

Unique Words

PROSE:

A Letter to God

- Crest - top of a mountain or hill
- downpour - a heavy fall of rain
- plague - an unusually large number
- solitary - single
- concise - an inner sense of right and wrong
- daybreak - dawn
- peso - unit of currency
- sow - planting the seeds of a crop
- heartily - loudly
- amiable - friendly
- deed - brave or noble act
- affixed - attached
- crooks - dishonest people

Nelson Mandela - Long walk to freedom

- apartheid: racial segregation or racial discrimination
- autobiography: life story (biography) of a person written by that person himself or herself
- amphitheater: large open theatre
- dignitaries: eminent persons
- oppress: harsh and unfair treatment
- jubilant: joyful, happy
- dawned : began
- besieged: surrounded by
- decades: periods of ten years
- supremacy: being supreme; dominance
- confer: to give
- outlaws: deprived of the benefit and protection of the law
- rare privilege: uncommon right
- possession: control
- emancipation: freedom from restriction;
- bondage: slavery
- reign: period of rule or dominance
- awe: respect and fear

- 19. Bedecked: Decorated or adorned in a showy way.
- chevron: V-shaped symbol or pattern.
- Not unmindful: Being aware;
- Racial domination: Control based on race.
- despised: hated
- Wrought: Worked into shape through effort.
- Profound: Having deep meaning.
- Brutality: Being cruel or harsh.
- Comrades: Friends or fellow patriots.
- Resilience: The ability to bounce back from difficulties.
- Defies: challenges.
- Grimmet: Saddest or worst.

Two Stories about Flying

- Seagull: A coastal bird with short legs and long wings.
- Ledge: A narrow shelf sticking out from a surface.
- Brink: The edge of land before a steep drop.
- Expanse: A wide and continuous area of something.
- Flapped: The motion of a bird moving its wings.
- Muster: To gather or collect.
- Plunge: To jump or dive.
- Shrilly: Making a high-pitched and piercing sound.
- Upbraiding: Scolding or reprimanding.
- Herring: A soft-finned sea fish.
- Devour: Eating quickly or voraciously.
- Cackle: Laughing loudly and harshly.
- Cowardice: Lack of bravery or courage.
- Ascending the sky: The act of rising up through the air.
- Preening: Tidying and cleaning feathers.
- Hump: A rounded raised mass of earth or land.
- Scrapped: Thrown away or discarded.
- Derisively: In a manner expressing contempt or ridicule.
- Plaintively: In a sad or mournful manner.
- Uttered: Making a sound with one's voice.
- Halted: Stopped or came to a standstill.
- Monstrous: Extremely horrible or frightening.
- Seized: Grabbed or took hold of.
- Headlong: With the head leading or foremost.
- Soaring: Flying or rising high in the air.
- Swooped: Moving rapidly downward through the air.
- Curvetting: Performing a series of jumps on the hind legs.
- Shrieking: Making a high-pitched and piercing cry.

- Shrilly: Loudly and forcefully.
- Ridges: Long, narrow hilltops, mountain ranges, or watersheds.
- Cawed: Making a cawing sound like a crow.

From the diary of Anne Frank

- Musings: A time when you think deeply about something.
- Listless: Having no energy or interest.
- Brooding: Deeply thinking about something sad, angry, or worrisome.
- Prompted: Caused or provoked.
- Confide: To share personal things privately with someone you trust.
- Plunge: Jump or dive quickly.
- Emigrated: Moved permanently to another country.
- Plunked: Put down.
- Solemn: Serious and sincere.
- Quaking: Shaking or trembling.
- Staked: Bet or chanced.
- Glances: Quick looks.
- Not to lose heart: Not to be discouraged.
- Old fogey: An old-fashioned person.
- Chatterbox: A talkative person.
- Jotted: Wrote quickly.
- Ramble: Talk or write at length in a confused way.
- Incurable: Not able to be changed.
- Mistress: A woman in a position of authority or control.
- Roared: Laughed (in this context).
- Ingenuity: Cleverness, originality, and inventiveness.
- Verse: Writing arranged with a metrical rhythm, often rhyming.
- Ridiculous: Deserving mockery; absurd.
- Contrary: Opposite in nature, direction, or meaning.

Glimpses of India

- Reminiscing nostalgically: Thinking fondly of the past.
- Loaves: Bread shaped and baked in a single piece..
- Molders: A person who shapes dough.
- Heralding: Announcing.
- Padre: Portuguese word for a baker.
- Rebuke: An expression of disapproval; a scolding.
- Parapet: A low protective wall or railing.
- Bolinas: Another name for coconut cookies.
- Invigorating: Strong (here).
- Mainstream: A tradition that most people follow.

