

Glossary
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Dedication

For lovers and learners of word

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Assignment Glossary Assignment

Glossary Assignment: Assigned 1/28; Due: weekly throughout the semester

Throughout the semester, we will place a great deal of importance on defining words, both terminology that will help us describe, analyze, and discuss our readings and vocabulary that will help us better understand the material we encounter. Each week, you will choose a word and [write a blog post](#) (need [help?](#)) in which you do the following:

- include the word as the title of the post
- provide the word's part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, etc)
- define it—make sure you're using the most appropriate definition, which might not be the first one
- cite the source of your definition—I recommend [Merriam-Webster's dictionary](#), although you might need to consult a different kind of dictionary
- identify where you encountered the word (specify the specific page of a particular reading, date of the class discussion, title of the handout, etc)
- explain what you understand about the passage now that you understand the word
- if you are defining a term, provide an example based on our readings.
- (optional) include links and images that help your classmates understand the word or the context
- choose the category Glossary in the right sidebar when you write a new post
- add tags to your post that reflect the topic you wrote about
- add the word to the alphabetized list in the [Glossary Index](#) document

These posts will contribute to a shared glossary for our course, available from the blog menu. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or to ask me in class.

A Abolitionist

a person who favors the abolition of any law or practice deemed harmful to society

“abolitionist literature”(The runaway slave)

Abomination

At the end of the paragraph, it really looks scary, “what was left of him, rotted beneath what was left of the nightshirt, had become inextricable from the bed in which he lay; and upon him upon the pillow beside him lay that even coating of the patient and biding dust”.

Miss Emily was aggressive in nature and possessive too. She want him by her side forever. she fulfilled her wishes and stayed stick to her principle. She seems worst than an animal. when we see kittens die in-front of their mother, they abandon the kitten after become maudlin for few days.

“See Colonel Sartoris. I have no taxes in Jefferson.” (para 12) Miss Emily think that she is still in the days of Mayor Colonel Sartoris. It shows either she is mentally retarded or still in eccentric state.

She wanted no one to interfere so she didn't allow the mailing box to be attache at the door. And her behavior was alienating that all the town gave up on her. The town could not bear the smell and Judge Stevens could not accuse Miss Emily for smelling bad. Who would have thought that someone was poisoned inside her house.

In this story, it is third-person limited narrator. Miss Emily is a flat character, it reached the climax when town members sprinkled

lime in the building. it has visual imagery and olfactory imagery.

Absconding

To depart in a sudden and secret manner, especially to avoid capture and legal prosecution

“and methods of absconding”(The runaway slave)

absurd

[absurd](#); adjective - 1) ridiculously unreasonable, unsound, or [incongruous](#); 2) having no rational or orderly relationship to human life : [meaningless](#)

From the story “Metamorphosis” by Franz Kafka. “Then there was a ring at the door of the apartment. “That’s someone from the office,” he told himself, and he almost froze, while his small limbs only danced around all the faster. For one moment everything remained still. “They aren’t opening,” Gregor said to himself, caught up in some **absurd** hope. But of course then, as usual, the servant girl with her firm tread went to the door and opened it.” (Section I – paragraph 15)

Now I understand that Gregor wish the servant not going to open the door for this guest, but he knows this is a radicious hope because it’s not going to happen, and as the result the servent did open the door.

Aleut

Aleut: a member of a people of the Aleutian and Shumagin islands and the western part of Alaska Peninsula

from You Pawn I will Redeem

When I got to the wharf, I ran into three Aleut cousins, who sat on a wooden bench and stared out at the bay and cried.

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Anchorage

Anchorage: a place where vessels anchor : a place suitable for anchoring

something that provides a secure hold

from WHAT YOU PAWN I REDEEM

Aquiver

Aquiver: adj: marked by trembling.

From "The Story of an Hour": "She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life." (Paragraph 5)

Artisans

A person or company that makes a high-quality or distinctive product in small quantities, usually by hand or using traditional methods (The runaway slaves)

Atrocious

[Atrocious](#): Adjective: extremely wicked, brutal, or cruel;: appalling , horrifying.

