aurora, first light, dayspring, twilight, dawning, break of day, crack of dawn. ANTONYMS: (n) sunset, sundown, nightfall
- supererogatory:** (adj, v) spare; (adj) excess, extra, superfluous, supernumerary, unnecessary, additional, surplus, unasked, supererogative; (v) duplicate
- superficially:** (adv) outwardly, cursorily, apparently, hastily, perfunctorily, trivially, glibly, externally, facilely, frivolously, seemingly. ANTONYMS: (adv) deeply, seriously, internally, basically, very, truly, underneath
- superfluity:** (n) plethora, redundancy, superabundance, nimety, overabundance, overplus, embarrassment, redundancy, extravagance, surplus, glut. ANTONYM: (n) shortfall
- superfluous:** (adj, v) spare; (adj) needless, extra, excess, excessive, unnecessary, surplus, pointless, superabundant, supernumerary, supererogatory. ANTONYMS: (adj) indispensable, important, essential, basic, pertinent
- superhuman:** (adj) supernatural, heavenly, preterhuman, superman, epic, daring, godlike, gallant, brave, celestial, incredible. ANTONYM: (adj) normal
- superimposed:** (adj, v) incumbent; (adj) layered, added, bedded, lying, obligatory, reclining, recumbent, stratified, superjacent; (v) superincumbent
- superincumbent:** (v) overlying, supernatant; (adj) superimposed, weighty, superjacent, superior, resting, oppressive, recumbent, obligatory, lying
- superintendence:** (n) oversight, direction, management, inspection, control, government, surveillance, supervising, care, guidance, invigilation
- superlative:** (adj) matchless, greatest, excellent, peerless, outstanding, supreme, maximum, highest; (n) peak; (adj, n) top; (adv) most. ANTONYMS: (adj) unexceptional, inferior, mediocre, poor, abysmal
- superlatively:** (adv) perfectly, preeminently, excellently, matchlessly, extremely, outstandingly, splendidly, magnificently, consummately, brilliantly, absolutely
- supersede:** (n, v) supplant, displace; (v) substitute, replace, succeed, commute, annul, deputize, cut out, overrule; (n) remove
- supervising:** (n) oversight, supervision, invigilation, direction, management, conservation, lapse, inadvertence; (v) supervise; (adj) administrative
- suppers:** (n) supper
- supplanting:** (n) shift, replacing, replacement, exchange, displacement reaction, deracination
- supple:** (adj, v) flexible, pliable, limber, pliant; (adj) lithe, soft, plastic, graceful, lithesome, lissom, lissome. ANTONYMS: (adj) rigid, inflexible, stocky, clumsy, hard, rough, slow, tight, unyielding
- supplicate:** (v) plead, entreat, beseech, request, pray, solicit, implore, beg, invoke, crave, petition
- supplicating:** (adj) imploring, soliciting, beseeching, entreating, petitioning, apologetic, begging, manifesting entreaty, petitory, piteous; (v) supplicate
- supposing:** (adv) admitting, conditionally, in case; (n) supposition, conjecture, thought, theory, assumption; (conj) although, what if; (v) suppose
- supposition:** (n, v) conjecture; (n) assumption, hypothesis, presumption, premise, speculation, surmise, guess, supposal, thought, imagination. ANTONYMS: (n) fact, knowledge, proof, reality, practice
- surmised:** (adj) rude, conjectural, assumed
- surmounted:** (adj) beaten
- surpass:** (v) beat, outdo, exceed, surmount, better, excel, outstrip, overcome, overrun, best, go beyond. ANTONYMS: (v) fail, lose, follow, trail

- surplice:** (n) robe, Geneva gown
frock, gown, pallium
- surveying:** (n) mensuration,
measurement, investigation,
triangulation; (v) inspect, examine;
(adj) observant
- suspense:** (n) doubt, expectancy,
anticipation, indecision, insecurity,
unrest, expectation, irresolution,
suspension, tension; (adj, n)
hesitation. ANTONYM: (n)
knowledge
- suspiciously:** (adj, adv) doubtfully,
skeptically, hesitantly,
unbelievably; (adv) mistrustfully,
warily, uncertainly, shadily,
dubiously, watchfully,
questioningly. ANTONYMS: (adv)
carelessly, gullibly, thoughtlessly,
certainly, confidently
- sustaining:** (adj) underneath,
alimentary, at the bottom of,
comforting, filling, fundamental,
healthy, profitable, rich; (n)
continuation, maintenance
- sustenance:** (n) living, food,
maintenance, subsistence, fare,
sustentation, provisions,
nourishment, nutriment, aliment,
livelihood. ANTONYM: (n) extras
- swamp:** (v) flood, submerge,
overwhelm, inundate, drench; (n)
marsh, mire, quagmire, morass; (adj,
v) sink, drown. ANTONYMS: (v)
underwhelm, disperse, dry
- swamped:** (adj) flooded, inundated,
overcome, engulfed, busy,
overwhelmed, overpowered,
teeming; (adv, v) aground; (v)
grounded, wrecked. ANTONYM:
(adj) clear
- swarm:** (n) host, horde, multitude,
drove, throng, cloud, assembly; (n,
v) mob; (v) teem, pour; (adj) shoal.
ANTONYMS: (v) retreat; (n) few
- swarming:** (adj) full, crowded, alive,
packed, populous, sensitive, thick;
(v) dense, crowded to suffocation,
serried, closely packed.
ANTONYMS: (adj) clear, deserted
- swarthy:** (adj) dusky, black, swart,
sable, somber, dun, tawny, coloured,
colored, atramentous; (n) brunette.
ANTONYMS: (adj) fair, light
- swath:** (n) swathe, band, track,
windrow, swarth, short grass, space,
bandage, swath width, swatch,
smash
- swayed:** (adj) persuaded, susceptible,
touched, convinced. ANTONYM:
(adj) doubtful
- swearing:** (n) curse, expletive,
profanity, oath, abuse, blasphemy,
swearword, execration, adjuration,
asseveration; (v) swear
- swears:** (n) swearing
- sweating:** (n) sweat, exudation,
diaphoresis, hidrosis, sudation,
extravasation, fermentation,
transpiration, bodily process; (adj)
perspiring, sweaty
- sweetheart:** (n) dear, girl, darling,
mistress, flame, beloved, boyfriend,
love, steady; (adj, n) beau, admirer.
ANTONYMS: (n) foe, enemy
- sweetness:** (n) sugariness, sweet,
redolence, pleasantness, fragrance,
aroma, charm, perfume, amenity,
niceness, kindness. ANTONYMS:
(n) sourness, sharpness,
unpleasantness, harshness,
tastelessness, unkindness
- swelled:** (adj) big, inflated, bloated,
swollen, adult, boastful, bighearted,
bad, fully grown, crowing, elder
- swelling:** (n) protuberance, lump,
swell, intumescence, growth,
projection, prominence, bulge,
dropsy; (adj, v) inflated; (adj)
growing. ANTONYM: (n) decline
- swiftness:** (n) speed, haste, rapidity,
celerity, acceleration, quickness,
promptness, pace, velocity, agility,
dispatch. ANTONYM: (n)
clumsiness
- swimmer:** (n) bather, natator, surfer,
diver, traveller, traveler, aquanaut,
athlete, surferboarder, divers, plunger
- swoon:** (adj, n, v) faint; (adj, n)
collapse; (n) fainting, syncope,
prostration, deliquium; (v) conk,
black out, pass out, die; (adj) puff
- swoop:** (v) pounce, raid, descend,
clutch, wrench; (n) descent, slide,
dive; (n, v) sweep, stoop, plunge
- synonym:** (n) equivalent word, word,
equivalence, definition
- tablecloth:** (n) duster, napery, rag,
table linen
- tablet:** (n) slab, pad, pill, lozenge,
monument, capsule, pellet, dragee,
abacus; (adj) plate; (v) parchment
- factily:** (adv) unspokenly, implicitly,
impliedly, wordlessly, stilly,
voicelessly, assumedly,
unexpressedly
- taciturnity:** (n) reserve, silence,
uncommunicativeness, military
reserve, modesty, secrecy, oblivion,
substitute, pauciloquy, quietness,
muteness
- tact:** (n) diplomacy, delicacy, finesse,
address, discretion, skill,
consideration, refinement, grace,
thoughtfulness, tactfulness.
ANTONYMS: (n) frankness,
carelessness, thoughtlessness,
insensitivity, clumsiness
- tailboard:** (n) tailgate, boot lid, gate
- tailless:** (adj) acaudate, ecaudate
- takings:** (n) return, revenue,
earnings, yield, take, issue, reward,
haul, payoff; (n, v) income, profits.
ANTONYM: (n) expenditure
- tambourine:** (n) drum, tympan,
timbrel, tamburin, tambourin,
membranophone
- tame:** (v) break, subdue, soften,
domesticate; (adj) meek, docile,
bland, domestic, gentle, slow; (adj,
v) moderate. ANTONYMS: (adj)
exciting, bright, unmanageable,
interesting, untamed, inspiring,
brilliant, colorful, rebellious, lively
- tamely:** (adv) dully, blandly, gently,
insipidly, obediently,
uninterestingly, moderately,
brokenly, subduedly, domestically,
flatly. ANTONYMS: (adv) cruelly,
assertively, disobediently,
interestingly, wildly
- taming:** (n) conditioning, training,
breaking in; (adj) calming,
humanizing
- tangled:** (adj) involved, complex,
knotted, intricate, complicated,
entangled, knotty, convoluted,
disheveled, tousled, matted.
ANTONYMS: (adj) tidy,
straightforward, untangled, neat,
simple
- tanned:** (adj) bronzed, suntanned,
browned; (n) brunette.
ANTONYMS: (adj) pale, untanned
- tantalizing:** (adj) tempting, attractive,
inviting, tantalising, alluring,
appealing, enticing, fine; (adj, v)
appetizing; (v) provoquod, spicy
- tantrums:** (n) angry mood,
acharnement, pet, fit, passion,
grumpiness, tiff, towering passion,
irritability, crabbiness, peevishness
- taper:** (n) candle, taper hole, bougie,
rushlight, taper ratio; (v) sharpen,
point, acuminate, diminish, lessen,
reduce. ANTONYMS: (v) rise,
widen
- tapering:** (adj) narrow, narrowing,
pointed, angustation, coarctation,
conical, dwindling, constricting,
constrictive, decreasing; (n)
crowning
- taps:** (n) demise, bugle call
- tarnished:** (adj) stained, tainted, dim,
besmirched, spotted, imperfect,
damaged, flyblown, dull, messy,

