

THE SCARLET LETTER—VOCABULARY

THIS NOVEL IS DIFFICULT FOR MANY STUDENTS BECAUSE OF THE VOCABULARY. I HAVE LISTED SIXTY EXCELLENT WORDS THAT WILL PREPARE YOU FOR THE SAT, COLLEGE, FUTURE READING, AND LIFE . THEY WILL HELP MAKE YOU THE SCINTILLATING CONVERSATIONALIST THAT YOU SEEK TO BE (!). SOME OF THE OTHER DIFFICULT WORDS ARE OUTDATED OR SIMPLY TOO ESOTERIC TO LIST (“ANTINOMIAN” FITS INTO THAT CATEGORY BUT I INCLUDED IT JUST SO THAT YOU COULD GET THROUGH THE FIRST PART OF THE BOOK). FOR A MORE COMPLETE LIST, PLEASE GO TO <http://teacher2b.com/strategies/vocab1.htm> AND PRINT ALL 386 WORDS AND DEFINITIONS. REFER TO THIS LIST OR YOU WILL BE LOST! ANOTHER OPTION IS TO PURCHASE THE *Kaplan* EDITION OF THIS BOOK WITH 600 VOCABULARY FOOTNOTES.

Note: page numbers indicated are close but not exact (another teacher compiled this list using a different edition). In the Perma-Bound Classic edition, subtract approximately 10 pages from the indicated number toward the beginning of the novel (“55” is really 45) but by the end add 14 pages (“245” is really 259)

1. UTOPIA: (PG. 55) a place or state of political or social perfection.
2. ALLOT: (PG. 55) to divide or distribute in shares.
3. CONGENIAL: (PG. 56) pleasant, friendly.
4. PHYSIOGNOMIES: (PG. 57) the facial features held to show qualities of mind
5. INFERENCE: (PG. 57) a deduction; something that logically follows
6. MIEN: appearance; aspect.
7. AUGURED: (PG. 57/47) foretold.
8. ANTINOMIAN: (PG. 57) one who rejects a socially established morality
9. INDUBITABLY: (PG. 57) unquestionably.
10. DEMEANOR: outward manner; behavior toward others
11. VENERABLE: (PG. 58) made sacred especially by religious association highly respected
12. MALEFACTRESS: (PG. 59) a woman who violates the law or does evil.
13. ABASH: (PG. 60/51) to destroy the self-confidence of.
14. PILLORY: (PG. 65) the stage one stands on for public humiliation; to humiliate for wrongdoing
15. CONTUMELY: rude language or treatment arising from contempt.
16. SAGACIOUS: (PG. 70) of keen mind: shrewd.
17. IGNOMINIOUS: (PG. 69/53) shameful; disgraceful in action
18. PLEBEIAN: (PG. 86) one of the common people
19. TALISMAN: (PG. 90) something producing apparently magical effects.
20. IMBUED: (PG. 92) inspired as with feelings, opinions, etc.
21. CAPRICE: (PG. 94) a sudden, impulsive change: whim.
22. DEARTH: (PG. 97) scarcity, lack, or famine.
23. PRISTINE: (PG. 102) uncorrupt by civilization. “A pristine mountain lake”
24. INTRINSIC: (PG. 102) originating within the body or part acted on.
25. CABALISTIC: (PG. 104) esoteric in doctrine or mysterious
26. FEIGN: (PG.108) pretend; “an opossum feigns death”
27. VEHEMENT: (PG. 115) forceful or violent, as in vehemently denying all involvement in . . .
28. ERUDITION: (PG. 124) extensive knowledge acquired chiefly from books.
29. DEEM: (PG. 128) to believe or judge. “He deems them worthy of his mighty presence”
30. INIMICAL: (PG. 128) having the disposition of an enemy: hostile.

31. SOLACE: (PG. 130) alleviation of grief or anxiety.
32. DECOROUSLY: (PG. 131) marked by propriety and good taste: correct
33. PALLIATE: (PG. 134) to cover by excuses or apologies; to ease the pain
34. LATENT: (PG. 136) present and capable of becoming though not now visible or active: dormant.
35. EXPIATION: (PG. 144) an atoning for (paying for sins); expiate=to make amends for.
36. SCURRILOUS: (PG. 153) grossly and offensively abusive.
37. REplete: (PG. 152) fully or abundantly provided or filled: complete.
38. DESPOT: (PG. 156) a ruler with absolute power and authority.
39. OBVIATE: (PG. 160) to see beforehand and dispose of; making unnecessary.
40. ACQUIESCE: (PG. 161) to accept or comply tacitly or passively.
41. SEDULOUS: (PG. 168) diligent in application or pursuit.
42. PETULANT: (PG. 172) insolent or rude in speech or behavior.
43. ASPERITY: (PG. 174) roughness of manner or of temper: harshness.
44. PRATTLE: (PG. 178) to talk in a foolish or simpleminded way.
45. CONTIGUOUS: (PG. 183) bordering (state); next or near in time or sequence.
46. MISANTHROPY: (PG. 184) a hatred or distrust of mankind.
47. SATIATE: (PG. 186) to satisfy fully.
48. SUBJUGATE: (PG. 193) to bring under dominion: conquer.
49. DENIZEN: (PG. 194) an inhabitant: resident.
50. CHOLERIC: (PG. 194) bad tempered; irritable.
51. INURED: (PG. 198) accustomed to accept something undesirable.
52. VICISSITUDES: (PG. 202) unexpectedly changing circumstances.
53. MORBID: (PG. 224) abnormally susceptible to gloomy or unwholesome feelings.
54. NECROMANCY: (PG. 225) dark magic, sorcery
55. PATHOS: (PG. 227) an emotion of sympathetic pity.
56. SURMISE: (PG. 231) to imagine or infer on slight grounds. Similar to CONJECTURE
57. APOTHEOSIS: (PG. 233) elevation to divine status.
58. INTIMATIONS: (PG. 235) the act of making known: announce.
59. SABLE: (PG. 245) the color black; dark; the color of a mink's coat
60. GULES: (the last word) the heraldic color red