- Tales of Valour: Stories of courage and bravery, usually in a war.
- Descent: Origin.
- Most Decorated: Having received the maximum number of awards for bravery in a war.
- Mischief: Playful behavior.
- Mahouts: Persons who work with, ride, and tend to elephants.
- Canoeing: Traveling in a river in a canoe.
- Rappelling: Going down a cliff by sliding down a rope.
- Panoramic View: A view of a wide area of land..
- As Far as Eye Could See: For a long distance until something is so far away and small it cannot be seen anymore.
- Dwarfing: Causing to seem small or insignificant in comparison.
- Amidst: In the middle of.
- Billowing: Moving or flowing outwards.
- Ascetic: Characterized by severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.
- Banished: Got rid of.
- Clattered: Loud noise made by the train brakes.
- Veered: Changed direction.
- Gravel: Small, rounded stones often mixed with sand.
- Pruned: Cut away from a tree.
- Sprouting Period: When a plant sends out new growth (second harvest of tea leaves in a season).

Mijbil the Otter

- Crossed my mind: A thought that came into my mind.
- A stone's throw: A very short distance.
- Otter: A semi-aquatic fish-eating mammal with a long body, dense fur, and webbed feet.
- Eminently: Highly; very.
- As common as mosquitoes: Easily found.
- Tamed: Domesticated (made friendly and manageable, like a pet).
- Cabled: Sent a message by telegraph (an old method of communication).
- Breakdown: A mechanical failure.
- Squatting: Crouching or sitting with knees bent and heels close to or touching one's buttocks.
- Squirmed: Twisted about.
- Thralldom: (Old-fashioned) Being under the control of.
- Fixation: A very strong attachment or feeling.
- Medievally conceived: An imagination of the Middle Ages.
- Christened: Named.
- Hostile: Unfriendly.

- Hostile: Unfriendly.
- Aloof and indifferent: Keeping a distance; not interested.
- Apathy: Absence of interest.
- Crook of my knees: The soft inside part where you bend your knee.
- So as to speak: As it were (one could say this).
- Provoking: Causing anger or some other reaction.
- Plunging: Falling; sinking.
- Splashed: Splashed.
- Static: Motionless.
- Fumbling: Trying to do something in a clumsy manner.
- Trickle: Flow in a small stream.
- Chattering: Make a twittering or chattering sound.
- Chromium: A hard white metal used to make taps.
- Flick: A quick, light movement.
- Shuffling: Dragging (here).
- Dribble: Repeated hits on a ball to make it go ahead.
- Pastime: Distraction; entertainment.
- Accustomed: Familiar.
- Dreaded the prospect: Was in great fear of something that would happen in the future.
- An appalling spectacle: A shocking scene.
- Whipped off: Quickly took off.
- Trickled: Dripped; flowed.
- Shreds: Pieces.
- Ricocheting bullet: A bullet that changes direction after hitting a surface.
- Infuriated: Very angry.
- Took her into my confidence: Shared with her my experiences or secrets.
- Portly: Stout.
- Craning: Stretching out one's body or neck to see something.
- Distressed: Troubled.
- Recognition: Identification; acknowledgment.
- Nuzzle: To rub gently with the nose.
- Bounded on to: Climbed up quickly.
- Terrapin shell: The shell of a small turtle found in North America.
- Engrossed: Completely interested in.
- Ambush: To attack suddenly from a hidden position.
- Crouching: Squatting; adopting a position where the knees are bent and the upper body is brought forward and down, typically to avoid detection or defend oneself.
- Trot off: To leave.
- Compulsive: Irresistible.
- Rituals: Religious ceremonies.

- Tug: Pull.
- Gallop: Run fast.
- Barrage of conjectural questions: A stream of questions filled with guesses.
- Affront: Insult.
- Spat: Past tense of spit.

Madam Rides the Bus

- Curious: Eager to know or learn something.
- Wistfully: Longingly.
- Kindle: Set alight (fire), here, feelings.
- A slang expression: Informal words, often used within a close group.
- Discreet questions: Careful questions.
- Commandingly: In a controlling tone.
- Slack time: A time when there is not much work.
- Devoured: Read quickly and eagerly (here).
- Canvas: A coarse fabric.
- Blind: A partition.
- Haughtily: Proudly.
- Repulsive: Causing strong dislike.
- Curtly: Rudely brief or abrupt.
- Drivel: Silly nonsense.
- Thriftily: Spend money carefully.
- Resolutely stifled: Suppressed/controlled with determination.
- Ventured out: Went cautiously, courageously.
- Hamlet: A small settlement with a few houses.
- Gobbling up: To swallow or eat hastily.
- Glee: Happiness and joy.
- Thoroughfare: A busy public road.
- Merchandise: Things for sale.
- Railroad crossing: An intersection where a railway line crosses a road or path.
- Spreadeagled: Spread out.
- Haunted: Returned repeatedly to her mind; was impossible to forget.
- Pokes her nose: Takes an interest in something that doesn't concern her.