- maggoty. ANTONYMS: (adj) clean, unblemished, famous
- tartpot:** (n) kettle
- tartly:** (adv) sharply, sarcastically, sourly, biting, bitterly, acerbically, harshly, caustically, keenly, cuttingly, vinegarly. ANTONYM: (adv) kindly
- tasselled:** (adj) decorated
- taunt:** (n, v) ridicule, gibe, flout, insult, mock, deride, sneer, twit, quip; (n) scoff; (v) bait. ANTONYMS: (n, v) respect, compliment; (v) applaud, comfort
- tavern:** (n) hotel, saloon, bar, inn, pub, public house, pothouse, taphouse, cabaret, khan, hostelry
- tawny:** (n) tan, buff; (adj, n) brown, auburn; (adj) luteous, golden, sallow, russet, chestnut, creamy, moderately black
- tearful:** (adj) dolorous, maudlin, watery, weeping, tearful, sad, dolorous, wet, whimpering, sorrowful; (v) mournful. ANTONYMS: (adj) cheerful, tearless
- tease:** (n, v) annoy; (adj, v) molest, harry, worry, bait; (v) taunt, kid, pester, plague, provoke, mock. ANTONYM: (v) placate
- teasingly:** (adv) humorously, lightheartedly, mischievously, annoyingly, mockingly, pesteringly
- tediousness:** (n) boredom, dullness, monotony, flatness, ennui, dulness, prosiness, tediousness, tiresomeness, irksomeness; (adj) wearisomeness
- teeming:** (adj) abundant, profuse, swarming, crowded, overflowing, exuberant, copious, plentiful, productive, prolific, multitudinous. ANTONYMS: (adj) deserted, lacking, needing, wanting, clear, scarce, scanty
- temerity:** (n) nerve, effrontery, hardihood, boldness, rashness, imprudence, audaciousness, carelessness, assurance, indiscretion, venturesomeness. ANTONYMS: (n) caution, care, reticence
- temperance:** (n) moderation, abstinence, abstemiousness, control, restraint, moderateness, soberness, forbearance, measure, gravity, asceticism. ANTONYMS: (n) intemperance, wildness
- tempered:** (adj) attempered, temperate, moderated, toughened, subdued, set, enured, proportioned, properly adapted, emotionally hardened, treated. ANTONYM: (adj) untempered
- temporal:** (adj) secular, earthly, profane, lay, carnal, mortal, fleeting, temporary, transient, impermanent, mundane. ANTONYMS: (adj) spiritual, otherworldly, mental, permanent, perpetual, lasting
- tenderly:** (adv) softly, kindly, delicately, affectionately, fondly, warmly, painfully, sensitively, caringly, sympathetically, gently. ANTONYMS: (adv) roughly, severely, disappointingly, harshly
- tenderness:** (n) fondness, soreness, love, affection, sympathy; (adj, n) clemency, mildness, compassion, gentleness, softness, delicacy. ANTONYMS: (n) pleasure, dryness, hatred, strength, detachment
- tending:** (n) care, hairdressing, aid, treatment, attention, babysitting, incubation; (adj) apt, conducive, prone, disposed
- tergiversation:** (n) equivocation, defection, desertion, prevarication, veering, turningness, state's evidence, renunciation, recidivation, recantation, double entendre
- terminate:** (v) close, end, complete, stop, cease, conclude, drop, dismiss, discontinue, dissolve, halt. ANTONYMS: (v) start, establish, open, continue, create, hire, initiate, commence, prolong, sustain, rise
- terrestrially:** (adv) serenely, worldly, earthily, planetarily, globally, secularly
- thank:** (n) curtain call, appreciation, acknowledgement, blessing
- thanklessly:** (adv) unthankfully, unappreciatively, ingrately, unappreciatedly, ungratifyingly
- thanksgiving:** (n) benediction, grace, acknowledgment, thanks, recognition, gratitude, prayer, saving grace, approval, gracility, grace of God
- thatch:** (n) thatching, roof, Edward thatch, teach, ceiling, Blackbeard, tile, sea rover, roofing material, sea robber, hair
- thence:** (adv) therefore, thus, therefrom, thereof, consequently, then, so, thereafter, thenceforth, since, on account of
- thereabout:** (adv) thereby, by that
- thereabouts:** (adj, adv) about; (adv) nearly, generally, around, approximately, in the region of, more or less, something like, almost, so; (adv, n) hereabouts
- therefrom:** (adv) therefore, thereof, hence; (adj) redundancy, strictly, exact, expected, likeness, deportment, coincidence, accurate
- therein:** (adv) in this, in there
- thereon:** (adv) on that, thereupon, afterward, at once, early, immediately, therefore
- theretofore:** (adj) beforehand, beforehand, ere; (adv) erewhile
- thereupon:** (adv) hereupon, next, then, immediately, therefore, therewith, in the sequel, close upon, upon which, whereupon, accordingly
- thermometer:** (n) thermocouple, thermograph, telethermometer, cryometer, pyrometer, platinum thermometer, heat indicator, gas thermometer, candy thermometer; (v) heliometer, galvanometer
- thickened:** (adj) calloused, concentrated, incriminated, spissated, stiff, tough, becoming thicker, inspissated
- thickening:** (n) thickener, inspissation, growth, lymph node, pommel, indiscreptibility, node, bodying up, lymph gland, knob, indivisibility
- thicket:** (n) brake, coppice, brush, grove, spinney, bush, brushwood, cluster, underbrush, undergrowth, underwood
- thieving:** (n) larceny, stealing, robbery, embezzlement, misapplication, misappropriation, peculation, defalcation, burglary, thievery; (adj) thievish. ANTONYMS: (adj) philanthropic, benevolent
- thimbleful:** (n) mouthful, handful, containerful, capful, spoonful
- thirst:** (n, v) hunger, lust, wish; (n) longing, yen, craving, hankering, dryness, appetite; (v) starve, crave. ANTONYM: (n) dislike
- thistle:** (adj) porcupine, beard, hedgehog, feather, mote, chevaux de frise, dust, down, brier; (n) nodding thistle, carline thistle
- thither:** (adv) hither, whither, on that point, in that respect, at that place, in that location; (adj) further, ulterior, remoter, succeeding, more distant
- thorny:** (adj) prickly, difficult, spiny, briery, hard, sharp, burry, awkward, barbed, knotty, tricky. ANTONYMS: (adj) simple, smooth, easy, straightforward, unpointed, solvable, dull
- thoughtless:** (adj, v) careless,

heedless, rash, improvident; (adj) reckless, inattentive, hasty, unthinking, negligent, neglectful, imprudent. ANTONYMS: (adj) considerate, considered, heedful, prudent, kind, cautious, mindful, responsible, attentive, observant, sensible

thoughtlessly: (adv) carelessly, inconsiderately, heedlessly, rashly, imprudently, inattentively, hastily, negligently, in discreetly, unheedingly; (adj, adv) foolishly. ANTONYMS: (adv) considerately, carefully, cautiously, prudently, sensibly, wisely

thoughtlessness: (n) inconsideration, rashness, carelessness, impulsiveness, imprudence, indiscretion, heedlessness, bluntness, foolhardiness, neglect, negligence. ANTONYMS: (n) thoughtfulness, care, responsibility, carefulness, caution, wisdom, diplomacy, sensitivity

thousandth: (adj) millesimal; (n) simple fraction

threadbare: (adj, v) stale, shabby, dilapidated, bald, frayed, faded; (adj) hackneyed, worn, banal, trite, tattered. ANTONYMS: (adj) new, unused, reliable, fresh, unworn, pristine, original

thrilled: (adj) jubilant, excited, happy, overjoyed, elated, ecstatic, pleased, thrilled, contented, grateful, flattered. ANTONYMS: (adj) bored, unhappy, depressed, desolate, sad, down, miserable

thrilling: (adj, n) electric; (adj) exciting, sensational, exhilarating, electrifying, emotional, rousing, gripping, stimulating; (adj, v) impressive; (n, v) swelling. ANTONYMS: (adj) boring, depressing, discouraging, upsetting, uninspiring

thriving: (adj) successful, prosperous, prospering, booming, rich, affluent, growing, lush, lucky, healthy, luxuriant. ANTONYMS: (adj) declining, languishing, arid, moribund, dying, disappearing, poor, unwell

throb: (n, v) quiver, ache, pulse, pound, thrill, tingle; (v) pulsate, palpitate, flutter, shudder; (n) pulsation

throbbing: (adj, n) beating; (n) pounding, pulsation, pulse, ache, palpitation, sting; (adj) painful, pulsatile, palpitating, palpitant.

ANTONYM: (n) pleasure

throes: (n) hurt, labor, suffering
throng: (n, v) swarm, herd, mob, flock, press; (n) multitude, host, horde, mass, assembly, concourse.

ANTONYMS: (n) trickle, few; (v) disperse

thronged: (adj) throng, busy, populous, brisk, teeming, swarming, sprightly, sensitive, replete, overflowing; (n) persistent

thrusting: (n) thrust, push, jab, poke, jabbing, stab, driving force, scoke, sack, punch, *Phytolacca Americana*

thunderous: (adj) earsplitting, deafening, loud, booming, roaring, terrific, shrill, boisterous, unpropitious, turbulent, thriving

ticking: (n) tick, cloth, fabric, ticken; (adj) living

tickling: (adj) sexually arousing, titillative, titillating, tingling, stinging, prickling, exciting, erotic; (n) titillation

ticklish: (adj) difficult, sensitive, tricky, tender, awkward, touchy, unsettled, unstable; (adj, v) precarious; (v) slippery, questionable. ANTONYMS: (adj) unproblematic, easy

tidings: (n) intelligence, information, message, report, word, advice, communication, dispute, wind, statement, tiding

tightening: (n) clamping, thinning, tapering, alteration, modification, narrowing, reduction, adjustment.

ANTONYM: (n) expansion

tike: (n) churl, child, pickaninny, kid, kiddy, kern, silly, barbarian, bambino, changeling, orphan

tiling: (n) planchment, patching, plafond, barrack, tile, shed, leads, tile covering, slating, slates, covering

tilt: (n, v) slant, slope, lean, list, rock, careen, sway; (v) pitch, tip, cant, lurch. ANTONYMS: (n, v)

surrender; (n) agreement; (v) yield

tilted: (adj) leaning, slanting, inclined, oblique, crooked, slanted, atilt, askew, sloping, at an angle, uneven. ANTONYM: (adj) upright

timid: (adj) shy, afraid, diffident, coy, bashful, nervous, frightened, apprehensive, modest; (adj, adv) cowardly; (adj, n) cautious.

ANTONYMS: (adj, n) brave; (adj) confident, bold, fearless, resolute, forward, daring, brazen, extrovert, brash, talkative

timidity: (n) shyness, fear, bashfulness, nervousness, reserve,

cowardice, fearfulness, timidity, modesty, humility, coyness.

ANTONYMS: (n) confidence, boastfulness, swagger, brashness, security

timidly: (adv) fearfully, timorously, cautiously, shyly, diffidently, anxiously, nervously, shily, gingerly, modestly, apprehensively.

ANTONYMS: (adv) confidently, bravely, daringly, brashly, fearlessly, decisively, brazenly

timorously: (adv) fearfully, afraidly, anxiously, shily, bashfully, timidly, diffidently, shyly, trepidly, apprehensively, hesitantly

tined: (adj) forked, tinct, sharp, bifurcate, biramous, branched, prongy, divided

tinged: (adj) plausible, bright, painted, fey, touched, specious, colorful, stained, tined, dyed, tinct

tipple: (v) booze, imbibe, bib, guzzle, carouse, fuddle; (n) potation, draught, draft, alcohol; (adj) tope

tiptoe: (v) tip, tippytoe, creep, patter, skirt, skip, tilt, sidle, lean; (adj) alert; (n) quieter. ANTONYM: (v) clump

tirade: (n) diatribe, invective, sermon, speech, recitation, Philippic, oration, delivery, broadside, lecture, say. ANTONYMS: (n) calm, harmony, praise

tire: (n, v) bore, jade; (adj, n, v) fatigue; (v) exhaust, harass, fog, weary, wear, pall, prostrate; (n) tyre. ANTONYMS: (v) interest, invigorate, energize

titter: (n, v) laugh, chuckle, snigger, chortle, twitter, gurgle, snort, guffaw; (v) snicker; (n) laughter, quiet laughter

toad: (n) batrachian, anuran, salientian, crapaud, sneak, sheep frog, robber frog, spadefoot, spadefoot toad; (v) toady; (adj) satyr

toils: (n) net, cobweb, meshes, mesh

tolerable: (adj) passable, mediocre, bearable, fair, middling, reasonable, adequate, respectable, endurable, sufferable; (adj, v) satisfactory.

