

Vocabulary and Terms “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”

knell -the sound of a bell rung slowly to announce a death or a funeral or the end of something

lea -a field covered with grass or herbage and suitable for grazing by livestock

plod -walk heavily and firmly, as when weary, or through mud

low -less than normal in degree or intensity or amount

lull -make calm or still

bower -a framework that supports climbing plants

molder -break down

yew -any of numerous evergreen trees or shrubs having red cup-shaped berries and flattened needlelike leaves

rude -belonging to an early stage of technical development; characterized by simplicity and (often) crudeness

hamlet -a community of people smaller than a village

clarion -loud and clear

hearth -an open recess in a wall at the base of a chimney where a fire can be built

sire -male parent of an animal especially a domestic animal such as a horse

oft -many times at short intervals

furrow -a long shallow trench in the ground (especially one made by a plow)

glebe -plot of land belonging to an English parish church or an ecclesiastical office

jocund -full of or showing high-spirited merriment

grandeur -the quality of being magnificent or splendid or grand

annals -a chronological account of events in successive years

heraldry -emblem indicating the right of a person to bear arms

pomp -cheap or pretentious or vain display

impute -attribute or credit to

fretted -having frets

urn -a large vase that usually has a pedestal or feet

celestial -relating to or inhabiting a divine heaven

lyre -a harp used by ancient Greeks for accompaniment

ample -more than enough in size or scope or capacity

penury -a state of extreme poverty or destitution

genial -diffusing warmth and friendliness

serene -not agitated; without losing self-possession

dauntless -invulnerable to fear or intimidation

Milton -English poet; remembered primarily as the author of an epic poem describing humanity's fall from grace (1608-1674)

Cromwell -English general and statesman who led the parliamentary army in the English Civil War (1599-1658)

circumscribe -to draw a geometric figure around another figure so that the two are in contact but do not intersect

pang -a sudden sharp feeling

ingenuous -lacking in sophistication or worldliness

Muse -in ancient Greek mythology any of 9 daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne; protector of an art or science

ignoble -completely lacking nobility in character or quality or purpose

sequestered -kept separate and secluded

tenor -the adult male singing voice above baritone

nigh -near in time or place or relationship

uncouth -lacking refinement or cultivation or taste

implore -call upon in supplication; entreat

elegy -a mournful poem; a lament for the dead

strew -spread by scattering ("straw" is archaic)

precinct -a district of a city or town marked out for administrative purposes

pious -having or showing or expressing reverence for a deity

wonted -commonly used or practiced; usual

kindred -group of people related by blood or marriage

haply -by accident

hoary -showing characteristics of age, especially having grey or white hair

swain -a man who is the lover of a girl or young woman

noontide -the middle of the day

pore -any tiny hole admitting passage of a liquid (fluid or gas)

yon -distant but within sight ('yon' is dialectal)

rove -move about aimlessly or without any destination, often in search of food or employment

wan -abnormally deficient in color as suggesting physical or emotional distress

forlorn -marked by or showing hopelessness

rill -a small stream

dirge -a song or hymn of mourning composed or performed as a memorial to a dead person

lay -put into a certain place or abstract location

epitaph -an inscription on a tombstone or monument in memory of the person buried there

recompense -make payment to; compensate

abode -any address at which you dwell more than temporarily

bosom -either of two soft fleshy milk-secreting glandular organs on the chest of a woman