

Word Substitution List for *One Amazing Thing*

Chapter 1 (pages 1-8)

- Pg 1 **Chaucer** – A writer from the 1300s
- Pg 1 **Medieval Lit** – short for Medieval Literature
- Pg 2 **nubby** - bumpy
- Pg 2 **frostily** – in a crisp or cold manner, unfriendly
- Pg 3 **fidgety** – moving around a lot, nervously
- Pg 3 **hair in spikes** – standing straight up on the top of her head
- Pg 3 **Missy** – a girl's nickname used by someone in authority; not her real name
- Pg 3 **slaving at their jobs** – working hard
- Pg 4 **Wall Street Journal** – newspaper reporting on financial news
- Pg 4 **deli** – short for delicatessen (a place to buy meat sandwiches)
- Pg 4 **frisk** – search you for weapons by patting your body from head to toe
- Pg 4 **Quaker Oats** – brand name
- Pg 5 **UN** – United Nations
- Pg 5 **Bharatanatyam** – Indian classical dance
- Pg 5 **schizophrenic meals** – crazy, rushed, disorganized
- Pg 5 **volte-face** – an about face, or complete turn around in position or opinion
- Pg 5 **golden years** – the years after retirement, generally 65 and older
- Pg 5 **Kolkata** – city in India
- Pg 6 **Rabindra Sangeet** – a type of Indian music, “with expressions of romanticism”
- Pg 6 **Kulu Manali** and **Goa** – mountainous area of India and beautiful seaside town in India, respectively
- Pg 6 **hedonistic** – self-indulgent, the excessive pursuit of pleasure

Pg 6 **wooden togetherness** – stiff, unfeeling relationships

Pg 6 **angst-filled** – fearful, anxiety filled

Pg 6 **Nobel laureate** – someone who has been awarded the prestigious Nobel prize

Pg 6 **dyspepsia** – indigestion

Pg 8 **gossamer** – thin, light, insubstantial

Pg 8 **Student Union** – a popular meeting and socializing place on a university campus

Pg 8 **dim sum** – Chinese dish/food, dumplings

Pg 8 **doomsday orators** – people who stand at busy pedestrian intersections and shout about the end of the world. Their usual purpose is to convince people to turn to God.

Chapter 2 (pages 11-21)

Pg 11 **keening** – cry out in grief/sadness

Pg 11 **inexorable** – impossible to stop

Pg 11 **inhaler** – device used by people with breathing problems (asthma) to help them breathe

Pg 12 **acrid** – unpleasant, irritating (but not used with people)

Pg 13 **something serious** – very seriously

Pg 13 **expiation** – to make amends, make up for something wrong you did

Pg 14 **unawares** – unaware, not aware of a situation

Pg 14 **quirking** – sudden movement, expressing surprise or amusement

Pg 14 **Krishna** – Hindu deity

Pg 15 **auntie brigade** – aunt group

Pg 15 **ecumenical** – usually refers to Christianity, but in this case merely means completely or wholly

Pg 15 **sambar powder** – a spice blend from South India

Pg 15 **avakaya pickle** – a variety of pickle popular in South India

Pg 15 **Bollywood** – movies made in India

Pg 15 **dowry** – money or property given by the bride to the groom’s family

Pg 16 **capacious swivel chairs** – roomy chairs that twist or turn (like many office chairs)

Pg 16 **eyebrows threaded** – a professional technique for shaping women’s eyebrows

Pg 16 **elaborate lacquered buns** – a women’s hairstyle with the hair in a circle at the back of the head

Pg 16 **swashbuckling** – very masculine, strong

Pg 16 **disarming smile** – a smile that puts you off your guard (it “disarms” you)

Pg 16 **Maisoorpak** – sweet treats popular in India

Pg 17 **Shahrukh Khan megahit** – very popular movie starring Shahrukh Khan (Indian actor)

Pg 17 **dosas** – South Indian pancake-like food

Pg 17 **betel nuts** – common name of the areca nut that grows in Asia

Pg 17 **doodle** – scribble, draw small insignificant pictures without giving them much thought

Pg 17 **inner tectonic shift** – very large change/shift (like the shifting of the earth’s tectonic plates)

Pg 18 **groped or grabbed** – refers to touching her body

Pg 18 **dallying** – messing around with

Pg 18 **karma** – actions today that influence fate in the future

Pg 18 **Lord Ganapathi** – Hindu deity

Pg 19 **ducking under** – hiding under the counter

Pg 19 **siphoned away** – taken away

Pg 19 **ricocheted** – bounced wildly

Pg 19 **Tamil** – language spoken in India

Pg 20 **Ganapathi** – Indian deity

Pg 20 **miasma** – unpleasant smell

Pg 20 **Tylenol** – medication for headaches and other pain

Pg 20 **The line’s dead** – the phone line is not working, so the phones are “dead”

Pg 21 **Walmart** – national store chain with inexpensive items

Pg 21 **Band-Aids** – brand name for bandages

Chapter 3 (pages 22-34)

Pg 22 **dry-swallow** – swallow without the aid of water or other liquid

Pg 22 **pad Thai** – Thailand food made with noodles

Pg 23 **swabs** – Q-tips

Pg 23 **allusion** – an expression that brings something else to mind without saying it specifically