ANTONYMS: (adj) intolerable, exceptional, unbearable, unsatisfactory, bad, inadequate, appalling, inadmissible

tolerated: (adj) permissive, permitted, permitting, suffered, admissible

tomboy: (adj) rough diamond, unlicked cub; (n) romp, girl, fille, play, missy, laughter, hoiden, frolic, tomrig

tomestone: (n) headstone,

- monument, stone, memorial, marker, keystone
toned: (adj) pastel
toothless: (adj) powerless, immobilized, edentulous, dull. ANTONYM: (adj) effective
toothwort: (n) crinkleroot, Dentaria Diphylla, crinkle root, pepper root, bitter cress, bittercress
toper: (n, v) drunkard, sot; (n) drinker, tippler, carouser, guzzler, bibber, bacchant, imbiber, winebibber, tosspot
topographical: (n) local, topical; (adv) in situ
topping: (n) frosting, icing, filling, precutting, meringue; (adj) proud, best possible
topple: (v) collapse, tumble, fall, stumble, overthrow, upset, overturn, pitch, capsze, tumble down, oust. ANTONYMS: (v) place, put, straighten, install, right
torment: (n, v) tease, distress, harass, afflict, pain, annoy; (n) agony, anguish, suffering; (v) persecute, oppress. ANTONYMS: (v) please, delight, placate, comfort, soothe; (n) contentment, happiness, pleasure, calm, content
torpidity: (n) lethargy, lassitude, torpidness, listlessness, hibernation, inertia, languor, sluggishness, passiveness, coma, idleness
torrent: (n) flood, cloudburst, overflow, stream, downpour, rain, shower, soaker, inundation; (adj, n) volley, eruption. ANTONYMS: (n) drought, trickle, shower
tortuous: (adj) indirect, intricate, circuitous, complex, knotty, winding, convoluted, sinuous, involved, devious, roundabout. ANTONYMS: (adj) straightforward, straight, uncomplicated, untwisted, easy, simple
torturing: (n) torture, excruciation, crucifixion, torment, agony, anguish, dismemberment; (adj) harrowing, agonizing, torturous, agonising
tossing: (n) cast; (adj) moving
totter: (v) stumble, shake, falter, lurch, rock, teeter, waver, waddle, toddle, stagger, shamble
tottering: (adj) unsteady, ramshackle, easily shaken, tottery, sick, rocky, broken, trembling, cracked; (v) drooping; (n) convulsion
townsfolk: (n) borough, town, municipality
townspeople: (n) town, borough, township, municipality
tracing: (n) trace, copy, design, model, chase, drafting, action of tracing, blueprint, cast, draftsmanship, ghost
tracking: (n) trailing, rutting, trajectography, chase, following, blade tracking, rut, space tracking, tracking control
trackless: (adj) shoreless, roadless, unaccessible, inaccessible, lacking pathways, untracked, untrodden, untrod
traditionary: (adj) traditional
tragically: (adv) sadly, unluckily, calamitously, terribly, inauspiciously, dreadfully, devastatingly, disastrously, deplorably, woefully, miserably. ANTONYM: (adv) happily
traitor: (n) betrayer, conspirator, Judas, renegade, rat, quisling, deserter, cheat, collaboratorist; (adj) insurgent, mutineer. ANTONYMS: (n) loyalist, patriot
tramp: (n) bum, hobo, beggar; (n, v) walk, trudge, vagabond, ramble, march; (v) roam, range, plod. ANTONYMS: (n, v) loyalist; (n) resident
tramping: (adj) moving
tranquility: (n) peace, serenity, repose, calm, ease, rest, easiness, quietude, quietness, harmony; (adj, n) placidity. ANTONYMS: (n) chaos, violence, uproar, upheaval
tranquillity: (adj, n, v) quiet; (n) serenity, quietness, relaxation, quietude, peacefulness, calmness; (n, v) repose, rest; (adj, n) stillness, calm. ANTONYMS: (n) noise, agitation, movement, panic, turbulence, turmoil
transient: (adj) fleeting, temporary, passing, transitory, fugacious, ephemeral, momentary, temporal, provisional; (adj, n) fugitive, vagabond. ANTONYMS: (adj) enduring, lasting, immanent, long; (n) resident
transitory: (adj) transient, temporary, fleeting, momentary, brief, ephemeral, temporal, fugacious, impermanent, fugitive, transitive. ANTONYMS: (adj) permanent, lasting
transmutation: (n) transformation, metamorphosis, change, alteration, mutation, transition, shift, reduction, transubstantiation, retrogression, strengthening
travesty: (n, v) parody, burlesque, caricature, lampoon, ridicule; (n) mockery, farce, spoof, takeoff, sham, charade
treble: (adj) threefold, ternary, triplex, thribble, double, dual, high, voce di testa, shrill; (adj, v) triple; (v) sing
tremble: (adj, n, v) shiver; (n, v) quiver, shudder, thrill, palpitate; (adj, v) totter, quake; (n) throb; (v) flutter, quail, falter. ANTONYMS: (v) steady, calm
tremor: (n, v) shiver, quake, shudder, shake; (n) agitation, vibration, earthquake, convulsion; (adj, v) flutter; (adj, n) trepidation; (v) tremble
tremulous: (adj) shaky, trembling, shaking, fearful, apprehensive, quavering, fidgety, shivering; (n) nervous, diffident, coy. ANTONYMS: (adj) stable, confident, steady
tremulously: (adv) fearfully, shiveringly, tremblingly, shakingly, quiveringly, quaveringly, fidgetily, vibrantly
trencher: (n) dish, platter, chopping board, porringer, potager, ditch digger, saucer, calabash, crucible
tresses: (n) locks, mop, head of hair
tribulation: (n) trial, misery, distress, ordeal, calamity, trouble, affliction, suffering, hardship, pain, grief. ANTONYMS: (n) peace, ease, opportunity
tributary: (n) feeder, branch, affluent, arm, stream, brook, watercourse; (adj) secondary, subsidiary, contributory, subordinate. ANTONYMS: (adj) original, primary, source
trickle: (n, v) dribble, drip, distill, drool; (v) percolate, ooze, seep, flow, leak, filter, leach. ANTONYMS: (n) throng, deluge, onslaught; (v) gush, flow, flood
trickster: (n) tricker, impostor, cheater, swindler, joker, deceiver, faker, fraud, liar, hypocrite; (n, v) rogue
trifle: (n, v) play; (adj, n, v) trinket; (v) dally, fiddle, flirt, fool, frivol; (n) nothing, triviality, detail; (adj, n) bagatelle
trifler: (n) dilettante, fribble, fribbler, gamester, gambler, wanton, doodle, dangler, toyer, dallier; (v) waiter on Providence
trifles: (n) jests, nonsense, nugae, trivia
trifling: (adj) paltry, slight, petty,

- negligible, immaterial, worthless, trivial, minor, small; (adj, v) inconsequential; (adj, n) frivolity. ANTONYMS: (adj) significant, worthwhile, major, considerable, crucial, enormous, great, mature, profound, substantial; (n) importance
- trilled:** (adj) rolling, involute, furled, billowing, reverberating, resounding, resonating, resonant, pronounceable, reverberative
- trimmed:** (adj) down, slashed, shortened, neat, mown, level, gelded, emasculated, demure, cunning, sly
- trimmings:** (n) embellishments, trappings, finery, fixing, superfluities, plumage, edge, paraphernalia, gear, additions, fixings
- trite:** (adj) commonplace, banal, stock, prosaic, threadbare, timeworn, stereotyped, tired; (adj, v) stale, common, familiar. ANTONYMS: (adj) important, imaginative, pertinent, relevant, fresh, exceptional, exciting
- trod:** (adj) trampled, damaged, beaten, compressed, packed down. ANTONYM: (adj) loose
- tropic:** (adj) hot, torrid, equatorial; (n) parallel of latitude, line of latitude, latitude
- tropics:** (n) climatic zone, Torrid Zone
- trot:** (n, v) run; (n) crib, canter, pony, gait, ride, lope; (v) gallop, general, frequent, household
- troubling:** (adj) worrying, disquieting, distressing, distressful, disconcerting, alarming, perturbing, bad, annoying, sad, worrisome. ANTONYM: (adj) reassuring
- trough:** (n) chute, channel, manger, depression, gutter, conduit, ditch, canal, crib, valley, bowl. ANTONYM: (n) ridge
- troupe:** (n) troop, band, party, corps, ensemble, minstrelsy, circus, organization, theater company, chorus, cast
- troy:** (n) city, Ilion, Ilium, metropolis, system of weights, troy weight
- truant:** (n) deserter, hooky player, nonattender, fugitive, wrongdoer, idler, absentee, absenter, offender; (v) shirk; (adj) AWOL
- truism:** (n) platitude, commonplace, banality, aphorism, theorem, proverb, adage, maxim, cliché, scholium, saying
- trumpet:** (n) horn, cornet, bugle, clarion, trump, brass, trombone; (v) proclaim, promulgate, show off, blare
- trumpets:** (n) *Sarracenia flava*, yellow pitcher plant, pitcher plant, yellow trumpet
- trunks:** (n) short pants, pants, luggage, Jockey shorts, Jamaica shorts, Bermuda shorts, bathing trunks, bathing suit, costume, drawers, swimming trunks
- truss:** (v) bandage, bind, fasten, bundle, tie up; (n, v) pack, prop; (n) frame, stay, fagot; (adj) pinion
- trustworthy:** (adj) honest, trusty, dependable, safe, faithful, sound, certain, good, responsible; (adj, n, v) credible; (adj, n) true. ANTONYMS: (adj) suspect, dubious, untrustworthy, undependable, sneaky, doubtful, deceitful, disloyal, disreputable, irresponsible, degenerate
- truthful:** (adj) honest, genuine, frank, real, candid, sincere, guileless, realistic, reliable, faithful, honorable. ANTONYMS: (adj) dishonest, inaccurate, fictional, guarded, lying, improbable, deceptive, deceitful, false, wrong, evasive
- tuft:** (n) wisp, crest, cluster, truss, knot, fagot, tassel, strand, thicket, curl; (adj, n) feather
- tufted:** (adj) hairy, cespitose, caespitose, topknotted, plumed, hirsute, rough, decorated, filamentous, fimbriated, bushy
- tumbled:** (adj) disordered
- tumbling:** (adj) falling, billowing, dropping, rolled; (adj, adv) plunging; (n) gymnastics, acrobatics, stunting, stunt flying, rumbling; (adv) headfirst
- tumultuous:** (adj, n) boisterous, tempestuous; (adj) disorderly, riotous, turbulent, noisy, furious, loud, troubled, disturbed; (adj, v) tumultuary. ANTONYMS: (adj) peaceful, calm
- turgid:** (adj) bombastic, tumid, inflated, puffy, declamatory, large, tumescent, orotund; (adj, prep, v) bloated, swollen; (v) dropsical. ANTONYMS: (adj) readable, concise, lively, modest
- turnpike:** (n) superhighway, motorway, freeway, expressway, road, pike, highway, hayfork, pick, royal road, state highway
- turpentine:** (n) turps, oil of turpentine, spirit of turpentine, oleoresin, essential oil; (v) wood alcohol
- twelvemonth:** (n) calendar year, civil year, financial year, common year, amount of time, time period, period of time, bissextile year, class, yr, period
- twig:** (n) sprig, bough, limb, shoot, offshoot, spray, branchlet, scion, stalk; (n, v) stick; (v) grasp
- twigs:** (n) sprays
- twilight:** (n) nightfall, night, sunset, gloaming, evening, sundown, eventide, fall, decline, evenfall; (adj) aurora. ANTONYMS: (n) daybreak, sunrise
- twill:** (adj, v) curl, wrinkle; (adj) corded, crisp; (v) braid, plexus, felt, plat, plait, mesh; (n) cloth
- twine:** (n, v) coil; (n) string, rope, cord; (v) lace, entwine, enlace, meander, weave, intertwine, twist. ANTONYMS: (v) untwine, straighten, unwind
- twinkle:** (n, v) flash, gleam, shimmer, glimmer, glisten, glitter, scintillate, wink; (adj, n, v) flicker; (v) shine, blink
- twinkling:** (n) moment, jiffy, minute, second, flash, trice, twinkle, wink, split second, breath; (adj) sparkling. ANTONYM: (adj) dull
- twirl:** (n, v) twist, turn, roll, coil, whirl, curl, wheel, swirl; (v) twiddle, pivot; (n) rotation
- twisty:** (adj) winding, twisting, oblique, tangled, squirming, roundabout, female, curved, labyrinthine, rambling, crooked. ANTONYM: (adj) direct
- twitching:** (n) tic, fibrillation, cramp, fasciculation, spasm, contraction, vellication, spasmodic tic
- twopence:** (n) tuppence, coin
- tying:** (n) ligation, bundling, attachment, knotting, lacing; (adj) binding; (v) restrict
- ugliness:** (n) eyesore, offensiveness, hideousness, garishness, gaudiness, grotesqueness, grotesquery, repulsiveness, homeliness, unsightliness; (adj, n) unpleasantness. ANTONYMS: (n) beauty, attractiveness, pleasantness
- unaccompanied:** (adj) lone, solitary, unescorted, unaided, unattended; (adj, adv) only, on your own, without help; (adv) solo, singly, by yourself. ANTONYM: (adj) together
- unaccountable:** (adj) incomprehensible, inexplicable, strange, unintelligible,

