

# Snow Alabaster

Paragraph 1:

Words You Will Meet:

raven  
hapless

alabaster  
ministrations

**Once upon a time**, a splendid queen gave birth to a child with *raven* hair and skin so white and soft that she inspired the name of *Snow Alabaster*. Alas, shortly thereafter, the splendid Queen expired, leaving the *hapless* child to the *ministrations* of the King's new wife.

Learn and Remember:

A *raven* is a large, black crow. Thus, the word *raven* in this context means black. Other metaphors representing the color black are *ebony*, *onyx*, and *pitch*. What are these objects and when might you use them to as an adjective for blackness?

*Alabaster* is a finely grained variety of the mineral gypsum. In this context, it means white. Alabaster is used to make chalk. What are some other metaphors representing the color white?

*Hapless* means unfortunate. How is *hapless* related to *happiness*? What is the difference between *hapless* and *unhappy*?

*Ministrations* means *care and tending to the needs of others*. It is related to the words *minister*, *administer*, *administration*. What is the tone of *ministrations* in this context?

Practice

44. Why is *raven* a more dramatic word to describe hair than *black* is?
45. Would you describe the inside of a clamshell as alabaster?
46. Would a hapless person be likely to buy a winning lottery ticket?
47. If you are sick with the flu, what might your mother's ministrations for you include?

Picture the Words

Draw a picture of:

A raven-eyed girl

Alabaster waves

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**Paragraph 2:**

**Words You Will Meet:**

**nefarious**  
**ablutions**

**invocation**  
**pulchritude**

This *nefarious* queen would greet her mirror every morning with the *invocation*: *Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?*" She always received the answer that she wanted, but one day, during her morning *ablutions*, she heard the news that she had always dreaded: Her step-child had surpassed her in *pulchritude*!!.

**Learn and Remember:**

***Nefarious* means evil.** What other characters in fairy tales are nefarious?

An ***invocation*** is a prayer. Literally, it means, *a calling to*. The Latin root *voc* means *call*. What other words can you think of having this root? How are they related to each other?

***Ablutions* are ritualistic washings.** This word has religious connotations. How is related to the word *pollution*?

***Pulchritude* means beauty.** What do you think the adjective form of it is?

## Practice

48 Which would be more *nefarious*: a scheme or a plan?

49 Would an *invocation* be said by the head of a household before eating a meal?

50. Would you consider the word *ablution* to be casual *or* formal?

51. Would a *narcissistic* person be likely to think that she has pulchritude?

### Picture the Words:

Draw a picture of:

<b>Nefarious Norman</b>	<b>Pulchritudinous Pam</b>

### Paragraph 3:

#### Words You Will Meet:

nefarious  
appalled  
aghast  
ired  
commissioned  
reneged

mortified  
dumbfounded  
miffed  
piqued  
chaste  
sylvan

The nefarious queen was *abashed*, *mortified*, *appalled*, *chagrined*, *dumbfounded*, *aghast*, *miffed*, *ired*, and grandly *piqued*. Nothing short of the death of her youthful rival would avenge her wrath. And so she *commissioned* a hunter to kill the *chaste* and lovely girl. But the hunter *reneged*, and released her into the *sylvan* woods.

#### Learn and Remember:

***Abashed* and *mortified* both mean humiliated.** Chagrined also means humiliated, but to a lesser degree. In what other fairy tale is a person abashed and mortified?

***Appalled* means horrified.** Explain the difference between *appalled* and *abashed*.

***Dumbfounded* and *aghast* both mean horrified to the point of speechlessness.**

***Miffed*, *ired*, and *piqued* all mean sharply angry.**

**The nefarious queen is all of these. Think of a situation when you would be:**

- *miffed*, but not *mortified*:
- *appalled*, but not *aghast*:
- *dumbfounded*, but not *chagrined*:
- *chagrined*, but not *piqued*:

**Wrath means anger.** Explain the meaning of the title The Grapes of Wrath.

**Commissioned means hired for a specific purpose.** That purpose is known as the *commission*. *Commission* is also used to mean a percentage of profit that a salesperson receives for a sale. *Commission* is also used to refer to a nefarious act that one commits: the *commission* of a crime. Try writing a sentence that uses *commission* in all three contexts.

**Chaste means sexually pure and honest.** The noun form is *chastity*. Chastity is different from virginity, because a person can be chaste without being a virgin. What color is associated with this concept?

To **renege (pronounced renege) is to cancel an agreement.** What other words have the Latin root *neg*? What do you think this root means?