Pg 24 **fumbled** – tried to find

Pg 24 **held it to his mouth, and squeezed** – Cameron is using his inhaler to help him breathe

Pg 24 **pool together** – combine

Pg 24 **improvident** – thoughtless

Pg 24 **Aesop’s summer-singing cricket** – a character in one of Aesop’s centuries-old fables

Pg 24 **squirreled things away** – hidden things

Pg 25 **sling** – a piece of cloth that the arm sits in to keep it still

Pg 25 **enterprising** – creative, someone who finds solutions

Pg 26 **bitter bark of a laugh** – a sharp, harsh laugh

Pg 26 **Xanax** – an anti-anxiety (calming) prescription drug

Pg 26 **smile of complicity** – a smile of togetherness in something secret

Pg 26 **cordon off** – rope off, mark the boundaries of an area

Pg 27 **sheepish** – embarrassed

Pg 27 **divining rod** – a stick used to find water underground

Pg 27 **Dhuhr prayer** – the second prayer of the day in the Muslim religion

Pg 27 **black namaz cap** – head covering (cap) for men in the Muslim religion

Pg 28 **chai** – a type of tea

Pg 28 **Towers** – a reference to New York's Twin Towers, destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attack

Pg 28 **salwaar kameez outfit** – a traditional Indian outfit (clothing)

Pg 28 **masjid** – another word for mosque (Muslim place of worship)

Pg 28 **hijab** – head covering worn by some Muslim women

Pg 29 **Allah** – God

Pg 29 **Mecca** – the holy city of Islam

Pg 29 **ballooned** – swelled

Pg 29 **Kaaba** – a small stone building in Mecca, which is what Muslims point toward when praying

Pg 29 **Inshallah** – means “if Allah wills it” in Islam

Pg 29 **kohl-lined eyes** – eyes decorated (lined) with black make-up

Pg 30 **stutters** – stops and starts

Pg 31 **clubbing** – to night clubs

Pg 31 **duty** – required

Pg 32 **pencil light** – a thin flashlight (about the size of a pencil) that projects a small pinpoint of light

Pg 34 **fetch** – get

Chapter 4 (pages 35-45)

Pg 35 **get over it** – (said to Malathi) move past your anger; stop being angry

Pg 36 **petticoat** – woman's undergarment, like a slip

Pg 36 **bindi** – decorative mark worn on the forehead of Indian women

Pg 36 **bun** – a hairstyle with the hair in a tight circle at the back of the head

Pg 36 **unglued** – go crazy

Pg 36 **Establishment** – the ruling class (White people, in this case)

Pg 36 **ahimsa** – principle of nonviolence toward all living things (in Hindi, Buddhist, and Jain traditions)

Pg 37 **chips of unforgiving** – eyes with no forgiveness in them

Pg 37 **Freudian** – psychiatrist who believed everything was done on purpose; there is no coincidence in life, or random, unimportant thoughts

Pg 37 **mythic proportions** – huge, larger than life

Pg 37 **culled from . . . the glossies** – taken from the pages of magazines

Pg 38 **ficus tree** – tree with thick leaves, often grown indoors in pots

Pg 38 **Jacuzzi** – bathtub with jets of water, used for massage

Pg 38 **bidet** – French style of toilet

Pg 38 **underlings** – people lower on the hierarchy, entry-level employees in this instance

Pg 38 **time-pass girl** – someone to spend time with, only because you have too much time to spend and are bored. Not an important relationship.

Pg 38 **dispirited** – lackluster, sad looking, lacking energy

Pg 39 **fairy pools** – pools of water like in a children's fantasy

Pg 40 **pencil light** – a flashlight with a very narrow beam of light (about the size of a pencil point)

Pg 41 **staked out** – claimed as their own spot

Pg 41 **Dunhills** – a luxury brand of cigarettes

Pg 41 **Lake Tahoe** – a large, beautiful lake in the Nevada mountains

Pg 42 **King Arthur's court** – a legendary British leader and warrior

Pg 42 **Camelot** – the castle associated with King Arthur's court

Pg 42 **Lancelot** – one of King Arthur’s men (and Mr. Pritchett’s first name)

Pg 44 **camellias** – a rose-type flower

Pg 44 **out-and-out** – complete

Pg 44 **dust bunnies** – small tufts (or balls) of dust

Pg 45 **Bay Bridge** – the San Francisco Bay Bridge

Pg 45 **fumbled** – reached around in (her pocket)

Pg 45 **cross-legged** – sitting on the floor with both knees bent and the feet tucked under the knees

Pg 45 **Juicy Fruit** – a brand of chewing gum

Chapter 5 (pages 47-64)

Pg 47 **scoured** – looked over very carefully

Pg 48 **unearth** – discover

Pg 48 **trouble magnet** – someone who attracts trouble (like a magnet)

Pg 48 **crowbar** – an iron (usually) tool used to leverage heavy objects

Pg 49 **tug-of-war** – a pulling game, with two teams on opposite ends of a rope trying to pull the other team across a line in the middle

