“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.
- **Escarment**: 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.