**Unit 2 Vocabulary: Short Story List #1**

1. [abscond](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/abscond) – (v) run away, often taking something or somebody along

*The cashier absconded with the money and proceeded to purchase $1000 in lottery tickets, none of which were winners.*

1. [beleaguer](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/beleaguer) – (v) annoy persistently

*Around the****beleaguered****castle, the heavy guns roared as the siege continued.*

1. [constrained](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/constrained) – (adj) lacking spontaneity; not natural

*The constrained confession was not admissible in court after the lawyer uncovered the tactics the police used to elicit it.*

1. [decorum](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/decorum) – (n) propriety in manners and conduct

*When the boy belched at his grandmother’s dinner table, his mother chided him for the lack of decorum.*

1. [fetter](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/fetter) – (n, v) a shackle for the ankles or feet

*The dangerous prisoner was escorted with fetters into court.*

1. [illimitable](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/illimitable) – (adj) without restrictions in extent or size or quantity

*The boy’s imagination was illimitable, dreaming of dragons and faraway castles.*

1. [immolation](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/immolation) – (n) killing or offering as a sacrifice

*Ancient religions often involved immolation before altars as a regular part of worship.*

1. [imposture](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/imposture) – (n) pretending to be another person

*Even after the imposture was revealed, however, Taliban leaders remained positive that that their trick could still work.*

1. [prudent](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/imprudent) – (adj) sensible, responsible, or wise

*Bicycle riders are prudent to wear helmets, fearing to be clipped by a passing car.*

1. [impunity](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/impunity) – (n) exemption from punishment or loss

*The politician lied with impunity and his voters never seemed to punish him.*

1. [iridescent](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/iridescent) – (adj) having a play of lustrous rainbow colors

*The peacock’s iridescent plumes sparkled as he tried to attract a mate.*

1. [languor](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/languor) – (n) inactivity; showing an unusual lack of energy

 *In the pain and****languor****that Ulrich himself was feeling the old fierce hatred seemed to be dying down.*

1. [marauder](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/marauder) – (n) someone who attacks in search of booty

 *He strayed away by himself from the watchers whom he had placed in ambush on the crest of the hill, and wandered far down the steep slopes amid the wild tangle of undergrowth, peering through the tree trunks and listening through the whistling and swirling of the wind and the restless beating of the branches for sight and sound of the* ***marauders****.*

1. [palpable](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/palpable) – (adj) capable of being perceived

 *The climate of fear is most****palpable****here in Maracay, Venezuela’s military capital, home to the nation’s main air bases and military academies.* [*New York Times (Aug 13, 2019)*](https://corpus.vocabulary.com/go/4930837)

1. [paroxysm](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/paroxysm) – (n) a sudden uncontrollable attack

 *The volcano continued lower-level activity through the night and much of the next day, with a fourth spectacular****paroxysm****at the Voragine crater on 5 December.* [*The Guardian (Jan 6, 2016)*](https://corpus.vocabulary.com/go/2748973)

1. [pervade](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/pervade) – (v) spread or diffuse through

 *Technology****pervades****every aspect of modern lives, giving each person a responsibility to weigh in on this issue without misconceptions clouding their judgments.*[*Salon (Jul 22, 2019)*](https://corpus.vocabulary.com/go/4894834)

1. [preclude](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/preclude) – (v) make impossible, especially beforehand

 *The exhaust whistle, coupled with the natural engine noises* ***precluded****the necessity of Mister Scales’ giving any further notice about the car’s arrival at its destination.*

1. [ruse](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/ruse) – (n) a deceptive maneuver, especially to avoid capture

 *Christopher T. Hall, of Waterboro, is serving a 20-year sentence for the 2015 attack in which he concocted a****ruse****to lure the woman to a home by saying he needed family mediation services.* [*Washington Times (Aug 6, 2019)*](https://corpus.vocabulary.com/go/4919459)

1. [shroud](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/shroud) – (n) burial garment in which a corpse is wrapped

*The fallen king lay in the hall, covered in a lace shroud, as all his generals paid their respects.*

1. [venerable](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/venerable) – (adj) profoundly honored; commanding respect because of great age or impressive dignity

*The venerable judge would tolerate no antics from the defense lawyer.*

1. [vermilion](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/vermilion) (also vermillion) – (adj) of a vivid, brilliant scarlet red

*The ibis’ vermilion feathers struck Doodle with awe and silence.*