



STORYKEEPERS PRESS PRESENTS

The Mingles in Wilderland

An Educator's Guide to the Wilderland

For families, co-ops, classrooms, and libraries

A COMPANION FOR SHARED READING

A guide made for the life around a story.

The best read-alouds do more than carry a family through a plot. They introduce words, invite difficult questions, create shared memories, and give children a larger world in which to think.

This guide helps you draw those riches out of *The Mingles in Wilderland* without turning the story into an assignment. Use one section or all seven. Pause where your readers are curious. Skip what does not serve them. Return whenever the book opens another door.



Before reading Preview names and unfamiliar words.	While reading Use natural stopping points and performance notes.
After each Part Choose two or three questions—not the whole list.	Go farther Follow curiosity into scripture, ideas, science, maps, and making.

“Fourth-grade sentences. Twelfth-grade words. A book that meets young readers where they are and stretches them where they’re going.”

INSIDE THE GUIDE

Seven paths into the Wilderland

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A gentle rule: protect delight. The activities are invitations, not obligations. If conversation is alive, the guide is working.

FIELD GUIDE 02

Vocabulary Development

Words worth meeting—and keeping



VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Vocabulary Development

How to Use This Guide

The Mingles in Wilderland was written with deliberate vocabulary richness: familiar sentence structures carrying unfamiliar words. The first section previews words chapter by chapter; the second is a complete A-Z dictionary of the same words.

Before a reading session, preview the words listed for the chapters you expect to read. Afterward, return only to the words that stirred curiosity. Chapters without a listed preview word are intentionally omitted.

Part I - The Unfortunates (Chapters 1-21)

Chapter 1

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Cavernous (<i>KAV-er-nus</i>)	Vast, hollow, and echo-filled — like a cavern or cave.
Detritus (<i>deb-TRY-tus</i>)	Waste or debris; scattered remains of something broken or used up.
Havenbrook (<i>HAY-ven-brook</i>)	The main village — home of the Mingles, the Millhouse, and the Public House. A name that means safety, now threatened.
Mitigate (<i>MIT-ih-gayt</i>)	To make something less severe, serious, or painful.
Swarf (<i>SWORF</i>)	Metal filings and shavings produced by machining or grinding — Timbit's workshop word.

Chapter 2

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Archon (<i>AR-kon</i>)	A ruler or chief magistrate; in the book, the title of the Sere Society's leader.
Desiccation (<i>des-ib-KAY-shun</i>)	The process of extreme drying out. A scientific word for a catastrophe.
Foreboding (<i>for-BOH-ding</i>)	A feeling that something bad is about to happen; dread of what's coming.
Glyphologist (<i>glib-FOL-oh-jist</i>)	A scholar who studies and creates geoglyphs. The word follows real naming conventions for academic disciplines.
Sere Society (<i>SEER sub-SY-ub-tee</i>)	The secretive order of Aridites that studies and performs geoglyph rituals.

Chapter 3

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Catapult (<i>KAT-uh-pult</i>)	A device for hurling something with great force; used here as a comparison for sudden speed.
Influenza (<i>in-floo-EN-zah</i>)	A serious, contagious illness caused by a virus — commonly called "the flu."
Matriarch (<i>MAY-tree-ark</i>)	A female elder or leader — in the book, a member of the Havenbrook village council.
Skulk (<i>SKULK</i>)	A group of foxes. One of English's most evocative collective nouns — the word itself sounds sneaky.
Stinkfish (<i>STINK-fish</i>)	A talking-and-sharing game played by the Mingles, using a rhyming chant. Pay attention to when the Mingles play it — and when they don't.
Warren (<i>WOR-en</i>)	A network of interconnecting rabbit burrows; also the community of rabbits that lives in one.

Chapter 4

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Cocidian (<i>koh-SID-ee-an</i>)	People of the fowl family — large farmers and grain cultivators in the Wilderland.
Haggard (<i>HAG-erd</i>)	Looking exhausted, worn out, and unwell — especially from prolonged suffering.
Insubordination (<i>in-sub-OR-din-AY-shun</i>)	Refusal to obey someone in authority; defiance of a superior.
Resign / Resignation (<i>rez-ig-NAY-shun</i>)	Reluctant acceptance of something unpleasant that cannot be changed.

Chapter 5

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Miasma (<i>my-AZ-mah</i>)	A foul-smelling, oppressive atmosphere — a word that feels like what it means.
Nauseating (<i>NAW-zee-ay-ting</i>)	Causing a feeling of sickness in the stomach; disgusting.
Noxious (<i>NOK-shus</i>)	Harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant — especially of a smell or substance.
Pungent (<i>PUN-jent</i>)	Having a sharp, strong smell or taste.
Urchins (<i>UR-chinz</i>)	Mischievous or ragged children — an old word that carries the sting of dismissal.

Chapter 6

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Frisson (<i>FREE-sohn</i>)	A sudden, brief feeling of excitement or fear — like a shiver that isn't from cold. From French.
Livid (<i>LIV-id</i>)	Furiously angry.
Pitiable (<i>PIT-ee-uh-bul</i>)	Deserving pity or compassion; wretched.

Chapter 7

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Conundrum (<i>kub-NUN-drum</i>)	A difficult problem or puzzle with no easy answer.
Gluttons (<i>GLUT-unz</i>)	People who eat excessively; greedy eaters.
Hydro-Harvester (<i>HY-dro HAR-vub-ster</i>)	Timbit's drought-fighting invention, also called the Double H, which collects morning dew for irrigation.
Prodigious (<i>prob-DIJ-us</i>)	Impressively great in size, amount, or extent; enormous.
Speechify (<i>SPEECH-ih-fy</i>)	To make speeches in a pompous or tiresome way.

Chapter 8

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Brigand (<i>BRIG-und</i>)	A bandit; a member of a gang of outlaws that robs travelers.
Mirekin (<i>MIRE-kin</i>)	People of the marshlands — their name contains "mire," meaning boggy ground.
Thunder Valley (<i>THUN-der VAL-ee</i>)	A dangerous Wilderland valley rich in lightning-fused minerals and rare earth elements.

Chapter 9

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Alewife (<i>AYL-wyf</i>)	A woman who brews and sells ale — an old English occupation. The male equivalent is "brewer."
Reiver (<i>REE-ver</i>)	A raider or border bandit. Carries a sense of danger and historical weight.

Chapter 10

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Apothecary (<i>ab-POTH-eb-kair-ee</i>)	An early pharmacist — a person who prepared and sold medicines from herbs and compounds.
Brazenness (<i>BRAY-zen-ness</i>)	Bold, shameless daring — acting without fear of consequences.
Callous (<i>KAL-us</i>)	Showing no concern for the feelings or suffering of others; emotionally hardened.
Defiant (<i>deb-FY-unt</i>)	Boldly resistant or disobedient; refusing to obey.
Derision (<i>deb-RIH-zhun</i>)	Scornful ridicule; contemptuous mockery.
Dissipate (<i>DIS-ih-payt</i>)	To scatter, spread out, and disappear gradually.
Quorum (<i>KWOR-um</i>)	The minimum number of people who must be present for a meeting to make official decisions.
Rebuttal (<i>ree-BUT-ul</i>)	An argument or statement made to prove someone wrong; a counter-argument.
Sycophancy (<i>SIK-ob-fan-see</i>)	Excessive flattery to gain advantage; being a "yes-man."
Tirade (<i>ty-RAYD</i>)	A long, angry speech of criticism or accusation.