- unexplainable, mysterious, impenetrable, undiscoverable, undecipherable, unknowable, unnatural. ANTONYMS: (adj) accountable, explainable, responsible, explicable
- unaccustomed:** (adj) new, strange, unusual, inexperienced, unseasoned, unacquainted, uncustomary, rare, unfamiliar, unwonted; (adj, v) untrained. ANTONYMS: (adj) familiar, normal, ready, usual, prepared, knowledgeable, customary
- unadulterated:** (adj) clean, simple, genuine, sheer, absolute, perfect, unsophisticated, true, authentic, real, neat. ANTONYMS: (adj) diluted, hidden, imitation, provisional
- unaided:** (adj) naked, unassisted, defenseless, nude, bare, independent, unaccompanied, open; (adj, adv) alone, on your own; (adv) single-handed. ANTONYM: (adv) jointly
- unalterable:** (adj) constant, inalterable, immutable, permanent, invariable, firm, changeless, rigid, stable, irrevocable, unchangeable. ANTONYMS: (adj) alterable, impermanent, temporary, fluid, flexible
- unanimity:** (n) accord, concord, harmony, agreement, unity, consensus, union, unison, vox populi, concert, acclamation. ANTONYM: (n) disarray
- unanswerable:** (adj) irrefutable, final, incontestable, irresponsible, incontrovertible, indisputable, decisive, ultimate, undeniable, not refragable; (v) probative
- unanswered:** (v) unrefuted, unconfuted; (adj) unsolved, unresolved, unrequited, unreciprocated, unsettled
- unassumingly:** (adv) unobtrusively, unpretentiously, retiringly, meekly, diffidently, quietly, inconspicuously, discreetly, unpretendingly, unostentatiously, simply. ANTONYMS: (adv) conspicuously, pretentiously, brashly
- unattainable:** (adj) impossible, inaccessible, impracticable, impractical, unapproachable, unobtainable, out of print, not possible, unassailable, unavailable, unbeatable. ANTONYMS: (adj) vulnerable, accessible, possible, attainable, feasible
- unavailing:** (adj) fruitless, bootless, useless, ineffectual, inefficacious, otiose, inutile, ineffective, idle, vain, pointless
- unawares:** (adv) suddenly, pop, plump, abruptly, a l'improviste, unaware, all at once, unexpectedly, inadvertently; (adj) unwary, unsuspecting. ANTONYMS: (adj) prepared; (adv) knowingly, consciously
- unbelieving:** (adj) incredulous, disbelieving, sceptical, suspicious, atheistical, nescient, irreligious, atheistic, faithless, unconverted, distrustful
- unbidden:** (adj) unbid, uninvited, spontaneous, voluntary, willing, unwanted
- unboastful:** (adj) modest, unobtrusive, unostentatious
- unborn:** (adj) uncreated, unmade, unproduced, unconceived, unbred, not begotten, unbegotten; (n) posterity. ANTONYM: (adj) born
- unbroken:** (adj) continuous, entire, complete, continual, constant, intact, incessant, endless, whole, undivided, solid. ANTONYMS: (adj) intermittent, temporary, plowed, discontinuous, disturbed, sporadic, partial
- uncalled-for:** (adj) needless, superfluous, improper, groundless, unsuitable, gratuitous, unwarranted, unasked, undue, unfair, wanton
- unceasingly:** (adv) incessantly, endlessly, ceaselessly, continually, unremittingly, unendingly, constantly, always, perpetually, uninterruptedly, eternally. ANTONYM: (adv) acutely
- uncertainly:** (adv) dubiously, doubtfully, unsurely, unsettledly, falteringly, unsteadily, waveringly, irresolutely, undecidedly, undeterminedly, unfixedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) firmly, determinedly, decisively, steadily, indisputably, boldly, certainly, admirably
- unchangeable:** (adj) invariable, firm, immutable, permanent, irrevocable, irreversible, unalterable, immovable, inflexible, determined, definite. ANTONYMS: (adj) changing, inconstant, flexible, uncertain, fluid, unconfirmed, impermanent
- uncharitableness:** (n) rancor
- unconcern:** (n) apathy, nonchalance, insouciance, coldness, detachment, impassiveness, insensibility, disregard, phlegm, carelessness, lethargy. ANTONYMS: (n) responsiveness, worry, anxiety, interest
- unconcerned:** (adj) apathetic, detached, insouciant, casual, careless, nonchalant, thoughtless, easygoing, listless, carefree; (adj, n) cold. ANTONYMS: (adj) caring, eager, troubled, sensitive, uptight, craving, involved, energetic, interested, annoyed, strict
- unconcernedly:** (adv) nonchalantly, impassively, aloofly, carelessly, uninterestedly, unsympathetically, dispassionately, lackadaisically, insouciantly, apathetically, distantly. ANTONYMS: (adv) nervously, anxiously
- unconsciously:** (adv) instinctively, unintentionally, unthinkingly, unwittingly, ignorantly, innocently, comatosely, automatically, obliviously, unsuspectingly, inadvertently. ANTONYMS: (adv) consciously, deliberately, knowingly, purposely
- uncontrolled:** (adj) unconstrained, unchecked, uninhibited, wild, unbound, mad, loose, out of control; (adj, n) licentious, profligate, dissolute. ANTONYMS: (adj) controlled, restrained, cautious, calm, contained, relaxed, mild, mellow, limited, voluntary
- unconventional:** (adj) improper, original, eccentric, unusual, irregular, different, odd, peculiar, extreme, kinky, wrong. ANTONYMS: (adj) usual, typical, normal, orthodox, Standard, mainstream, conformist, outdated, ordinary, proper, traditional
- uncounted:** (adj) countless, numberless, myriad, innumerable, multitudinous, unnumbered, innumerable, incalculable, many; (adj, v) untold; (n) legion
- uncourteous:** (adj) uncivil, rude
- uncritical:** (v) benedictory, complimentary, commendatory, lavish of praise, encomiastic, panegyric, laudatory; (adj) indiscriminate, noncritical, unselective, gullible. ANTONYMS: (adj) discriminating, shrewd, fussy
- unctuousness:** (n) flattery, fulsome, greasiness, surliness, unctious, oleaginousness, oiliness, inunction, ointment, lip service, puff

uncultivated: (adj) savage, ignorant, uneducated, wild, fresh, uncivilized, rude, untutored, uncultured, artless, lowbrow. ANTONYMS: (adj) cultivated, familiar, refined

undefined: (adj) indeterminate, indistinct, obscure, shadowy, uncertain, vague, unspecified, ambiguous, unlimited, inexact, neutral. ANTONYMS: (adj) defined, exact, constrained

underestimate: (v) misjudge, belittle, undervalue, miscalculate, minimize, depreciate, fail to appreciate, lowball, disparage; (n) underrating, underestimation. ANTONYMS: (v) overestimate, overvalue, exaggerate, misjudge, highlight, appreciate, emphasize

underhand: (adj) stealthy, furtive, clandestine, sly, underhanded, sneaky, shifty, covert, crooked, indirect; (adj, adv) underarm. ANTONYMS: (adj) honest, overhand

understandingly: (adv) sensitively, knowingly, sympathetically, intelligently, perceptively, considerably, compassionately, tolerantly, discerningly, thoughtfully, supportively. ANTONYMS: (adv) unkindly, insensitively

undertone: (n) undercurrent, murmur, tinge, nuance, whisper, suggestion, implication, connotation, overtone, association, hint

undignified: (adj) low, inappropriate, humiliating, rude, indign, impolite, demeaning, degrading, improper, debasing. ANTONYMS: (adj) dignified, distinguished, polite

undiscoverable: (adj) undecipherable, unascertainable, unaccountable, unfathomable, indiscoverable, resisting discovery, unintelligible, undeterminable, indeterminate, not discoverable

undistinguishable: (adj) exactly alike, identical, undistinguished. ANTONYM: (adj) distinguishable

undisturbed: (adj) peaceful, quiet, tranquil, serene, placid, still, easy, smooth, uninterrupted, untroubled, composed. ANTONYMS: (adj) tense, anxious, agitated, bothered, disordered, disturbed, noisy, scared

undoing: (n) ruin, destruction, loss, curse, cancellation, reverse, bane, doom, collapse, annulment, disaster. ANTONYMS: (n) building, creation

undone: (adj) ruined, unfinished, sunk, done for, finished, behindhand, decayed; (adj, v) doomed; (v) accursed, to be pitied, devoted

undressed: (adj) naked, unclad, unclothed, bare, raw, stripped, unattired, unapparelled, crude, rough, disrobed. ANTONYMS: (adj) covered, decent

undulating: (adj) sinuous, waved, undulant, undulatory, curly, apprenticed, zigzag, crimped, curvy, indented, intended. ANTONYMS: (adj) steep, straight

unearthly: (adj) weird, ghostly, uncanny, ethereal, unworldly, preternatural, spectral, eerie, spiritual, strange, heavenly.