From "The Yellow Wallpaper", " I am sitting by the window now, up in this atrocious nursery, and there is nothing to hinder my writing as much as i please, save lack of strength."(Page 2, paragraph 8)

Now i understand that the narrator believed that the nursery was a scary place to be in.

Avid

[Avid](#): adjective: desirous to the point of greed, urgently eager

From "The Shawl": For he kept seeing his mother put the baby and grip his sister around the waist. He saw the brown shawl with its red lines flying open. He saw the shadows, the wolves, rush together, quick and avid, as the wagon with sled runners disappeared into the distance- forever, for neither he nor his father saw Anakwad again.

Now I came to know that the boy used to see a nightmare where his mother and sister are being chased by quick and hungrily greedy wolves.

B **barge**

[barge](#) to move clumsily; bump into things; collide:

we'd would jump out the window and hide in the woods while he barged around, shouting for us.

Benevolent

Intended for benefits rather than profit

"Whose owner was regarded as kind and benevolent "(The runaway slave)

Blasphemy

Blasphemy; noun; irreverent behavior toward anything held sacred, priceless, etc.

From "Young Goodman Brown" "On he flew, among the black pines, brandishing his staff with frenzied gestures, now giving vent to an inspiration of horrid blasphemy, and now shouting forth such laughter, as set all the echoes of the forest laughing like demons around him." (p 53)

I now understand that Goodman Brown was cursing something sacred at the moment. Before, he was challenging all the demons and wizards to come forth, and was then cursing at something, maybe god himself.

C Capricious

Capricious; adjective; subject to, led by, or indicative of a sudden, odd notion or unpredictable change; erratic.

From *The Shawl* by Louise Erdrich: "He became, for us, a thing to be avoided, outsmarted, and exploited. We survived off him as if he were a [capricious](#) and dangerous line of work. I suppose we stopped thinking of him as a human being, certainly as a father."

After searching this word, I see that the narrator was describing his father as something dangerous and unpredictable. He and the siblings he was referring to saw their father as someone crazy.

Cloak

[Cloak](#): transitive verb: to cover or hide / noun: something that envelops or conceals

From "The Shawl": First, I told him that keeping his sister's shawl was wrong, because we never keep the clothing of the dead. Now's the time to burn it, I said. Send it off to cloak her spirit. And he agreed.

Now I came to understand that the boy requested his father to burn the shawl so that the shawl will reach to the spirit of his father's dead sister and cover her.

Condemnation

A reason or cause of condemning, the act of condemning

" Denver had to take pride i the condemnation Negroes heaped on them" (Beloved)

Conspicuous

[Conspicuous](#) (Adjective) : Obvious to the eye or mind

- **The Cottagette** : “I wasn’t very fond of Lois’s mother, Mrs.Fowler, but it did see, a little conspicuous , Mr. Matthews eating with us more than he did at the Calceolaria.”

I understood that it mean something being obvious, and not hidden for anyone to see and notice.

coquettish

[coquettish](#): adj – a woman who endeavors without sincere affection to gain the attention and admiration of men [[coquette](#): noun]

From "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner. “It was a big, squarish frame house that had once been white, decorated with cupolas and spires and scrolled balconies in the heavily lightsome style of the seventies, set on what had once been our most select street. But garages and cotton gins had encroached and obliterated even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily’s house was left, lifting its stubborn and **coquettish** decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps-an eyesore among eyesores. And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those august names where they lay in the cedar-bemused cemetery among the ranked and anonymous graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who fell at the battle of Jefferson.” (Section I – paragraph 2)

Now I understand that Miss Emily’s house is very individual, unique which marked by majestic dignity.

Countenance

Approval or favor; encouragement; moral support.

“A stupid countenance”(The runaway slave)

cradle

Cradle: a bed or cot for a baby usually on rockers or pivots

a frame to keep the bedclothes from contact with an injured part of the body or

Finally she lay back and cradled the crawling-already ? girl in her arm
from Beloved (94)

D demur

[demur](#) : verb :To voice opposition; *Law* To enter a demurrer.

from the story " The Cottagette " , i demurred a little, it was monday, Mrs. Fowler thought it was cheaper to have a woman come and wash, and we did, but it certainly made more work.

i now understand that the author was showing reluctance to Ford Mathews request, “one day he came around early and asked me

to go up hugh's peak with him".