Chapter 12

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Animated (<i>AN-ih-may-ted</i>)	Lively, excited, full of energy in speaking or moving.
Ensconced (<i>en-SKONST</i>)	Settled comfortably and securely in a place.
Patronizing (<i>PAY-truh-ny-zing</i>)	Speaking to someone as if they are less intelligent or less important than you.

Chapter 13

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Archon Magus (<i>AR-kon MAY-gus</i>)	The full ceremonial title of the Sere Society's supreme leader.
Cosmocyte (<i>KOZ-mob-site</i>)	Glowing orbs derived from meteor material, used in geoglyph rituals. Cosmo (universe) + cyte (cell) — a cosmic cell, a piece of the sky made into a weapon.
Despot (<i>DES-pot</i>)	A ruler who holds total power and uses it cruelly and unfairly; a tyrant.
Geoglyph (<i>JEE-ob-glif</i>)	An unnatural geological spiral formation that desiccates the land. The real word geoglyph refers to large figures drawn on the earth (the Nazca Lines); here it names something sinister.
Sandworm (<i>SAND-wurm</i>)	Mutant larvae bred by the Aridites, grown inside geoglyph spirals, consuming soil from within.

Chapter 14

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Poultice (<i>POHL-tis</i>)	A soft, moist mass of herbs or medicine spread on cloth and applied to the body to relieve pain or draw out infection.
Rucksack (<i>RUK-sak</i>)	A sturdy backpack; from German words meaning "back" and "bag."

Chapter 15

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Edict (<i>EE-dikt</i>)	An official order or decree issued by someone in authority.
Frenetic (<i>freb-NET-ik</i>)	Fast, energetic, and somewhat wild or uncontrolled.
Vexation (<i>vek-SAY-shun</i>)	The state of being annoyed, frustrated, or worried.

Chapter 17

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Rescind (<i>ree-SIND</i>)	To officially cancel or take back a law, order, or decision.
Resolute (<i>REZ-ob-loot</i>)	Admirably firm and determined; unwavering in purpose.
Unilateral (<i>yoo-nib-LAT-er-ul</i>)	Done by one person or group alone, without agreement from others.

Chapter 18

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Genteel (<i>jen-TEEL</i>)	Polite, refined, or respectable — often used sarcastically, as Quill does here.

Chapter 20

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Capitulate (<i>kub-PIT-yoo-layt</i>)	To give in, surrender, stop resisting.
Compliant (<i>kum-PLY-unt</i>)	Willing to go along with what is asked; obedient without resistance.
Faux (<i>FOH</i>)	False, fake, artificial. From French.
Hectoring (<i>HEK-ter-ing</i>)	Bullying talk; intimidating someone with aggressive words.
Perturbation (<i>pur-ter-BAY-shun</i>)	A state of anxiety or mental unease; being deeply troubled.
Twaddle (<i>TWOD-ul</i>)	Silly, pointless talk or writing; nonsense.

Chapter 21

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Credence (<i>KREE-dunss</i>)	Belief or acceptance that something is true.
Disaffected (<i>dis-ab-FEK-ted</i>)	Unhappy and no longer loyal; dissatisfied with those in authority.
Imperiously (<i>im-PEER-ee-us-lee</i>)	In a domineering, arrogant way — as if commanding everyone from above.

Part II - The Refuge (Chapters 22-45)

Chapter 23

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Excelsior (<i>ek-SEL-see-or</i>)	Fine curled wood shavings used as packing material. The word itself means "ever higher" in Latin.
Gobsmacked (<i>GOB-smakt</i>)	Utterly astonished; so surprised your mouth (gob) hangs open as if smacked.
Grotto (<i>GROT-ob</i>)	A small, picturesque cave or cave-like room.

Chapter 24

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Redolent (<i>RED-ob-lent</i>)	Strongly smelling of something; fragrant or evocative.

Chapter 25

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Circuitous (<i>sir-KYOO-ib-tus</i>)	Going around in a roundabout way rather than directly.
Scallywag (<i>SKAL-ee-wag</i>)	A mischievous or cheeky person — often used affectionately.

Chapter 26

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Amulet (<i>AM-yoo-let</i>)	A small object worn as protection against evil or bad luck; a charm.
Parsimony (<i>PAR-sib-mob-nee</i>)	Extreme unwillingness to spend money or share; stinginess.
Wheatcrest (<i>WEET-krest</i>)	An intricately carved wooden medallion made by the Tillinari. Each one is unique, crafted over months, and given as a token of deep friendship.

Chapter 27

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Mingle (<i>MING-gul</i>)	The name the outcasts choose for themselves: to mix together. A word reclaimed from its ordinary meaning and made into a declaration.

Chapter 29

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Aridite (<i>AIR-ib-dite</i>)	A member of the Sere Society — the people who perform aridification.
Ethereal (<i>eh-THEER-ee-ul</i>)	Extremely delicate and light; seeming too perfect for this world — otherworldly.

Chapter 31

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Fulcrum (<i>FUL-krum</i>)	The fixed point on which a lever pivots — the balance point.
Impel / Impelling (<i>im-PEL-ing</i>)	To drive or push forward; to propel.

Chapter 32

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Inert (<i>in-URT</i>)	Lacking the ability to act or react; lifeless, inactive.
Maelstrom (<i>MAYL-strom</i>)	A powerful whirlpool; by extension, any situation of great turmoil or confusion.
Voltaic Pile (<i>vol-TAY-ik PILE</i>)	An early type of battery, invented by Alessandro Volta — stacks of metal discs that produce electricity.

Chapter 33

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Disruptor (<i>dis-RUP-tor</i>)	Something that interrupts or breaks apart a process. Timbit's invention is designed to disrupt Caelum's photon modulation.
Photon Disruptor (<i>FOH-ton dis-RUP-ter</i>)	Timbit's machine that disrupts geoglyphs by destabilizing their photon energy. Built from the Static Charge Amplifier. It fails when it matters most — and that is not the end of the story.

Chapter 34

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Coney (<i>KOH-nee</i>)	An old English word for rabbit — particularly a young or small one. Survives in "Coney Island."
Conflagration (<i>kon-flab-GRAY-sbun</i>)	A large, destructive fire.
Firnax (<i>FUR-naks</i>)	The phenomenon of how stars were placed in the sky — the subject of Pippin's origin story in Chapter 34.
Lapinastra (<i>lap-ib-NAS-trah</i>)	The ancient rabbit ancestor in Pippin's origin story of the First Fire. A name built on <i>lapinus</i> (rabbit) — a founding figure.

Chapter 35

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Animus (<i>AN-ih-mus</i>)	Strong hostility or hatred; ill will.
Campus Magnus (<i>KAM-pus MAG-nus</i>)	The Archon's field headquarters — literally "Great Camp." Latin used for a villain's self-importance.
Debacle (<i>deb-BAH-kul</i>)	A sudden, complete disaster or humiliating failure.
Obsequious (<i>ob-SEE-kwee-us</i>)	Excessively eager to please or obey; fawning.

Chapter 37

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Abashed (<i>ab-BASHT</i>)	Embarrassed or ashamed, especially when caught off guard.
Aetherseed (<i>EE-ther-seed</i>)	A rare chameleon plant whose seeds can counteract geoglyphs. Named with scientific precision for something entirely magical.
Fennec (<i>FEN-ek</i>)	A small fox native to the Sahara Desert, with distinctively enormous ears. Marlowe's species.
Fletching (<i>FLETCH-ing</i>)	The feathers or vanes on the back end of an arrow that stabilize its flight.
Imprecation (<i>im-preh-KAY-shun</i>)	A spoken curse; calling upon something to inflict harm.
Splooted (<i>SPLOOT-ed</i>)	A position where an animal lies flat with legs stretched out in all directions. A real word, beloved by squirrel-watchers.
Vulpine (<i>VUL-pine</i>)	Of, resembling, or relating to a fox. From Latin vulpes, fox.

