

Pre-Reading METAMORPHOSIS

countenance (122) - noun

a person's face or facial expression.

Middle English: from Old French *contenance* 'bearing, behavior,' from *contenir* (see [contain](#)). The early sense was 'bearing, demeanor,' also 'facial expression,' hence 'the face.'

crude (123) - adjective

in a natural or raw state; not yet processed or refined

late Middle English: from Latin *crudus* 'raw, rough.'

fostered (126) - verb; past tense

encourage or promote the development of (something, typically something regarded as good)

Old English *fōstrian* 'feed, nourish,' from *fōster* 'food, nourishment,' of Germanic origin; related to [food](#). The sense 'bring up another's (originally also one's own) child' dates from Middle English.

suppliants (131) - noun; plural

a person making a humble plea to someone in power or authority

late Middle English (as a noun): from French, 'beseeching,' present participle of *supplier*, from Latin *supplicare* (see [supplicate](#))

duress (146) - noun

threats, violence, constraints, or other action brought to bear on someone to do something against their will or better judgment

Middle English (in the sense 'harshness, severity, cruel treatment'): via Old French from Latin *duritia*, from *durus* 'hard.'

congealed (167) - verb; past tense

solidify or coagulate, especially by cooling

late Middle English: from Old French *congeler*, from Latin *congelare*, from *con-* 'together' + *gelare* 'freeze' (from *gelu* 'frost')

debased (187) - adjective

reduced in quality or value, referring to someone's character

mid 16th century (in the sense 'humiliate, belittle'): from [de-](#) 'down' + the obsolete verb *base* (compare with [abase](#)), expressing the notion 'bring down completely'