ANTONYMS: (adj) natural, physical, acceptable, normal, human
uneasily: (adv) apprehensively, restlessly, worriedly, nervously, solicitously, unquietly, constrainedly, awkwardly, fretfully, unsettledly, fearfully. ANTONYMS: (adv) calmly, confidently, unconcernedly, comfortably, fearlessly

uneasiness: (n) disquiet, discomfort, inquietude, anxiety, unease, malaise, disquietude, apprehension, unrest, impatience; (n, v) agitation.

ANTONYMS: (n) peace, calm, confidence

unendurable: (adj) intolerable, insufferable, insupportable, excruciating, impossible, unsupportable, uneasy, teasing, passionate, not patient, intolerant. ANTONYM: (adj) bearable

unequivocal: (adj, v) clear, positive, definite; (adj) decided, explicit, unambiguous, categorical, plain, definitive, unmistakable; (adj, n) certain. ANTONYMS: (adj) equivocal, indefinite, obscured, vague, ambiguous, implicit, uncertain

unexampled: (adj) new, unique, unparalleled, rare, novel, undescribed, peerless, inimitable, singular, fantastic, fresh

unexceptionable: (adj) unimpeachable, immaculate, faultless, acceptable, blameless, completely acceptable, irreproachable, inculpable, sufficient, tolerable; (v) square

unexpectedness: (n) extraordinariness, unexpectedness, abruptness

unexplored: (adj) unexplained, unapprehended, unascertained, undiscovered, unheard of; (v) unexamined, uninvented, unsearched, unstudied, unweighed, unsifted

unfasten: (v) open, detach, release, unbind, unbutton, disengage, unbolt, separate, loose, loosen, unchain. ANTONYMS: (v) attach, lock, close

unfastened: (adj) open, movable, loose, unbuttoned, overt, opened, opened out, slack, undecided, undetermined, assailable. ANTONYMS: (adj) buttoned, fixed, shut, tied

unfastening: (n) loosening, untying
unfathomable: (adj)

incomprehensible, inexplicable, inscrutable, unintelligible, impenetrable, abysmal, deep, immeasurable, unaccountable, obscure, enigmatic. ANTONYMS: (adj) fathomable, shallow, explicable, explainable, comprehensible, believable, straightforward, understandable, legible, clear

unfeeling: (adj) harsh, impassive, cold, cruel, callous, merciless, pitiless, ruthless, numb, insensible, insensitive. ANTONYMS: (adj) caring, sympathetic, sensitive, kind, understanding, merciful, feeling, warm, tactful, concerned, compassionate

unfrequented: (adj) secluded, solitary, isolated, lonesome, desolate, remote, secret, eremitical, deserted, quiet, off the beaten path

unfriendly: (adj) inimical, distant, adverse, antagonistic, unkind, cold, inhospitable, icy; (adj, adv) chilly; (adj, v) unfavorable; (adv) hostilely. ANTONYMS: (adj) friendly, welcoming, warm, amiable, approachable, sociable, hospitable, kindly, nice, outgoing, pleasant

ungallant: (adj) unchivalrous, uncomplaisant, caddish, unneighborly, discourteous, impolite, offensively discourteous
ungenerous: (adj, v) illiberal; (adj) stingy, parsimonious, miserly, cheap, uncharitable, close, narrow, tightfisted, closefisted, penurious.

ANTONYMS: (adj) generous, kind
ungodly: (adj) sinful, irreligious, iniquitous, wicked, profane, godless, blasphemous; (adj, adv) unholy; (adv) wickedly, impiously, sinfully.

- ANTONYMS: (adj) pious, reasonable, sensible, moral, devout, reverent
- ungrateful:** (adj) unmindful, unthankful, unappreciative, unnatural, ingrate, unpleasant, distasteful, displeasing, unkind, disagreeable, not kind.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) grateful, thankful, appreciative
- unhappiness:** (n) sadness, misery, melancholy, distress, grief, regret, infelicity, woe, sorrowfulness, depression, displeasure.
- ANTONYMS: (n) cheerfulness, pleasure, joy, elation, contentment, satisfaction, cheer
- unheeding:** (adj) regardless, heedless, inattentive, unmindful, unobservant, deaf to, unthinking, neglectful, inadvertent; (adj, n) careless; (n) incautious. ANTONYM: (adj) heedful
- unhesitating:** (adj) resolute, decided, determined, unflinching, decisive, expeditious; (adj, v) sure, assured, certain; (v) unshrinking, positive
- unhindered:** (adj) unrestrained, unprevented, unconfined, free, unconstrained, unbuttoned, uncaught, unchecked, untrammled, unrestricted, without hindrance.
- ANTONYM: (adj) restricted
- unholy:** (adj) wicked, sinful, unhallowed, profane, fiendish, impious, diabolic, infernal, unsanctified, evil; (adv) wickedly.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) reasonable, pious, godly, sensible, religious
- uniformity:** (n) consistency, constancy, evenness, sameness, equality, monotony, regularity, similarity, order, identity, proportion. ANTONYMS: (n) variety, inconsistency, nonuniformity, variation, dissimilarity, unevenness
- unimpeachable:** (adj) unexceptionable, irrefragable, blameless, unquestionable, flawless, impeccable, perfect, spotless, inculpable; (n) creditable, estimable.
- ANTONYM: (adj) corrupt
- uninitiated:** (adj) uninitiate, uninformed, uncultivated, untaught, untutored, unfamiliar, amateur, ignorant, incompetent; (v) unaccustomed; (adj, v) untrained
- uninjured:** (adj) whole, unhurt, intact, unharmed, unblemished, sound, entire; (adj, n) unscathed; (adj, v) unbroken; (n, v) unmarred;
- (n) untainted. ANTONYMS: (adj) hurt, injured
- uninteresting:** (adj) insipid, dreary, tedious, bland, commonplace, flat, stupid, tame, tasteless, humdrum; (adj, n) dull. ANTONYMS: (adj) exciting, fascinating, scandalous, eventful, impressive, charming, brilliant, animated, colorful, lively, special
- uninvited:** (adj) unbidden, unwelcome, uninvited, undesirable, unwanted, unsolicited, unsought, annoying, not needed, not bidden, unasked for.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) welcome, desirable
- unison:** (n) agreement, union, accord, coincidence, accordance, concord, unity, unisonance, concurrence, consonance, concordance.
- ANTONYMS: (n) discord, disharmony, disarray
- uniting:** (adj) concurrent, united, coincident; (n) unification, reunion, fusion, merger, coalescence, amalgamation, conglutination, join
- unkind:** (adj) cruel, harsh, unfeeling, inconsiderate, pitiless, heartless, inhuman, hard, thoughtless, brutal, mean. ANTONYMS: (adj) kind, considerate, pleasant, friendly, thoughtful, tactful, mild, gentle, generous, flattering, compassionate
- unkindness:** (n) heartlessness, callousness, thoughtlessness, inconsideration, inconsiderateness, diskindness, insensitivity, unpleasantness, unfriendliness, unkindliness, insensitiveness.
- ANTONYMS: (n) goodwill, diplomacy, gentleness, humanity, thoughtfulness
- unlawfulness:** (n) illegitimacy, bar sinister, illicitness, injustice; (adj) informality
- unlock:** (v) open, unfasten, disclose, unbar, reveal, free, release, disengage, unbolt, unclose, withdraw. ANTONYMS: (v) fasten, lock, close
- unluckily:** (adv) unfortunately, inauspiciously, lucklessly, unhappily, untowardly, unsuccessfully, alas, regrettably, ill-fatedly, tragically, haplessly.
- ANTONYM: (adv) luckily
- unmanly:** (adj) pusillanimous, fearful, unmanlike, unchivalric, unknighly, unmanful, craven, weak; (adv) unmanfully, cowardly, effeminately. ANTONYM: (adv)
- manfully
- unmannerly:** (adj) impolite, unmannered, uncivil, impertinent, insolent, ill-mannered, discourteous, ungracious, rustic, disrespectful, churlish
- unmistakably:** (adv) undoubtedly, manifestly, decidedly, signally, remarkably, evidently, apparently, visibly, palpably, unambiguously, markedly
- unmolested:** (adj) undisturbed, untroubled, unthreatened, peaceable, tranquil, still, smooth, safe, quiet; (v) unafflicted, unplagued
- unmoved:** (adj) apathetic, unaffected, indifferent, unconcerned, unimpressed, uninspired, dispassionate, imperturbable, calm, undisturbed, fixed. ANTONYMS: (adj) affected, compliant, uptight, concerned, enthusiastic, tolerant, sensitive
- unnamed:** (adj) unidentified, unknown, anonymous, tongueless, obscure, secret, speechless, strange, mute, faceless; (adj, v) innominate.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) known, specific
- unnatural:** (adj) affected, artificial, grotesque, supernatural, forced, abnormal, eccentric, uncanny, stilted, mannered, anomalous.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) natural, normal, real, unaffected, commonplace, genuine, sincere
- unnaturally:** (adv) falsely, unusually, contrivedly, affectedly, extraordinarily, monstrously, manneredly, by artificial means, abnormally, peculiarly, cruelly.
- ANTONYM: (adv) normally
- unobserved:** (adj) light
- unobserved:** (adj, v) unseen; (v) unheeded, unregarded, unthought of, unperceived; (adj) ignored, not noticed, hidden, unmarked, unnoted; (adv) secretly.
- ANTONYM: (adj) evident
- unobtrusive:** (adj) unassuming, discreet, inconspicuous, restrained, unnoticeable, humble, unostentatious, diffident, reserved, unpretentious, subdued.
- ANTONYMS: (adj) obtrusive, conspicuous, elaborate, flaunting, noticeable, loud, brash, obvious
- unoccupied:** (adj) empty, vacant, unemployed, free, desolate, void, uninhabited, idle, inactive, deserted, abandoned. ANTONYMS: (adj) full, inhabited, overcrowded, solid,