**Sylvan is an adjective to describe the beauty of the woods.** What other words refer to woods?

### Practice

52. Would you be abashed if you received a prestigious award?
53. Would you be abashed if you were to receive an prestigious award and the bestowers of the award reneged?
54. If you are commissioned to do something, and then you renege, should you receive your full commission?
55. If someone made you feel chagrined, would your ire be piqued?
56. Would you be miffed if someone defended your honor?

### Picture the Words

Draw a picture of:

**A sylvan scene:**



**Paragraph 4:**

## Words You Will Meet:

verdant  
insinuated  
soporific  
obtuse  
infirm  
apothecary

glen  
diminutive  
sanguine  
surly  
reticent  
mundane

Forlorn, she encountered a cottage in a *verdant glen*, and soon *insinuated* herself into its fabric. The cottage was inhabited by Seven *Diminutive Ones*: *Soporific*, *Sanguine*, *Obtuse*, *Surly*, *Infirm*, *Reticent*, and *Apothecary*. Snow Alabaster settled into her *mundane* but rewarding lifestyle, performing maternal services in exchange for room and board.

## Learn and Remember:

*Verdant* means green. It usually refers to nature. What words in Spanish, French, Italian, or Portuguese are related to it?

A *glen* is a small, secluded valley. What is the difference between a glen and a dale?

To *insinuate* usually means to *hint at*, but it can't mean that in this context. In this context, to *insinuate* is to *gradually become a part of*. It is related to the word *sinew*, meaning muscle. Explain this relationship.

Explain how the word *fabric* is used metaphorically in this context.

*Diminutive* means small. What is the root of this word? What other words have this root?

*Soporific* means sleep-inducing. If something is soporific, then it puts you to sleep. What movie have you seen that you would consider soporific?

*Sanguine* means cheerful or optimistic. Its Latin root is *sang*, meaning blood. The Greeks believed that blood was the body fluid (which they called *humour*) which governed feelings of happiness. What words in other languages do you know that have this root?

Look up the difference between *sanguine* and *sanguinary*.

*Obtuse* means dumb. What other words do you know that begin with this prefix? How are they related?

*Surly* means grouchy. What other words do we have for this concept?

***Infirm* means sick.** What is another word for a hospital-like facility?

***Reticent*** means shy. What other words do we have for this concept?

***Apothecary* is an archaic word for pharmacist.** What other professions are known by different words today than they were in the past?

What is the corresponding name for each of the Seven Dwarves, as listed above?

***Mundane*:** You already know this word from “The Emperor’s New Vestments.”

### Practice

57. Would a mundane topic be likely to make you soporific?

58. Might a surly person be cheered up by a sanguine person?

59. Would you be sanguine if you were infirm?

60. Could a sylvan glen be described as verdant?

61. Would a reticent person insinuate himself easily into a crowd of new people?

**Picture the Words**

**Draw a picture of:**

**A verdant glen**

**Surly Sam**

**Sanguine Sally**

**Al the Apothecary**

**Soporific Sophie**

<b>A verdant glen</b>	<b>Surly Sam</b>
<b>Sanguine Sally</b>	<b>Al the Apothecary</b>
<b>Soporific Sophie</b>	

**Paragraph 5:**

**Words You Will Meet:**

consternation  
guise  
mendicant  
Trojan horse

extirpated  
benign  
proffering  
protracted

But, then, one ill-fated day, the nefarious queen found, to her *consternation*, that the threat to her vanity had not been *extirpated*. In the *guise* of a *benign mendicant*, she appeared at the cottage, *proffering* an apple laced with a lethal venom. The unsuspecting Snow Alabaster accepted the *Trojan horse*, and swooned into a state of *protracted* unconsciousness.

**Learn and Remember**

*Consternation* is a sudden, alarming state of dismay and confusion. It is similar to amazement, but consternation has a negative connotation. What is a synonym?

*Extirpated* means torn out by the roots. What is an antonym?

*Guise* means the same as *disguise*. It is usually used in the phrase *in the guise of...* What is the usual use of *disguise*?

*Benign* means harmless. The opposite is malignant. How are these words used in a medical context?

A *mendicant* is a beggar. If you know *The Odyssey*, how is this word used in it? *Mendicant* is not to be confused with *mendacious*. Explain the difference.

*Proffering* is a more formal way to say *offering*. Think of other words with the Latin root *fer*. What do you think this root means?

**A Trojan horse is an expression referring to a gift that will trick you.** The Trojans defeated the Greeks by offering a large wooden horse as a gift. But Trojan soldiers were hiding inside this false gift and that is how they gained access into the walled city and sacked their naive enemies. So, a Trojan horse is a metaphor for a gift proffered by your enemies that you should not trust.