Pg 50 **cooker** – a cooking pot, or pressure cooker

Pg 51 **thrum** – a low, background sense of worry

Pg 51 **Sheetrock** – a building material for walls

Pg 52 **fisted** – wrapped in her fist

Pg 52 **Gulliver** – a reference to the main character in Jonathan Swift’s tale of adventure (1700s)

Pg 52 **Lilliput** – the city Gulliver finds, inhabited by tiny (less than 6”) people, making Gulliver a giant by comparison

Pg 52 **blob** – pile of something

Pg 53 **hiccuping sobs** – crying hard

Pg 54 **Jenga tower** – a game (Jenga) in which the players build a tower of small wooden blocks and then try to remove them one by one without the tower falling over

Pg 54 **Wild Turkey** – a brand of whiskey

Pg 54 **age of Kali** – a time period in Hindu mythology? Lasting 432,000 years and allowing the prediction of both good and bad things to come.

Pg 55 **neem sticks** – a medicinal stick/root used in India for many things

Pg 56 **Lilliputian mountain** – another reference to Lilliput (from *Gulliver’s Travels*), meaning a very small “mountain” of debris

Pg 56 **evil-eye** – angry face

Pg 57 **waiflike** – very thin, fragile

Pg 57 **Quran** – Muslim holy book

Pg 57 **Jeez!** – Hey!

Pg 57 **their band** – the group of people trapped

Pg 58 **he was stumped** – he couldn’t remember the words or prayers

Pg 58 **Maker** – another word for God

Pg 58 **Allah** – Arabic word for God, often used by Muslims

Pg 58 **take her over** – consume her, take all of her thinking

Pg 58 **Formica** – a hard surface used for countertops in kitchens and bathrooms

Pg 59 **low-hanging fruit** – fruit that is easy to pick (on the lowest branches). In this case, it means anything was possible

Pg 60 **Xanax** – prescription drug to combat anxiety

Pg 60 **the universe** – a spiritual reference to a God-like force in life

Pg 62 **taken aback** – surprised

Pg 62 **Tamil** – Indian language

Pg 62 **superior** – boss

Pg 63 **bourbon** – another word for whiskey

Pg 63 **the advances he had made** – a reference to his kissing Malathi

Pg 64 **parley** – talk

Chapter 6 (pages 66-84)

Pg 66 **Chaucer** – book written by Chaucer in the 1300s

Pg 67 **melee** – fight, confused disruption

Pg 67 **crazed** – wild, crazy, intense

Pg 67 **Lord of the Flies** – 1954 book about boys that fought to the death

Pg 68 **worried the sleeve** – rubbed it

Pg 68 **Kleenex** – soft tissue

Pg 69 **half-witted** – dumb

Pg 69 **déjà vu** – French phrase describing the feeling that you've been somewhere/heard something before

Pg 69 **shuttered** – closed

Pg 69 **know our business** – know about our personal lives

Pg 70 **Gramma** – grandma

Pg 70 **trained on her** – focused on her

Pg 70 **Kool-Aid** – sugary powdered drink mix

Pg 70 **carpe diem** – Latin for “seize the day” or make the most of the present moment

Pg 71 **rickshaw** – a two-wheeled vehicle, usually pulled by a person, providing rides to others

Pg 71 **bean cakes/fresh lychees** – Chinese foods

Pg 71 **koi** – fish

Pg 72 **rupees** – Indian money

Pg 72 **heated arguments** – serious, intense arguments

Pg 73 **gouty** – from a painful medical condition, gout

Pg 73 **the holy ones** – the nuns and priests

Pg 74 **match** – a man who will become her husband

Pg 74 **pencil skirt** – a very straight, narrow style of skirt

Pg 75 **marzipan . . . petits fours** – sweets

Pg 75 **moghlay parathas . . . chaat** - foods

Pg 77 **Chee-nay** – a mangling of the word Chinese

Pg 78 **joss sticks at Kuan Yin's shrine** – a Chinese religious offering

Pg 78 **hibiscus garlands . . . Kalighat** – an Indian religious offering

Pg 78 **jawans** – a junior soldier

Pg 79 **house arrest** – being kept prisoner in your own house, rather than in a police prison

Pg 79 **berths** – places/spots (like tickets) on a ship

Pg 79 **sympathizers** – people who support a political cause or idea

Pg 80 **yoke** – rules and restrictions

Pg 80 **the Party** – the Communist Party (Mao's Party)

Pg 80 **calling in favors** – asking (or demanding) people he had helped in the past to now help him

Pg 81 **Krugerrands** – gold coins

Pg 81 **yoking** – tying, connecting

Pg 82 **double-sold tickets** – sold two tickets to the same room (or double-booked)

Pg 82 **course** – move

Pg 83 **hankering** – desire

Pg 83 **Mandarin** – Chinese language

Pg 83 **dim sum** – Chinese food

Pg 83 **shock** – bunch (of hair)

Pg 83 **button-down shirt** – an ordinary shirt, usually cotton, that button all the way down the front.

