1. [entrails](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/entrails)

internal organs collectively

... **entrails** the butcher might be giving away.

1. [apprehension](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/apprehension)

fearful expectation or anticipation

They had been watching from the windows—at first with mild curiosity, then, as the crowd seemed to swell to the very walls of the hospital, they watched with **apprehension**.

1. [venture](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/venture)

proceed somewhere despite the risk of possible dangers

But when they saw neither placards nor speakers, they **ventured** outside into the cold: white-coated surgeons, dark-jacketed business and personnel clerks, and three nurses in starched jumpers.

1. [stout](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/stout)

having rugged physical strength

One of the nurses, hoping to bring some efficiency into the disorder, searched the faces around her until she saw a **stout** woman who looked as though she might move the earth if she wanted to.

1. [bereft](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/bereft)

sorrowful through loss or deprivation

To have to live without that single gift saddened him and left his imagination so **bereft** that he appeared dull even to the women who did not hate his mother.

1. [suffuse](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/suffuse)

become overspread as with a fluid, a color, or light

The quiet that **suffused** the doctor’s house then, broken only by the murmur of the women eating sunshine cake, was only that: quiet.

1. [billow](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/billow)

rise up as if in waves

As she unfolded the white linen and let it **billow** over the fine mahogany table, she would look once more at the large water mark.

1. [mooring](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/mooring)

a place where a craft can be made fast

Like the keeper of the lighthouse and the prisoner, she regarded it as a **mooring**, a checkpoint, some stable visual object that assured her that the world was still there; that this was life and not a dream.

1. [flourish](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/flourish)

grow vigorously

And once exposed, it behaved as though it were itself a plant and **flourished** into a huge suede-gray flower that throbbed like fever, and sighed like the shift of sand dunes.

1. [balm](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/balm)

an aromatic resinous substance used for healing and soothing

Something else is needed to get from sunup to sundown: a **balm**, a gentle touch or nuzzling of some sort.

1. [guileless](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/guileless)

innocent and free of deceit

So Ruth rose up and out of her **guileless** inefficiency to claim her bit of balm right after the preparation of dinner and just before the return of her husband from his office.

1. [hamper](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/hamper)

prevent the progress or free movement of

He fought the evergreen for a better look, **hampered** more by his laughter than by the branches.

1. [complicity](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/complicity)

guilt as a confederate in a crime or offense

Appreciative eyes that communicated some **complicity** she was excluded from.

1. [melancholy](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/melancholy)

characterized by or causing or expressing sadness

How his father, confused and **melancholy** over his wife’s death in childbirth, had thumbed through the Bible, and since he could not read a word, chose a group of letters that seemed to him strong and handsome; saw in them a large figure that looked like a tree hanging in some princely but protective way over a row of smaller trees.

1. [propriety](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/propriety)

correct behavior

She had cut the last thread of **propriety**.

1. [unkempt](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/unkempt)

not neatly combed

Now she was odd, murky, and worst of all, **unkempt**.

1. [chafe](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/chafe)

feel extreme irritation or anger

Fond as he was of his only child, useful as she was in his house since his wife had died, lately he had begun to **chafe** under her devotion.

1. [reverie](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/reverie)

an abstracted state of absorption

In the middle of his **reverie**, Macon was interrupted by rapid tapping on the window.

1. [cower](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/cower)

crouch or curl up

For more than an hour Porter held them at bay: **cowering**, screaming, threatening, urinating, and interspersing all of it with pleas for a woman.

1. [escapade](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/escapade)

a wild and exciting undertaking

There was no one on the street that he could see; people were at supper, licking their fingers, blowing into saucers of coffee, and no doubt chattering about Porter’s **escapade** and Macon’s fearless confrontation of the wild man in the attic.

1. [yearning](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/yearning)

prolonged unfulfilled desire or need

He was rapidly approaching a part of the road where the music could not follow, when he saw, like a scene on the back of a postcard, a picture of where he was headed—his own home; his wife’s narrow unyielding back; his daughters, boiled dry from years of **yearning**; his son, to whom he could speak only if his words held some command or criticism.

1. [flagrant](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/flagrant)

conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible

They alone had a sense of adventure and were **flagrant** in their enjoyment of the automobile’s plushness.

1. [feign](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/feign)

give a false appearance of

Guitar stopped **feigning** indifference.

1. [unfettered](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/unfettered)

not bound or restrained, as by shackles and chains

The piny-winy smell was narcotic, and so was the sun streaming in, strong and **unfettered** because there were no curtains or shades at the windows that were all around the room, two in each of three walls, one on each side of the door, one on either side of the sink and the stove, and two on the farther wall.

1. [stupor](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/stupor)

marginal consciousness

The pebbly voice, the sun, and the narcotic wine smell weakened both the boys, and they sat in a pleasant semi-stupor, listening to her go on and on.

<https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/328348>