

<u>Words</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Usage</u>
Equivocate	lie; mislead; attempt to conceal the truth	I replied that, so far as I knew, the state governments of Colorado and California were not engaged in war activities — killing people — except in that there were death-related industries in these states, and I could see there was “some equivocation” possible on the state or local level.
Disinterested	unprejudiced	Expand the idea of “usefulness” to include such unbiased information as can be gathered not only from research, but from every responsible source—from families, from journalists, and from literature produced according to standards both archaic and modern. Let’s develop resourceful, inventive new methods of identifying trustworthy information—with disinterested intellectual rigor, and with the shared desire to build a better future. The medical establishment, patients and patient groups, research professionals, pharmaceutical companies, media! There is more in heaven and earth than is dreamt of in your randomized controlled trials. Let’s join together to learn all we can.
Fledgling	inexperienced	When [Jonathan] Neighbors performs as Blaze, she puts on makeup for a pageant by taking pieces from her drag family’s styles — the way they paint or dress — and mixes them to tell their family story. Her drag sisters have shared secrets like different ways to apply makeup and how to dress for her body. She paints a family portrait on her own face. In most cases, drag mothers choose their drag daughters, and this relationship is not only an extension of family but one similar to classical apprenticeship. A daughter learns techniques from a skilled artist as

		would any fledgling painter.
Viscous	sticky, gluey	
Permeable	penetrable; porous; allowing liquids or gas to pass through	
Erudite	learned; scholarly	
Intransigence	refusal of any compromise; stubbornness	When the FAA's antihijacking task force first convened in February 1969, its ten members knew they faced a daunting challenge—not only because of the severity of the crisis, but also due to the airlines' intransigence. Having spent vast sums on Beltway lobbyists, the airlines had the political clout to nix any security measure that might inconvenience their customers. So whatever solutions the FAA proposed would have to be imperceptible to the vast majority of travelers.
Oscillate	vibrate; waver	
Apathy	lack of caring; indifference	
Tangential	peripheral; only slightly connected; digressing	
Profound	deep; not superficial; complete	
Denigrate	blacken	Helman's plan may have worked too well. Ever since it went into effect, partners have competed aggressively not just against lawyers at other firms, but against one another. Chicago partners would fly into New York to poach clients from their Manhattanite counterparts, holding clandestine meetings in which they would pitch themselves as less expensive and a mere two-hour plane ride away. ⁷ When the New Yorkers invariably caught wind of these plots, they would remind clients that they were far more efficient than their Midwestern cousins. 'What we would end up saying is ... Chicago will staff you with four partners on something we'd staff with one or two,'" recalls a former partner. 'It's crazy that I have to go in and have a conversation about it. Denigrating.'"

Elicit	draw out by discussion	
Burnish	make shiny by rubbing; polish	At the same time, Governor Perry was preparing to launch his presidential bid, burnishing his résumé for a national conservative audience. It wasn't a good time to be a Democrat, but it wasn't a great time to be a moderate Republican either.
Boorish	rude; insensitive	The theater's advance publicity had suggested that boorish behavior in the audience was allowed. Although management banned the crowd from bringing rocks greater than two inches in diameter, ticket buyers still carried in turnips, cabbages, and an old tin wash boiler, all of which ended up thrown onto the stage.
Dirge	Lament with music	Musically, the tune plays out more like a funereal dirge than a wedding march, thanks to morose church organ and gently strummed acoustic guitar.
Inspid	lacking in flavor; dull	The All-Volunteer Force is like a burger from a fast-food joint: it's cheap, filling and tastes good going down. What's not to like? Take a closer look, however, and problems with the existing U.S. military system become apparent. It encourages political irresponsibility. It underwrites an insipid conception of citizenship. It's undemocratic. It turns out to be exorbitantly expensive. And it doesn't win.
Anomalous	abnormal; irregular	
Relegate	banish to an inferior position; delegate; assign	
Implicit	understood but not stated	
Amalgamate	combine; unite in one body	
Inconsequential	insignificant; unimportant	
Whimsical	capricious; fanciful	Dahl's whimsical yet macabre and darkly comic stories piqued my imagination for the first time in those years, and — being a shy, quiet kid — showed me that anything was possible.