Chapter 39

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Figurehead / Windjammer (<i>WIND-jam-er</i>)	A large sailing ship — specifically one powered entirely by wind in its sails.
Purloined (<i>pur-LOYND</i>)	Stolen; taken dishonestly. An elegant word for theft.

Chapter 40

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Amidship (<i>ab-MID-ship</i>)	In or toward the middle of a ship.
Automaton (<i>aw-TOM-ab-ton</i>)	A machine that moves by itself; here meaning someone moving mechanically, without thinking.
Gunwale (<i>GUN-ul</i>)	The upper edge of a ship's side. Another word pronounced differently than it looks.
Paraphernalia (<i>par-ab-fer-NAIL-yah</i>)	Personal belongings; equipment or miscellaneous items.

Chapter 41

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Ley Line Sextant (<i>LAYline SEX-tant</i>)	A navigation instrument modified to map the earth's magnetic ley lines. Timbit adapts existing tools for new purposes — the mark of a true inventor.

Chapter 42

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Barque (<i>BARK</i>)	A sailing vessel with three or more masts — Horatio's beloved ship, now landlocked.
Binnacle (<i>BIN-ab-kul</i>)	The stand housing the ship's compass. A small word for an essential instrument.
Capstan (<i>KAP-stan</i>)	A vertical rotating machine for winding rope or cable. The sound of the word sounds like the labor.
Curt / Curtly (<i>KURT-lee</i>)	Rudely brief or abrupt in speech or manner.
Forecastle (<i>FOHK-sul</i>)	The forward part of the ship below deck where the crew slept. Pronounced completely unlike it looks — this is a good one to preview aloud before reading.
Larboard (<i>LAR-board</i>)	An old name for the left side of a ship when facing forward; replaced by port because larboard sounded too much like starboard.
Taffrail (<i>TAF-rayl</i>)	The rail around the stern of a ship.

Chapter 43

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Duck pants (<i>DUK pants</i>)	Hard-wearing trousers made from cotton duck, a heavy woven canvas cloth.

Chapter 45

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Bon appétit (<i>bohn ab-peh-TEE</i>)	A French phrase meaning "enjoy your meal" — said before eating.
Breeches (<i>BRICH-ez</i>)	Short trousers fastened just below the knee — old-fashioned clothing for men.
Convivial (<i>kun-VIV-ee-ul</i>)	Friendly, lively, and enjoyable — used of a gathering or atmosphere.
Copse (<i>KOPS</i>)	A small group of trees growing close together.
Deucalion (<i>doo-KAY-lee-on</i>)	The Greek mythological figure who survived a great flood — the Greek parallel to Noah.
Intoned (<i>in-TOHND</i>)	Said or chanted in a slow, solemn, musical voice.
Plum duff (<i>PLUM DUF</i>)	A boiled or steamed sailor's pudding made with dried fruit; "plum" traditionally meant raisins or currants.
Utnapishtim (<i>oot-nah-PISH-tim</i>)	The ancient Mesopotamian figure who survived a great flood in the Epic of Gilgamesh — the oldest known flood story.
Waistcoat (<i>WESS-kot or WAYST-kobt</i>)	A sleeveless garment worn over a shirt; what Americans call a vest.

Part III - The Campaign (Chapters 46-67)

Chapter 47

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Akce (<i>AHK-cheh</i>)	An Ottoman silver coin. Horatio's world extends further than the Wilderland.
Barbary (<i>BAR-bah-ree</i>)	The North African coast, historically home of the Barbary pirates.
Berber (<i>BER-ber</i>)	Indigenous North African people. The world of Horatio's past life.
Bulwark (<i>BULL-wurk</i>)	A defensive wall or barrier; by extension, anything that offers strong protection.
Burrowkin (<i>BUR-ob-kin</i>)	Gnome-like underground creatures who can disrupt geoglyphs. Their name contains burrow — they live beneath the surface.
Caravan-bashi (<i>KAIR-ab-van BAH-shee</i>)	The head or leader of a caravan. A title from another world, another time.
Caravansary (<i>KAIR-ab-VAN-sah-ree</i>)	A roadside inn where desert caravans rested on trade routes. A word from the Silk Road.
Complicit (<i>kum-PLIS-it</i>)	Involved in or helping with wrongdoing, even if not the main actor.
Inventory / Inventorying (<i>IN-ven-tor-ee-ing</i>)	Making a detailed list of items or goods; counting and recording what you have.
Keelhauled (<i>KEEL-hawld</i>)	A brutal naval punishment: dragging someone under the keel (bottom) of a ship.
Press gang (<i>PRESS gang</i>)	A group sent ashore to seize or coerce men into naval or shipboard service.
Purser (<i>PUR-ser</i>)	The officer on a ship responsible for keeping accounts and managing money.
Seraglio (<i>seh-RAL-yoh</i>)	The Sultan's palace — specifically the Ottoman court. A word from the world Horatio sailed.
Sublime Porte (<i>sub-LIME PORT</i>)	The Ottoman government and court — part of Horatio's past world.

Chapter 48

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Coherons (<i>kob-HEER-onz</i>)	Energy measurement units used in Timbit's photon calibration work. The invented science has invented units.
Sema (<i>SEH-mah</i>)	The Sufi whirling dance ceremony. When you encounter Selca's ritual, this is what you are watching.

Chapter 49

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Contrition (<i>kun-TRISH-un</i>)	The state of feeling remorseful and sorry for one's wrongdoing.
Drudge (<i>DRUJ</i>)	A person forced to do hard, menial, or boring work.
Incorrigible (<i>in-KOR-ib-jib-ul</i>)	Impossible to correct or reform — used affectionately of the twins.
Moniker (<i>MON-ib-ker</i>)	A name or nickname.
Treacle tart (<i>TREE-kul TART</i>)	A traditional British dessert — a pastry filled with golden syrup, breadcrumbs, and lemon. Sweet and sticky.

Chapter 50

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Bosun (<i>BOH-sun</i>)	Short for boatswain — the ship's officer in charge of equipment, rigging, and crew.
Dervish (<i>DER-vish</i>)	A Sufi Muslim mystic who performs ecstatic devotional dances. The book's Aridites have taken a sacred practice and turned it to destructive purpose — an important detail.
Pirouette (<i>peer-oo-ET</i>)	A rapid spin on one foot — a ballet term used here for the dervish's dance.
Reveille (<i>REV-uh-lee</i>)	A signal (usually a bugle call or whistle) to wake military personnel in the morning.
Rook (<i>ROOK</i>)	A large crow-like bird common in Europe. Cawkin is a rook.
Sentinels (<i>SEN-tin-ulz</i>)	Guards or watchers standing at a post — here the motionless Aridites.
Tricorn (<i>TRY-korn</i>)	A hat with three corners — the classic triangular hat worn by 18th-century sea captains.

Chapter 52

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Willowfolk (<i>WIL-ob-folk</i>)	The people who lived in the Willow Marsh near Siltbridge Village.

Chapter 53

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Nefarious (<i>neh-FAIR-ee-us</i>)	Wicked or criminal.

Chapter 54

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Nares (<i>NAIR-eez</i>)	The nostrils — especially on a bird's beak. A precise anatomical term.
Saboteur (<i>SAB-ob-TUR</i>)	A person who deliberately destroys or damages something — especially for military or political advantage.

