Bog Queen

BY SEAMUS HEANEY
DEMESNE

Definition: land attached to a manor, and retained for the owner’s own use; it can also simply mean the lands of an estate, (archaic) a region or domain

Connotations: barrier

Sentence:
**Braille**

Definition:

Connotations:

Sentence:
**Grope/ Groped/Groping**

Definition: feel about or search blindly with hands, (grop for) search mentally with hesitation or uncertainty for an answer; move along with difficulty by feelings objects as one goes; (as a noun) an act of fondling someone for sexual pleasure.

Connotations: exploration, reaching for something

Sentence: She was blindly groping for her alarm clock.
ILLITERATE / ILLITERACY

Definition: (adjective) being unable to read/write; it can also mean you are ignorant in a particular subject/activity; uncultured or poorly educated. (noun) person unable to read or write; (illiteracy) it’s simply the inability to read or write

Connotations: lack of knowledge

Sentence: He has always had a problem of illiteracy, which embarrassed him to the very core.
PONDER / PONDERED / PONDERING

Definition: think about something carefully (especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion)

Connotations: introspection, waiting for time to pass by

Sentence: She pondered a long while about what he said, before finally reaching a conclusion.
Cavings

Definition: (another term for spelunking); a large underground chamber (typically of natural origin) in a hillside or cliff; (as a verb) explores caves as a sport

Connotations: darkness, exploration

Sentence: I have a constant fear for caves, because you never know what's inside of them.
**Socket**

Definition: a natural/artificial hollow into which something fits, or in which something revolves; it can also be an electrical device receiving a plug or light bulb to make a connection.

Connotations: discovery of something, hiding

Sentence: I
**Ferment / Fermented / Fermenting**

Definition: (of a substance) undergo fermentations; incite or stir up trouble or disorder; (of a negative feeling or memory) fester and develop into something worse; (noun) agitation and excitement among a group of people (typically concerning major change and leading to trouble)

Connotations:

Sentence: Scientists often try experiments where to ferment substances, in order to see the results.
**BALTIC**

Definition: relating to the Baltic Sea or the region surrounding it; also belonging to a branch of the Indo-European family of languages consisting of Lithuanian, Latvian and Old Prussian.

Connotations: a special region

Sentence: He said he wanted to learn Baltic language because it interested him.
AMBER

Definition: hard translucent fossilized resin produced by extinct coniferous trees of the Tertiary period; it can also honey-yellow color; or a yellow light used as a cautionary signal between green for “go” and red for “stop”

Connotations: treasure

Sentence: She has amber-colored eyes, reminding me of a cat.
VITAL

Definition: (adjective) absolutely necessary, important or essential; indispensable to the continuance of life; can also mean full of energy, lively; (as a noun) the body’s important internal organs, (archaic) fatal

Connotations:

Etymology: via Old French from Latin vitals from vita ‘life’

Sentence: Members are a vital part of a group, especially for co-operation.
**Hoard / Hoarded / Hoarding**

Definition: a stock/store of money/valued objects (typically one that is secret or carefully guarded), can also be an ancient store of coins or other artifacts; an amassed store of useful information, retained for future use; (as a verb) amass money/valued objects and hide or store away; reserve in the mind for future use

Connotations: treasure, secret

Sentence: He told me he has hoarded money in order to later buy a car.
Crock / Crockery

Definition: plates, dishes, cups, and other similar items, especially ones made of earthenware or china.

Connotations: hiding something so as to keep it secret

Sentence: She often buys new crockery to impress guests.
PELVIS / PELVIC

Definition:

Connotations:

Sentence:
**Definition:** a jeweled crown/headband work as a symbol of sovereignty, (archaic) authority or dignity symbolized by a diadem

**Connotations:** importance, power

**Sentence:** Women often wore diadems in the past to express sovereignty.
CARIOUS

Definition: (of bones/teeth) decayed

Connotations: breaking away, disappearance of something

Sentence: Her teeth were carious, the reason why she didn’t look as appealing as I thought.
**Floe**

Definition: a sheet of floating ice

Connotations: coldness, hardness

Sentence: Winter movies’ scenery often contains many floes.
Bearings

Definition (Navigational & Mechanical):

Connotations:

Sentence:
**Sash**

Definition: a long strop/loop of cloth worn over one shoulder or around the waist (especially as part of uniform or official dress)

Connotations: strangled, aesthetic

Sentence: She always wore a sash around the waist, otherwise the dress would be too big.
GLACIER / GLACIAL

Definition: a slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow on mountains, or near the poles

Connotations: coldness, barrier

Sentence: The place was surrounded by glaciers.
PHOENICIAN

Definition:

Connotations:

Sentence:

Phoenicians bringing gifts for the Persian King - Persepolis relief, 5 century B.C.
**Retted**

Definition: soak flax or hemp in water to soften it and separate the fibers.

