

Vocabulary in *The Walden*

Compiled by AcadeMe for the Homer Project

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outskirt	n.	a part remote from the center :border usually used in plural <i>on the outskirts of town</i>
exhilarate	v.	to cause (someone) to feel very happy and excited usually used as (be) exhilarated <i>We were exhilarated by the news of his success.</i>
avast	verb imperative	nautical command to stop or cease
overgrow	v.	to grow in an uncontrolled way and completely cover or fill (something) <i>The weeds have overgrown the garden.</i>
freshet	n.	stream <i>summer brings a freshet of tourists</i>
fritter	v.	to spend or use up (something) in a slow and usually foolish way <i>He frittered the afternoon away.</i>
drench	v.	to make (someone or something) completely wet often + with or in <i>She drenched him with a bucket of cold water.</i>
rudiment	n.	a basic principle or element or a fundamental skill usually used in plural <i>teaching themselves the rudiments of rational government</i>
hereabouts	adv.	near or around this place :in this area <i>We don't see a lot of snow hereabouts.</i>
vex	v.	to annoy or worry (someone) <i>This problem has vexed researchers for years.</i>
resound	v.	to become filled with sound usually + with <i>The hall resounded with cheers.</i>
quicksand	n.	deep, wet sand into which heavy objects sink easily <i>the quicksand of depression</i>
swath	n.	a long, wide strip of land <i>An aerial view of the countryside shows wide swathes of green.</i>
dignitary	n.	a person who has a high rank or an important position <i>The dinner was attended by many foreign dignitaries.</i>
delude	v.	to cause (someone) to believe something that is not true <i>If she thinks I care, she's deluding [=fooling] herself.</i>
unhurried	adj.	not happening or done quickly or too quickly :relaxed and calm <i>We strolled along at an unhurried [=leisurely] pace.</i>
gouge	v.	to cut a deep hole in (something) <i>The lamp fell and gouged the table.</i>
pygmy	adj.	used to describe a type of plant or animal that is smaller than the usual size <i>a pygmy elephant</i>
slush	n.	partly melted snow <i>a sidewalk covered with slush</i>
supernumerary	adj.	exceeding the usual, stated, or prescribed number <i>a supernumerary tooth</i>
heedless	adj.	not paying careful attention <i>They remain heedless of their own safety.</i>

cleaver	n.	a heavy knife with a wide blade used for cutting up large pieces of meat
culminate	v.	to reach the end or the final result of something usually + in or with <i>She had a long acting career that culminated in two Oscar nominations.</i>
baboon	n.	a large African or Asian monkey
nutshell	n.	the hard outer shell of a nut
crave	v.	to have a very strong desire for (something) <i>Like many celebrities, he craves attention.</i>
clout	v.	to hit (the ball) very hard <i>He clouted 19 home runs last year.</i>
glimmer	v.	to shine in a weak, faint, or unsteady way <i>Candles glimmered in the windows of the inn.</i>
whirlpool	n.	an area of water in a river, stream, etc., that moves very fast in a circle <i>The swimmer was caught in a whirlpool and nearly drowned.</i>
instill	v.	to gradually cause someone to have (an attitude, feeling, etc.) <i>instill character/discipline</i>
situate	v.	to place (someone or something) in a particular location <i>They decided to situate the new office building near the airport.</i>
drowsy	adj.	tired and ready to fall asleep <i>I started feeling drowsy [=sleepy] and decided to take a nap.</i>
grasshopper	n.	a plant-eating insect that has long legs used for jumping
unwieldy	adj.	difficult to handle, control, or deal with because of being large, heavy, or complex <i>a large, unwieldy box</i>
succinct	adj.	using few words to state or express an idea <i>He gave a succinct overview of the expansion project.</i>
clutter	v.	to fill or cover (something) with many things :to fill or cover (something) with clutter <i>Tools cluttered the garage.</i>
glorify	v.	to honor or praise (a god or goddess) <i>Glorify and give thanks to God.</i>
slumber	v.	sleep <i>The children quietly slumbered.</i>
forsake	v.	to give up or leave (someone or something) entirely <i>All my friends have forsaken [=abandoned] me.</i>
tinker	v.	to try to repair or improve something (such as a machine) by making small changes or adjustments to it <i>He was tinkering in the garage.</i>
overwhelm	v.	to affect (someone) very strongly <i>Grief overwhelmed her. = She was overwhelmed by grief. [=she felt grief so strongly that she was unable to think or act in a normal way]</i>
rout	v.	to defeat (someone) easily and completely in a game or contest <i>The reigning champion routed the contender.</i>
snout	n.	the long nose of some animals (such as pigs) <i>The dog raised his snout and sniffed.</i>
hoarse	adj.	having a harsh or rough sound or voice <i>She could only speak in a hoarse whisper.</i>
misconception	n.	a wrong or mistaken idea <i>a common/popular misconception</i>
fluctuate	v.	to change level, strength, or value frequently <i>Oil prices fluctuated [=became higher, lower, etc.] throughout the year.</i>
inhabitant	n.	a person or animal that lives in a particular place <i>The city has more than a million inhabitants. [=residents]</i>

