

AWESOME STORIES

VISUAL VOCABULARY BUILDER

THE CONSPIRATOR

THE STORY OF MARY SURRETT

audacious / clemency / conspirator / disheveled / gregarious
habeas corpus / inception / premonition / reclusive / stolid

Audacious* - (1) fearlessly bold and daring; (2) a reckless disregard of law

- Audacious – adjective (first meaning)
Shaun White – the Olympic gold-medalist known for his audacious tricks – is fearlessly bold and daring whenever he performs in public.
- Audaciously – adverb (first meaning)
Shaun White audaciously tackles the slopes as he consistently outperforms his competitors.
- Audacious – adjective (second meaning)
John Wilkes Booth concocted an audacious plan to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.
- Audaciously – adverb (second meaning)
Booth audaciously carried-out his plan to kill Lincoln.



*Audacious – See Chapter 3 (Events at the Surratt Boarding House)

- NOTE: January 26, 2008 photo of Shaun White, by Ira McMahon, online via Flickr. Copyright, Ira McMahon, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Clemency* - (1) showing mercy; (2) reducing a criminal sentence to a lesser form of punishment

- Clemency – noun
The Emperor of Rome had the power to show mercy – by granting clemency – to condemned people.
- Clemency – noun
Instead of allowing lions to kill the prisoners, in the Colosseum, the Emperor granted clemency.
- Clemency – noun
President Johnson did not grant clemency for Mary Surratt.



* Clemency – See Chapter 8 (Execution of Mary Surratt)

Conspirator* - working in harmony, with others, especially toward an unlawful objective

- Conspirator – noun
The defendant on trial – accused of being a conspirator in a plan to commit a crime – denied that he had anything to do with it.
- Conspiracy – noun
The defendant absolutely denied that he was part of a conspiracy which had been well-planned and well-executed.



*Conspirator – See Chapter 1 (Story Preface – *The Conspirator*)

- Note – This political cartoon, by Gottschalk, was published in the *Wall Street Journal*. Copyright, Gottschalk, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Disheveled* - appearing untidy or disorderly

- Disheveled – adjective
Red Skelton, a famous comedian from the twentieth-century, played a disheveled character known as “Freddie the Freeloader.”
- Dishevelment – noun
Freddie the Freeloader, personified by Red Skelton, was well-known for his dishevelment.
- Dishevel – verb
Sometimes the wind makes a person *seem* untidy, but Red Skelton *meant* for Freddie the Freeloader to be disheveled.



* Disheveled – See Chapter 6 (Conspirators and the Military Commission)

- Note - Photo of Red Skelton from the Library of Congress – “Bob Hope and American Variety” collection.

Gregarious* - sociable; one who enjoys being with other people

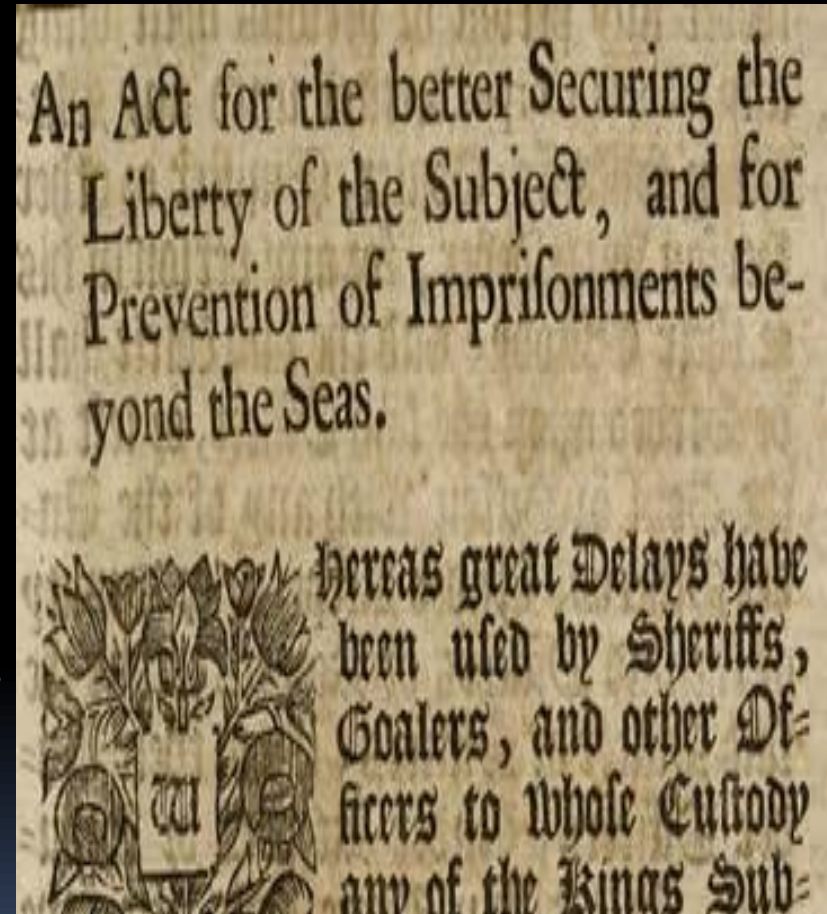
- Gregarious – adjective
Each person in the group was a gregarious girl who enjoyed the company of her friends.
- Gregariously – adverb
Able to make friends quickly, she gregariously approached a group of strangers.
- Gregariousness – noun
Gregariousness was one of her key traits.