- working, busy
- unparalleled:** (adj) unequaled, unique, unmatched, incomparable, matchless, unprecedented, peerless, unexampled, inimitable, unequalled, alone. ANTONYMS: (adj) ordinary, inferior, surpassable, abysmal, unremarkable, usual
- unperceived:** (v) unheeded, unthought of, unregarded; (adj) unremarked, unnoted, unobserved, unmarked, unknown, stealthy, sly, secret
- unperturbed:** (adj, v) unruffled; (adj) calm, tranquil, placid, cool, unconcerned, composed, unflustered, untroubled, easy; (v) undisturbed. ANTONYMS: (adj) agitated, anxious, perturbed
- unpleasantness:** (n) nastiness, disagreeableness, horridness, unkindness, awfulness, odiousness, discomfort, disagreeable, spite, offensiveness; (adj, n) ugliness. ANTONYMS: (n) straightforwardness, kindness, deliciousness, delightfulness, politeness, attractiveness
- unpractised:** (adj) inexperienced, raw, green, fresh, unskilled
- unprincipled:** (adj) abandoned, unscrupulous, depraved, dishonest, unethical, profligate, dissolute, shameless, unconscionable, vicious, immoral. ANTONYMS: (adj) ethical, moral, honest, professional
- unpromising:** (adj) unpropitious, hopeless, worrying, bleak, warning, bad, ominous, threatening, unattractive, unfavorable, gloomy. ANTONYMS: (adj) optimistic, hopeful, encouraging
- unpropitious:** (adj) inauspicious, adverse, unlucky, unfavorable, inopportune, evil, sinister, disastrous, infelicitous; (adj, v) cross, hostile
- unprotected:** (adj) exposed, unguarded, open, naked, helpless, defenseless, unshielded, uncovered, unarmed, undefended, insecure. ANTONYMS: (adj) armed, protected, secure, invulnerable
- unquestionably:** (adv) certainly, definitely, indubitably, decidedly, indisputably, positively, surely, of course, assuredly, no doubt; (adj) doubtless. ANTONYMS: (adv) doubtfully, possibly, arguably
- unquestioned:** (adj) undisputed, unquestionable, unanimous, clear-cut, accepted, axiomatic, proverbial;
- (adj, v) unchallenged; (v) uncontested, uncontradicted
- unreal:** (adj) illusory, fantastic, fanciful, imaginary, insubstantial, artificial, fictitious, visionary, untrue; (adj, v) ideal, fancied. ANTONYMS: (adj) genuine, natural, substantial, authentic, ordinary, plausible
- unreasoning:** (adj) irrational, unintelligent, unintellectual, thoughtless, unreasonable, partisan, vacuous, unthinking, unreasoned
- unremitting:** (adj) ceaseless, perpetual, incessant, unceasing, continual, unending, continuous, uninterrupted, persistent, eternal; (adj, v) unrelenting. ANTONYMS: (adj) sporadic, temporary, inconsistent, finite, broken, acute, undemanding, gentle
- unrequited:** (adj) unreciprocated, unacknowledged, unrewarded, not answered, unthanked, thankless, not refuted, not replied
- unrevealed:** (adj) secret, hidden, unknown, invisible, supernatural, unnoticeable, unnamed, occult, undetectable, nameless, inner. ANTONYMS: (adj) known, obvious
- unruly:** (adj) boisterous, insubordinate, disobedient, intractable, headstrong, uncontrollable, wayward, rambunctious, ungovernable, lawless, rebellious. ANTONYMS: (adj) manageable, obedient, yielding, biddable, compliant, loyal, gentle, peaceful, placid, restrained
- unseasonable:** (adj) inopportune, inappropriate, premature, ill timed, improper, immature, inconvenient, ill-timed, inept, unchancy; (v) illtimed
- unseemly:** (adj) indecent, unbecoming, indelicate, inappropriate, gross, impolite, unbecomingly; (adj, v) indecorous; (adj, adv) uncomely; (adv) indecently, unbecomingly. ANTONYMS: (adj) proper, appropriate, dignified, due, fitting, polite, suitable, correct, decent, sensitive
- unseen:** (adj, v) unknown; (adj) invisible, concealed, hidden, unobserved, secret, veiled, latent; (v) unheeded, unperceived; (n) spiritual world. ANTONYMS: (adj) seen, visible, open, famous, noticeable
- unought:** (adj) unwelcome, undesired, uninvited, unasked, undesirable, unwanted, unbesought,
- unattempted, not requested, not desired. ANTONYM: (adj) welcome
- unspoken:** (adj) unsaid, mute, silent, understood, implicit, implied, inarticulate, unexpressed, tongueless, voiceless, dumb. ANTONYM: (adj) spoken
- unstinted:** (adj) lavish, generous, overgenerous, unsparring, munificent, profuse, not forbearing, spendthrift, ruthless, recklessly wasteful, untiring. ANTONYM: (adj) scarce
- unstrung:** (adj) nervous, asthenic, discomposed, overwrought, adynamic; (v) weakly
- untainted:** (adj) unsullied, unstained, unspotted, innocent, unsoiled, unblemished, untarnished, stainless; (n) unmarred, unscathed, uninjured. ANTONYMS: (adj) tainted, impure
- untenable:** (adj) unjustifiable, not defensible, unreasonable, inexcusable, illogical; (v) sine ICTU, pregnable, unfortified, unarmed, harmless, defenseless. ANTONYMS: (adj) valid, watertight, justifiable
- untie:** (v) disentangle, unfasten, free, loosen, release, loose, disengage, untangle, open, unlace, unbind. ANTONYMS: (v) fasten, bind, tighten, tie, entangle, enslave, close, fetter
- untied:** (adj) unfastened, unchained, unshackled, unlaced, unbound, unfettered, free, unsewed, open, unconnected, rambling. ANTONYMS: (adj) tied, laced
- untimely:** (adj) early, unseasonable, inopportune, inappropriate, awkward, immature, previous, ill timed, inconvenient, improper, belated. ANTONYMS: (adj) timely, appropriate, opportune, convenient, overdue
- untoward:** (adj) unlucky, unfortunate, inauspicious, unbecoming, inopportune, indecent, unfavorable, unseemly, improper, clumsy, stubborn. ANTONYMS: (adj) auspicious, suitable, lucky, acceptable, happy, fortunate
- untrue:** (adj) erroneous, unfaithful, disloyal, incorrect, sham, mistaken, fallacious, treacherous, wrong, faithless, inaccurate. ANTONYMS: (adj) faithful, true, valid, factual, honest, reliable, correct, truthful, loyal, real
- untying:** (n) undoing, unfastening, unraveling, loosening, disentanglement, unscrambling,

- opening
- unutterable:** (adj) indescribable, unspeakable, inexpressible, unpronounceable, indefinable, untellable, unnameable, unapproachable, beyond description, incommunicable, terrible
- unutterably:** (adv) ineffably, inexpressibly, indescribably, beyond words, deeply, overwhelmingly
- unwell:** (adj) sick, ill, poorly, ailing, sickly, unhealthy, seedy, bad, diseased, frail; (adj, v) indisposed. ANTONYMS: (adj) healthy, well, fit
- unwholesome:** (adj) noxious, harmful, noisome, morbid, injurious, detrimental, sickly, insalubrious, corrupting, diseased, damaging. ANTONYMS: (adj) healthy, decent, wholesome, pleasant
- unwieldy:** (adj) clumsy, cumbersome, unmanageable, heavy, bulky, ponderous, gawky, massive, ungainly, lumbering; (v) cumbersome. ANTONYMS: (adj) convenient, manageable, wieldy, compact, handy, dainty, light
- unwittingly:** (adv) unintentionally, unknowingly, unconsciously, accidentally, ignorantly, innocently, unawares, unawarely, unsuspectingly, uninformedly, obliviously. ANTONYMS: (adv) mindfully, deliberately, knowingly
- unwonted:** (adj) unaccustomed, rare, unusual, unused, infrequent, uncustomary, singular, extraordinary, scarce, unaccountable, remarkable
- unworthiness:** (n) baseness, despicability, despicableness, badness, unworth, shameful, ignominiousness, disgracefulness, bad. ANTONYM: (n) worthiness
- unworthy:** (adj) undeserving, base, disgraceful, ignoble, low, contemptible, despicable, ugly, unmerited, unseemly, shameful. ANTONYMS: (adj) deserving, valuable, honorable, estimable, reputable
- up-and-down:** (adj) mercurial
- upland:** (n) plateau, elevation, moorland, table, eminence, rise, Highlands, ridge, hill, flat terrain; (adj) mountainous
- uppermost:** (adj) top, upmost, upper, highest, chief, maximum, supreme, greatest, major, outermost; (n) main. ANTONYMS: (adj) bottom, lowest, trivial, lower
- uprising:** (n) insurrection, mutiny, rebellion, revolt, insurgency, revolution, outbreak, sedition, disturbance, ascent; (adj, n) rising. ANTONYMS: (n) peace; (adj) content
- upshot:** (n) result, conclusion, consequence, outcome, issue, aftermath, effect, event, corollary, end, product
- upside:** (n) crest, crown, poll, top side, upper side, pate, round top, acme, summit, superlative, teetotum
- upturned:** (adj) retrouse, overturned, upside-down, broken, disordered, disquieted, distressed, disturbed, confused, topsy-turvy, shapely
- usurer:** (n) moneylender, cambist, loan shark, Shylock, banker; (adj) extortioner, codger, lickpenny, crib, churl, curmudgeon
- utensils:** (n) gear, equipment, tackle, apparatus, hardware
- utilitarian:** (adj) functional, practical, pragmatic, philanthropic, utile, serviceable, humanitarian, helpful, convenient; (n) Benthamite, philanthropist. ANTONYMS: (adj) surrender, relinquish, soulful, luxury, decorative, useless
- vacantly:** (adj, adv) vacuously, expressionlessly, inanely; (adv) voidly, emptily, unoccupiedly, hollowly, unemployedly, thoughtlessly, freely, barely
- vacated:** (adj) empty, abandoned
- vagabond:** (n, v) tramp; (adj, n) vagrant; (v) roam, stray, wander, range, ramble; (n) outcast, bum, wanderer, nomad. ANTONYMS: (n) inhabitant, resident; (adj) settled
- vagary:** (n, v) freak, crotchet, fancy, humor; (n) fad, whim, impulse, maggot, quirk, notion, prank
- vain:** (adj) proud, arrogant, conceited, fruitless, idle, empty, abortive, ineffectual, unproductive, narcissistic; (adj, v) useless. ANTONYMS: (adj) shy, successful, possible, persuasive, selfless, fruitful, humble, useful, responsible, worthwhile, effective
- vainly:** (adv) uselessly, futilely, fruitlessly, conceitedly, in vain, worthlessly, abortively, bootlessly, arrogantly, unproductively; (adj, adv) foolishly. ANTONYMS: (adv) fruitfully, successfully, effectively
- valentine:** (n) sweetheart, gallant, love, sweetie, truelove, steady, lover
- vane:** (adj) weathercock; (n) weather vane, fan blade, cairn, staff, fan, post, beacon, hand, pointer, impeller
- vanish:** (n, v) disappear; (adj, v) fade; (v) disperse, pass, go, die, dissipate, evaporate, depart, flee, melt away. ANTONYMS: (v) come, arrive, wax, stay
- vanishing:** (n) disappearance, vanishment, dissipation; (adj) dying, fleeting, momentary, breaking up, declining, diminishing, dissolving, evanescent. ANTONYMS: (adj) thriving, increasing
- vanity:** (n) egotism, pride, emptiness, arrogance, futility, inanity, vainglory, conceitedness, pretension, pomposity; (adj, n) amour propre. ANTONYMS: (n) selflessness, humility, importance, value, effectiveness
- variegated:** (adj) mottled, dappled, varicolored, varicoloured, various, piebald, speckled, assorted, different, multicolored, pied. ANTONYM: (adj) uniform
- varnish:** (n, v) gloss, coat, paint, veneer, palliate; (n) lacquer, cover; (adv, v) color; (v) gild, furbish, whitewash. ANTONYM: (n) middle
- varnished:** (adj) sullied, polished, spotted, shiny, lustrous, smooth, painted, besmirched, glossy, tainted, flyblown. ANTONYM: (adj) dull
- vaulted:** (adj) domed, hollow, hooked, testudinated, rounded, arcuated, in the form of an arch, curved, concave, roofed
- vegetative:** (adj) vegetal, vegetational, involuntary, fertile, asexual, vegetive, nonsexual
- vehemence:** (n) force, violence, fury, passion, eagerness, strength, impetuosity, enthusiasm, fierceness, heat, fervor. ANTONYMS: (n) indifference, meekness, serenity
- vehement:** (adj) fierce, intense, violent, strong, furious, passionate, ferocious, eager, hot, fervent, fervid. ANTONYMS: (adj) impassionate, indifferent, mild, calm
- vehemently:** (adj, adv) ardently; (adv) violently, zealously, strongly, fervently, passionately, ferociously, fervidly, keenly, intensely, furiously. ANTONYMS: (adv) feebly, gently, impassively
- veined:** (v) striated, barred; (adj) streaked, venous, venose, mottled, camleted, multicolored, fibrous, patterned, veinlike
- velveteen:** (adj) velumen, textile,

