

## Brood

"She looked at him in silence a moment, and then as if to herself muttered broodingly, "Until the next time. Until it starts again."

To think a lot about something in an unhappy, worrying way.

## Derision

"Charity!" she repeated him, letting her voice rise in derision."

The feeling that people express when they criticize someone or something in an insulting way.

## Disdain

"She had taught school before she married him, and of late in her anger there had been a kind of disdain, an attitude almost of condescension,"

A feeling of strong dislike of someone or something you think does not deserve respect.

## Distraught

"Once as she listened this first wind spring inside the room, distraught like a bird that has felt the graze of talons on its wing,"

So upset that you are not able to think clearly or behave normally.

## Drought

"Dust and drought, earth that betrayed alike his labour and his faith, to him the struggle had given sternness, an impassive courage."

A period of dry weather, especially a long one that is injurious to crops.

## Ebb

"The contentious mood that his stand against Ellen had roused him to, his tenacity and clenched despair before the ravages of wind, it was ebbing now,"

A point or condition of decline.

## Engulf

"There was a deep hollow calm within, a vast darkness engulfed beneath the tides of moaning wind."

To flow over and cover (someone or something).

## Exasperation

"But it's not just dry years, Paul!" The little sob in her voice gave way suddenly to a ring of exasperation."

The state of being very annoyed or upset.

## Exuberance

"Youth, zest, exuberance - there remained only a harsh and clenched virility that yet became him,"

The state of being very lively, happy, or energetic: filled with energy and enthusiasm.

## Futile

"The five years since he married her, were they to go on repeating themselves... until all the brave future he looked forward to was but a stark and futile past?"

Having no result or effect: pointless or useless.

## Gratify

"Now she might be gratified to find him acknowledging her wisdom."

To make (someone) happy or satisfied.

## Impenetrable

"The dust was thickening to an impenetrable fog."

Impossible to pass or see through.

## Oppressive

"The little cry continued, and with wincing, frightened lips she glanced around as if to find a corner where the air was less oppressive."

Unreasonably burdensome or severe.

## Pauper

"He clenched his lips a minute, then, with his eyes hard and contemptuous, struck back, "As much as in town, growing up a pauper."

A very poor person who has no money to pay for food, clothing, etc.

## Pneumonia

"She would have liked to rock him, to feel the comfort of his little body in her arms, but a fear had obsessed her that in the dust-filled air he might contract pneumonia."

A serious disease that affects the lungs and makes it difficult to breathe.

## Quarrel

"Yesterday, and again at breakfast this morning, they had quarreled bitterly."

An angry dispute or altercation marked by a temporary or permanent break in friendly relations.

## Resentment

“There was a dark resentment in her voice now that boded another quarrel.”

A feeling of anger or displeasure about someone or something unfair.

## Respite

“Demented wind fled keening past the house: a wail through the eaves that died every minute or two. Three days now without respite it had held.”

A delay or cessation for a time, especially of anything distressing.

## Scourge

“It was over - three days of blight and havoc like a scourge - three days so bitter and so long that for a moment he stood still, unseeing,”

Someone or something that causes a great amount of trouble or suffering.

## Sheathe

“Everything that had sheathed him a little from the realities of existence: vision and purpose, faith in the land, in the future, in himself - it was all... stripped away.”

To cover (something) with something that protects it.

## Sombre

“Beyond, obscuring fields and landmarks, the lower of dust clouds made the farmyard seem an isolated acre, poised aloft above a sombre void.”

Gloomy, depressing, or dismal.

## Stark

“The five years since he married her, were they to go on repeating themselves... until all the brave future he looked forward to was but a stark and futile past?”

Very obvious: very plain and easily seen.

## Traverse

“The tatters of the storm still whimpered through the eaves, and in their moaning told the desolation of the miles they had traversed.”

To pass or move over, along, or through.