Divulge

Divulge: transitive verb : to make public; to make known(as a confidence or secret).

From " A Rose For Emily" by William Faulkner, " He would never divulge what happened during that interview but he refused to go back again".(Page 4, paragraph 13).

Now i understand that the talk between the Baptist minister and Miss Emily Grierson he doesn't want speak about with anyone else. He's being respectful and keeping it confidential.

Dote

Dote: verb: to be lavish or excessive in one's attention, fondness, or affection.

Who had not even escaped slavery—had, in fact, been bought out of it by a doting son . . ." (137).

I understand now that a son who is extremely loved would buy their parents out of slavery.

drabness

a dull, lifeless, or faded appearance or quality.

"things became what they were: drabness looked drab; heat was hot."

E **Elixir**

Elixir: noun : a sweetened liquid usually containing alcohol that is used in medication either for its medicinal ingredients or as a flavoring.

From the "Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin. "Go away. I am not making myself ill." No; she was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window. (paragraph 16).

I understand that Louise Mallard had a heart trouble and this substance can possibly help cure her condition, she was drinking it fast as it had alcohol in it and it caused the affect that she could see her whole life through the window.

elude

to escape the perception, understanding, or grasp of.

"But who she owed or what to pay it with eluded her."

Eluded

Eluded; transitive verb; to escape the perception, understanding, or grasp of.

From "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, pg 77.

"Denver stopped and sighed. This was the part of the story she loved. She was coming to it now, and she loved it because it was all about herself; but she hated it too because it made her feel like a bill was owing somewhere and she, Denver, had to pay it. But who she owed or what to pay it with **eluded** her."

After researching this word, I comprehended that what Denver was talking about, the bill that she felt like she owed somewhere, but did not know who she owed or what to pay it with was out of her understanding. Denver did not understand this whole concept of owing someone out there that she did not know or either what she was supposed to pay it with.

enquiringly

[enquiringly](#): adverb – in an inquiring manner

From the story "Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka. "Mr. and Mrs. Samsa sat upright there in their marriage bed and had to make an effort to get over the shock caused by the cleaner before they could grasp what she was saying. But then, each from his own side, they hurried out of bed. Mr. Samsa threw the blanket over his shoulders, Mrs. Samsa just came out in her nightdress; and that is how they went into Gregor's room. On the way they opened the door to the living room where Grete had been sleeping since the three gentlemen had moved in; she was fully dressed as if she had never been asleep, and the paleness of her face seemed to confirm this. "Dead?", asked Mrs. Samsa, looking at the charwoman **enquiringly**, even though she could have checked for herself and could have known it even without checking." (Section III -counting backward paragraph 8).

Now I understand that Mrs.Samsa is asking Grete in a suspecting tone if Gregor is dead, although she can see he is.

Erroneous

[Erroneous](#): Adjective: containing or characterized [error](#).

From Women and Economics Chapter XIV "Our assumption that only married people and their immediate relatives have any right to live in comfort and health is erroneous."

I now understand what she meant in saying this which is basically our assumptions about peoples right to live in comfort and good health was wrong.

Exacerbated

To increase the severity, bitterness or violence

"The problem was further exacerbated if a a recipient was illiterate" (The runaway slave)

F Fatuity

Fatuity: Noun: something foolish or stupid : a foolish or stupid quality

From the short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. "Looked at one way each [breadth](#) stands alone, the bloated curves and flourishes – a kind of "Debased Romanesque" and [delirium tremens](#) — go waddling up and down in isolated columns of fatuity."

I now understand that she was saying that the lines in the wallpaper were moving up and down and basically all over the wall in a stupid or foolish way. Sort of like they had a violent delirium and shook all over with tremors thereby it looked like it was all over the place.