burrow	v.	to make a hole or tunnel in the ground by digging usually + into or under <i>The rabbit burrowed into the side of the hill.</i>
paw	v.	to touch or hit (someone or something) with a paw or foot <i>The bull was pawing the dirt/ground.</i>
sentinel	n.	sentry <i>armed sentinels</i>
acquaint	v.	to cause (someone) to know and become familiar with something <i>He acquainted the new employee with her duties. [=he told her about her duties]</i>
steamboat	n.	a boat that is powered by steam
spartan	adj.	very bare and simple :lacking the things that make life comfortable or more pleasant <i>They lived in spartan conditions.</i>
mammoth	adj.	very large <i>a mammoth [=huge, gigantic] building</i>
expel	v.	to officially force (someone) to leave a place or organization <i>The club may expel members who do not follow the rules.</i>
chop	v.	to cut (something) into pieces by hitting it with the sharp edge of an ax, knife, etc. <i>She's in the kitchen chopping vegetables.</i>
starve	v.	to suffer or die from lack of food :to suffer extreme hunger <i>Without food they would starve.</i>
jest	v.	to say things that are meant to cause laughter :joke <i>You voted for him? Surely you jest. [=you must be joking]</i>
rattle	v.	to hit against something repeatedly and make a quick series of short, loud sounds <i>The window rattled as the truck drove by.</i>
apprehend	v.	to arrest (someone) for a crime :to catch (a criminal or suspect) <i>Within hours, police had apprehended the thief.</i>
pecuniary	adj.	relating to or in the form of money <i>the hope of pecuniary [(more commonly) financial] reward</i>
sham	adj.	not real :false fake <i>sham marriages</i>
farthest	adv.	to or at the greatest distance in space or time :furthest <i>He chose the seat farthest from the door.</i>
underlie	v.	to lie or be located under (something) <i>A tile floor underlies the rug.</i>
lucid	adj.	very clear and easy to understand <i>a lucid explanation</i>
barbarous	adj.	not polite or proper :very rude or offensive <i>His behavior was barbarous.</i>
greedy	adj.	having or showing a selfish desire to have more of something (such as money or food) :having greed <i>He was a ruthless and greedy businessman.</i>
myriad	adj.	very many <i>The old system's problems were myriad.</i>
fable	n.	a short story that usually is about animals and that is intended to teach a lesson <i>Aesop's fables</i>
illusory	adj.	based on something that is not true or real :based on an illusion <i>an illusory hope</i>
rift	n.	a situation in which two people, groups, etc., no longer have a friendly relationship

