Vocabulary List for *Skellig* by David Almond

Main Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
Derelict	Old, abandoned, and in poor condition	Michael discovered Skellig in a derelict garage.
Frail	Weak or delicate	The baby looked frail in the hospital incubator.
Arthritic	Suffering from painful, stiff joints	Skellig moved slowly with arthritic movements.
Whispered	Spoke very softly	Mina whispered so nobody else could hear.
Curious	Eager to know or learn something	Michael became curious about the strange man.
Pale	Light in color or lacking healthy color	Skellig's face looked pale in the dim light.
Hesitant	Unsure or slow to act	Michael was hesitant to enter the garage.
Crumpled	Crushed or folded unevenly	Old newspapers lay crumpled on the floor.
Fierce	Strong, powerful, or intense	Mina defended her opinions with fierce determination.
Delicate	Easily damaged or fragile	The baby bird looked delicate in Mina's hands.
Extraordinary	Very unusual or remarkable	Skellig seemed like an extraordinary creature.
Silence	Complete quiet	A strange silence filled the garage.
Trembling	Shaking slightly	Michael stood trembling with fear and excitement.
Mystery	Something difficult to explain or understand	Skellig remained a mystery for much of the story.
Companion	A person who spends time with another	Mina became Michael's close companion.
Fragile	Easily broken or harmed	The fragile creature needed care and kindness.
Bewildered	Very confused	Michael felt bewildered by Skellig's behavior.
Glimmer	A faint light or small sign of something	A glimmer of hope appeared when the baby improved.

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
Soaring	Flying or rising high in the air	The birds were soaring above the rooftops.
Reckless	Careless about danger	Michael made a reckless decision to keep the secret.
Awkward	Clumsy or uncomfortable	Skellig's movements seemed awkward at first.
Peculiar	Strange or unusual	Mina had peculiar but interesting ideas.
Hunched	Bent forward	The old man sat hunched in the shadows.
Uneasy	Worried or uncomfortable	Michael felt uneasy entering the garage alone.
Startled	Suddenly surprised	Michael was startled by the strange sound.
Graceful	Moving in a smooth and elegant way	The owl looked graceful as it flew silently.
Hollow	Empty inside	The building sounded hollow in the wind.
Scrawny	Thin and weak-looking	The stray cat looked scrawny and hungry.
Muttered	Spoke quietly and unclearly	Skellig muttered strange words under his breath.
Astonished	Very surprised	Michael was astonished by what he saw.

Setting Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
Demolition	The act of tearing down or destroying a building	The old house was marked for demolition.
Derelict	In a very poor condition as a result of disuse or neglect	Michael explored the derelict garage behind the house.
Eerie	Strange, frightening, and mysterious	An eerie silence filled the dark garage.
Stench	A strong, foul, unpleasant smell	A terrible stench came from inside the garage.
Jut	To stick out sharply	Rusty nails jutted from the wooden boards.

Nature & Biology

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
Fledgling	A young bird that has recently learned to fly	The fledgling flapped its wings nervously.
Regurgitate	To bring swallowed food back up	Parent birds regurgitate food for their chicks.
Evolution	The gradual development of species over time	Mina loved reading about evolution.
Archaeopteryx	An extinct creature linking dinosaurs and birds	Mina talked about Archaeopteryx during their discussion.

Behavior & Action Words

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
Scurry	To move quickly with short, hurried steps	Mice scurried across the dusty floor.
Slink	To move quietly and secretly	The cat slunk into the shadows.
Lumbering	Moving slowly and heavily	Skellig made a lumbering walk across the room.
Unfurl	To spread out or unfold	The owl unfurled its wings gracefully.
Wince	To show pain or discomfort suddenly	Michael winced at the strange cracking sound.

States of Being & Emotions

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
Enigma	A mysterious or puzzling person or thing	Skellig remained an enigma throughout the story.
Invalid	A person weakened by illness or injury	The family worried about the weak invalid in the hospital.
Famished	Extremely hungry	Skellig looked famished when Michael brought food.
Agony	Extreme physical or emotional pain	Michael felt agony over his baby sister's illness.
Thrive	To grow or develop successfully	The baby began to thrive after recovering.