Feeble

Weak intellectually or morally

"Old men described as feeble"(The runaway slaves)

Fiction: terms for study

These are the terms we reviewed in class at the beginning of the semester, plus the few more that we added to our list of terms. Many of them come from Ann Charters's "[Elements of Fiction](#)." You should review them and be sure you know what they mean, (especially the terms for different types of narrators for Essay 1)!

plot: the series of events that give a story its meaning and effect: what happens

rising action: the events in which the drama intensifies, rising toward the climax

climax: the most dramatic and revealing moment, usually the turning point

falling action: when the drama subsides and the conflict is resolved

protagonist: the central agent in generating its plot, and this individual can embody the story's theme

antagonist: the character or force in conflict with the protagonist

round character: a complex, fully developed character, often prone to change

flat character: A one-dimensional character, typically not central to the story

characterization: The process by which an author presents and develops a fictional character

setting: the story's time and place, as well as its historical moment or its social context

first-person point of view: narration identifiable by the use of the pronoun "I"

second-person point of view: narrator uses "you" to addresses reader

Third-person point of view: narration doesn't use "I"; occurs when the narrator does not take part in the story

omniscient narration: when the narrator includes information from anywhere, including characters' thoughts and feelings.



(omniscient=all-knowing)

limited narration: when the narrator can relate what is in the minds of only a select few characters

objective/dramatic narration: when the narrator doesn't have access to characters' internal thoughts or background information about the setting or situation.

homodiegetic narration: when the narrator is part of the story-world—a character within the story. This would be a **first-person narrator**, and can also be called a **character narrator**.

autodiegetic narration: when the narrator is the protagonist. This is a sub-set of **homodiegetic narration**

prolepsis: a change in the order of the story representing a **flash-forward**

analepsis: a change in the order of the story representing a **flashback**

focalizer: a character whose point of view or thoughts the narrator represents—most closely represented in “Elements of fiction” as a **point-of-view character**. There can be multiple focalizers in a narrative. The narrator is the focalizer in a homodiegetic, or first-person, narration.

diction: the word choices the author makes to tell the story

tone: the story's attitude toward its subject matter—it can be earnest, sarcastic, humorous, etc

theme: the meaning or concept central to the story

image: descriptive language that engages one of the senses, such as a visual image that makes the reader imagine what something looks like, or a tactile image that depicts what something feels like, etc

symbol: a repeated image that comes to take on a larger meaning in a given story

allegory: a story in which the symbols, characters, and events represent a different metaphysical, political, or social situation that elevates the meaning of the story

flamboyant

flamboyant: Tending to attract attention because of their exuberance, confidence, and stylishness.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Yellow Wallpaper* (1899), Page 2, Line 27

” One of those sprawling flamboyant patterns committing every artistic sin”

that design of the art seen stood out in a negative way, what the artist was trying to portray wasn't seen that way.

Forsooth

[forsooth](#): (adv.) often used to imply contempt or doubt.

Used in “Young Goodman Brown”, paragraph 31; ““Ah, forsooth, and it is your worship, indeed?” cried the good dame.”

This word was actually pretty funny to me when I read it and I thought I was either reading early Shakespeare or the Bible; I don't even think the Bible has the word “forsooth” in it. I'm glad I looked it up and now know the definition because maybe I can use it in

a sentence just to throw someone off. In all seriousness however, it's interesting to me that this word is an adverb, especially because we spoke about adverbs in class. It proves that not all adverbs are noticeable or end with "-ly."

G

glossary

glossary: noun:(from m-w.com) a collection of textual glosses or of specialized terms with their meanings.

BUT—what are glosses?

gloss: noun: (from m-w.com, 3rd meaning of the word, definition 1a) a brief explanation (as in the margin or between the lines of a text) of a difficult or obscure word or expression

That means that a glossary is a collection of explanations of difficult words.

Glower

[Glower](#): verb: to look or stare with sullen annoyance or anger

From: "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka: "Gregor!" shouted his sister, glowering at him and shaking her fist. That was the first word she had spoken to him directly since his transformation."

Now I understand that Gregor's sister was enraged and gave him a stare out of anger.

H

Haughty

[Haughty](#): adjective: having or showing the insulting attitude of people who think that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people

From the story "A Rose for Emily", " 'I want some poison'. she said to the druggist. She was over thirty then, still a slight woman, though thinner than usual, with cold, haughty black eyes in a face the flesh of which was strained across the temples and about the eyesockets as you imagine a lighthouse-keeper's face ought to look."

Now I understand that when Emily asked for the poison, she had a very dominating look in her eyes so that she won't be questioned about buying the poison.