**Protracted means drawn out.** What other words have the Latin root *tract*? How are these words related? What do you think the root means?

### Practice

62. If you extirpate a plant, will it grow back?
63. Does a mendicant proffer charity to the needy?
64. Is a protracted version of a story the same as an abridged version?
65. Should you be afraid of a benign mendicant?

### Picture the Words

Draw a picture of:

**Mendel the Mendicant**



## Paragraph 6:

### Words You Will Meet:

disconsolation  
sepulcher  
enamored  
salubrious

abysmal  
bucolic  
assented

To their *disconsolation*, the Diminutive Ones could not revive her. At last, in *abysmal* despair, they placed her in a glass *sepulcher* which they set down at their *bucolic* workplace and kept vigil. One day, a dashing prince came riding along and became *enamored* of snow Alabaster as she lay within the sepulcher. The Diminutive Ones *assented* to his request that she be brought to his palace, a more *salubrious* environment.

### Learn and Remember

*Disconsolation* is sadness over a loss (grief). This word has three parts that you know. What does it mean to *console* someone? What is a *consolation* prize? What does it mean when someone is *inconsolable*?

*Abysmal* is used to mean wretched, horrible, beyond hope. It is related to the word *abyss*, meaning a bottomless gap. This context refers to *abysmal despair*. What are some other nouns that could be modified by *abysmal*?

A *sepulcher* is a tomb. What other fairy tales refer to someone lying in a deathlike state?

*Bucolic* means rural or countrified. What things do you expect to see in a bucolic setting?

*Enamored* means in love with or enchanted by. What other words have the Latin root *amor*?

*Assented* means consented or agreed to. What is the opposite word, having the same root?

*Salubrious* means promoting good health. What are some habits and practices of a salubrious lifestyle?

### Practice

66. What is the opposite of *disconsolation*?

67. How is *abysmal* related to *abyss*?
68. Where is a likely place to find a *sepulcher*?
69. Describe the features of a *bucolic* place.
70. What other words/phrases mean *enamored of*?
71. Does a parent who *assents* to your request say *yes* or *no*?
72. Is walking fifteen miles a week a *salubrious* habit?

**Picture the Words**

**Draw a picture of:**

<b>Disconsolate Dan</b>	<b>Sam in the Sepulcher</b>
<b>Bucolic Beauville</b>	

## Paragraph 7:

### Words You Will Meet:

dislodged  
oblivion  
ostentation  
sumptuous  
blissfully

oblivious  
plighted their troth  
fortnightly  
repast

Upon being lifted, the poison *dislodged* in her throat and she regurgitated “the leprous distillment” and revived, *oblivious* to her *oblivion*. And so, she and the Prince *plighted their troth* and were married in a splendid, lavish, ornate, extravagant, no-holds-barred, black tie display of *ostentation*. *Fortnightly*, she would invite the Diminutive Ones to a *sumptuous repast* and they all lived *blissfully* into eternity.

### Learn and Remember

To *dislodge* is to become unstuck. If something is *lodged* in a pipe, you need a plumbing tool called a snake to *dislodge* it.

“The leprous distillment” is a phrase (allusion) from Hamlet. It refers to the poison that the villain Claudius poured into the ear of the sleeping King.

To be *oblivious* is to be unaware, in a state of *oblivion*. When you are sleeping, you may be oblivious to the fact that you are talking in your sleep. *Ostentation* is showiness. When a display of wealth is excessive and designed to impress others with its lavishness, we call it *ostentatious*.

In past times, when people made a promise to marry, they were said to have *plighted their troth*. Today, we would say that they *became engaged*.

*Fortnightly* means occurring every two weeks. This word has become archaic. Today, we would use the word *biweekly* to denote the same concept.

*Blissfully* means with great happiness. The noun form is *bliss*; the adjective, *blissful*.

## Practice

73. A marble is wedged in between two slats. How would you *dislodge* it?
74. Is it advisable to be *oblivious* to road conditions when driving at night?
75. Describe a pair of earrings that are *ostentatious*.
76. What does the gentleman usually give to the lady when they *plight their troth*?
77. If someone calls you once in a *fortnight*, how many times a year does she call you?

## Review

pulchritude  
ablutions  
hapless  
Alabaster

ministrations  
raven  
invocation  
nefarious

Once upon a time, a splendid queen gave birth to a child with \_\_\_\_\_ hair and skin so white and soft that she inspired the name of Snow \_\_\_\_\_. Alas, shortly thereafter, the splendid Queen expired, leaving the \_\_\_\_\_ child to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the King's new wife.