Pg 83 **waxing poetic** – talking in a dreamy way

Pg 84 **chewed the cud** – dwelled on, went over and over the past

Chapter 7 (pages 86-90)

Pg 86 **Hershey's Kisses, Dove, Revlon** – brand names of chocolate, soap, and cosmetics, respectively

Pg 86 **Good Housekeeping, Glamour** – magazines
Pg 86 **garotte** – a wire used to strangle someone
Pg 87 **Ziploc** – brand name of a closeable plastic bag
Pg 87 **foiled** – tricked
Pg 88 **sugarcoat** – make something sound nicer than it is
Pg 90 **suffered** – allowed
Pg 90 **gamine** – a girl's mischievous smile

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Chapter 8 (pages 92-108)

Pg 92 **garage sale** – a sale held in a person's garage. Items are very cheap in a garage sale.
Pg 92 **Hires root beer** – a non-alcoholic soda
Pg 93 **washeteria** – laundromat
Pg 93 **nightie** – nightgown
Pg 93 **shift** – simple dress
Pg 94 **Howdy Doody** – a 1950s cowboy TV show
Pg 94 **I Love Lucy** – 1950s comedy TV show
Pg 94 **Lassie Come Home** – 1940s radio show about a dog, Lassie
Pg 95 **Shoot, girl** – Hey, girl or Darn, girl
Pg 95 **death warmed over** – to look like someone who died
Pg 95 **Gunsmoke** – a 1950s TV show about cowboys
Pg 95 **riveted** – completely engrossed
Pg 96 **cat's cradle of stories** – complicated web of stories
Pg 97 **heels** – women's shoes with high heels
Pg 97 **baggage** – refers to their boys (in this case)
Pg 98 **Memphis** – city in Tennessee
Pg 98 **bitches** – complains
Pg 98 **sweetish** – sweet (probably marijuana)

Pg 99 **recess** – a playtime break for children at school (usually outdoors)
Pg 99 **Robinson Crusoe** – legendary adventurer
Pg 99 **trains his binoculars** – watches closely with his binoculars
Pg 99 **M1 semiautomatic** – a machine gun
Pg 99 **clips of ammo** – ammunition (ammo) holder
Pg 99 **bobs** – bounces
Pg 100 **clammers** – climbs
Pg 100 **fetches** – gets
Pg 102 **hale and hearty** – healthy
Pg 103 **upbraid** – scold, find fault with
Pg 103 **give in to** – allow (himself to cry)
Pg 103 **catnip** – an edible treat that many cats love
Pg 104 **clouted** – hit, slapped
Pg 104 **stopper** – the part of the tub that keeps the water from draining out (when the stopper is in)
Pg 105 **hitch up** – raise
Pg 105 **yawned** – opened
Pg 107 **broadsided** – struck by a random thought
Pg 107 **clammy** – cold and damp
Pg 108 **Tamil** – a language of India

Chapter 9 (pages 109-126)

Pg 109 **dowry** – money and other valuables that the bride gives to her husband's family upon marriage
Pg 109 **fell to** – began to
Pg 109 **volley** – a barrage; many instructions one after another
Pg 110 **inner sanctum** – an interior room
Pg 110 **Brahmin family** – pampered, rich
Pg 110 **permed** – hair that has been chemically treated so that it curls
Pg 110 **coiffed** – styled (from French)

Pg 110 **clucking** – a negative word sometimes used to describe women’s speech

Pg 111 **foundation, kohl, blush** – types of makeup/cosmetics

Pg 111 **bindi** – a small decoration affixed to the forehead of Indian women

Pg 111 **parasol** – a feminine umbrella, used more to keep the sun off women than to protect from rain

Pg 111 **dispatched** – sent

Pg 111 **knew what was what** – was aware of; understood life

Pg 111 **hullabaloo** – outcry, commotion

Pg 112 **stormed** – walked or marched angrily

Pg 112 **yoke** – burden, responsibility

Pg 112 **gratis** – free

Pg 112 **soaked up** – learned, or to take in a lot of something

Pg 112 **end papers** – materials used in treating hair

Pg 112 **exact a heavy penalty** – cause or result in a heavy penalty

Pg 112 **cream** – top (in terms of importance)

Pg 112 **flicked** – tossed, flipped

Pg 112 **rupees** – Indian money

Pg 112 **finicky** – picky

Pg 112 **hot-tempered** – quick to anger (the opposite is even-tempered)

Pg 113 **perming** – curling the hair with chemicals (a beauty salon treatment)

Pg 113 **unorthodox means** – an unusual, not quite legal, way of doing things

Pg 113 **appellation** – title of Elder Sister

Pg 114 **privy to** – in the know about

Pg 114 **skeletons lurking in the closets of** – dark secrets (skeletons) that are hidden from the rest of the world

Pg 114 **meddle in** – mess around with, tamper with

Pg 114 **akin** – like

Pg 114 **less charitable** – less friendly, less generous

Pg 114 **spate** – bunch of

Pg 114 **notions** – ideas

Pg 115 **idli-sambar, bondas** – Indian foods

Pg 115 **Vindyalayam** – a type of school in India

Pg 116 **canteen** – cafeteria

Pg 117 **curbed** – reined in, limited, lessened

Pg 117 **conniving hussy** – a not-nice girl who tries to manipulate men

Pg 118 **sweeper girl** – maid (?)