Hobble

Hobble: to move along unsteadily or with difficulty; *especially* : to limp along

From Beloved

Tired of holding his head up, he lets his chin rest on the collar and speculates on how he can hobble over to the grate, boil a little water and throw in a handful of meal (227).

Hobnail

Hobnail: a short large-headed nail for studding shoe soles

from Beloved

A hobnail casket of jewels found in a tree hollow should be fondled before it is opened (176).

Homesteaded

[Homesteaded](#): verb: to acquire or occupy as a homestead (Homestead: Noun: the home and adjoining land occupied by a family)

From the short story "A Jury Of Her Peers" by Susan Glaspell. "When we Homesteaded in Dakota, and my first baby died — after he was two years old — and me with no other then —"

I now understand that she meant that when she lived in Dakota for a certain time.

I immaculate

[immaculate](#):

(adjective) having no stain, spotlessly clean

["Metamorphosis"](#). And despite the condition, he was not too shy to move forward a little onto the **immaculate** floor of the living room."

Impervious

Impervious; adjective; incapable of being influenced, persuaded, or affected.

From "A Rose for Emily" pg 5, "Now and then we would see her in one of the downstairs windows— she had evidently shut up the top floor of the house— like the carven torso of an idol in a niche, looking or not looking at us, we could never tell which. Thus she passed from generation to generation— dear, inescapable, **impervious**, tranquil, and perverse.

After searching the word, I now understand that as the years passed, Miss Emily grew unaffected from any news or events that occurred in her life. She was in a sense, unsensible to any feelings or thoughts.

Importunity

Importunity: noun: insistent solicitation and entreating; request or demand

In the story of "Story of an Hour", she arose at length and opened the door to her sister's importunities.

I understand that Mrs.Mallard locked herself in her room because of her husband's death news, so her sister Josephine demand her to open the door before Mrs.Mallard will do anything to harm herself.

Indenture

The formal agreement between a group of bondholders and the debtor as to the terms of the debt. (From an article from BHS)

Inexorably

[Inexorably](#):adv: not to be persuaded, moved, or stopped.

From: "Women and Economics": "Under all the influence of his later and wider life, all the reactive effect of social institutions, the individual is still inexorably modified by his means of livelihood: "the hand of the dyer is subdued to what he works in." (paragraph 5)

I understand that even after all the reactive effect of social institutions the individual is not persuaded by his means of securing the necessities of life.

J Jalousies

Jalousie; noun; a blind with adjustable horizontal slats for admitting light and air while excluding direct sun and rain.

From "A Rose for Emily", William Faulkner- "And as soon as the old people said, "Poor Emily," the whispering began. "Do you suppose it's really so?" they said to one another. "Of course it is. What else could.." This behind their hands; rustling of craned silk and satin behind **jalousies** closed upon the sun of Sunday afternoon as the thin, swift clop-clop-clop of the matched team passed: "Poor Emily."

After searching this word, what I came to understand is that it is used to imply that the people of the town talked behind Emily's back. They said "poor emily" behind closed blinds, not to talk about her in public.

jostle

to make one's way by pushing and shoving.

"Her back to them, she jostled the kindlin and almost lost the fire."

K L M Manumission

the act or process of manumitting; *especially* : formal emancipation from slavery

from Beloved

No more discussions, stormy or quiet, about the true meaning of the Fugitive Bill, the Settlement Fee, God's Ways and Negro pews; antislavery, manumission, skin voting, Republicans, Dred Scott, book learning, Sojourner's high-wheeled buggy, the Colored Ladies of Delaware, Ohio, and the other weighty issues that held them in chairs, scraping the floorboards or pacing them in agony or

exhilaration (173).

melancholy

Melancholy: noun: depression of spirits; pensive mood; a feeling of thoughtful sadness

From "Young Goodman Brown": ...he looked back and saw the head of Faith still peeping after him, with a melancholy air, in spite of her pink ribbons (line 6)

I understand that the melancholy air describes the feeling of Faith when her husband leaves the village and she is unhappy that he is leaving.

Monotonous

Monotonous; adjective; lacking in variety; tediously unvarying.