Chapter 55

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Bon homme (<i>boh-n OM</i>)	Good-natured friendliness; geniality. From French bonhomie.

Chapter 57

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Quarterdeck (<i>KWOR-ter-dek</i>)	The rear part of the upper deck — traditionally the captain's domain.

Chapter 58

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Anhydrous (<i>an-HY-drus</i>)	Containing no water. The goal of the Aridites is to make the Evenplain anhydrous.
Anhydrous Codex (<i>an-HY-drus KOH-deks</i>)	The ancient book of weather-control rituals that the Aridites discovered. Anhydrous means "without water" and codex means "ancient manuscript."
Aridification (<i>ah-RID-ih-fih-KAY-shun</i>)	The process of turning fertile land to desert using geoglyphs. The book's central environmental threat given its own scientific-sounding name.
Codex (<i>KOH-deks</i>)	An ancient manuscript or book. When you hear this word, think: something precious, handwritten, irreplaceable.
Fulgite (<i>FULL-gite</i>)	A substance that kills sandworms, derived from lightning-fused minerals in Thunder Valley. Its name echoes fulgur — Latin for lightning.
Geomancy (<i>JEE-ob-man-see</i>)	Divination or manipulation through geological features. The Aridites practice a dark version.
Narcissist (<i>NAR-sis-ist</i>)	A person who is excessively self-centered and admires themselves above all others.
Visceral (<i>VIS-er-ul</i>)	A deep, instinctive feeling in your body rather than your mind — felt in the gut.

Chapter 59

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Desertification (<i>deb-ZER-tib-fih-KAY-shun</i>)	The process by which fertile land becomes desert, usually through drought or human activity. A real word — unlike the invented aridification.
Mizzenmast (<i>MIZ-en-mast</i>)	The mast behind a ship's mainmast, usually the aftermost mast on a three-masted vessel.
Serenseth (<i>SAIR-en-seth</i>)	The ancient desert people who first discovered Cosmocyte properties. Their name contains seren — Welsh for star.
Talisman (<i>TAL-is-man</i>)	In the book, a circular medallion bearing Aridite insignia, found among Timbit's father's belongings. A talisman is traditionally an object believed to have magical or protective power.

Chapter 61

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Companionway (<i>kum-PAN-yun-way</i>)	The stairway or ladder leading from the ship's deck down to the cabin. Notice the word companion inside it.

Chapter 63

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Menagerie (<i>meh-NAJ-er-ee</i>)	A collection of wild or unusual animals kept together; here, the diverse group of Mingles and friends.

Chapter 67

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Crepuscular (<i>kreh-PUS-kyoo-lar</i>)	Active during twilight (dawn and dusk). Otters are crepuscular — not nocturnal, not diurnal.

Part IV - The Truth That Sets Free (Chapters 68-85)

Chapter 69

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Bioluminescent (<i>BY-ob-loo-min-ES-ent</i>)	Producing light through a chemical reaction in a living organism — like fireflies or deep-sea creatures.
Glowscale Lurker (<i>GLOH-skayl LUR-ker</i>)	A bioluminescent scale insect that lives exclusively on aetherseed plants — the key to identifying them in the dark.
Traverse (<i>trab-VERS</i>)	To travel across or through a place.

Chapter 70

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Diligence (<i>DIL-ib-jence</i>)	Careful and persistent effort; thoroughness in carrying out duties.
Kibosh (<i>KY-bosh</i>)	To put an end to something; to stop or squash a plan decisively.
Mutiny (<i>MYOO-tin-ee</i>)	An open rebellion against authority, especially by soldiers or sailors against their commanders.

Chapter 71

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Bristle (<i>BRIS-ul</i>)	Used here as a collective noun for a group of Gigants — like a "pride" of lions or a "skulk" of foxes.
Neodymium (<i>nee-ob-DIM-ee-um</i>)	A real rare earth element — found in Thunder Valley, used in Timbit's inventions.
Yttrium (<i>IT-ree-um</i>)	A real rare earth element — silvery metal used in electronics and lighting. Found alongside neodymium in Thunder Valley.

Chapter 74

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Gigant (<i>JY-gant</i>)	A species of giant intelligent ants who become allies of the Mingles. Once you know them as Tirka, Branta, and Vitka, they are no longer scary.
Scree (<i>SKREE</i>)	A mass of small loose stones covering a slope — treacherous to walk on.

Chapter 75

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Bodacious (<i>boh-DAY-shus</i>)	Remarkable, impressive, or audacious — here used humorously for a powerful smell.
Conspiratorial / Conspirators (<i>kun-SPEER-ab-torz</i>)	People who secretly plan together to do something unlawful or harmful — here, those plotting against the Archon.
Pall (<i>PAWL</i>)	A cloth draped over a coffin; by extension, anything that covers with gloom or dread.
Reconnoiter (<i>ree-kuh-NOY-ter</i>)	To make a military observation of an area; to scout or survey before acting.
Starboard (<i>STAR-board</i>)	The right side of a ship when facing forward.

Chapter 76

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Mandibles (<i>MAN-dib-bulz</i>)	The jaw parts of an insect — large pincers used for biting, cutting, and carrying.

Chapter 78

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Palanquin (<i>pal-an-KEEN</i>)	A covered platform carried on poles by bearers — an ancient method of transporting important cargo or people.
Remediate (<i>ree-MEE-dee-ayt</i>)	To fix or reverse damage; to correct a problem.

Chapter 79

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Acrid (<i>AK-rid</i>)	Having a strong, unpleasant, burning smell or taste.
Capacitor (<i>kuh-PAS-ih-tor</i>)	An electrical component that stores and releases energy — like a tiny rechargeable battery inside a machine.
Incandescent (<i>in-kan-DES-ent</i>)	Emitting light as a result of being heated; glowing brilliantly.
Inductor (<i>in-DUK-tor</i>)	An electrical component that stores energy in a magnetic field — it resists changes in current.
Sibilant (<i>SIB-ih-lunt</i>)	Making a hissing sound — like the letter S. The word itself almost hisses.

Chapter 80

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Pheromone (<i>FAIR-oh-mohn</i>)	A chemical substance produced by an animal that affects the behavior of others of its kind — invisible trail markers.

Chapter 82

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Despond / Despondency (<i>deb-SPOND-en-see</i>)	A state of hopelessness and discouragement. From Bunyan's <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> — the "Slough of Despond" is the bog of guilt and despair.
Slough (<i>SLOO</i>)	A swamp or bog — and, in Bunyan's <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> , the Slough of Despond: the place where guilt and failure drag a person down. The book uses both meanings.

Chapter 84

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Apoplectic (<i>ap-ob-PLEK-tik</i>)	Overcome with rage; wildly agitated.
Cacophonous (<i>kab-KOF-ob-nus</i>)	Having a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds. Used paradoxically here — the "hush" of terror is deafening in its own way.
Caterwaul (<i>KAT-er-wawl</i>)	A shrill, wailing cry — like a cat's scream. The word itself sounds like what it describes.
Cerberus (<i>SUR-ber-us</i>)	In Greek mythology, the monstrous three-headed dog that guards the entrance to the underworld.
Discombobulating (<i>dis-kum-BOB-yoo-lay-ting</i>)	Confusing and disorienting; throwing someone off balance mentally.
Galeweeoof (<i>gab-LEE-we-oof</i>)	A Seranthi word meaning "Unquestioning Loyalty" — the oath demanded by the Archon.
Gamut (<i>GAM-ut</i>)	The complete range or scope of something — from one extreme to another.
Guillotine (<i>GIL-ob-teen</i>)	A device used in the French Revolution for beheading — a heavy blade that drops between two posts. Here used as a simile for the speed and finality of the Archon's strike.
Hades (<i>HAY-deez</i>)	The Greek underworld — the realm of the dead. Guarded by the three-headed dog Cerberus.
Lackey / Sop (<i>SOP</i>)	A weak, spineless person who does whatever they're told — a coward who gives in to pressure.
Perfidious (<i>per-FID-ee-us</i>)	Deceitful, treacherous, disloyal.
Seranthi (<i>seh-RAN-thee</i>)	The ancient, invented language in which the Anhydrous Codex is written.
Trepidation (<i>trep-ih-DAY-shun</i>)	A feeling of fear or anxiety about something that may happen; nervous uncertainty.
Unbrookable (<i>un-BROOK-ab-bul</i>)	Not to be tolerated or endured; allowing no opposition. From <i>brook</i> , an old word meaning "to tolerate."