*Gregarious – See Chapter 3 (Events at the Surratt Boarding House)

*Habeas Corpus** - Order requiring that a detained person be brought into court

- *Habeas corpus* – noun
Habeas corpus, translated into English from Latin, means: “You may have the body.”
- *Habeas corpus* – noun
After *habeas corpus* became the law in Britain, during 1679, a Judge could order an unlawfully detained person to be brought into court, thereby potentially ending the imprisonment (if the charge was not valid).
- *Habeas corpus* – noun
The purpose of the original *habeas corpus* law, in 1679, is stated in this image: “An act for the better Securing the Liberty of the Subject, and for Prevention of Imprisonments beyond the Seas.”



**Habeas Corpus* – See Chapter 7 (Frederick Aiken and the Trial of Mary Surratt)

NOTE: Image of the original 1679 law online, courtesy British Library.

Inception* - starting point; the beginning of something

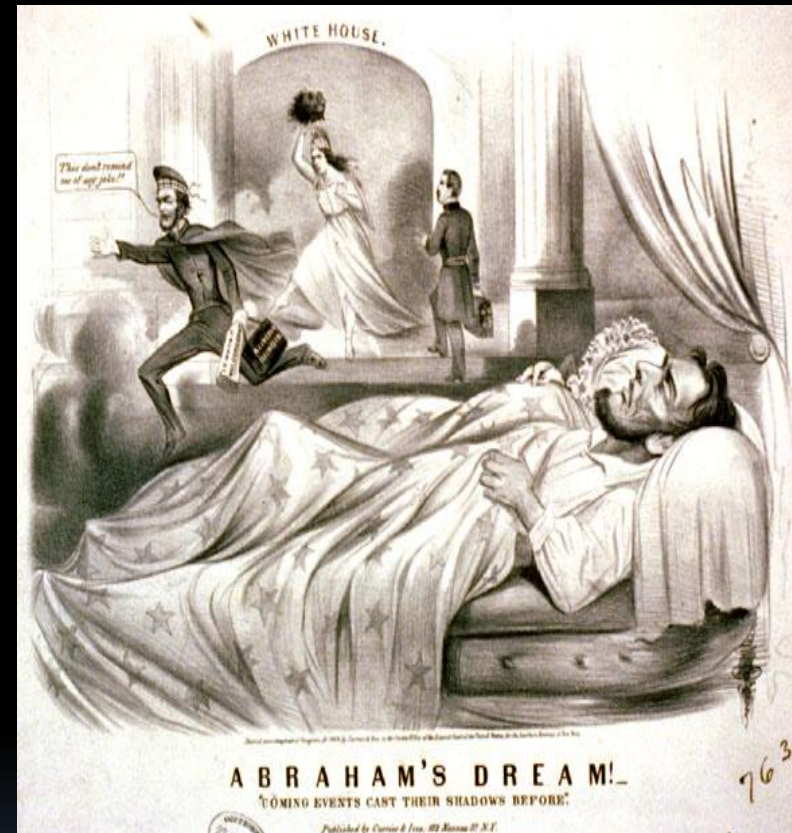
- Inception – noun
From the inception of the process, people asked: “Why are they doing this?”
- Inception – noun
Believing the process was wrong from its inception, opponents demanded that the government go back to “square one” to find a better way.
- Inception - noun
“Square one” is an idiom which can mean, among other things, going back to the inception of things.