This \_\_\_\_\_ queen would greet her mirror every morning with the \_\_\_\_\_: *Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?* She always received the answer that she wanted, but one day, during her morning \_\_\_\_\_, she heard the news that she had always dreaded: Her step-child had surpassed her in \_\_\_\_\_!!.

insinuated  
chagrined  
chaste  
reneged  
mundane

sylvan  
abashed  
verdant  
commissioned  
glen

The nefarious queen was \_\_\_\_\_, *mortified, appalled,*  
\_\_\_\_\_, *dumbfounded, aghast, miffed, ired,* and grandly *piqued*.  
Nothing short of the death of her youthful rival would avenge her  
wrath. And so she \_\_\_\_\_ a hunter to kill the \_\_\_\_\_ and lovely  
girl. But the hunter \_\_\_\_\_, and released her into the \_\_\_\_\_ woods.

Forlorn, she encountered a cottage in a \_\_\_\_\_, and soon  
\_\_\_\_\_ herself into its fabric. The cottage was inhabited by Seven  
*Diminutive Ones: Soporific, Sanguine, Obtuse, Surly, Infirm, Reticent,*  
and *Apothecary*. Snow Alabaster settled into her \_\_\_\_\_ but rewarding  
lifestyle, performing maternal services in exchange for room and board

proffering  
sepulcher  
bucolic  
Trojan horse  
enamored  
consternation  
guise  
assented

mendicant  
abysmal  
extirpated  
protracted  
benign  
disconsolation  
salubrious

But, then, one ill-fated day, the nefarious queen found, to her  
\_\_\_\_\_, that the threat to her vanity had not been \_\_\_\_\_.  
In the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_, she appeared at the cottage,  
\_\_\_\_\_ an apple laced with a lethal venom. The unsuspecting Snow

Alabaster accepted the \_\_\_\_\_, and swooned into a state of \_\_\_\_\_ unconsciousness.

To their \_\_\_\_\_, the Diminutive Ones could not revive her. At last, in \_\_\_\_\_ despair, they placed her in a glass \_\_\_\_\_ which they set down at their \_\_\_\_\_ workplace and kept vigil. One day, a dashing prince came riding along and became \_\_\_\_\_ of snow Alabaster as she lay within the sepulcher. The Diminutive Ones \_\_\_\_\_ to his request that she be brought to his palace, a more \_\_\_\_\_ environment.

plighted their troth  
fortnightly  
dislodged  
repast  
blissfully

oblivious  
sumptuous  
ostentation  
oblivion

Upon being lifted, the poison \_\_\_\_\_ in her throat and she regurgitated “the leprous distillment” and revived, \_\_\_\_\_ to her \_\_\_\_\_. And so, she and the Prince \_\_\_\_\_ and were married in a splendorous, lavish, ornate, extravagant, no-holds-barred, black tie display of \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_, she would invite the Diminutive Ones to a \_\_\_\_\_ and they all lived \_\_\_\_\_ into eternity.

### **Review: Clustering**

**Clustering** is a technique in which you consider how words are alike and different. From the word list, form several categories, each consisting of at least five words. Use your imagination to form the categories: connotation (positive, negative, neutral), parts of speech, structure, visuals/ non-visuals, etc. Not all of the words in the group have to fit into your categories. Feel free to change the form of the words. You may have a few leftovers. Refer to the Appendix for examples.

#### **Word List:**

raven	
alabaster	
hapless	verdant
ministrations	glen
nefarious	insinuated
invocation	diminutive
ablution(s)	soporific
pulchritude	sanguine
abashed	obtuse
mortified	surly
appalled	reticent
chagrined	infirm
ired	reticent
piqued	apothecary
dumbfounded	mundane
aghast	consternation
miffed	extirpated
commissioned	guise
chaste	benign
sylvan	mendicant
proffering	Trojan horse
protracted	disconsolation
sepulcher	bucolic
enamored	assented
salubrious	dislodged
oblivious	oblivion
plight(ed) their troth	ostentation
fortnightly	sumptuous
repast	blissfully

**Categories:**

\_\_\_\_\_:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write Your Memoirs:**

Think of several titles that could be used as chapters of your memoirs. Remember that a title has to use pithy (concise and catchy) language. Feel free to change the form of the words.

**Examples:**

A Day of Disconsolation

I Was Abashed!

My Most Sumptuous Repast

Hapless Circumstances Beyond My Control

**Memoir Titles and First Sentences of the Memoir:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

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5. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

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