

“Polyphemus” Vocabulary List

- **Ambrosia/Ambrosial:** The food of the gods; Something very pleasing to taste or smell.
- **Archaic/Archaism:** Very old or old-fashioned.
- **Austerity:** Extreme plainness and simplicity of style or appearance.
- **Base:** Without moral principles.
- **Beat/Beating:** An area assigned to a police officer to patrol.
- **Bowels:** The parts deep inside something large.
- **Caper:** Skip or dance about in a lively or playful way.
- **Deft/Deftness:** Neatly skillful and quick in one’s movements; Demonstrating skill and cleverness.
- **Desolation:** A state of complete emptiness or destruction; Anguished misery or loneliness.
- **Dilapidated:** To be in a state of disrepair or ruin due to age or neglect.
- **Edify/Edified:** To instruct or improve someone morally or intellectually.
- **Embittered:** To be made to feel bitter or resentful.
- **Escarpment:** A long, steep slope, especially one at the edge of a plateau or separating areas of land at different heights.
- **Exhilaration:** A feeling of excitement, happiness, or elation.
- **Exuberance:** The quality of being full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness.
- **Exultancy:** The state of being triumphantly happy.
- **Gesticulating:** Using gestures, especially dramatic ones, instead of speaking or to emphasize one’s words.
- **Headland(s):** A narrow piece of land that projects from a coastline into the sea; A strip of land left unplowed at the end of a field.
- **Hew/Hewed:** To chop or cut with an ax, pick, or similar tool.
- **Indignation:** Anger or annoyance caused by unfair treatment.
- **Inlet:** A small arm of the sea, a lake, or a river.
- **Ironic:** Happening in the opposite way to what is expected, and usually causing amusement because of this.
- **Lest:** (Doing something) to avoid the risk of something undesirable.
- **Lush:** (Of vegetation) growing richly/luxuriantly.
- **Lust:** Strong desire for something.
- **Mad(de):** Mentally ill; insane.
- **Marl:** An unconsolidated sedimentary rock or soil consisting of clay and lime, formerly used typically as fertilizer.
- **Merry:** Cheerful and lively.
- **Minute (pronounced “MY-NOOT”):** Extremely small; so small as to be almost insignificant.
- **Monotony:** Lack of variety and interest; tedious repetition and routine.
- **Orchestrate:** To arrange or direct the elements of a situation to create the desired effect.
- **Overhaul/Overhauling:** To take something apart to examine and repair it if necessary.

- **Pathos:** A quality that evokes pity or sadness.
- **Pertinacity:** Persistent determination.
- **Piety:** The quality of being religious or reverent.
- **Pill:** To subject to depredation or extortion.
- **Rend/Rent:** To tear something into two or more pieces.
- **Retch/Retching:** Making the sound and movement of vomiting.
- **Ribald:** Referring to physical adult matters in an amusingly rude or irreverent way.
- **Rigmarole:** A lengthy and complicated procedure, story, or statement.
- **Sack:** To plunder.
- **Shoals:** An area of shallow water, especially as a navigational hazard; A submerged sandbank visible at low water.
- **Subsequent:** Coming after something in time; following.
- **Swarthy:** Dark-skinned.
- **Tongue:** language.
- **Unctuous:** Excessively or ingratiatingly flattering; oily.
- **Virtuous:** Having or showing high moral standards.
- **Volley:** Many bullets, arrows, or other projectiles discharged at one time; an exchange of shots.