Pg 118 **bridge** – card game

Pg 118 **set Nirmala up in a little flat** – give Nirmala an apartment to live in

Pg 118 **tete-a-tete** – French for a private discussion

Pg 118 **swept** – walked

Pg 118 **in tow** – with her (as if she were towing Nirmala along behind her)

Pg 118 **high-nosed** – superior

Pg 119 **playboy** – a man who loves women and spends time with many of them

Pg 119 **sensibilities** – ideas and beliefs

Pg 121 **her station** – her place in life

Pg 121 **piqued** – spiked, increased

Pg 121 **aphrodisiac** – something that makes a person want love/sex

Pg 121 **charms** – beauty

Pg 122 **smart as a whip** – very smart

Pg 122 **chicest** – most fashionable

Pg 122 **colorful expletives** – swear words

Pg 123 **tresses** – hair

Pg 123 **unguents** - ointments

Pg 123 **kinky-headed, like some Andaman aborigine** – like lower-class native people

Pg 123 **exfoliant** – a scrub for skin

Pg 123 **sported** – displayed

Pg 123 **spewed invectives** – shouted or screamed obscenities and insults

Pg 124 **even the score** – get back at someone; make things even again

Pg 124 **bad karma** – bad luck or fate

Pg 124 **apoplectic** – overcome with anger, exploding with anger

Pg 125 **in check** – within reason, not out of control

Pg 125 **choke out** – barely able to speak

Pg 125 **peals** – sounds (of laughter)

Pg 125 **goonda** – a hired thug, someone who hurts other people for money

Pg 126 **displays** – shows of affection

Pg 126 **keep your temper** – stay calm, keep your anger under control

Chapter 10 (pages 127-132)

Pg 127 **couldn't feel for** – couldn't feel any emotion for

Pg 127 **high-society** – upper class, rich people

Pg 127 **mousy** – small, mouse-like

Pg 128 **going out with** – dating

Pg 128 **spoiled** – ruined

Pg 129 **pinned** – placed

Pg 130 **puffs** – inhaled of a cigarette

Pg 131 **in some awe** – in high regard (or, thought he was awesome)

Pg 132 **Sarge** – short for Sergeant (referring to Cameron)

Chapter 11 (pages 133-143)

Pg 133 **quad** – a grassy area on a university campus

Pg 133 **skimpy** – small; clothes that don't cover very much of the body

Pg 133 **non-desi** - ?????

Pg 133 **hottest** – prettiest, usually (but not in this case – read on!)

Pg 133 **public display of affection** – also called PDA; includes things like hugging, kissing, etc. in public

Pg 133 **live and let live** – don't judge other people or interfere with their lives

Pg 133 **crude comments** – in this case, crude refers to harsh sexual comments. In general, crude means uncivilized, unpolished

Pg 134 **kebabs** – food (on a stick, usually cooked over an open fire)

Pg 134 **dying to go** – really, really wanted to go (but was not literally dying)

Pg 134 **zardosi lengha** – heavily embroidered dress

Pg 135 **figured it out** – understood

Pg 135 **license number** – of the car they were driving

Pg 135 **detainees** – people who are held back (detained) somewhere

Pg 136 **skip class** – miss class

Pg 136 **no state** – no condition, in this case not thinking clearly enough, not calm enough

Pg 136 **courtship** – romantic dating period

Pg 137 **antics** – actions, behaviors, usually of a childish nature

Pg 137 **chapatis** – food

Pg 137 **stroke** – a damaging medical condition where the brain does not get enough blood

Pg 137 **shorted out** – quit functioning (usually this term refers to electricity)

Pg 137 **reparation** – trying to repair a wrong done to someone, usually by paying them money. Often this is between a large group, like a government, and a group of people it has wronged.

Pg 137 **stir up** – cause

Pg 138 **goes a long way** – buys many things

Pg 138 **on their radar** – noticeable

Pg 138 **NRI** – non-resident Indian

Pg 139 **flat** – apartment

Pg 140 **pull** – influence (powerful people)

Pg 140 **Victorian** – style of house, usually very ornate and made of wood

Pg 140 **bay windows** – large windows that stick out from the house in a semi-circle

Pg 140 **She's** coming down – she = the ceiling

Pg 140 **milling** – moving or standing around

Pg 140 **licked** – touched

Pg 141 **hallucinating** – imagining things

Pg 141 **tidings** – messages, greetings

Pg 142 **shouldered** – pushed, using his shoulders

Pg 143 **toilet tank** – the tall, square back of the toilet that fills with water after each flush. Not the round bowl with the seat.

Pg 143 **let him be** – leave him alone

Pg 143 **watching one another's backs** – taking care of each other, protecting each other

Chapter 12 (pages 144-159)

Pg 144 **a pleaser** – someone who likes to please other people

Pg 144 **metamorphosis** – transformation, change

Pg 144 **angst** – anger

Pg 145 **Kumon** – a tutoring company

Pg 145 **Dragon Ball Z** and **Knights of the Old Republic** – games

Pg 146 **went above my head** – were too hard for me to understand

Pg 146 **detention** – a school punishment requiring the student to stay after school for a period of time

Pg 146 **cut themselves** – this refers to actually cutting oneself lightly (non-fatally) and repeatedly with a sharp object; cutting is a self-destructive behavior thought to indicate deeper mental or emotional problems

Pg 147 **keep it to ourselves** – keep this a secret

Pg 147 **rudimentaries** – basics

Pg 147 **embouchure** – where the mouth is placed on the flute

Pg 147 **gabbled** – talked very fast

Pg 147 **sonatas** – a type of music

Pg 147 **confiscated** – kept away from; taken

Pg 148 **Danube** – German river

Pg 148 **avert the evil eye** – avoid bad luck; a superstition against bragging (excessive pride)

Pg 149 **ascension** – Lily's rise (ascension) in her family's eyes

Pg 149 **MIT** – Massachusetts Institute of Technology, considered the top science and technology university in the US

Pg 149 **credentials** – qualifications, awards, etc.

