

“The House Of Many Eyes” Vocabulary

Befall- Something bad or unpleasant to happen to someone or something.
Bread-winner- A person who supports oneself and those dependent upon them by his or her earnings.
Contempt- A feeling that someone or something is not worthy of any respect or approval.
Decay- To go slowly from a bad condition to worse by losing characteristic quality, strength, health, etc.
Drudge- A person who does boring, monotonous, or unpleasant work.
Encumbrance- A burden, impediment or annoyance.
Flagrant- Shockingly noticeable or evident.
Flaunt- To show something in a very open way so that other people will notice.
Garish- Crudely or tastelessly colorful, showy, or elaborate.
Improvident- Not foreseeing and failing to provide for future needs.
Infirmity- Physical weakness, frailty, feebleness of body, resulting from some defect, disease, or old age.
Irremediable- Unable to be repaired, cured or corrected.
Leisure- Time free from work or duties which one can spend as one pleases.
Ostentatious- Something displayed in a manner calculated to attract attention.
Perpendicular- Of a person or thing: maintaining a standing or upright figure or posture; erect.
Plight- A condition, state, or situation, especially an unfavorable or unfortunate one.
Plumb- The state of being aligned perfectly straight down or up in a perpendicular position.
Pretence- The act of pretending or alleging falsely.
Rebellion- Resistance to or defiance of any authority, controlling power, or convention.
Reentrant- Reentering or pointing inwards.
Refrain- To stop oneself from doing something.
Revolt- To act in a way that shows that you do not accept the control of someone or something.
Spite- A desire to anger or humiliate a person because you feel that you have been treated wrongly.

**Booster-** During the development of the Canadian West, a resident of a fledgling town who sought to promote it by making extravagant predictions for its future.

**Cocotte-** Female prostitute.

**Empire Settlement Act-** A British act of 1922 that subsidized the emigration of British settlers to colonial countries. The unsuccessful “Three Thousand Families” initiative of 1925 was meant to help British emigrants start farms on the Canadian prairies.

**Mill-race-** A stream of water that is channelled to turn a mill wheel.

**Porte-cochere-** Covered stopping-place for carriages dropping off visitors to a house; common in 19<sup>th</sup>-century mansions.

**Tilting table-** Flat, adjustable table used for cutting lumber.

**Woman of the street-** Prostitute.