*Inception – See Chapter 1 (Story Preface for *The Conspirator*)

Premonition* – a feeling - without conscious reason - that something is going to happen

- Premonitions – noun, plural
President Lincoln, who believed that his dreams were important, also had premonitions about future events.
- Premonition – noun
President Lincoln had a premonition that he would die while still serving as America's President.

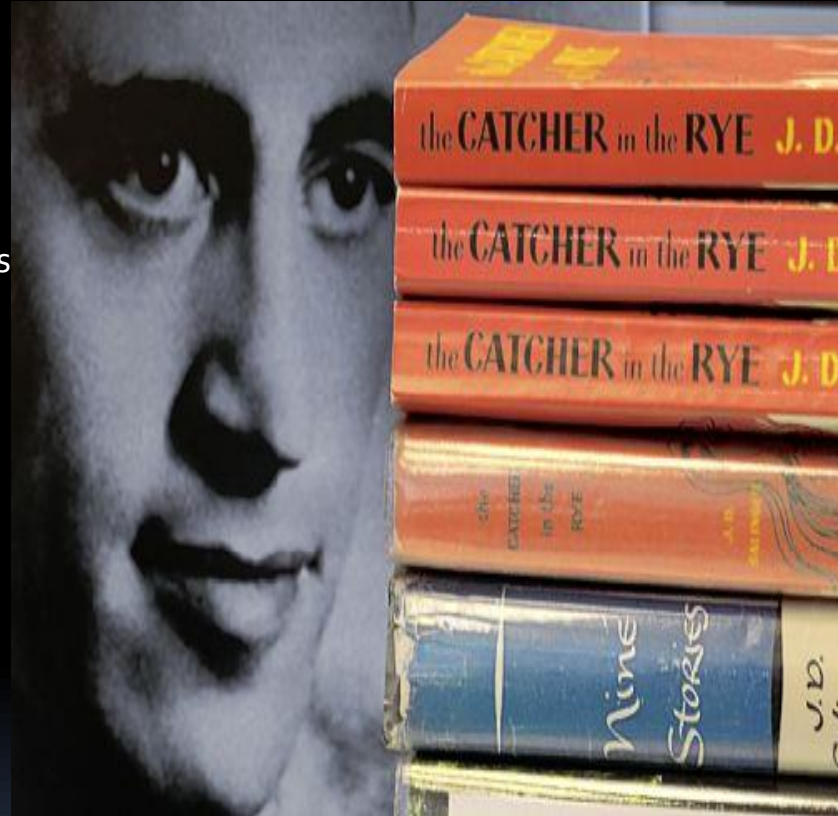


*Premonitions – See Chapter 5 (Capture and Death of John Wilkes Booth)

- Note: Currier & Ives image, from the Library of Congress

Reclusive* - being alone; withdrawing from society

- Reclusive – adjective
J.D. Salinger, *reclusive* author of *The Catcher in the Rye*, wrote one novel and thirteen short stories during his literary career.
- Recluse – noun
Rarely seen in public, J.D. Salinger was a recluse who rarely gave interviews.
- Reclusively – adverb
Although very famous, J.D. Salinger preferred to live *reclusively*.



*Reclusive – See Chapter 9 (After the Conspiracy Trial)

Stolid* - showing very little emotion; non-excitable

- Stolid – adjective
This stolid member of the Queen’s Guard, in London, shows no emotion as he carries-out his duties.
- Stolidly – adverb
Stolidly doing his job, a member of the Queen’s Guard stands near the crown-bearing symbol “EIIIR” which is short for *Elizabeth II Regina* (“Queen Elizabeth II”).
- Stolidity – noun
Members of the Queen’s Guard display stolidity while they are on duty.



*Stolid – See Chapter 8 (Execution of Mary Surratt)

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