Sermon at Benaras

- Sacred: Embodying the laws or doctrines of a religion.
- Scriptures: The sacred writings of a religion.
- Befitted: Be appropriate for; suit.
- Chanced upon: Came across by chance.
- Alms: Money or food given to poor people; charity.
- Enlightenment: A state of high spiritual knowledge.

- Wandered: To move without a fixed course.
- Vowed: Solemnly promised to do a specified thing.
- Preached: Delivered a religious address to an assembled group of people.
- Sermon: A talk on a religious or moral subject.

The Proposal

- Farce: A comic dramatic work.
- Privilege: Advantage.
- Shan't: Shall not.
- Pardon: Forgive or excuse (a person, error, or offense).
- Awfully: Very; extremely.
- Assistance: The action of helping someone.
- Go round and round: Not coming to the main point.
- Spit it out: Speak out.
- To seek the hand of a girl in marriage: To propose.
- By Jove: By God.
- Desire: A strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen.
- Idiotic: Very stupid; silly.
- Consent: Agreement to do something.
- Egad: Exclamation (expressing surprise, anger, or affirmation).
- Lovesick: Longing, yearning, or desiring.
- Trembling: Shaking or quivering, typically as a result of excitement, anxiety, or frailty.
- Hesitate: Pause in indecision before saying or doing something.
- Housekeeper: A person who manages a household.
- Palpitations: A noticeably rapid, strong, or irregular heartbeat due to agitation, exertion, or illness.
- Twitch: A sudden, quick movement or feeling.
- Lunatic: A person who is mentally ill (not in technical use).
- Neglige: A form of nightgown.
- Inherited: Received as an heir at the death of the previous holder.
- Affectionate: Readily feeling or showing fondness or tenderness.
- Oxen meadows: A land full of grass for animals to graze in.
- Birchwoods: A wood of birch trees.
- Perpetuity: The state or quality of lasting forever.
- Reckoned: Established by calculation.
- Implore: Beg someone earnestly to do something.
- Gypsies: A group of nomadic people who travel from one place to another.
- Impudent: Not showing due respect for another person.

- Carafe: An open-topped glass flask used for serving wine or water in a restaurant.
- Mowers: A person who cuts grass with a mower.
- Hoarse: Sounding rough and harsh.
- Restrain: Prevent from doing something; keep under control or within limits.
- Excruciating: Intensely painful; severe; acute; extreme.
- Palpitation: Heartbeat.
- Pettifogger: An inferior legal practitioner, especially one who deals with petty cases or employs dubious practices.
- Embezzlement: Theft or misappropriation of funds placed in one's trust or belonging to one's employer.
- Lunacy: The state of being a lunatic; insanity (not in technical use).
- Drunkard: A person who is habitually drunk.
- Hump: A rounded protuberance found as an abnormality on the back of a person.
- Guzzling: Greedy (here).
- Gambler: A person who gambles; speculator.
- Intriguer: Someone who tricks, deceives, or cheats.
- Malicious: Intending or intended to do harm.
- Numb: Deprived of the power of physical sensation.
- Rascal: Devil.
- Impudence: Audacity.
- Lamé: Unable to walk without difficulty as a result of an injury or illness affecting the leg or foot; limping.
- Partridge: A short-tailed game bird with mainly brown plumage, found chiefly in Europe and Asia.

POEMS:

Poem 1: "Dust of Snow"

- Shook: Shake.
- Hemlock: A poisonous tree with small white flowers.
- Rued: Held in regret.

Poem 2: "Fire and Ice"

- Desire: A strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen.
- Favour: Approval, support.
- Perish: Die.
- Suffice: Be sufficient.

Poem 3: "A Tiger in the Zoo"

- Stalks: Follows.
- Vivid: Bright-colored.
- Pads: Paws of a tiger.
- Rage: Anger.
- Lurking: To be hidden, as to wait for your prey.
- Snarling: Warning sounds made by animals.
- Baring: Uncovered.
- Fangs: Sharp teeth of animals.
- Concrete: Building made of bricks, cement, sand, and water.
- Patrolling: To guard, to vigil.