From "The Metamorphosis" pg 14 of 31: "Hearing these words from his mother made Gregor realise that the lack of any direct human communication, along with the **monotonous** life led by the family during these two months, must have made him confused- he could think of no other way of explaining to himself why he had seriously wanted his room emptied out."

From searching this word, I now understand that the family was leading a boring life, with no change or exciting events. The life that they were living lead Gregor to want to have the furniture removed from his room.

Monotonously

Monotonously; adjective; lacking in variety, tediously unvarying.

From *The Shawl* by Louise Erdrich: "If she could have thrown off that wronghearted love, she would have, but the thought of the other man, who lived across the lake, was with her always. She became a gray sky, stared [monotonously](#) at the walls, sometimes wept into her hands for hours at a time."

After searching this word, I now understand that the narrator described the women as boring, having no variety or activity. She had become flat.

Monument

monument; noun; a written legal document or record; a burial vault

In "A Rose for Emily", when Miss Emily Grierson died, our whole town went to her funeral: the men through a sort of respectful affection for a fallen monument, the woman mostly out of curiosity to see the inside of her house...

Now I understand that when Miss Emily died, the monument itself represents Emily and people are being respectful.

multifaceted

Multifaceted: having many facets or aspects

from You Pawn I will Redeem

Real change is a multifaceted organization that publishes a newspaper, supports cultural projects that empower the poor and the homeless, and mobilizes the public around poverty issues.

N
O
Oblivion

We have the need to forget. We are always walking on oblivion's edge.

OBLIVION : The condition or quality of being completely forgotten.

from The Shawl

Offal

offal— (noun) Waste parts, especially of a butchered animal.

"For a month or so in the winter any stray man had work, if he could breathe the stench of offal and stand up for twelve hours . . . "

(154).

From this, I understand now that the jobs available were only for the men who can stand the stench of a butchered animal.

P
Palsy

palsy-(noun) -Complete or partial muscle paralysis, often accompanied by loss of sensation and uncontrollable body movements or tremors.

Page 5- Last sentence- "Not only did she have to live our her years in a house palsied by the baby's fury at having its throat cut, but those ten minutes she spent pressed up against dawn-colored stone studded with star chips, her knees wide open as the grave, were longer than life, more alive, more pulsating than the baby blood that soaked her fingers like oil.

From this, I understand that the house was paralyzed and controlled by the baby's fury.

Perfunctory

Perfunctory: Adjective : Lacking interest of enthusiasm.

From the novel "Beloved", "Together they waged a perfunctory battle against the outrageous behavior of that place; against turned-over slop jars, smacks on the behind, gusts of sour air".(Page 4)

Now i understand that they have given up on taking care of the place.

Prithee

[Prithee](#) (Interjection): used to express a wish or request

From "Young Goodman Brown" by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

"Ha! ha! ha!" shouted he, again and again; then composing himself, "Well, go on, Goodman Brown, go on; but **prithee**, don't kill me with laughing!" (Paragraph 24)

I now understand that he was being "requested" not to continue making comments that were humorous, by the response of "Don't kill me with laughing!".

Procession

[Procession](#): noun: a group of individuals moving along in an orderly often ceremonial way.

From "The Cottagette": "The grass swept up to the door-step, to the walls—only it wasn't just grass of course, but such a procession of flowers as I had never imagined could grow in one place." (paragraph 11)

Now I understand that the grass and flowers swept in a orderly fashion or perhaps they were put there.

Q

Querulous

[Querulous](#)- Adjective, habitually complaining, fretful,whining.

From "The Yellow Wallpaper" I don't feel as if it was worth while to turn my hand over for anything, and I'm getting dreadfully fretful and querulous". (Page 4, paragraph 8)

Now i understand that the main character has been sick for a while and she has been whining trying to make herself feel better.

quizzical

[quizzical](#) odd, queer, or comical. questioning or puzzled: a quizzical [expression](#) on her face.

He looked at me steady and quizzical, as though he had never had a drink in his life, and i wiped his face again witht hat frayed piece of blanket.

R

refurbish

to brighten or freshen up.

"helped her endure the chastising ghost; refurbished the baby faces of Howard and Buglar [...]"

