

Amulet

“And then she saw how he hooked his amulet neck-string about the horn handle of his great knife, so that it hung down in front of him and left both hands free.”

An ornament or piece of jewelry thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.

Apprehensive

“And then he looked apprehensively to the east. The moon would rise in a few moments now, and he must attack before it rose.”

Anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen.

Cleft

“The sun moved downward toward the bare stone teeth of the mountains, and Kino set his direction for a dark and shadowy cleft in the range.”

A fissure or split, especially one in rock or the ground.

Crevice

“Now there were long outcroppings of granite with deep crevices between, and Kino walked on bare unmarkable stone when he could and leaped from ledge to ledge.”

A narrow opening or fissure, especially in a rock or wall.

Distort

“And Kino heard the music of the pearl, distorted and insane.”

To change (something) so that it is no longer true or accurate.

Escarpment

“There wasn't much left of it then anyway, for every time it fell over an escarpment the thirsty air drank it, and it splashed from the pools to the dry vegetation.”

A long cliff or steep slope that separates two flat or slightly sloped areas.

Foliage

“If there were any water at all, it would be there where he could see, even in the distance, a hint of foliage.”

The leaves of a plant or of many plants.

Germane

“Any sound that was not germane to the night would make them alert.”

Relevant to a subject under consideration.

Goad

“Her goad struck into his brain; his lips snarled and his eyes were fierce again.”

To urge or force (someone) to do something.

Hysterical

“And then Kino's brain cleared... and he knew the sound - the keening, moaning, rising hysterical cry from the little cave in the side of the stone mountain, the cry of death.”

Feeling or showing extreme and uncontrolled emotion.

Immune

“In Kino's ears the Song of the Family was as fierce as a cry. He was immune and terrible, and his song had become a battle cry.”

Not influenced or affected by something.

Impression

“The sun was settling toward the... mountains and the shadows on the ground were long. And perhaps that was what left the deep impression on those who saw them.”

The effect or influence that something or someone has on a person's thoughts or feelings.

Malignant

“And the pearl was ugly; it was gray, like a malignant growth.”

. Evil in nature, influence, or effect.

Monolithic

“But ahead were the naked granite mountains, rising out of erosion rubble and standing monolithic against the sky.”

Imposing in size or bulk or solidity.

Monotonous

“The wind cried and whisted in the brush, and the family went on monotonously, hour after hour. They passed no one and saw no one.”

Dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest.

Petulant

“And the baby was weary and petulant, and he cried softly until Juana gave him her breast, and then he gurgled and clucked against her.”

(Of a person or their manner) childishly sulky or bad-tempered.

Remote

“And her wide eyes stared inward on herself. She was as remote and as removed as Heaven.”

(Of a place) situated far from the main centers of population; distant.

Rupture

“High in the gray stone mountains, under a frowning peak, a little spring bubbled out of a rupture in the stone.”

A crack or break in something.

Rouse

“For any sound, a rolling pebble or a sigh, a little slip of flesh on rock, would rouse the watchers below.”

To arouse from or as if from sleep or repose.

Sentinel

“But she sat as still as a sentinel, and when Coyotito awakened she placed him on the ground in front of her and watched him wave his arms and kick his feet.”

A soldier or guard whose job is to stand and keep watch.

Sinister

“And Kino thrust the pearl back into his clothing, and the music of the pearl had become sinister in his ears, and it was interwoven with the music of evil.”

Having an evil appearance: looking likely to cause something harmful or evil to happen.

Soothe

“Once Coyotito awakened, and Juana shifted him in front of her and soothed him until he went to sleep again.”

Gently calm (a person or their feelings).

Tremble

“Her voice trembled a little. “Go with God,” she said.”

To shake involuntarily (as with fear or cold).

Weary

“They came utterly weary to the pool, and Juana slumped to her knees and first washed Coyotito's face and then filled her bottle and gave him a drink.”

To make a quiet crying sound.