

## "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, Evvenia **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.