“The Story of an Hour” Vocabulary Sheet

**Afflict**: *(verb)* to cause pain or suffering to (someone or something)

-Suzanna’s neighbor was **afflicted** with crippling arthritis.

**Aquiver**: *(adjective)* shaking or trembling because of strong emotion; quivering

-“She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all **aquiver** with the

new spring life.”

**Assert**: *(verb)* to state (something) in a strong and definite way; to demand that other people accept or

respect (something)

-In order to maintain freedom, a person must **assert** his or her own beliefs in certain situations.

**Bespeak**: *(verb)* to be evidence of (something); to be a sign of (something)

-Her teary gaze and choked words **bespoke** years of pain, repression, and suffering.

**Elixir**: *(noun)* a magical liquid that can cure illness or extend life

-“She was drinking in a very **elixir** of life through that open window.”

**Elusive**: *(adjective)* hard to find or capture; hard to understand, define, or remember

-For years the scientists explored the rainforest, hoping to catch just a glimpse of the **elusive**

creature.

**Exalt**: *(verb)* to raise (someone or something) to a higher level; to praise (someone or something) highly

-For over a decade, Professor Russo has been **exalted** as the world’s leading expert on Florentine art.

**Forestall**: *(verb)* to stop (something) from happening or to cause (something) to happen at a later time;

to act before (someone else) in order to prevent something

-The students used excessive questioning and red herrings in an attempt to **forestall** taking the test.

**Hasten**: *(verb)* to cause (something) to happen more quickly; to move or act quickly

-Trudy and Bianca **hastened** toward the bus ramp in order not to be late catching their bus.

**Illumination**: *(noun)* light that comes into a room, that shines on something, etc.; knowledge or

understanding

-In a sudden moment of **illumination**, ten students raised their hands excitedly to answer the

question.

**Implore**: *(verb)* to ask or beg for (something) in a very serious or emotional way; to make a serious or

emotional request

-On her hands and knees, Evennia **implored** her mother to buy her the tickets for the biggest concert

of the year.

**Importunity:** *(noun)* the act of making repeated or annoying requests or demands; causing annoyance

or trouble

-After an hour and a half of listening to the student’s **importunities**, the teacher finally sent him to

see the principal.

**Impose**: *(verb)* to establish or create (something unwanted) in a forceful or harmful way

-In part because Britain **imposed** harsh taxes on the colonies without providing them adequate

representation in Parliament, the colonies rebelled and declared their independence.

**Impulse**: *(noun)* a sudden strong desire to do something

-Bridget stifled her **impulse** to shout out the correct answer by clamping both hands over her mouth.

**Keen**: *(adjective)* having or showing an ability to think clearly and to understand what is not obvious or

simple about something; insightful and well-aware

-John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard oil, was well-known for his **keen** business sense and his

ability to outwit and overthrow his competitors.

**Perception**: *(noun)* the way you think about or understand someone or something

-Vivian’s **perception** of the situation was correct: it was going to be a long journey.

**Persistence**: *(noun)* the quality that allows someone to continue doing something or trying to do

something even though it is difficult or opposed by other people

-Jason’s **persistence** in pursuing and solving the problem prevented his company from losing millions

of dollars.

**Repression:** *(noun)* the act of being repressed. **Repress** *(verb)* to apply pressure or force; to hold in by

self-control; to exclude from consciousness

-After years of **repressing** her true emotions, Jocelyn finally told her husband she hated him.

**Subtle:** *(adjective)* difficult to understand or perceive

-He didn’t seem to understand my **subtle** hints, so I jabbed him in the ribs with my elbow.

**Trivial**: *(adjective)* not important

-The police detective knew that any clue, no matter how **trivial** it seemed, could turn out to be

important later in the investigation.

**Tumultuous**: *(noun)* loud, excited, and emotional; involving a lot of violence, confusion, or disorder

-The sea was **tumultuous**, tossing the ship to and fro on the cresting, thundering waves.

**Unwitting**: *(adjective)* not aware of what is really happening; not intended or planned

-The bystander, an **unwitting** hero, pulled the child from the burning car without a second thought

for his own life.

**Vacant**: *(adjective)* empty; not filled, used, or lived in; showing no indication of what someone is

thinking, feeling, etc.

-Horatio was pale and cold, his **vacant** stare pointed toward the distant horizon.

**Veil**: *(noun)* something that covers or hides something else; “veiled” *(adjective)* the state of being

covered

-Bobbi Jo shot a look of thinly **veiled** contempt toward her step-sister Bianca.