

Vocabulary Group 4 — Words used by Nathaniel Hawthorne in *The Scarlet Letter*

FACULTY (*noun*) ability; special skill; power of the mind

INFERNAL (*adjective*) hellish; diabolical; extremely troublesome

MANIFEST (*adjective*) easily perceived; obvious (*verb*) to show plainly

ACUTE (*adjective*) intense; extremely serious; intellectually sharp; perceptive

PLACID (*adjective*) peaceful; pleasantly calm

PROVIDENCE (*noun*) divine direction; care or preparation in advance; foresight

DECOROUS (*adjective*) showing dignity and good taste

ECCENTRIC (*adjective*) a little kooky; peculiar; odd

CONJECTURE (*noun*) a guess based on insufficient proof (*verb*) to make a guess

ENIGMA (*noun*) a mystery

Vocabulary Group 5 — Words used by Helen Keller in *The Story of My Life*

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

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

IMPETUOUS (*adjective*) done suddenly with little thought

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

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

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

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

AMENITY (*noun*) an attractive feature or convenience

ANTEDILUVIAN (*adjective*) very old, out-of-date or old-fashioned; the period before the Flood

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

Vocabulary Group 6 — More words from *The Story of My Life*

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

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

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

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

CONGENIAL (*adjective*) pleasant; agreeable; compatible

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

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

VEX (*verb*) to annoy; to confuse; to exasperate

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

VIVACIOUS (*adjective*) lively and bright; animated; full of spirit