Poem 4: "How to Tell Wild Animals"

- Tawny: Yellowish-brown color.
- Noble: High-born, aristocratic.
- Discern: Recognize.
- Strolling: Walking casually.
- Forth: Forward.
- Hide: Skin of an animal.
- Peppered: Spotted.
- Lept (Leapt): Jump towards someone.
- Yard: Backyard or the lawn area of a house.
- Caress: A gentle touch.
- Distinguish: Differentiate.
- Beast of Prey: Any animal that hunts other animals for food.
- Novice: Someone new to a job.
- Nonplus: Be confused.

Poem 5: "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman

- Merrily: Cheerful.
- Bouncing: Jumping up and down.
- Grief: Sorrow.
- Rigid: Fixed.
- Trembling: Shaking.
- Harbour: Dock, port.
- Intrude: Invader.
- Dime: 10 cents (U.S).
- Worthless: Valueless, useless.
- Possessions: Ownership.
- External: Things with which feelings are not attached.
- Desperate: Hopeless.
- Epistemology: The Greek word "episteme" means 'knowledge'.

Poem 6: "Amanda"

- Hunch: Bend.
- Slouching: Sitting in a lazy way.
- Languid: Relaxed.
- Emerald: Green color.
- Inhabitant: Resident.
- Drifting: Carried slowly by the water.
- Blissfully: Happily.
- Orphan: A child whose parents are dead.
- Hushed: Quiet and still place.
- Acne: Pimples.
- Rapunzel: A girl in the fairy tale by Brothers Grimm.
- Tranquil: Calm, quiet.
- Rare: Uncommon.
- Sulking: Be in a bad mood.
- Moody: Unstable.
- Nagged: Harass.

Poem 7: "The Trees"

- Disengage: Remove.
- Strain: Pressure.
- Twigs: Small stems.
- Exertion: Effort.
- Cramped: Restricted.
- Boughs: Branch.
- Shuffling: Mixing.
- Discharged: Send out.

- Dazed: Stun.
- Scarcely: Barely.
- Departure: Leaving.
- Lichen: A small, slow-growing plant.
- Whispers: Murmur.
- Stumbling: Trip over.
- Flash: Glare, shine.
- Oak: A large tree generally used for making furniture.

Poem 8: "Fog"

- Fog: A thick cloud of tiny water droplets present in the atmosphere, especially in winter.
- Harbour: Port, dock.
- On haunches: Sitting with knees bent.

Poem 9: "The Tale of Custard the Dragon"

- Wagon: A vehicle used for transporting goods or another specified purpose.
- Mustard: A yellow-colored flower.
- Coward: Weakling.
- Spikes: Thin pointed surface.
- Scales: Thin bony plates protecting the skin of fish and reptiles.
- Underneath: Situated directly below.
- Fireplace: An outdoor structure of brick, stone, or metal for an open fire.
- Dagger: A sharp knife.
- Barrel: Drum.
- Chased: Hunt, follow.
- Tickled: Stroke, here it means to tease.
- Unmerciful: Cruel.
- Percival: A knight in King Arthur's court.
- Giggled: To laugh.
- Weeck: Here it is the sound made by the mouse.
- Nasty: Bad or unpleasant.
- Growled: Bark.
- Pirate: A person who robs ships at sea.
- Winda: Slang for window.
- Pistol: A handgun.
- Cutlass: A short sword with a curved blade.
- Paled: Turn yellow due to fear.
- Yelp: A short sharp cry.
- Trickled: Here, run.

- Strategically: Planned.
- Mouseholed: Here it is the hole where the mouse lives.
- Snorting: Make a sudden explosive sound through one's nose.
- Clashed: Fought.
- Dungeon: An underground prison.
- Clatter Clank: The sound of hard objects falling on each other.
- Jangling squirm: The sound of hard objects falling on each other.
- Robin: A bird.
- Gaped: Started with the mouth wide open.
- Gulped: Swallow.
- Grog: A drink.
- Flagon: A container made of silver in which drinks are stored.
- Gobbled: Swallowed hurriedly.
- Embraced: To hug.
- Mourned: Feel sorrow for the death of someone.
- Victim: Sufferer.
- Glee: Delight.
- Gyrate: Dance.
- Flustered: Upset or confused.

Poem 10: "For Anne Gregory"

- Despair: Sadness.
- Ramparts: The high, wide walls around a castle or fort, for example, the ramparts of the Red Fort.
- Yesternight: The previous night.