- material, fabric, cloth
velvety: (adj) smooth, soft, velvet, silky, fluffy, woolly, supple, creamy, delicate, furry; (v) lanate.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) croaky, watery
vengeance: (n) retribution, reprisal, retaliation, requital, avengement, wrath, vendetta, spite, revengeance; (n, v) avenge, resentment.
 ANTONYMS: (n) forgiveness, acceptance
venial: (adj) excusable, pardonable, forgivable, minor, veniable, small, underage, modest, nonaged
vent: (n) exit, opening, flue, chimney, escape, blowhole; (n, v) discharge, air, release; (v) emit, ventilate.
 ANTONYMS: (n) door, closure; (v) block, suppress
ventilating: (adj) ventilative
venturesome: (adj, n) hazardous, adventurous, bold, brave, venturous, courageous, fearless, foolhardy; (adj) audacious, adventuresome, risky.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) dull, cowardly, afraid, safe, cautious
verdure: (adj, n) greenness; (n) greenery, foliage, verdancy, viridity, green, leafage, flora, freshness, strength, vegetable kingdom
vermicated: (adj) vermiculate, fancier, fancy
vernal: (adj) young, hornotine, springlike, vernant, renovated, tender, juvenile, sempervirid, sempervirent, immature.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) wintry, summery
verticality: (n) erectness, uprightness, rectitude, position, spatial relation
vestal: (adj) chaste, virginal, virtuous, pure, saturated, not mixed, good, sinless, undiluted; (n) woman, nun
vestry: (n) nave, quire, convocation, consistory, synod, choir, chapter, chancel, transept, aisle, conclave
vexed: (adj) troubled, irritated, angry, pestered, peeved, harassed, sore, harried, uneasy, cross, offended.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) calm, uncomplicated
viands: (n) provender, victuals, provisions, food, sustenance, commissariat, larder, cates, diet, nourishment, edible
vicissitude: (adj) fluctuation; (n) variation, mutation, innovation, reverse, turn, revolution, novelty, transition, alteration, alternation.
 ANTONYM: (n) stagnation
vicissitudes: (n) changeability, life, variableness, variability
victuals: (n) food, fare, viands, victual, edible, provender, grub, sustenance, support, diet, nutriment
vigor: (n, v) energy; (adj, n) intensity; (n) spirit, vitality, force, life, strength, power, might, vim, stamina. ANTONYMS: (n) weakness, apathy, frailty, laziness, enervation, inactivity, indifference, illness, lifelessness, sluggishness, tardiness
villager: (n) denizen, dweller, inhabitant
villain: (n) rascal, scoundrel, rogue, knave, miscreant, criminal, bandit, crook, reprobate, varlet, rapsallion.
 ANTONYMS: (n) heroine, hero
villainy: (n) evil, infamy, crime, villany, misdeed, baseness, enormity, atrocity, evildoing, evilness, injustice
vindictive: (adj) vengeful, malicious, revengeful, unforgiving, punitive, malevolent, remorseless, implacable, spiteful, vindictive, virulent.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) nice, charitable, forgiving, helpful, merciful, tolerant
virginity: (n) maidenhood, pucelage, chastity, purity, maidenhead, pudicity, virtue, freshness, virginhood, innocence, spirit
virtuous: (adj) upright, pure, righteous, good, moral, just, honorable, honest, respectable, decent, pious. ANTONYMS: (adj) bad, sinful, corrupt, impure, unethical, decadent, degenerate, irreverent
vitals: (n) bowels, womb, viscera, belly, entrails, organ, necessity, lap, intestines, guts, chitterings
vivacity: (adj, n) life, liveliness; (n) energy, vitality, enthusiasm, dash, spirit, vigor, happiness, sparkle, effervescence. ANTONYMS: (n) apathy, dullness, sluggishness
vocation: (n, v) calling, profession, employment; (n) occupation, job, trade, business, career, line, mission, line of work
voicelessly: (adv) speechlessly, dumbly, inarticulately, tacitly, mutely, silently
volition: (n, v) will, testament; (n) choice, option, selection, determination, conation, preference, velleity, free will; (v) purpose
wafer: (n) cookie, waffle, paste, cement, glue, size, gum, coke, stucco, staff of life, solder
waggon: (n) wagon, cart, lorry, wain, dray, station wagon, beach wagon, beach waggon, station waggon, bandwagon, milkwagon
waggoner: (n) driver
wail: (n, v) howl, cry, lament, moan, scream, bellow, whine; (v) ululate, weep, whimper, mewl.
 ANTONYMS: (v) whimper, laugh
wain: (n) waggon, wagon, cart, Charles's Wain, patrol wagon, paddy wagon, plough, plow, police van, police wagon, John Barrington wain
wainscoted: (adj) decorated
waistband: (n) belt, cummerbund, band, cincture, sash, waistcloth, stays, panty girdle, corset
waistcoat: (n) CHUDDER, barbe, garment, jerkin, jubbah, oilskins, pilot jacket, pajamas, cardigan, singlet, talma jacket
wakeful: (adj) vigilant, sleepless, awake, observant, restless, light, wary, psychologically light, lightheaded, tripping; (v) wistful.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) unaware, asleep, inattentive, relaxed
wakefulness: (n) insomnia, arousal, vigilance, guard, temporary state, alertness, consciousness, circumspection, caution; (v) vigil; (n, v) watch. ANTONYMS: (n) inattentiveness, unconsciousness
wanderer: (n) vagabond, roamer, tramp, nomad, drifter, traveler, wayfarer, stranger, hobo, traveller; (n, v) rambler
wanton: (adj) loose, dissolute, light, licentious, unchaste, lewd, debauched, unprovoked; (v) dally; (n, v) sport; (adj, v) flirt.
 ANTONYMS: (adj) moral, wise, nice, kind, gentle, decent, clean, careful, observant, justifiable, involuntary
ware: (n) commodity, goods, wares, tableware; (v) beware, dissipate, squander, luxuriate, consume; (adj) cautious, commodities
wares: (n) merchandise, goods, commodities, stock, product, commodity, freight, cargo, ware, refill, shipment
wariness: (n) cautiousness, circumspection, mistrust, suspicion, care, deliberation, discretion, watchfulness, precaution, alertness, distrust. ANTONYMS: (n) unwariness, carelessness, gullibility, trust, recklessness
warped: (adj, n) twisted; (adj) deformed, crooked, perverted,

- misshapen, kinky, curved, distorted, wry, partisan, superficial.
ANTONYMS: (adj) wholesome, impartial
- watcher:** (n) spectator, bystander, viewer, lookout, watchman, onlooker, observer, witness, eyewitness, scout, sentinel
- waterworks:** (n) aqueduct, tears, public utility, utility, tear, water supply
- watery:** (adj) moist, diluted, wet, dilute, washy, thin, damp, fluid, aqueous, weak, insipid.
ANTONYMS: (adj) strong, solid, dry, soft, dehydrated, lively, dark, clear, thick, hard
- wavering:** (adj, v) vacillating; (n) fluctuation, hesitation, vacillation; (adj) irresolute, indecisive, undecided, hesitant, uncertain, variable, changeable. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) decided, constant, resolute, stable, decisive; (n) resolution, stability
- wavy:** (adj) crinkled, crinkly, corrugated, waved, undulating, und, rippled, wavelike, undulate, undulatory, rolling. **ANTONYM:** (adj) straight
- wayfarer:** (n) traveler, passenger, pilgrim, itinerant, wanderer, traveller, walker, journeyer, rambler, voyager, vagrant
- wayside:** (n) edge, curb, verge, margin, shoulder, border
- wayward:** (adj) contrary, disobedient, obstinate, stubborn, intractable, unruly, capricious; (adj, n) freakish, crotchety, wanton, fanciful.
ANTONYMS: (adj) controllable, good, manageable, biddable
- waywardly:** (adv) obstinately, disobediently, stubbornly, rebelliously, freakishly, cussedly, whimsically, unruly, perversely, naughtily, mulishly. **ANTONYM:** (adv) submissively
- wearer:** (n) enjoyer
- wearied:** (adj) jaded, tired, spent, fatigued, weary, prostrate, limp, haggard, shattered, worn, fatigate
- weariness:** (n) exhaustion, tiredness, lassitude, languor, asthenopia, defatigation, grogginess, listlessness, boredom, ennui, prostration
- wearisome:** (adj, v) tiresome, irksome, troublesome; (adj) tedious, dull, monotonous, boring, laborious, trying, slow, annoying.
ANTONYMS: (adj) satisfying, soothing, exciting, refreshing, easy
- wedlock:** (n, v) marriage, matrimony; (n) union, wedding, polygyny, bigamy, intermarriage, exogamy, endogamy, polyandry, misalliance
- weep:** (v) wail, bawl, lament, sob, blubber, moan, howl, drip, greet, whimper; (n) tear
- weighted:** (adj) laden, leaden, adjusted, plodding, impure, unfair, prejudiced, gray, loaded, opinionated, grey. **ANTONYM:** (adj) impartial
- weighty:** (adj) heavy, ponderous, grievous, powerful, profound; (adj, v) grave, serious, momentous, significant, solemn, influential.
ANTONYMS: (adj) superficial, light, unimportant, trivial, weightless, unsubstantial, thin, solvable, small, facile, easy
- wellbeing:** (n) health, upbeat, confidence, physical condition, security, relief, protection, social welfare, luxury, fitness, eudaimonia.
ANTONYMS: (n) insecurity, danger
- well-defined:** (adj) definite, distinct, sharp, trenchant, precise, clean-cut
- well-made:** (adj) strong, fine, sturdy, buxom, dainty
- well-nigh:** (adv) nearly, most; (adj) practically
- well-rounded:** (adj) curvaceous, knowledgeable, learned
- well-to-do:** (adj) rich, well-off, affluent, opulent, prosperous, moneyed, substantial, comfortable, easy, fortunate
- well-wisher:** (n) friend, patron, support, benefactor
- wetter:** (n) detergent, bedwetter, bed Wetter, wetting agent, surfactant
- wheeling:** (adj) rotating, revolving, moving; (n) rolling, city, metropolis, peal, propulsion, roll, transmission service, urban center
- wheezy:** (adj) asthmatic, wheezing, reedy, panting, noisy, gasping, puffing, reedlike, short of breath, winded, breathless
- whence:** (adv) wherefrom, hence, because, for, why, wherefore, how, then, then thence so, how comes it, how happens it
- wherein:** (adv) in what, in which, where
- whereupon:** (adv) thereupon, hereupon, upon which, at what, at which
- whim:** (n, v) fancy, vagary, humor, freak; (n) notion, impulse, fad, mood, whimsy, thought, idea.
ANTONYMS: (n) plan, reality,
- aversion
- whims:** (n) vagaries, freaks, humor, ill humor, mood, facetiousness, caprices, disposition, temper
- whimsical:** (adj, n) fanciful, eccentric; (adj) capricious, freakish, humorous, changeable, fickle, erratic, wayward, odd, arbitrary. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) reasonable, behaving, normal, serious, predictable
- whining:** (adj) whimpering, whiny, sniveling pitiful, Snively, tearful, whiney, singing, peevish; (v) fretful, lamenting; (n) sniveling
- whirl:** (n, v) spin, turn, eddy, roll, wheel, twist, swirl; (v) reel, gyrate; (n) go, fling
- whirling:** (adj) rotary, revolving, dizzy, giddy, lightheaded, rotating, vortical; (n) rotation, gyration, revolution; (adj, n) swirling
- whirlpool:** (n, v) vortex, whirl, swirl, gurge; (n) maelstrom, verticity, whirl; (v) undercurrent, indraught, reflux, purl
- whirr:** (n, v) whirl, hum, drone, buzz, birr, whine; (v) whiz, churr, hiss, emit; (n) murmur
- whiskers:** (n) fuzzi, goatee, hair, imperial, face fungus, beaver, mustache, moustache, sideburns, facial hair, sideboards
- whisking:** (adj) switchy
- whispering:** (n) whisper, murmur, susurration, rustle, report, stage whisper; (adj, n) rustling; (adj) susurrant, tranquil, hoarse, susurrous
- whist:** (adj) quiet, noiseless; (n) long whist, short whist, whisk, tut, tush, dummy whist, cards, card game; (v) shut up
- whistling:** (n) whistle, sound, tin whistle, music, pennywhistle, sign, signal, signaling
- whiteness:** (n) paleness, ivory, chalk, pearl, bone, bleach, alabaster, frostiness, hoariness, pallor, innocence. **ANTONYM:** (n) black
- whitewash:** (adj, v) blanch, bleach; (n) clear; (v) absolve, gild, varnish, polish, exculpate; (n, v) exonerate, excuse; (adj) etiolate. **ANTONYMS:** (v) expose, reveal, lose
- whither:** (adv) hither, thither, whereunto, whereto, for
- whiting:** (n) Merlangus Merlangus, Gadus Merlangus, kingfish, whitening, kingfishes, corbina, gadoid fish, hake, king whiting, percoid fish, sciaenid
- whitish:** (adj) pale, milklike, fair,