Pg 149 **progeny** – children

Pg 150 **Borders** – a book store

Pg 150 **38** – bus or subway or other mass transit

Pg 150 **flitted** – flew, danced

Pg 151 **projecting my own gloom** – transferring her own sadness onto Mark

Pg 151 **Tin Man** – a fictional character from the Wizard of Oz made entirely of tin/aluminum

Pg 151 **paraphernalia** – stuff

Pg 151 **go ballistic** – become crazy or hysterical

Pg 151 **schlepping** – driving (could also refer to carrying)

Pg 151 **nagged** – bothered, bugged, annoyed

Pg 152 **shouting matches** – arguing loudly (as if shouting were a game or match)

Pg 152 **retaliated** – got back at someone

Pg 152 **cutting class** – not going to class

Pg 152 **cliché** – an overused phrase or word, making it almost meaningless

Pg 152 **bottlebrushes** – plants/bushes

Pg 153 **screeching** – screaming

Pg 153 **pterodactyl** – flying dinosaur

Pg 153 **Down syndrome** – a birth disorder causing severe physical and mental challenges

Pg 153 **trills** – a musical term

Pg 153 **proprietary** – like he owned Lily

Pg 153 **grudge** – bad feeling

Pg 153 **fancied** – liked

Pg 154 **incensed** – angry

Pg 154 **corroborated** – confirmed

Pg 154 **go-go glasses** – a word from the 1960's meaning chic in a party-girl kind of way

Pg 154 **stiletto heels** – very high heels

Pg 154 **skipped class** – missed class on purpose

Pg 154 **suitors** – men who were interested in dating Uma's mother

Pg 155 **query** – question

Pg 155 **use the facilities** – use the bathroom

Pg 155 **cripple** – someone with a physical disability (not a kind word)

Pg 155 **belligerent** – hostile and aggressive

Pg 155 **dozing** – sleeping

Pg 156 **acting up** – becoming worse

Pg 157 **plot** – plan

Pg 157 **fixing prices** – setting (or determining) prices

Pg 157 **do the books** – do the accounting (numbers)

Pg 157 **put any money down** – make a deposit or down payment on buying the business

Pg 158 **equanimous** – even-tempered, calm

Pg 158 **mantra** - a word or simple phrase repeated over and over again

Pg 158 **constipation** – a feeling that you have to go to the bathroom, but can't

Pg 158 **knotted** – cramped, felt tense

Pg 159 **amphibian croak** – like a frog

Pg 159 **fetchd** – got

Pg 159 **shawl** – a knitted piece of cloth that wraps around the shoulders

Pg 159 **motley wear** – inexpensive/unmatched clothing

Pg 159 **mausoleum** – a burial place for the deceased person's ashes

Pg 159 **chafe** – rub

Pg 159 **founded** – dwindled, decreased almost to a stop

Chapter 13 (pages 161-173)

Pg 161 **spoiled** – children who are over-indulged

Pg 161 **sharpest** – smartest (in this case)

Pg 161 **assiduously** – carefully, diligently

Pg 161 **mediocre** – average

Pg 162 **pay off** – be successful, make them happy about their investment in him

Pg 162 **dangle** – hold in the air in front of someone; to tempt someone

Pg 162 **dowry** – money or valuables that a woman brings into her marriage for her husband's family

Pg 162 **bangles** – jewelry

Pg 162 **people in high places** – important people with jobs at the top of their companies

Pg 162 **fancied** – thought of

Pg 162 **congregated** – gathered

Pg 163 **countenance** – face

Pg 163 **posh** – lavish, chic, expensive-looking

Pg 163 **sinfully expensive** – very expensive

Pg 163 **my treat** – I'm buying (my gift to you)

Pg 163 **wooded** – to charm (romantically)

Pg 163 **chink in his armor** – weakness

Pg 163 **grilling** – questioning

Pg 164 **jovially** – happily

Pg 164 **Jekyllian** – a complete personality change (refers to fictional characters Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde)

Pg 164 **snub** – ignore

Pg 164 **scandalously expensive** – very expensive

Pg 164 **trust** – money set aside by her parents for her

Pg 165 **deference** – respect

Pg 165 **backwater** – backwards, old-fashioned

Pg 165 **made it up** – got back together, apologized and were happy again

Pg 165 **rift** – split, break

Pg 165 **beholden** – in debt (how much I owed to her)

Pg 165 **string-pulling** – using one's power and influence to get favors (in this case, to get Mangalam a job)

