

Word Work Unit 16

1. concede

give over

*The bear waited calmly as if part of the landscape, like a tree or a boulder, not **conceding** one inch of space.*

2. gluttonous

given to excess in consumption of especially food or drink

*The **gluttonous** seagulls had brazenly eaten chunks torn from his chest and were now on to something else—a herring or a clam.*

3. maul

injure badly

*He was trapped on a godforsaken island, alone, and **mauled** within an inch of his life by a white monster bear.*

4. tentative

hesitant or lacking confidence; unsettled in mind or opinion

*He returned to shallow **tentative** breaths, drawing air past his lips as if he were sipping from a straw.*

5. haphazard

without care; in a slapdash manner

*Watching the bird made Cole curse every second of his miserable and **haphazard** life.*

6. fend

try to manage without help

*If he were the mother bird, he would just leave the babies to **fend** for themselves.*

7. stuporous

stunned or confused and slow to react

*Exhaustion finally dragged him into a **stuporous** sleep.*

8. acrid

strong and sharp, as a taste or smell

*The rain and wind paused, and an **acrid** smell like burning wire filled the air.*

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9. doggedly

with obstinate determination

*He felt himself slipping into darkness and blinked hard, **doggedly** clinging to life, willing himself to not let go.*

10. strew

spread by scattering

*He couldn't stop thinking about the tiny birds **strewn** in the grass.*

11. squander

spend thoughtlessly; throw away

*All of his life he had **squandered** his choices, wallowing in revenge and self-pity, keeping himself down.*

12. stifle

smother or suppress

*Panicking, Cole **stifled** a cough—he didn't dare cough.*

13. grueling

characterized by effort to the point of exhaustion

*A long **grueling** minute passed before the pain eased and he dared allow a shallow breath to seep past his lips.*

14. teem

move in large numbers

*The ground **teemed** with insects, and he began putting ants, beetles, spiders, and even a fuzzy caterpillar into his mouth.*

15. skittish

unpredictably excitable, especially of horses

*Cole lay motionless as the **skittish** mouse ventured across his forearm and sniffed at his wrist, then inched onto his upturned palm.*

16. quarry

animal hunted or caught for food

*This mouse was his **quarry**, like a gull catching a herring or an owl catching a rabbit.*