Chapter 85

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Diminutive (<i>dih-MIN-yoo-tiv</i>)	Extremely small in size.
Exuberant / Exultant (<i>eg-ZUL-tant</i>)	Triumphantly happy; overflowing with joy and celebration.
Flagon (<i>FLAG-un</i>)	A large container for drinks, usually with a handle and lid — used at feasts and celebrations.
Patriarch (<i>PAY-tree-ark</i>)	A male elder or leader — counterpart to Matriarch on the village council.
Quickearth (<i>KWIK-erth</i>)	Deadly ground collapse similar to quicksand — the earth gives way beneath without warning.

Book Two Bonus Preview

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Parfleche (<i>par-FLESH</i>)	A durable rawhide case or pouch traditionally made by Indigenous peoples of the North American Plains.

Vocabulary Dictionary

Every word in the chapter-by-chapter reading guide, alphabetized with its pronunciation and full meaning.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Abashed (<i>ab-BASHT</i>)	Embarrassed or ashamed, especially when caught off guard.
Acrid (<i>AK-rid</i>)	Having a strong, unpleasant, burning smell or taste.
Aetherseed (<i>EE-ther-seed</i>)	A rare chameleon plant whose seeds can counteract geoglyphs. Named with scientific precision for something entirely magical.
Akce (<i>AHK-cheb</i>)	An Ottoman silver coin. Horatio's world extends further than the Wilderland.
Alewife (<i>AYL-wyf</i>)	A woman who brews and sells ale — an old English occupation. The male equivalent is "brewer."
Amidship (<i>ab-MID-ship</i>)	In or toward the middle of a ship.
Amulet (<i>AM-yoo-let</i>)	A small object worn as protection against evil or bad luck; a charm.
Anhydrous (<i>an-HY-drus</i>)	Containing no water. The goal of the Aridites is to make the Evenplain anhydrous.
Anhydrous Codex (<i>an-HY-drus KOH-deks</i>)	The ancient book of weather-control rituals that the Aridites discovered. Anhydrous means "without water" and codex means "ancient manuscript."
Animated (<i>AN-ih-may-ted</i>)	Lively, excited, full of energy in speaking or moving.
Animus (<i>AN-ih-mus</i>)	Strong hostility or hatred; ill will.
Apoplectic (<i>ap-ob-PLEK-tik</i>)	Overcome with rage; wildly agitated.
Apothecary (<i>ab-POTH-eb-kair-ee</i>)	An early pharmacist — a person who prepared and sold medicines from herbs and compounds.
Archon (<i>AR-kon</i>)	A ruler or chief magistrate; in the book, the title of the Sere Society's leader.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Archon Magus (<i>AR-kon MAY-gus</i>)	The full ceremonial title of the Sere Society's supreme leader.
Aridification (<i>ah-RID-ih-fih-KAY-shun</i>)	The process of turning fertile land to desert using geoglyphs. The book's central environmental threat given its own scientific-sounding name.
Aridite (<i>AIR-ih-dite</i>)	A member of the Sere Society — the people who perform aridification.
Automaton (<i>aw-TOM-ab-ton</i>)	A machine that moves by itself; here meaning someone moving mechanically, without thinking.
Barbary (<i>BAR-bab-ree</i>)	The North African coast, historically home of the Barbary pirates.
Barque (<i>BARK</i>)	A sailing vessel with three or more masts — Horatio's beloved ship, now landlocked.
Berber (<i>BER-ber</i>)	Indigenous North African people. The world of Horatio's past life.
Binnacle (<i>BIN-ab-kul</i>)	The stand housing the ship's compass. A small word for an essential instrument.
Bioluminescent (<i>BY-ob-loo-min-ES-ent</i>)	Producing light through a chemical reaction in a living organism — like fireflies or deep-sea creatures.
Bodacious (<i>bob-DAY-shus</i>)	Remarkable, impressive, or audacious — here used humorously for a powerful smell.
Bon appétit (<i>bohn ab-peh-TEE</i>)	A French phrase meaning "enjoy your meal" — said before eating.
Bon homme (<i>bohn OM</i>)	Good-natured friendliness; geniality. From French bonhomie.
Bosun (<i>BOH-sun</i>)	Short for boatswain — the ship's officer in charge of equipment, rigging, and crew.
Brazenness (<i>BRAY-zen-ness</i>)	Bold, shameless daring — acting without fear of consequences.
Breeches (<i>BRICH-ez</i>)	Short trousers fastened just below the knee — old-fashioned clothing for men.
Brigand (<i>BRIG-und</i>)	A bandit; a member of a gang of outlaws that robs travelers.
Bristle (<i>BRIS-ul</i>)	Used here as a collective noun for a group of Gigants — like a "pride" of lions or a "skulk" of foxes.
Bulwark (<i>BULL-wurk</i>)	A defensive wall or barrier; by extension, anything that offers strong protection.
Burrowkin (<i>BUR-ob-kin</i>)	Gnome-like underground creatures who can disrupt geoglyphs. Their name contains burrow — they live beneath the surface.
Cacophonous (<i>kah-KOF-ob-nus</i>)	Having a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds. Used paradoxically here — the "hush" of terror is deafening in its own way.
Callous (<i>KAL-us</i>)	Showing no concern for the feelings or suffering of others; emotionally hardened.
Campus Magnus (<i>KAM-pus MAG-nus</i>)	The Archon's field headquarters — literally "Great Camp." Latin used for a villain's self-importance.
Capacitor (<i>kuh-PAS-ih-tor</i>)	An electrical component that stores and releases energy — like a tiny rechargeable battery inside a machine.
Capitulate (<i>kuh-PIT-yoo-layt</i>)	To give in, surrender, stop resisting.
Capstan (<i>KAP-stan</i>)	A vertical rotating machine for winding rope or cable. The sound of the word sounds like the labor.
Caravan-bashi (<i>KAIR-ab-van BAH-shee</i>)	The head or leader of a caravan. A title from another world, another time.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Caravansary (<i>KAIR-ab-VAN-sah-ree</i>)	A roadside inn where desert caravans rested on trade routes. A word from the Silk Road.
Catapult (<i>KAT-uh-pult</i>)	A device for hurling something with great force; used here as a comparison for sudden speed.
Caterwaul (<i>KAT-er-wawl</i>)	A shrill, wailing cry — like a cat's scream. The word itself sounds like what it describes.
Cavernous (<i>KAV-er-nus</i>)	Vast, hollow, and echo-filled — like a cavern or cave.
Cerberus (<i>SUR-ber-us</i>)	In Greek mythology, the monstrous three-headed dog that guards the entrance to the underworld.
Circuitous (<i>sir-KYOO-ih-tus</i>)	Going around in a roundabout way rather than directly.
Cocidian (<i>kob-SID-ee-an</i>)	People of the fowl family — large farmers and grain cultivators in the Wilderland.
Codex (<i>KOH-deks</i>)	An ancient manuscript or book. When you hear this word, think: something precious, handwritten, irreplaceable.
Coherons (<i>kob-HEER-onz</i>)	Energy measurement units used in Timbit's photon calibration work. The invented science has invented units.
Companionway (<i>kum-PAN-yun-way</i>)	The stairway or ladder leading from the ship's deck down to the cabin. Notice the word companion inside it.
Compliant (<i>kum-PLY-unt</i>)	Willing to go along with what is asked; obedient without resistance.
Complicit (<i>kum-PLIS-it</i>)	Involved in or helping with wrongdoing, even if not the main actor.
Coney (<i>KOH-nee</i>)	An old English word for rabbit — particularly a young or small one. Survives in "Coney Island."
Conflagration (<i>kon-flab-GRAY-shun</i>)	A large, destructive fire.
Conspiratorial / Conspirators (<i>kun-SPEER-ab-torz</i>)	People who secretly plan together to do something unlawful or harmful — here, those plotting against the Archon.
Contrition (<i>kun-TRISH-un</i>)	The state of feeling remorseful and sorry for one's wrongdoing.
Conundrum (<i>kub-NUN-drum</i>)	A difficult problem or puzzle with no easy answer.
Convivial (<i>kun-VIV-ee-ul</i>)	Friendly, lively, and enjoyable — used of a gathering or atmosphere.
Copse (<i>KOPS</i>)	A small group of trees growing close together.
Cosmocyte (<i>KOZ-mob-site</i>)	Glowing orbs derived from meteor material, used in geoglyph rituals. Cosmo (universe) + cyte (cell) — a cosmic cell, a piece of the sky made into a weapon.
Credence (<i>KREE-dunss</i>)	Belief or acceptance that something is true.
Crepuscular (<i>kreb-PUS-kyoo-lar</i>)	Active during twilight (dawn and dusk). Otters are crepuscular — not nocturnal, not diurnal.