		<i>The fight will only widen the rift with his brother.</i>
fabulous	adj.	very good <i>I had a fabulous time.</i>
stitch	v.	to use a needle and thread to make or repair (something, such as a piece of clothing) :to join (something, such as a piece of fabric or a button) to something else with stitches :sew <i>He stitched a patch onto his coat.</i>
delusion	n.	a belief that is not true :a false idea <i>He has delusions about how much money he can make at that job.</i>
perturbation	n.	a change in the normal state or regular movement of something <i>a perturbation in the planet's orbit</i>
mosquito	n.	a small flying insect that bites the skin of people and animals and sucks their blood <i>a swarm of mosquitoes</i>
deceive	v.	to make (someone) believe something that is not true <i>Her parents punished her for trying to deceive them.</i>
excursion	n.	a short trip especially for pleasure <i>a fishing excursion</i>
reckon	v.	to think or suppose (something) :to believe that (something) is true or possible <i>I reckon that we'll have to leave early.</i>
posterity	n.	people in the future <i>Posterity will remember her as a woman of courage and integrity.</i>
forge	v.	to form something by heating and shaping metal <i>forging hooks out of pieces of iron = forging pieces of iron into hooks</i>
meridian	n.	any one of the lines that go from the North Pole to the South Pole on maps of the world
confederacy	n.	a group of people, countries, organizations, etc., that are joined together in some activity or effort <i>a confederacy of native tribes</i>
hue	n.	a color or a shade of a color <i>We decorated the room in hues of blue and green.</i>
beforehand	adv.	in advance :at an earlier or previous time <i>They'd agreed beforehand [=ahead of time] to leave early.</i>
postage	n.	the cost of sending a letter or package by mail <i>How much is the postage for this package?</i>
wreck	v.	to damage (something) so badly that it cannot be repaired <i>I wrecked my mother's car.</i>
concord	geo.	U.S. city, California
superfluous	adj.	beyond what is needed :not necessary <i>a superfluous word/detail</i>
whistle	v.	to make a high sound by blowing air through your lips or teeth <i>He was whistling as he walked down the street.</i>
discern	v.	to see, hear, or notice (something) with difficulty or effort <i>We could just discern [=distinguish, make out] the ship through the fog.</i>
mast	n.	a long pole that supports the sails of a boat or ship
lapse	v.	to stop for usually a brief time <i>After a few polite words the conversation lapsed.</i>
vigor	n.	strength, energy, or determination <i>She defended her beliefs with great vigor.</i>
memorable	adj.	very good or interesting and worth remembering <i>a memorable vacation/experience</i>
sublime	adj.	very beautiful or good :causing strong feelings of admiration or wonder

		<i>Her paintings are sublime.</i>
wedge	v.	to force (someone or something) into a very small or narrow space <i>She wedged her foot into the crack.</i>
lump	v.	to put (people or things) together or in the same group <i>He made the mistake of lumping all their ideas together as foolish.</i>
scrap	v.	to get rid of (something) because it is damaged, no longer useful, etc. <i>He scrapped his car after the accident.</i>
alphabet	n.	the letters of a language arranged in their usual order <i>The Roman alphabet begins with A and ends with Z.</i>
behold	v.	to look at (something) :to see (something) <i>Those who have beheld the beauty of the desert never forget it.</i>
diminish	v.	to become or to cause (something) to become less in size, importance, etc. <i>The passing years did nothing to diminish [=decrease, lessen] their friendship.</i>
preacher	n.	a person who speaks publicly about religious subjects in a Christian church or other public place
thunder	v.	to produce thunder <i>The sky thundered and the rain poured down.</i>
fairy	n.	a creature that looks like a very small human being, has magic powers, and sometimes has wings <i>a good fairy</i>
eternity	n.	time without an end <i>She promised to love him for all eternity. [=to love him forever]</i>
fore	adv.	toward or at the front part of a boat, ship, or airplane <i>The plane's exits are located fore and aft.</i>
confess	v.	to admit that you did something wrong or illegal <i>He confessed after being questioned for many hours.</i>
crane	v.	to stretch out (your neck) in order to see better <i>We craned our necks toward the stage.</i>
infancy	n.	the first part of a child's life :the time in your life when you are a baby <i>She was often sick during her infancy.</i>
marrow	n.	a soft substance that fills the bones of people and animals
perpetual	adj.	continuing forever or for a very long time without stopping <i>The region is in a state of perpetual war.</i>