

Short Story Vocabulary

This handout may not be used at notes on the Short Story Quiz; it should instead be used to complete existing handwritten notes taken during class presentations and to double-check the depth and accuracy of those notes.

1. **rank** - (noun) a position in society or organization; (adj.) having a strong unpleasant smell; (adj.) growing too thickly
2. **billow** - (verb) to fill with air and swell out; (verb) to rise and move in a large mass; (noun) a moving mass or cloud of steam or water
3. **infallibility** - (noun) the state of always being right, true, or correct; the quality of being incapable of mistakes
4. **reiterate** - (verb) to say something again so that people take notice of it
5. **uncoordinated** - (adj.) not controlled; not moving smoothly or together; not well organized; unskilled at sports and physical activities
6. **armada** - (noun) a large group of armed ships sailing together; any group of large objects moving together in formation
7. **solder** - (noun) a mixture of metals that is melted and used to join pieces of metal together; (verb) to join pieces of metal or wire
8. **evanesce** - (verb) to last for only a short time like a vapor that disappears quickly; to disappear or fade away
9. **aperture** - (noun) a small opening in something; an opening that allows light pass through
10. **fetter** - (verb) to restrict somebody's freedom; to chain a prisoner's feet; (noun) something that limits or chains someone
11. **flambeau** - (noun) a burning torch that is designed to provide light for one who holds it, especially once used in ceremonies
12. **imposture** - (noun) an act of tricking people deliberately by pretending to be somebody else; the action of an imposter
13. **impunity** - (noun) doing something wrong without getting punished; freedom from deserved punishment
14. **catacombs** - (noun) a series of underground tunnels and rooms used for burying dead people, especially in ancient times
15. **hearken** - (verb) to listen to somebody or something; to hear and listen with respect, often in a formal way
16. **abscond** (verb) to leave somewhere suddenly without permission because you want to escape, or because you have stolen something
17. **crypt** - (noun) a room under a church, especially one where people are buried
18. **obstinate** - (adj.) not willing to change your ideas or behavior although you are wrong
19. **rapier** - (noun) a long thin light sword that has two sharp edges; a sword made for piercing its victims
20. **barren** - (adj.) used to describe land which cannot grow crops; used to describe women who cannot have children; lifeless or empty
21. **frail** - (adj.) physically weak and thin; weak; easily damaged or broken
22. **mistrust** - (verb/noun) having no confidence in somebody or something because of the belief they may be harmful or unreliable
23. **presentable** - (adj.) looking clean and tidy; suitable to be seen in public
24. **suede** - (adj.) soft leather that has a slightly rough surface, used especially for making clothes and shoes
25. **nightingale** - (noun) a small brown bird, the male of which has a beautiful song which is sung at nighttime
26. **realm** - (noun) an area of knowledge or activity; a country ruled by a king or queen
27. **disdainful** - (adj.) used to describe someone or something that is disliked; considered unworthy of respect
28. **tawdry** - (adj.) intended to be bright and attractive but cheap and of low quality; unpleasant and immoral; offensive
29. **glutted** - (adj.) supplied in much greater quantities than is needed or wanted; to exceed the necessary amount, especially with food
30. **revelry** - (noun) loud partying which involves excessive drinking and wild behavior