Connotations:

Sentence: They retted the hemp, to soften it.
Moraines

Definition: (Geology) a mass of rocks and sediment carried down and deposited by a glacier

Connotations: resistance

Sentence: He likes to study Geology, and often brings pieces of moraines as a gift.
Nuzzle / Nuzzled / Nuzzling

Definition: rub or push against, gently with the nose and mouth; (nuzzle up to/against) lean or snuggle against

Connotations: affection

Sentence: I often lean against my boyfriend for warmth when it’s winter.
**Fjord**

Definition: a long narrow, deep inlet of the sea between high cliffs (as in Norway and Iceland) typically formed by submergence of a glaciated valley.

Connotations:

Sentence:
**Fledge / Fledgling**

Definition: (of a young bird) develop wing feathers that are large enough for flight; also provide an arrow with feathers

Connotations: fly, hope

Sentence: I fledged a bird until it was old enough to fly.
SWADDLE / SWADDLED / SWADDLING

Definition: wrap someone (especially babies) in garments or cloth

Connotations: covered up, suffocation

Sentence: The baby was swaddle for protection from the rain.
HIBERNATE / HIBERNATED / HIBERNATING

Definition: (of an animal or plant) spend the winter in a dormant state; (of a person) remain inactive or indoors for an extended period

Connotations: reposing

Sentence: He is anti-social, and always hibernates in his house doing nothing but watching tv.
Turf-cutter

Definition: a person/farmer that cuts the grass and surface layer of the earth, which is held together by its roots.

Connotations: breaking something, separation, abusing nature

Sentence: They hired turf-cutters, for the cutting of the gras.
Coomb

Definition: a short valley/hollow on a hillside or coastline; (in Geology) a dry valley in a limestone or chalk escarpment

Connotations:

Sentence:
**Peer (not the verb)***

Definition: a member of the nobility in Britain or Ireland, comprising the ranks of duke, marquess, earl, viscount and baron; it can also mean a person of the same age, status or ability as another specified person.

Connotations: trust, nobility, power, inferiority

Sentence: She was a peer of Britain, wife of the duke.
**PLAIT / PLAITED / PLAITING**

Definition: a single length of hair or other flexible material made up of three or more interlaced strands; in other words a braid; (as a verb) form hair or other material into a plait, or make something by forming material into a plait

Connotations: intricate; difficulty, hard to separate; interaction

Sentence: The maid plaited her hair, seen as it was her favorite hair-style.
BIRTH CORD

Definition:

Connotations:

Sentence:
**HACK / HACKED / HACKING**

**Definition:** cut with rough or heavy blows; use a computer to gain unauthorized access to data in a system

**Connotations:** harshness, breaking something

**Sentence:** He used an ax to hack the tree.
WARE

Definition: pottery (typically that of a specified type); also manufactured articles or articles offered for sale; (adjective) aware or beware

Connotations:

Sentence:
Fray / Frayed / Fraying

Definition: (of a fabric, rope or cord) unravel or become worn at the edge, typically through constant rubbing; (of a person’s nerves) show the effects of strain,

Connotations: breaking apart, separation, illusion

Sentence: The rope was fraying, and he had the risk of falling down.
Tufts

Definition: a bunch or collection of something (typically threads, grass or hard) held or growing together at the base; (anatomy and zoology) a bunch of small blood vessels, respiratory tentacles

Connotations: softness, thin

Sentence: He makes tufts of threats, just for fun.
GLEAM / GLEAMED / GLEAMING

Definition: (as a verb) shine brightly, (of a smooth surface) reflect light because well polished; (of an emotion or quality) appear to be or expressed through the brightness of someone’s eyes or expression; (as a noun) a faint brief light, a brief or faint instance of a quality or emotion

Connotations: hope, shine

Sentence: I couldn't say no, because hope gleamed in her eyes.