Curt / Curtly (<i>KURT-lee</i>)	Rudely brief or abrupt in speech or manner.
Debacle (<i>deb-BAH-kul</i>)	A sudden, complete disaster or humiliating failure.
Defiant (<i>deb-FY-unt</i>)	Boldly resistant or disobedient; refusing to obey.
Derision (<i>deb-RIH-zhun</i>)	Scornful ridicule; contemptuous mockery.
Dervish (<i>DER-vish</i>)	A Sufi Muslim mystic who performs ecstatic devotional dances. The book's Aridites have taken a sacred practice and turned it to destructive purpose — an important detail.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Desertification (deb-ZER-tib-fih-KAY-shun)	The process by which fertile land becomes desert, usually through drought or human activity. A real word — unlike the invented aridification.
Desiccation (des-ib-KAY-shun)	The process of extreme drying out. A scientific word for a catastrophe.
Despond / Despondency (deb-SPOND-en-see)	A state of hopelessness and discouragement. From Bunyan's <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> — the "Slough of Despond" is the bog of guilt and despair.
Despot (DES-pot)	A ruler who holds total power and uses it cruelly and unfairly; a tyrant.
Detritus (deb-TRY-tus)	Waste or debris; scattered remains of something broken or used up.
Deucalion (doo-KAY-lee-on)	The Greek mythological figure who survived a great flood — the Greek parallel to Noah.
Diligence (DIL-ih-jence)	Careful and persistent effort; thoroughness in carrying out duties.
Diminutive (dih-MIN-yoo-tiv)	Extremely small in size.
Disaffected (dis-ab-FEK-ted)	Unhappy and no longer loyal; dissatisfied with those in authority.
Discombobulating (dis-kum-BOB-yoo-lay-ting)	Confusing and disorienting; throwing someone off balance mentally.
Disruptor (dis-RUP-tor)	Something that interrupts or breaks apart a process. Timbit's invention is designed to disrupt Caelum's photon modulation.
Dissipate (DIS-ih-payt)	To scatter, spread out, and disappear gradually.
Drudge (DRUJ)	A person forced to do hard, menial, or boring work.
Duck pants (DUK pants)	Hard-wearing trousers made from cotton duck, a heavy woven canvas cloth.
Edict (EE-dikt)	An official order or decree issued by someone in authority.
Ensconced (en-SKONST)	Settled comfortably and securely in a place.
Ethereal (eh-THEER-ee-ul)	Extremely delicate and light; seeming too perfect for this world — otherworldly.
Excelsior (ek-SEL-see-or)	Fine curled wood shavings used as packing material. The word itself means "ever higher" in Latin.
Exuberant / Exultant (eg-ZUL-tant)	Triumphantly happy; overflowing with joy and celebration.
Faux (FOH)	False, fake, artificial. From French.
Fennec (FEN-ek)	A small fox native to the Sahara Desert, with distinctively enormous ears. Marlowe's species.
Figurehead / Windjammer (WIND-jam-er)	A large sailing ship — specifically one powered entirely by wind in its sails.
Firnax (FUR-naks)	The phenomenon of how stars were placed in the sky — the subject of Pippin's origin story in Chapter 34.
Flagon (FLAG-un)	A large container for drinks, usually with a handle and lid — used at feasts and celebrations.
Fletching (FLETCH-ing)	The feathers or vanes on the back end of an arrow that stabilize its flight.
Foreboding (for-BOH-ding)	A feeling that something bad is about to happen; dread of what's coming.
Forecastle (FOHK-sul)	The forward part of the ship below deck where the crew slept. Pronounced completely unlike it looks — this is a good one to preview aloud before reading.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Frenetic (<i>freb-NET-ik</i>)	Fast, energetic, and somewhat wild or uncontrolled.
Frisson (<i>FREE-sohn</i>)	A sudden, brief feeling of excitement or fear — like a shiver that isn't from cold. From French.
Fulcrum (<i>FUL-krum</i>)	The fixed point on which a lever pivots — the balance point.
Fulgite (<i>FULL-gite</i>)	A substance that kills sandworms, derived from lightning-fused minerals in Thunder Valley. Its name echoes fulgur — Latin for lightning.
Galeweeoof (<i>gab-LEE-we-oof</i>)	A Seranthi word meaning "Unquestioning Loyalty" — the oath demanded by the Archon.
Gamut (<i>GAM-ut</i>)	The complete range or scope of something — from one extreme to another.
Genteel (<i>jen-TEEL</i>)	Polite, refined, or respectable — often used sarcastically, as Quill does here.
Geoglyph (<i>JEE-ob-glif</i>)	An unnatural geological spiral formation that desiccates the land. The real word geoglyph refers to large figures drawn on the earth (the Nazca Lines); here it names something sinister.
Geomancy (<i>JEE-ob-man-see</i>)	Divination or manipulation through geological features. The Aridites practice a dark version.
Gigant (<i>JY-gant</i>)	A species of giant intelligent ants who become allies of the Mingles. Once you know them as Tirka, Branta, and Vitka, they are no longer scary.
Glowscale Lurker (<i>GLOH-skayl LUR-ker</i>)	A bioluminescent scale insect that lives exclusively on aetherseed plants — the key to identifying them in the dark.
Gluttons (<i>GLUT-unz</i>)	People who eat excessively; greedy eaters.
Glyphologist (<i>glib-FOL-ob-jist</i>)	A scholar who studies and creates geoglyphs. The word follows real naming conventions for academic disciplines.
Gobsmacked (<i>GOB-smakt</i>)	Utterly astonished; so surprised your mouth (gob) hangs open as if smacked.
Grotto (<i>GROT-ob</i>)	A small, picturesque cave or cave-like room.
Guillotine (<i>GIL-ob-teen</i>)	A device used in the French Revolution for beheading — a heavy blade that drops between two posts. Here used as a simile for the speed and finality of the Archon's strike.
Gunwale (<i>GUN-ul</i>)	The upper edge of a ship's side. Another word pronounced differently than it looks.
Hades (<i>HAY-deez</i>)	The Greek underworld — the realm of the dead. Guarded by the three-headed dog Cerberus.
Haggard (<i>HAG-erd</i>)	Looking exhausted, worn out, and unwell — especially from prolonged suffering.
Havenbrook (<i>HAY-ven-brook</i>)	The main village — home of the Mingles, the Millhouse, and the Public House. A name that means safety, now threatened.
Hectoring (<i>HEK-ter-ing</i>)	Bullying talk; intimidating someone with aggressive words.
Hydro-Harvester (<i>HY-dro HAR-vuh-ster</i>)	Timbit's drought-fighting invention, also called the Double H, which collects morning dew for irrigation.
Impel / Impelling (<i>im-PEL-ing</i>)	To drive or push forward; to propel.
Imperiously (<i>im-PEER-ee-us-lee</i>)	In a domineering, arrogant way — as if commanding everyone from above.
Imprecation (<i>im-preh-KAY-shun</i>)	A spoken curse; calling upon something to inflict harm.
Incandescent (<i>in-kan-DES-ent</i>)	Emitting light as a result of being heated; glowing brilliantly.
Incorrigible (<i>in-KOR-ih-jib-ul</i>)	Impossible to correct or reform — used affectionately of the twins.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Inductor (<i>in-DUK-tor</i>)	An electrical component that stores energy in a magnetic field — it resists changes in current.
Inert (<i>in-URT</i>)	Lacking the ability to act or react; lifeless, inactive.
Influenza (<i>in-floo-EN-zah</i>)	A serious, contagious illness caused by a virus — commonly called "the flu."
Insubordination (<i>in-sub-OR-din-AY-shun</i>)	Refusal to obey someone in authority; defiance of a superior.
Intoned (<i>in-TOHND</i>)	Said or chanted in a slow, solemn, musical voice.
Inventory / Inventorying (<i>IN-ven-tor-ee-ing</i>)	Making a detailed list of items or goods; counting and recording what you have.
Keelhauled (<i>KEEL-hawld</i>)	A brutal naval punishment: dragging someone under the keel (bottom) of a ship.
Kibosh (<i>KY-bosh</i>)	To put an end to something; to stop or squash a plan decisively.
Lackey / Sop (<i>SOP</i>)	A weak, spineless person who does whatever they're told — a coward who gives in to pressure.
Lapinastra (<i>lap-ib-NAS-trah</i>)	The ancient rabbit ancestor in Pippin's origin story of the First Fire. A name built on lapinus (rabbit) — a founding figure.