Pg 166 **decreed** – said, as in an order or a law

Pg 166 **break down** – cry more

Pg 166 **pouring out** – telling her (pouring the thoughts out of my head)

Pg 166 **frayed** – torn

Pg 167 **hostel** – an inexpensive hotel

Pg 167 **the universe** – fate

Pg 168 **conflagration** – a large fire

Pg 168 **stalked** – walked stiffly

Pg 168 **bad-mouthing** – speaking unkindly about

Pg 168 **physical relations** – sex

Pg 168 **shot me** – gave me

Pg 168 **at liberty** – allowed

Pg 169 **warrant** – an official order to arrest someone

Pg 169 **embezzled** – stealing money indirectly through illegal accounting

Pg 169 **privy to** – in the know about

Pg 169 **niceties** – small talk; meaningless

Pg 169 **high-up** – someone at a high level in the organization

Pg 169 **make amends** – say you're sorry; make things right again

Pg 170 **baksheesh** – a bribe

Pg 170 **changed hands** – was paid

Pg 170 **embroil** – engage

Pg 170 **laughingstock** – someone everyone laughs at

Pg 171 **thug** – a large, violent, mean man

Pg 171 **another dimension** – a dream-like state

Pg 171 **pincers** – claws that pinch

Pg 171 **crocodile** – a running and tagging game children play

Pg 172 **cow-dung** – cow poop

Pg 172 **bleats** – makes a sound

Pg 172 **pump** – refers to an outdoor water pump

Pg 172 **flecks** – small pieces

Pg 172 **coat** – cover

Pg 173 **snare** – trap

Pg 173 **grimace** – frown

Pg 173 **jab** – poke

Pg 173 **prolonged fit** – a long period of coughing

Chapter 14 (pages 175-188)

Pg 175 **Sub-Zero** – an expensive brand of refrigerator

Pg 176 **tidy the house** – clean the house

Pg 176 **English trifle** – a cake and custard dessert with fruit

Pg 176 **irked** – irritated

Pg 177 **equanimity** – calm

Pg 176 **greens** – green leafy vegetables like lettuce, kale, spinach

Pg 176 **bourgeois** – upper class, materialistic

Pg 176 **people watch** – to watch people as they come and go, doing their business

Pg 176 **age spots** – discolorations on the skin caused by aging (and sun exposure)

Pg 176 **Coke-bottle glasses** – very thick glasses

Pg 176 **quadruped** – a cane with four (quad) legs for added stability

Pg 177 **gravely** – seriously

Pg 177 **dawdles** – wastes time; moves slowly

Pg 177 **swoon** – in this case it means the men loved her trifle

Pg 177 **clamor** – ask excitedly

Pg 177 **monogrammed** – engraved with her initials

Pg 177 **harbored** – held, kept safe

Pg 178 **sarcophagus** – a type of Egyptian coffin (box for dead people)

Pg 178 **pressed sheets** – sheets (cloth on the bed) that have been ironed

Pg 178 **stomach pumped** – an unpleasant medical procedure that removes the contents of the stomach

Pg 178 **adroitly** – expertly

Pg 179 **maitre d** – French for the head waiter (almost like a manager) in a restaurant

Pg 179 **sci-fi** – short for science fiction

Pg 179 **gore** – blood and guts

Pg 180 **social worker** – someone who helps people with their relationships, school, etc.

Pg 180 **IV needles** – short for intravenous needles. (Usually in the hand, they transport medicine into the patient)

Pg 180 **silhouette** – a shadow, no details are visible

Pg 180 **pretense** – pretending

Pg 180 **shucking** – discarding

Pg 181 **captivated** – in love with

Pg 181 **bane of your existence** – an enormous difficulty in someone's life

Pg 181 **Formica** – a brand name for a type of countertop material

Pg 181 **proposed** – asked her to marry him

Pg 182 **secondhand** – used

Pg 182 **asking Vivienne out** – asking Vivienne for a date

Pg 182 **tantrum-throwing** – to become very angry and throw oneself on the ground

Pg 182 **follow the yellow brick road** – a reference to the book/movie *The Wizard of Oz*, where the main character, Dorothy, is told to follow a yellow brick road to find a magical city

Pg 182 **Tulsa** – a city in Oklahoma

Pg 183 **Debbie's fallen face** – Debbie's face looks unhappy (her smile has fallen off her face)

Pg 183 **maid of honor** – the most important female the bride selects to be in the wedding

Pg 183 **happily-ever-after** – describes the ending of a story where everyone lives happily forever (often by getting married)

Pg 183 **miniscule** – tiny

Pg 183 **spool** – go on and on

Pg 183 **palmistry** – the art of knowing about a person by looking at their hands (palms)

Pg 185 **vitals** – short for vital signs, things like heart rate, pulse, breathing, etc.

