

Abortion

“They knew his ignorance, his cruelty, his avarice, his appetites, his sins. They knew his clumsy abortions and the little brown pennies he gave sparingly for alms.”

The deliberate termination of a human pregnancy.

Alms

“They knew his ignorance, his cruelty, his avarice, his appetites, his sins. They knew his clumsy abortions and the little brown pennies he gave sparingly for alms.”

Money or food given to poor people.

Appraise

“And the newcomers, particularly the beggars... appraised the green ribbon on her braids, read the age of Kino's blanket... and set them down as poverty people”

Assess the value or quality of.

Avarice

“They knew his ignorance, his cruelty, his avarice, his appetites, his sins. They knew his clumsy abortions and the little brown pennies he gave sparingly for alms.”

Extreme greed for wealth or material gain.

Beggar

“The four beggars in front of the church knew everything in the town.”

A person, typically a homeless one, who lives by asking for money or food.

Despise

“This doctor was of a race which for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved... and despised Kino's race...so that the indigene came humbly to the door.”

To dislike (something or someone) very much.

Discontent

“His eyes rested in puffy little hammocks of flesh and his mouth drooped with discontent.”

Not pleased or satisfied.

Feint

“Near the brush fence two roosters bowed and feinted at each other with squared wings and neck feathers ruffed out.”

Make a deceptive or distracting movement, especially during a fight.

Frantic

“Kino watched with the detachment of God while a dusty ant frantically tried to escape the sand trap an ant lion had dug for him.”

Wild or distraught with fear, anxiety, or other emotion.

Indigene

“This doctor was of a race which for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved... and despised Kino's race...so that the indigene came humbly to the door.”

An indigenous person.

Indigent

“And, since early Mass was over and business was slow, they followed... to see what the fat lazy doctor would do about an indigent baby with a scorpion bite.”

Poor; needy.

Interval

“Juana sang softly an ancient song that had only three notes and yet endless variety of interval.”

A period of time between events.

Mutter

“Under her breath Juana repeated an ancient magic to guard against such evil, and on top of that she muttered a Hail Mary between clenched teeth.”

Say something in a low or barely audible voice, especially in dissatisfaction or irritation.

Plaintive

“In his mind a new song had come, the Song of Evil, the music of the enemy, of any foe of the family... and underneath, the Song of the Family cried plaintively.”

Expressing suffering or sadness.

Plaza

“The procession crossed the blinding plaza and passed in front of the church.”

A public square, marketplace, or similar open space in a built-up area.

Poverty

“And the newcomers, particularly the beggars... appraised the green ribbon on her braids, read the age of Kino's blanket... and set them down as poverty people”

The state of being extremely poor.

Puncture

"But Juana had the baby in her arms now. She found the puncture with redness starting from it already."

A small hole in something such as the skin, caused by a sharp object.

Reassure

"On her hard bare feet she went to the hanging box where Coyotito slept, and she leaned over and said a little reassuring word."

Say or do something to remove the doubts or fears of (someone).

Scandal

"They knew every little scandal and some very big crimes."

An action or event regarded as morally or legally wrong and causing general public outrage.

Shawl

"Kino heard the creak of the rope when Juana took Coyotito out of his hanging box and... hammocked him in her shawl in a loop that placed him close to her breast."

A piece of fabric worn by women over the shoulders or head or wrapped around a baby.

Strenuous

"Apolonia, her big stomach jiggling with the strenuous pace, then all the neighbours with the children trotting on the flanks."

Requiring or showing great energy and effort.

Suppliant

"For a long time Kino stood in front of the gate with Juana beside him. Slowly he put his suppliant hat on his head."

Making or expressing a plea, especially to someone in power or authority.

Timid

"A thin, timid dog came close and, at a soft word from Kino, curled up, arranged its tail neatly over its feet, and laid its chin delicately on the pile."

Showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened.

Veterinary

"The doctor put his cup down gently before he let his anger rise. "Have I nothing better to do than cure insect bites for 'little Indians'? I am a doctor, not a veterinary."

Relating to the medical care and treatment of animals.