

## Words used by NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE and WASHINGTON IRVING

### Vocabulary Group 1

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**COUNTENANCE** (*noun*) face; facial expression, especially an approving one

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**DISCERN** (*verb*) to perceive or see things clearly

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**TARRY** (*verb*) to delay; to linger; to stay for a time

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**OBSEQUIOUS** (*adjective*) overly flattering; sucking up to

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**MELANCHOLY** (*noun*) a gloomy state of mind (*adjective*) sad; mournful

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**PIOUS** (*adjective*) very devout or religious (but sometimes only for show)

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**PROFOUND** (*adjective*) deep and complete; showing great emotional or intellectual depth

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**SAGE** (*adjective*) having wisdom that comes with age and experience; (*noun*) a wise person

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**SINGULAR** (*adjective*) extraordinary; unique; remarkable; exceptional

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**ALACRITY** (*noun*) cheerful eagerness

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## Words used by HELEN KELLER

### Vocabulary Group 2

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**GESTICULATE** (*verb*) to make gestures, especially when speaking or in place of speaking

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**PONDEROUS** (*adjective*) so large as to be clumsy; massive; dull

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**IMPETUOUS** (*adjective*) done suddenly with little thought

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**DISSONANT** (*adjective*) disagreeing or harsh in sound; out of harmony

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**EMINENT** (*adjective*) well-known and distinguished; lofty; outstanding

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**RESOLUTE** (*adjective*) firm and decisive; unwavering; determined

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**ABSTRACT** (*adjective*) theoretical rather than actual; difficult to understand

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**AMENITY** (*noun*) an attractive feature or convenience

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**ANTEDILUVIAN** (*adjective*) very old, out-of-date or old-fashioned; the period before the Flood

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**PORTEND** (*verb*) to indicate in advance; to foreshadow; to serve as an omen

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### Vocabulary Group 3

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**ASSIMILATE** (*verb*) to absorb; to bring into conformity with the habits and traditions of a group

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**UTOPIA** (*noun*) an ideal society; an imaginary place where everything is perfect

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**DESULTORY** (*adjective*) without a plan or purpose; random; lacking order

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**EVANESCENT** (*adjective*) happening only for a brief period; fleeting; fading away

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**CONGENIAL** (*adjective*) pleasant; agreeable; compatible

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**TEMPORAL** (*adjective*) relating to or limited by time; temporary; of this world; secular

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**REMONSTRATE** (*verb*) to protest; to argue against

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**CIRCUMSCRIBE** (*verb*) to draw a line around; to limit; to confine

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**CARICATURE** (*noun*) a portrait or description in which the features are deliberately exaggerated

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**AVARICIOUS** (*adjective*) greedy; extremely desirous of wealth or possessions

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