Aver	assert confidently or declare; as used in law, state formally as a fact	
Ebullient	showing excitement; overflowing with enthusiasm	It took real effort to find the cemetery in Lower Burma, but in Greenland, the world's largest island, it was impossible to miss it. The capital city, Nuuk, has just 17,000 people, with a mere 39,000 more concentrated in settlements across the rest of the of the country. New graves are decorated with ebullient arrangements of artificial flowers, which, when they wither, are not replaced. 'We do not visit graves,' said Salik Hard, whom I met while travelling there. 'Once a person is gone, we go on to the future.'
Dissemble	disguise; pretend	I don't want him to know. I don't want anyone to. I want the world to be blissfully ignorant of pain like this. There is so much pain out there already. Eating at us. Digging through us. Pain of the mind. Of the body. Of our culture. Our lives. Pain that erodes. Pain that dissembles. Pain that obliterates and erases.
Audacious	daring; bold	
Insensible	unconscious; unresponsive	
Specious	seemingly reasonable but incorrect; misleading (often	He has also called for a massive expansion of oil drilling in the United States, apparently in an effort to defuse criticism from those who argue speciously that 'drill, baby, drill' is the answer to our growing dependence on foreign oil."
Partisan	one-sided; prejudiced; committed to a party	
Aesthetic	artistic; dealing with or capable of appreciating the beautiful	
Deterrent	Something that discourages; hindrance	
Discredit	defame; destroy confidence in; disbelieve	
Coax	urge on	With great subtlety, Nunez uses her intimate experience of the particulars of Sontag's work habits

		and lifestyle to illuminate some of the tensions that all writers experience—tensions between the need to write without fetters and the need to make money, and between the confidence that's necessary to accomplish anything and the insecurity that can act as a goad, or a filter.
Onerous	burdensome	The charges will be seen by most defendants as arbitrary, onerous and basically unfair. They will create a 'legitimacy deficit' in the system, which will be sensed most keenly by those whose commitment to the rule of law is most tentative.
Homogeneous	of the same kind	
Abscond	depart secretly and hide	In another Tribune story, Bliss and Griffin noted that Linda Taylor had been arrested twice in the 1960s for absconding with children, though she wasn't convicted in either case because the little ones were returned.
Anachronism	something or someone misplaced in time	It portrays Christians as hypocrites while subtly pushing values that are pretty Christian, when you get down to it—tolerance, self-sacrifice, giving your baby mama your pool-cleaning money, respecting the songwriting genius of Gary Puckett and the Union Gap. It's as anachronistically sweet as Bye, Bye Birdie but gayer than Hedwig. It's a show where Agron, as the conniving cheerleader Quinn, convinces her boyfriend that she's pregnant with his child (it's someone else's), but it's also a show in which Monteith sings a soaring soft-rock rendition of the Pretenders' "I'll Stand By You" to a sonogram of that baby.
Log	record of a voyage or flight; record of day-to-day activities	
Aggregate	gather; accumulate	
Admonish	warn; reprove	"I don't know. All I want is junk food." I confess. I expect her to