Larboard (<i>LAR-board</i>)	An old name for the left side of a ship when facing forward; replaced by port because larboard sounded too much like starboard.
Ley Line Sextant (<i>LAY line SEX-tant</i>)	A navigation instrument modified to map the earth's magnetic ley lines. Timbit adapts existing tools for new purposes — the mark of a true inventor.
Livid (<i>LIV-id</i>)	Furiously angry.
Maelstrom (<i>MAYL-strom</i>)	A powerful whirlpool; by extension, any situation of great turmoil or confusion.
Mandibles (<i>MAN-dib-bulz</i>)	The jaw parts of an insect — large pincers used for biting, cutting, and carrying.
Matriarch (<i>MAY-tree-ark</i>)	A female elder or leader — in the book, a member of the Havenbrook village council.
Menagerie (<i>meh-NAJ-er-ee</i>)	A collection of wild or unusual animals kept together; here, the diverse group of Mingles and friends.
Miasma (<i>my-AZ-mah</i>)	A foul-smelling, oppressive atmosphere — a word that feels like what it means.
Mingle (<i>MING-gul</i>)	The name the outcasts choose for themselves: to mix together. A word reclaimed from its ordinary meaning and made into a declaration.
Mirekin (<i>MIRE-kin</i>)	People of the marshlands — their name contains "mire," meaning boggy ground.
Mitigate (<i>MIT-ib-gayt</i>)	To make something less severe, serious, or painful.
Mizzenmast (<i>MIZ-en-mast</i>)	The mast behind a ship's mainmast, usually the aftermost mast on a three-masted vessel.
Moniker (<i>MON-ib-ker</i>)	A name or nickname.
Mutiny (<i>MYOO-tin-ee</i>)	An open rebellion against authority, especially by soldiers or sailors against their commanders.
Narcissist (<i>NAR-sis-ist</i>)	A person who is excessively self-centered and admires themselves above all others.
Nares (<i>NAIR-eez</i>)	The nostrils — especially on a bird's beak. A precise anatomical term.
Nauseating (<i>NAW-zee-ay-ting</i>)	Causing a feeling of sickness in the stomach; disgusting.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Nefarious (<i>neh-FAIR-ee-us</i>)	Wicked or criminal.
Neodymium (<i>nee-ob-DIM-ee-um</i>)	A real rare earth element — found in Thunder Valley, used in Timbit's inventions.
Noxious (<i>NOK-shus</i>)	Harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant — especially of a smell or substance.
Obsequious (<i>ob-SEE-kwee-us</i>)	Excessively eager to please or obey; fawning.
Palanquin (<i>pal-an-KEEN</i>)	A covered platform carried on poles by bearers — an ancient method of transporting important cargo or people.
Pall (<i>PAWL</i>)	A cloth draped over a coffin; by extension, anything that covers with gloom or dread.
Paraphernalia (<i>par-ab-fer-NAIL-yah</i>)	Personal belongings; equipment or miscellaneous items.
Parfleche (<i>par-FLESH</i>)	A durable rawhide case or pouch traditionally made by Indigenous peoples of the North American Plains.
Parsimony (<i>PAR-sib-moh-nee</i>)	Extreme unwillingness to spend money or share; stinginess.
Patriarch (<i>PAY-tree-ark</i>)	A male elder or leader — counterpart to Matriarch on the village council.
Patronizing (<i>PAY-truh-ny-zing</i>)	Speaking to someone as if they are less intelligent or less important than you.
Perfidious (<i>per-FID-ee-us</i>)	Deceitful, treacherous, disloyal.
Perturbation (<i>pur-ter-BAY-shun</i>)	A state of anxiety or mental unease; being deeply troubled.
Pheromone (<i>FAIR-ob-mohn</i>)	A chemical substance produced by an animal that affects the behavior of others of its kind — invisible trail markers.
Photon Disruptor (<i>FOH-ton dis-RUP-ter</i>)	Timbit's machine that disrupts geoglyphs by destabilizing their photon energy. Built from the Static Charge Amplifier. It fails when it matters most — and that is not the end of the story.
Pirouette (<i>peer-oo-ET</i>)	A rapid spin on one foot — a ballet term used here for the dervish's dance.
Pitiable (<i>PIT-ee-uh-bul</i>)	Deserving pity or compassion; wretched.
Plum duff (<i>PLUM DUF</i>)	A boiled or steamed sailor's pudding made with dried fruit; "plum" traditionally meant raisins or currants.
Poultice (<i>POHL-tis</i>)	A soft, moist mass of herbs or medicine spread on cloth and applied to the body to relieve pain or draw out infection.
Press gang (<i>PRESS gang</i>)	A group sent ashore to seize or coerce men into naval or shipboard service.
Prodigious (<i>prob-DIJ-us</i>)	Impressively great in size, amount, or extent; enormous.
Pungent (<i>PUN-jent</i>)	Having a sharp, strong smell or taste.
Purloined (<i>pur-LOYND</i>)	Stolen; taken dishonestly. An elegant word for theft.
Purser (<i>PUR-ser</i>)	The officer on a ship responsible for keeping accounts and managing money.
Quarterdeck (<i>KWOR-ter-dek</i>)	The rear part of the upper deck — traditionally the captain's domain.
Quickearth (<i>KWIK-erth</i>)	Deadly ground collapse similar to quicksand — the earth gives way beneath without warning.
Quorum (<i>KWOR-um</i>)	The minimum number of people who must be present for a meeting to make official decisions.
Rebuttal (<i>ree-BUT-ul</i>)	An argument or statement made to prove someone wrong; a counter-argument.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Reconnoiter (<i>ree-kuh-NOY-ter</i>)	To make a military observation of an area; to scout or survey before acting.
Redolent (<i>RED-ob-lent</i>)	Strongly smelling of something; fragrant or evocative.
Reiver (<i>REE-ver</i>)	A raider or border bandit. Carries a sense of danger and historical weight.
Remediate (<i>ree-MEE-dee-ayt</i>)	To fix or reverse damage; to correct a problem.
Rescind (<i>ree-SIND</i>)	To officially cancel or take back a law, order, or decision.
Resign / Resignation (<i>rez-ig-NAY-shun</i>)	Reluctant acceptance of something unpleasant that cannot be changed.
Resolute (<i>REZ-ob-loot</i>)	Admirably firm and determined; unwavering in purpose.
Reveille (<i>REV-uh-lee</i>)	A signal (usually a bugle call or whistle) to wake military personnel in the morning.
Rook (<i>ROOK</i>)	A large crow-like bird common in Europe. Cawkin is a rook.
Rucksack (<i>RUK-sak</i>)	A sturdy backpack; from German words meaning "back" and "bag."
Saboteur (<i>SAB-ob-TUR</i>)	A person who deliberately destroys or damages something — especially for military or political advantage.
Sandworm (<i>SAND-wurm</i>)	Mutant larvae bred by the Aridites, grown inside geoglyph spirals, consuming soil from within.
Scallywag (<i>SKAL-ee-wag</i>)	A mischievous or cheeky person — often used affectionately.
Scree (<i>SKREE</i>)	A mass of small loose stones covering a slope — treacherous to walk on.
Sema (<i>SEH-mah</i>)	The Sufi whirling dance ceremony. When you encounter Selca's ritual, this is what you are watching.
Sentinels (<i>SEN-tin-ulz</i>)	Guards or watchers standing at a post — here the motionless Aridites.
Seraglio (<i>seh-RAL-yoh</i>)	The Sultan's palace — specifically the Ottoman court. A word from the world Horatio sailed.
Seranthi (<i>seh-RAN-thee</i>)	The ancient, invented language in which the Anhydrous Codex is written.
Sere Society (<i>SEER sub-SY-uh-tee</i>)	The secretive order of Aridites that studies and performs geoglyph rituals.
Serenseth (<i>SAIR-en-seth</i>)	The ancient desert people who first discovered Cosmocyste properties. Their name contains seren — Welsh for star.
Sibilant (<i>SIB-ib-lunt</i>)	Making a hissing sound — like the letter S. The word itself almost hisses.
Skulk (<i>SKULK</i>)	A group of foxes. One of English's most evocative collective nouns — the word itself sounds sneaky.
Slough (<i>SLOO</i>)	A swamp or bog — and, in Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, the Slough of Despond: the place where guilt and failure drag a person down. The book uses both meanings.
Speechify (<i>SPEECH-ih-fy</i>)	To make speeches in a pompous or tiresome way.
Splooted (<i>SPLOOT-ed</i>)	A position where an animal lies flat with legs stretched out in all directions. A real word, beloved by squirrel-watchers.
Starboard (<i>STAR-board</i>)	The right side of a ship when facing forward.
Stinkfish (<i>STINK-fish</i>)	A talking-and-sharing game played by the Mingles, using a rhyming chant. Pay attention to when the Mingles play it — and when they don't.