Regalia

Regalia; plural noun; the decorations, insignia, or ceremonial clothes of any office or order, or rich, fancy, or dressy clothing; finery.

From *What You Pawn I Will Redeem* by Sherman Alexie : “So we headed over that way, feeling like warrior drunks, and we walked past this pawnshop I’d never noticed before. And that was strange, because we Indians have built-in pawnshop radar. But the strangest thing of all was the old powwow-dance [regalia](#) I saw hanging in the window.”

The word regalia means a clothing or something of the type that is used for ceremonial events such as graduations or in this case, a traditional Indian dance. The narrator, Jackson Jackson, saw a regalia in the window of the pawnshop.

Relentlessly

That does not relent, unyielding severe, strict, or harsh; unrelenting

“relentlessly from one generation to the next”(The runaway slave)

Rendezvous

Rendezvous (French: *rendez-vous*), to visit, to meet, tryst, less exclusive than

“Now it was too late for the rendezvous to happen at the Redmen’s house, so they dropped where they were. later he punctured her calf to simulate snakebite so she could use it in a way as an excuse for not being on time to shake worms from tobacco leaves.”

(Beloved: by Toni Morrison, pg 25)

Repugnant

[Repugnant](#) : adjective, means incompatible, inconsistent, hostile, exciting distaste or aversion.

In “[Metamorphosis](#)” (page 22, 1st para) ”I declare here and now”, he said, raising his hand and glancing at Gregor’s mother and sister to gain their attention too, “that with regard to the [repugnant](#) conditions that prevail in this flat and with this family”- here he looked briefly but decisively at the floor – “I give immediate notice on my room. For the days that I have been living here I will, of course, pay nothing at all, on the contrary I will consider whether to proceed with some kind of action for damages from you, and believe me it would be very easy to set out the grounds for such an action.”

S

Scorched

[Scorch](#): verb: to burn a surface of so as to change its color and texture, to dry or shrivel with or as if with intense heat

From “The Shawl”: His chest was scorched with pain, and yet he pushed himself on. He’d never run so fast, so hard and furiously, but he was determined, and he refused to believe that the increasing distance between him and the wagon was real.

Now I came to understand that the boy was running very fast, so his chest was burning with pain but still he was not ready to give up the race with the wagon.

Sough

intransitive verb

to make a moaning or sighing sound

From "Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka, page 7, paragraph 1.

"He was still occupied with this difficult movement, unable to pay attention to anything else, when he heard the chief clerk exclaim a loud "Oh!", which sounded like the soughing of the wind."

I felt silly having to reread this sentence. Once I learned the meaning, I reread it once more, and it made me understand the visual of Gregor being judged on his appearance by the chief clerk. It made the moment a lot more dramatic. It made me almost feel bad for him.

spat

[Spat](#) to splash or spatter;

"The Shawl", although he already spat the tubercular blood that would write the end of his story.

Sled

A small vehicle consisting of a platform mounted on runners for use in traveling over snow or ice

"Sled runner" (The Shawl)

sly

in a manner intended to avoid notice.

"She chose Halle and for their first bedding she sewed herself a dress on the sly."

spiteful

[Spiteful](#): adjective, full of spite, petty ill will or hatred with the disposition to irritate, annoy, or thwart

[Beloved by Toni Morrison](#): "124 was spiteful. Full of a baby's venom. The women in the house knew it and so did the children."

From this word I came to know that there were all painful things going on around that place 124.

Stash

[Stash](#): transitive verb : to store in a usually secret place for future use

From "The Shawl": I got my growth earlier than some boys, and, one night when I was thirteen and Doris and Raymond and I were sitting around wishing for something besides the oatmeal and commodity canned milk I'd stashed so he couldn't sell them, I heard him coming down the road.

Now I understand that the boy kept the oatmeal and commodity canned milk in secret place so that his father won't sell them and they could eat later.

Strenuous

Strenuous: adjective : vigorously active : energetic.

From "Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka, "what a strenuous career it is that I've chosen! Travelling day in and day out. Doing business like this takes much more effort than doing your own business at home."

