

“Tell-Tale Heart” Vocabulary

Tell-Tale- a person or thing (in this case a heart) that maliciously reveals a secret; a tattletale.

Mad- in this context, *mad* means insane or crazy.

Acute- heightened, sharpened, or extremely sensitive.

Hearken- a figure of speech that means 'listen', or pay close attention.

Conceived- to form or come up with an idea or plan.

Vulture- a large bird of prey; often has a naked head; related to the hawk and eagle. Also, the name which the main character gives to the old man because of his one pale blue eye.

Fancy- "fancy" is a familiar word, but it's used differently in this context; it is an idea; a mental image; a notion or thought.

Foresight- thinking ahead or foreseeing the future.

Dissimulation- the act of hiding the truth; concealing.

Sufficient- enough.

Cunningly- skillfully; slyly; craftily; done with deception.

Vex- disturb; annoy; or trouble.

Profound- very deep; intellectual.

Sagacity- sound in judgment; wise.

Triumph- victory or success.

Startled- frightened.

Mortal terror- deadly fear; something so frightening that it 'scares you to death.'

Stifled- smothered; made unable to breathe.

Awe- intense fear, terror, or dread.

Bosom- chest; breast of a human being.

Pitied- felt sorry for; sympathy.

Suppositions- something that is supposed; an assumption.

Vain- unsuccessful; ineffectual.

Enveloped- to wrap up or surround entirely.

Mournful- gloomy or dreary.

Unperceived- unrecognized or not being aware of something.

Crevice- a crack or opening.

Stealthily- done in secret without being noticed or caught.

Marrow- the innermost part of the bone.

Fury- violence; rage; unrestrained anger.

Refrained- to hold back; to deny an impulse.

Tattoo- imprint.

Seize- to grab; to take hold of forcibly and suddenly.

Gaily- merrily; joyfully; cheerfully.

Ceased- stopped; ended.

Corpse- dead, or lifeless body.

Pulsation- beating or throbbing.

Waned- lessened or decreased in strength/intensity.

Dismembered- divided limb from limb; a body separated into different parts.

Chamber- a room.

Scantlings- a timber, or piece of wood, of relatively thin width and thickness.

Wary- cautious; be on ones guard.

Suavity- courteous; having good manners; agreeable.

Aroused- to stir up; to rile up.

Deputed- appointed to; assigned to.

Premises-property; an area.

Audacity-shameless, daring, or boldness

Vehemently- with intense emotion

Derision- ridicule, mocking, make fun of

Hypocritical-false or deceptive, like a person who is pretending to be what he or she is not