- milk, creamy, light, colorless, not clear, achromatic, opaque, blond.
ANTONYMS: (adj) rosy, dark
- whitlow:** (n) felon, criminal, crook, malefactor, onychia, outlaw, panaritium, infection
- whop:** (n, v) whap, bang, bat; (n) hit; (v) wham, whack, bash, bop, sock, bonk, strike
- widowhood:** (n) weeds, marital status, time of life
- wilder:** (n) Samuel Wilder, Thornton Niven Wilder, Thornton Wilder, Billy Wilder
- wildfire:** (n) conflagration, bush fire, blaze, forest fire, inferno, flame
- wildness:** (n) fierceness, ferocity, savageness, abandon, rage, extravagance, ferociousness, intensity, vehemence; (v) wilderness; (n, v) waste.
ANTONYMS: (n) tameness, order, meekness, gentleness, caution, orderliness
- wilful:** (adj) headstrong, deliberate, intentional, knowing, designed, wayward, obstinate, willful, stubborn, studied, persistent
- willed:** (adj) voluntary, hereditary
- willow:** (n) willow tree, black willow, arctic willow, arroyo willow, balsam willow, bay willow, bearberry willow, white willow, silver willow; (adj) mourning, weeds
- wimble:** (n) gimlet, auger, screw auger, borer, perforator, chisel, stylet, piercer
- winch:** (v) capstan, crane; (n, v) windlass, derrick, wince; (n) crank, hoist, pinion, pulley, spindle, the redwing
- windmill:** (n) wind generator, whirligig, aerogenerator, screw, Rollingstone, wind turbine, wheel, wind engine, grinder, wind machine, pinwheel
- windward:** (adv) downwind; (n) weatherboard, to windward, weather side, direction; (adj) tempestuous, flatulent, empty, airy, windy, boisterous
- wink:** (n, v) twinkle, blink, flash; (n) instant, twinkling, trice; (v) sparkle, nictitate, flicker, nictate, leer
- winningly:** (adv) victoriously, charmingly, winsomely, delightfully, takingly, fetchingly, conqueringly, convincingly, appealingly, invitingly, influentially
- winsome:** (adj, v) winning; (adj) charming, engaging, fetching, sweet, comely, cheerful, merry, buxom, enchanting, lovable
- wiry:** (adj) lean, muscular, sinewy, fibrous, brawny, stalwart, ropy, thin, supple, vigorous, rough.
ANTONYMS: (adj) straight, small, tiny, smooth, soft, stout, fat
- wisp:** (n) lock, fagot, strand, curl, tress, piece, whip, piece of hair, puff, slip, small person
- wistful:** (adj, v) reflective, meditative, thoughtful; (adj) contemplative, sad, melancholy, longing, plaintive, wishful, yearning; (v) anxious.
ANTONYMS: (adj) alert, satisfied, shallow
- wistfully:** (adv) pensively, meditatively, desirously, longingly, yearningly, broodingly, reflectively, wishfully, melancholy, thoughtfully, nostalgically. **ANTONYM:** (adv) contentedly
- withdrawing:** (adj) receding, outgoing, retiring, moving back, modest, lowly; (n) departure, privacy, seclusion, cancellation
- wither:** (v) shrink, wilt, contract, shrivel, languish, droop, dry, waste, wane, atrophy, decay. **ANTONYMS:** (v) swell, strengthen, grow, blossom, flourish
- withered:** (adj) wizened, sear, shriveled, thin, shrunken, dry, dried up, wilted, faded, wizen; (v) lame.
ANTONYM: (adj) plump
- withering:** (adj) devastating, extortionate, grinding; (v) dry, sarcastic, sharp, severe, satirical, sardonic, cutting; (n) shrinkage.
ANTONYM: (adj) hopeful
- withheld:** (adj) hidden, uncommitted. **ANTONYM:** (adj) ongoing
- withhold:** (v) reserve, keep, suppress, deny, retain, hold, detain, restrain, abstain, check; (adj, v) stint.
ANTONYMS: (v) transmit, release, show, lavish, add
- withholding:** (n) detention, reservation, withholding tax, confinement, custody, deduction, deprivation, estrangement, holding, keeping, maintenance. **ANTONYM:** (n) release
- womanhood:** (n) muliebrity, femininity, adulthood, maturity, manhood, womankind, wifehood, softness, social class, majority, adult female
- womanish:** (adj) tender, feminine, female, womanlike, womanly, weak, unmanly
- womankind:** (n) womanhood, gentle sex, people
- womanliness:** (n) womanlike, femaleness, femininity, femininity, sex, womanishness, feminineness.
ANTONYM: (n) masculinity
- womanly:** (adj, v) effeminate; (adj) ladylike, womanish, female, womanlike, wifely, weak, maidenly, matronly; (v) soft, feminine.
ANTONYM: (adj) unwomanly
- wonderment:** (n) wonder, admiration, amazement, astonishment, surprise, awe, bewilderment, marvel, curiosity, annus Mirabilis, esteem
- wondrous:** (adj) marvelous, miraculous, marvellous, astonishing, tremendous, fantastic, phenomenal, extraordinary, rattling; (adv) wonderfully, marvellously
- wont:** (adj, n) use, custom, usage; (n) practice, tradition, cleanliness, assuetude, assuefaction, convention, rut; (v) practise
- wonted:** (adj, n) habitual, ordinary, usual, familiar; (adj) everyday, general, conventional, routine; (n) accustomed, common, regular
- workman:** (n) laborer, working man, worker, employee, hand, operative, artisan, working person, lather, mechanic, artificer
- worn-out:** (adj) stale, trite, threadbare, worn, hackneyed, jaded, old, run-down, dilapidated, disabled, beat
- worsted:** (knit) disappointed; (n) fabric, knitting worsted, cloth
- worthlessness:** (n) emptiness, uselessness, paltriness, trashiness, insignificance, nothingness, negativity, purposelessness, pride, pointlessness; (adj) inanity.
ANTONYMS: (n) importance, worth, helpfulness, appropriateness
- wounding:** (n) wound, injury; (adj) hurtful, spiteful, traumatic, grievous, offensive, stabbing, inflicting wounds, impertinent, harmful. **ANTONYMS:** (adj) harmless, complimentary, kind, polite, sympathetic
- wrapper:** (n) cover, wrap, cloak, peignoir, housecoat, negligee, envelope, wrapping, covering, dust cover, mantle
- wrench:** (n, v) pull, jerk, strain, turn, twist, tug, yank; (n) spanner; (v) distort, contort, force
- wrestle:** (v) struggle, scuffle, fight, strive, battle, wrench, tussle, contest, scramble, clash; (n, v) grapple

wretch: (n) victim, villain, scoundrel, reprobate, reptile, miscreant, martyr, object of compassion, poor devil, prey, wreak

wretchedly: (adv) pathetically, unhappily, desperately, calamitously, sadly, meanly, forlornly, piteously, disastrously, gloomily; (adj, adv) miserably. ANTONYM: (adv) hopefully

wretchedness: (n) unhappiness, grief, distress, desolation, woe, sorrow, anguish, infelicity, tribulation, affliction, misfortune

wring: (n, v) squeeze; (v) twist, wrench, wrest, torture, torment, distort, extract, twine, contort, rack

wringing: (adj) saturated, soaked, soaked to the skin, soaking wet, sodden, sopping, sopping wet, wet, wet through, wringing wet, soaking. ANTONYM: (adj) dry

wrinkled: (adj, n) rough, rugged; (adj) puckered, creased, wrinkly, wizened, crumpled, lined, gnarled, unironed, crinkled. ANTONYMS: (adj) unwrinkled, ironed, straight

wrinkles: (n) crow's feet

writh: (adj, v) distort, wrest; (v) contort, wriggle, squirm, wrench, worm, coil, wiggle, thrash, warp

writhed: (adj) crooked, writhen, distorted, twisted

wronged: (adj) upset, hurt, indignant, offended

wronging: (n) tribulation

yawn: (v) open, ope, yaw, look stupidly, breathe; (n) yawning, nod, get sleep, tedium, bore, boredom

yearling: (n) nurseling, tot, toddler, suckling, bambino, bangtail, calf, freshman, hornotone, racehorse, ram lamb

yearly: (adv) annually, each year, every year, per annum, per year, by year; (adj) perennial, anniversary, periodic, annual tickets; (n) a year

yearning: (n) hankering, aspiration, thirst, craving, desire, hunger, nostalgia, eagerness; (adj) wistful, pining, desirous. ANTONYMS: (adj) disinterested; (n) dislike, disinclination, apathy

yellowing: (n) discoloration, tint, staining, mark, stain, streak

yeoman: (n) beefeater, gaffer, chap, cultivator, fellow, freeholder, blade, good man, swain, wight, woodcutter

yesternight: (n) last night

yews: (n) genus *Taxus*

yielding: (adj, v) flexible, pliable,

supple, tractable, pliant; (adj) compliant, submissive, soft, obedient, docile; (n) submission. ANTONYMS: (adj) hard, firm, inflexible, solid, rigid, obstinate, stiff, stubborn, unyielding, rebellious

yonder: (adv) beyond, further, farther, abroad, thither, further away, at that place; (adj) distant, yond, furious, fierce

zenith: (n) apex, peak, top, height, acme, pinnacle, summit, climax, vertex, culmination, prime.

ANTONYMS: (n) base, bottom, trough

zephyr: (n) wind, air, breath, gentle wind, whiff, puff, gentle breeze, aviation; (v) Boreas, Eolus, cave of Eolus

zigzag: (v) wind, meander, twist; (n, v) bend; (adj) furcated, winding, meandering, bifurcate; (adj, v) indirect; (n) groin, crane