Now I understand that Gregor Samsa's career requires him to be moving around a lot. Also, it requires him to be exceptionally active.

strenuous

strenuous: Requiring or using great exertion

Synonyms: strong – hard – vigorous – active – energetic – toilsome

Found in "The Metamorphosis," paragraph 4, line 1, page 2. "oh, god", he thought, "what a strenuous career it is that I've chosen! traveling day in and day out.

Strutted

To walk with a vain, pompous bearing, as with head erect and chest thrown out, as if expecting to impress observers. (Beloved)

Sulked

To remain silent or hold oneself aloof in a sullen, ill-humored, or offended mood (Beloved)

sullen

[Sullen](#) adj.

gloomily or resentfully silent or repressed.

Sword

Sword: a weapon (as a cutlass or rapier) with a long blade for cutting or thrusting that is often used as a symbol of honor or authority(173)

While Stamp Paid was making up his mind to visit 124 for Baby Suggs'

sake, Sethe was trying to take her advice: to lay it all down, sword and shield. Not just to acknowledge the advice Baby Suggs gave her, but actually to

take it.

coercive power

T **Tendon**

The father bounded forward when he saw the tracks. He could see where the pack, desperate, had tried to slash the tendons of the horses' legs.

TENDON: A *tendon* is a fibrous connective tissue which attaches muscle to bone. *Tendons* may also attach muscles to structures such as the eyeball.

from The Shawl

Throng

Throng: multitude of assembled persons or a large number of persons.

Outside a throng, now, of black faces stopped murmuring. Holding the living child, Sethe walked past them in their silence and hers(152).

Triumph

Triumph: noun: the joy or exultation of victory or success, a notable success

From "The Story of An Hour": "She arose at length and opened the door to her sister's importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory." (Paragraph 18)

This means there was an intense joy of victory in her eyes.

tumultuously

Tumultuously: adv: loud, excited, and emotional; marked by violent or overwhelming [turbulence](#) or upheaval.

From "The Story of an Hour": "Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will—as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been." (paragraph 10)

Now I understand that her chest is moving quickly and turbulently because she is so upset or emotionally damaged.

U **Untethered**

The utmost length to which one can go in action; the utmost extent or limit of ability or resources.

“A wandering goat untethered and gnawing bramble”(Beloved)

Unwittingly

Unwittingly: adverb: without knowledge or intention; not knowing

From the story “The Story of An Hour”, “...and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory

Mrs.Mallard finally got over with her husband’s death and she is ready for her new life so she got up and open the door for her sister Josephine.

V **Vessels**

A hollow or concave utensil, as a cup, bowl, pitcher, or vase,used for holding liquids or other contents.(The runaway slaves)

vex

to irritate or annoy by petty provocations.

“what is it about her vex you so?”

Viaduct

Viaduct: a long elevated roadway usually consisting of a series of short spans supported on arches, piers, or columns.

from You Pawn I redeem

Thinking hard we huddled in an alley beneath the Alaska way viaduct and finished off those bottles-one, two, and three.

Visage

[visage](#):noun: the face, countenance, or appearance of a person

From “Young Goodman Brown”:They turned; and flashing forth, as it were, in a sheet of flame, the fiend-worshippers were seen; the smile of welcome gleamed darkly on every visage. (Paragraph 62)

I came to understand that there was a light smile on every face.

W

Wagon

There were no roads then, just trails, though we had horses and wagons, and for the winter sleds.

WAGON: A wagon is a heavy four-wheeled vehicle pulled by draught animals, used for transporting goods, commodities, agricultural materials, supplies, and sometimes people. Wagons are distinguished from carts, which have two wheels, and from lighter four-wheeled vehicles primarily for carrying people, such as carriages. Wagons are pulled by animals such as horses, mules or oxen. They may be pulled by one animal or by several, often in pairs or teams

Wharf

Wharf: a structure built along or at an angle from the shore of navigable waters so that ships may lie alongside to receive and discharge cargo and passenger.

Back on the wharf I stood near the Bainbridge Island Terminal and tried to sell papers to business commuters boarding the ferry.

from WHAT YOU PAWN I REDEEM

Willow

The was a board. A willow wand. And there was himself

WILLOW: any tree or shrub of the genus *Salix*, characterized by narrow, lance-shaped leaves and dense catkins bearing flowers.

From The Shawl

X
Y
Z