		admonish me, to punish me the way that I used to do to myself.
Paucity	Scarcity	The lack of medical education on the topic, a near-total absence of research on transgender health issues and the resulting paucity of evidence-based treatment guidelines leave many at a loss."
Impervious	impenetrable; incapable of being damaged or distressed	He climbed the biggest mountains. And when he was on duty, he seemed to get the biggest calls. Injury, trauma, death—for 30 years, that pager was on 24/7, and he couldn't get a reprieve. You'd have to be naive to think that he'd be impervious to it."
Buttress	support; prop up	The capacity to be alone is the capacity to know enough about yourself and who you are, and be comfortable enough with that. That way, when you are with another person, you're not trying to make that person into somebody you need them to be in order to buttress a fragile sense of your own self. You can actually turn to a person and see them as another person, and have a real relationship with them.
Appropriate	acquire; take possession of for one's own use	
Aberrant	abnormal, or deviant	
Frugality	thrift; economy	Madoff victim Alexandra Penney, who lost her life savings in the ponzi scheme, on Bernie's dirty fantasies, living the frugal life, and some post-Ponzi schadenfreude.
Shard	fragment, generally of pottery	"'Be careful shaking your head,' said her son Maddox, who was sitting on the other side of the enormous bed, watching 'Homeland' on his iPad. 'A shard of your beauty just hit me in the face.' She barely heard him. She let her eye cast around the room for a moment.
Compendium	brief, comprehensive summary	It wasn't the compendium of facts in the chapter "Water! Water! Water!" or indeed in the entire

		book. It was that Carey McWilliams wrote about Southern California with sensibilities my eye, ear, and nose recognized.
Eulogy	expression of praise, often on the occasion of someone's death	A son's eulogy for his father: "A few years ago, when my son Mack was a baby, we took the train to Aberdeen, and we made the mistake of counting on the Harford County taxi system to pick us up. It was cold and raining, and the baby was cold and getting rained on. And after half an hour, with the dispatcher still promising a cab in 10 minutes, he loaded an oxygen bottle into the car and headed down West Bel Air Avenue, the oxygen ticking in the passenger side, to get his grandson in out of the rain.
Inundate	overwhelm; flood; submerge	
Tortuous	winding; full of curves	
Diffuse	wordy, rambling, spread out (like a gas)	
Contentious	quarrelsome	When the author returns to her family's coal mining roots in Harlan County, Kentucky, she tries to make sense of her family legacy, as well as America's complicated, contentious relationship with coal.
Coagulate	thicken; congeal; clot	
Enervate	weaken	Despite its many variants, the marvelous corpse has found its most generative expressions in two related figurations: the physically enervated corpse and the superhero's diseased body.
Incongruity	lack of harmony; absurdity	
Fallacious	false; misleading	It's a fallacy to think that because of the Internet we all have access to every story ever written and every story worth reading gets passed around like the flu until we're all coughing in unison.
Saturate	soak thoroughly	
Implode	burst inward	
Porous	full of pores; like a sieve	
Fervor	glowing ardor; intensity of feeling	

		zoonotic diseases: They remind us, as St. Francis did, that we humans are inseparable from the natural world. In fact, there is no 'natural world,' it's a bad and artificial phrase."
Decorum	propriety; orderliness and good taste in manners	
Malingerer	one who feigns illness to escape duty	New religions are no less phantasmagorical. Immersed in the Oz books as a malingering schoolgirl, I wanted to "have adventures" when I grew up. My wish came true.
Contention	claim; thesis	
Confound	confuse; puzzle	
Desultory	aimless; haphazard; digressing at random	At one, a group was talking in a desultory, elliptical way, and, as one of them departed, he turned to his friends and said, "I love you all" with a trailing wave of the hand, like he was heading off to save Mars.
Phlegmatic	calm; not easily disturbed	McConnell himself later admitted that an accompanying radio ad attacking Huddleston for his attendance at committee meetings was "fundamentally unfair" and "kind of ridiculous." But the line of attack rang true, given that the phlegmatic Huddleston was running such a lackluster campaign. Voters ate it up—especially the conservative Democrats who might otherwise be left cool by the Louisville lawyer with the briefcase.
Distend	expand; swell out	
Dissolution	disintegration; looseness in morals	
Strut	supporting bar	
Luminous	shining; issuing light	
Mollify	soothe	Samantha Stephens, the witch on "Bewitched," was a high-strung, self-doubting, cringing pre-feminist, who tidied her house and suppressed her magical powers and her intellect to mollify her wanky husband, Darrin.
Eclectic	selective; composed of elements	

