

assuage	v	to ease, make less painful or burdensome	"His generosity toward a group of young graffiti writers was, perhaps, one way to assuage his guilt" (Phoebe Hoban, <i>Basquiat: A Quick Killing in Art</i>). See Word of the Day
taciturn	adj	habitually untalkative; habitually reserved or uncommunicative	"She is taciturn and her husband is a talker; they turn the standard male-female stereotypes on their heads."
unsullied	adj	pure, undefiled, unmarked	"He has worked hard to keep his family's reputation unsullied. "
eccentric	adj	departing from the conventional norm; deviating from some established pattern or from accepted conduct/usage	"Thus we came to know Dill as a pocket Merlin, whose head teemed with eccentric plans, strange longings, and quaint fancies." (Scout in <i>TKaM</i>)
vapid	adj	dull, uninteresting	"I found her personality to be dull and vapid ; all she wished to do was gossip about others."
malevolent	adj	wishing evil upon others; malicious , evil, harmful or injurious	"Inside the house lived a malevolent phantom." Root: mal= bad
predilection	n	partiality; preference or tendency; tendency to think favorably of something	"He had a predilection for redheads."
morbid	adj	of, relating to, or characteristic of disease; characterized by gloomy or unwholesome ideas; focused on death	"Dead baby jokes are a morbid form of humor." Root: mor= death
nebulous	adj	hazy, vague, indistinct or confused	Think "nebula" = clouds. "The business plan is still very nebulous , and thus may have a hard time attracting financial support."
vexation	n	a source of irritation or annoyance	"Mosquitoes are a source of great vexation."
fractious	adj	irritable, peevish, or quarrelsome; likely to cause trouble or be unruly	Root: fract/frag= to break or shatter
contentious	adj	tending to argue	"Don't pay no 'tention to Lula, she's contentious because Reverend Sykes threatened to church her." (Calpurnia in <i>TKaM</i>)
amiable	adj	friendly, cordial, agreeable, congenial	"Judge Taylor looked like most judges I had ever seen: amiable , white-haired, slightly ruddy-faced..." (Scout in <i>TKaM</i>) Root: am/im= to love
judicious	adj	having or exercising sound judgment; wise & sensible; prudent & discreet	"a judicious use of one's money" / "a judicious choice of words" Root: jud = judge
begrudge	v	to envy another's possession or enjoyment of something	In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the obedient brother at first begrudges his returning brother's warm welcome.

<u>auspicious</u>	adj	marked by favorable circumstances	"an auspicious time to ask for a raise in salary" / "an auspicious beginning to the campaign" Root: <i>spic/spec</i> = to look
<u>melancholy</u>	adj/n	sad, gloomy; sadness or gloom	"A deep melancholy settled on the family once they knew they would lose their home."
<u>aloof</u>	adj	uninvolved; at a distance (physically <i>or</i> emotionally)	
<u>foray</u>	n	a sudden, quick raid or attack, esp. for taking plunder	"our midnight foray to Taco Bell for the 4th meal..." <u>See "We Eat Horses, Don't We?"</u>
<u>tacit</u>	adj	understood without being spoken; implied	Most friends have a tacit understanding that they won't hit on each others' boy/girlfriends.
<u>placidly</u>	adv	calmly; serenely; tranquilly	In the movie, Lake Placid was incorrectly named!
<u>asinine</u>	adj	foolish, unintelligent, or silly; stupid	"It is surprising that supposedly intelligent people can make such asinine comments." (This was the favorite word of one of Mrs. H's friends growing up, because it was a put-down that sounded even worse than it was! :)
<u>proWess</u>	n	exceptional valor, bravery, or ability, esp. in combat; exceptional ability or skill	proWess as a public speaker; proWess on the battlefield
<u>unfathomable</u>	adj	incomprehensible; difficult or impossible to understand; difficult or impossible to measure	"...there is nothing more unfathomable than the heart of man." (Homer)