WORD & PRONUNCIATION	MEANING & NOTES
Sublime Porte (<i>sub-LIME PORT</i>)	The Ottoman government and court — part of Horatio's past world.
Swarf (<i>SWORF</i>)	Metal filings and shavings produced by machining or grinding — Timbit's workshop word.
Sycophancy (<i>SIK-ob-fan-see</i>)	Excessive flattery to gain advantage; being a "yes-man."
Taffrail (<i>TAF-rayl</i>)	The rail around the stern of a ship.
Talisman (<i>TAL-is-man</i>)	In the book, a circular medallion bearing Aridite insignia, found among Timbit's father's belongings. A talisman is traditionally an object believed to have magical or protective power.
Thunder Valley (<i>THUN-der VAL-ee</i>)	A dangerous Wilderland valley rich in lightning-fused minerals and rare earth elements.
Tirade (<i>ty-RAYD</i>)	A long, angry speech of criticism or accusation.
Traverse (<i>trab-VERS</i>)	To travel across or through a place.
Treacle tart (<i>TREE-kul TART</i>)	A traditional British dessert — a pastry filled with golden syrup, breadcrumbs, and lemon. Sweet and sticky.
Trepidation (<i>trep-ih-DAY-shun</i>)	A feeling of fear or anxiety about something that may happen; nervous uncertainty.
Tricorn (<i>TRY-korn</i>)	A hat with three corners — the classic triangular hat worn by 18th-century sea captains.
Twaddle (<i>TWOD-ul</i>)	Silly, pointless talk or writing; nonsense.
Unbrookable (<i>un-BROOK-ab-bul</i>)	Not to be tolerated or endured; allowing no opposition. From brook, an old word meaning "to tolerate."
Unilateral (<i>yoo-nih-LAT-er-ul</i>)	Done by one person or group alone, without agreement from others.
Urchins (<i>UR-chinz</i>)	Mischievous or ragged children — an old word that carries the sting of dismissal.
Utnapishtim (<i>oot-nab-PISH-tim</i>)	The ancient Mesopotamian figure who survived a great flood in the Epic of Gilgamesh — the oldest known flood story.
Vexation (<i>vek-SAY-shun</i>)	The state of being annoyed, frustrated, or worried.
Visceral (<i>VIS-er-ul</i>)	A deep, instinctive feeling in your body rather than your mind — felt in the gut.
Voltaic Pile (<i>vol-TAY-ik PILE</i>)	An early type of battery, invented by Alessandro Volta — stacks of metal discs that produce electricity.
Vulpine (<i>VUL-pine</i>)	Of, resembling, or relating to a fox. From Latin vulpes, fox.
Waistcoat (<i>WESS-kot or WAYST-kobt</i>)	A sleeveless garment worn over a shirt; what Americans call a vest.
Warren (<i>WOR-en</i>)	A network of interconnecting rabbit burrows; also the community of rabbits that lives in one.
Wheatcrest (<i>WEET-krest</i>)	An intricately carved wooden medallion made by the Tillinari. Each one is unique, crafted over months, and given as a token of deep friendship.
Willowfolk (<i>WIL-ob-folk</i>)	The people who lived in the Willow Marsh near Siltbridge Village.
Yttrium (<i>IT-ree-um</i>)	A real rare earth element — silvery metal used in electronics and lighting. Found alongside neodymium in Thunder Valley.