	drawn from disparate sources	
Recondite	abstruse; profound; secret	You had the main word and then those odd drill-downs in different directions—even more recondite things. So the book itself does that now. You have the main word, and then it branches out into related words.
Abeyance	suspended action	Last two years of my Ph.D. has established a couple of things vividly for me. For instance, you must realize that it is your Ph.D. (just like life!), and you cannot crib or blame your loss of time on someone else (howsoever tempting). You cannot hang in abeyance for long. You have to decide your goals. Yeah, both of them: short-term and long-term targets.
Discordant	not harmonious; conflicting	
Craven	cowardly	
Ambivalence	the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes	
Laconic	brief and to the point	Amid the universal praise, one main line of critique against the show has been its use of nostalgia as an alibi for underdeveloped women characters, a hallmark of boys-centered '80s flicks. Here Cruz writes about one of the show's most interesting characters (and most impressive performances, by Millie Bobby Brown): the laconic, telekinetic Eleven.
Distill	purify; refine; concentrate	
Ostentatious	showy; pretentious; trying to attract attention	It has become a symbol of conformity. "Suit" was the chosen insult of hippies to describe a dull establishment man. The garment has been ostentatiously rejected by Silicon Valley titans like Steve

		Jobs of Apple, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and Sergey Brin of Google.
Diffidence	Shyness	I had read his journalism and was already in awe of his brilliance and wit and couldn't think what on earth I could bring to his table. I don't know if he sensed the diffidence on my part—no, of course he did; he never missed anything—but he set me instantly at ease, and so began one of the great friendships and benisons of my life.
Compliant	yielding; conforming to requirements	
Appease	pacify or soothe; relieve	
Imperturbable	calm; placid	'It is a simple agreement between FRC and your brother,' Lance Harding said, maintaining an aura of imperturbable patience. 'Often individuals wish to pass on knowledge outside of the rubric of wills and other legal formats. Some leave a spoken message, others might wish to pass along a note or a small package.'
Tacit	understood; not put into words	
Exacerbate	worsen; embitter	The holiday season isn't easy. Even the most well-adjusted person has to deal with stressful family members, strained finances, and travel logistics. Mental illness exacerbate these stressors even more.
Precarious	uncertain; risky	"The main room at Dee's Tots looks like a supersized slumber party, but the truth is this is an ordinary day." The thought of leaving a child at daycare overnight might sound unthinkable for middle-class and affluent parents. But for people who rely on unpredictable shift work and who deal with stagnant wages and precarious employment, round-the-clock day care facilities are a necessity. This piece tells the story of one such place in New Rochelle

		New York.
Preamble	introductory statement	Crying constitution is a minor American art form. "This is my copy of the Constitution," John Boehner, the Speaker of the House, said at a Tea Party rally in Ohio last year, holding up a pocket-size pamphlet. "And I'm going to stand here with the Founding Fathers, who wrote in the preamble, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' " Not to nitpick, but this is not the preamble to the Constitution. It is the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence.
Inadvertently	unintentionally; by oversight; carelessly	
Subside	settle down; descend; grow quiet	
Anarchy	absence of governing body; state of disorder	
Dormant	sleeping; lethargic; latent	
Immutable	unchangeable	A true connoisseur of the chicken tender knows that there are three immutable rules.
Obviate	make unnecessary; get rid of	Research shows that veganism, which obviates the inherent waste involved in growing the grains used to fatten animals for food in conventional systems, is seven times more energy efficient than eating meat and, if embraced globally, could reduce greenhouse gas emissions from conventional agriculture by 94 percent. Any pretext to explore meat eating's moral underpinnings—and possibly land upon an excuse for pursuing a plant-based diet as a viable goal—would be consistent with the movement's anticorporate, ecologically driven mission.
Vacillate	waver; fluctuate	
Eloquy	speech or song expressing	"Linger for a while over the idea of

	lamentation	the elegy. Where a conventional smoking-cessation preacher tells the reader he has nothing to lose but his chains, Klein acknowledges that to quit is to experience a loss, and takes his time mourning a dying idea of fun."
Inert	inactive; lacking power to move	