Pg 185 **pursed** – puckered

Pg 185 **delusional** – not understanding reality

Pg 185 **lethargy** – tiredness, fatigue

Pg 185 **malaise** – sickness

Pg 185 **cavities** – holes, emptiness (normally this word refers to the teeth)

Pg 185 **bags of worry under his eyes** – puffiness under the eyes

Pg 186 **primal** – basic

Pg 186 **impeded** – challenged

Pg 187 **subterranean** – below the earth (or, in this case, subconscious)

Pg 187 **malevolent** – mean, sinister

Pg 187 **quake** – short for earthquake

Pg 187 **head bowed** – looking down

Pg 188 **trained . . . on** – pointed (the flashlight) at

Pg 188 **procrastination** – delaying doing something until a later time

Chapter 15 (pages 189-200)

Pg 189 **as such** – as a holy man

Pg 189 **beatific** – shining, radiant

Pg 189 **Muni** – short for municipal (city) bus

Pg 189 **hospice** – a place where people are lovingly cared for when they are near death

Pg 189 **nondescript** – ordinary

Pg 189 **grills** – iron bars (for protection)

Pg 189 **passed out** – unconscious (probably from drinking too much alcohol)

Pg 189 **Dealers** – illegal drug dealers

Pg 190 **piss** – urine

Pg 190 **hissed** – a sound like a snake

Pg 190 **You already decided . . .** these are words spoken in a slang dialect. Here is the translation:

You have already decided that you are going to leave, so you can't see anything good even if it (something good) were to hit you in the face.

Pg 190 **scab** – the body's natural hard covering over a wound

Pg 190 **making out** – kissing for a long time

Pb 190 **nostalgic** – thinking about things in the past

Pg 190 **behind him** – in the past

Pg 191 **snag** – get

Pg 191 **patronizing** – belittling, treating him like a child

Pg 191 **prestidigitator** – magician

Pg 191 **say something cutting** – say something that would insult, offend, or hurt

Pg 191 **ridicule** – make fun of

Pg 191 **aimin' above your station** – aiming for something beyond your abilities or your class

Pg 191 **blindsided by infatuation** – taken by surprise by his romantic interest

Pg 191 **nappy** – fuzzy (a term generally only used to describe African American hair)

Pg 192 **chatter** – talk

Pg 192 **stocker** – someone who opens boxes and puts items on the shelves

Pg 192 **shift** – working hours

Pg 192 **Chevy** – short for Chevrolet (a car brand)

Pg 192 **groping** – feeling each other's bodies

Pg 192 **she initiated him** – she introduced him

Pg 192 **oleanders . . . orioles** – flowers and birds, respectively

Pg 192 **strained** – difficult, tense

Pg 192 **we be saving up some** – we could be saving up some money

Pg 193 **flinched** – a sudden, small, involuntary movement

Pg 193 **reproach** – criticism

Pg 193 **invoke** – remember, recite

Pg 193 **obeah woman** – magical woman (in Jamaica)

Pg 193 **garrulity** – talkative

Pg 193 **Oreo** – a brand of cookie with chocolate on the outside and a white frosting in the middle. This is a negative term Black people use to describe Blacks who act like, or join, Whites.

Pg 193 **snigger** – laugh in a mean way

Pg 193 **the last straw** – the final thing that a person can tolerate in a situation

Pg 193 **ghetto** – a poor area of a city

Pg 193 **abortion** – medically ending a pregnancy and ending the baby's life

Pg 193 **wringing her hands** – grasping her hands nervously

Pg 194 **voodoo** – a type of magic intended to make bad things happen to people

Pg 194 **you be ending with ashes in your mouth** – you'll end up in a bad situation

Pg 194 **trepidation** – fear

Pg 194 **reminiscing** – remembering, thinking back in time

Pg 194 **exhaust-laden** – air that is heavy/thick with the fumes (exhaust) from cars

Pg 194 **interminable** – unending, slow

Pg 194 **lavendar . . . daylilies** – flowers

Pg 195 **curt** – short

Pg 195 **frisson** – thrill, fear

Pg 195 **sweet alysum** – flower

Pg 195 **lay . . . priest** – not official

Pg 195 **twinge** – a tiny amount

Pg 196 **kept him on** – kept him on the team

Pg 196 **touchiness** – very emotional, easily hurt

Pg 196 **plummeted** – sank; went down

Pg 197 **tended to impatience** – was impatient (his personality leaned toward impatience)

Pg 197 **took it hard** – things upset him very much; he took things personally

Pg 197 **soup kitchens** – places that give out free food to homeless people

Pg 197 **deployment** – military term meaning “to be sent to”

Pg 197 **apathetically** – without concern or much thought

Pg 198 **expiate** – to make up for; make amends

Pg 198 **metta** – love, goodwill

Pg 198 **buoyed** – uplifted

Pg 198 **child trafficking** – selling children as slaves

Pg 198 **scrawny** – small, skinny

Pg 198 **frock** – a simple dress

Pg 199 **background check** – looking for a person's history of arrests and other police involvement. This is very common for many professions.

Pg 199 **pored over** – look at intensely

Pg 199 **scrawlings** – writing, but not very neat

Pg 199 **deciphered** – translated, helped Cameron determine the meaning of

Pg 199 **a mind of her own** – is an independent thinker

Pg 199 **P.T. class** – gym (exercise) In the U.S., it's usually P.E. class, for Physical Education

Pg 200 **leave from work** – time off from work

Pg 200 **stay on** – continue living there; stay at the same place

Chapter 16 (pages 201-220)

Pg 201 **aftershock** – smaller earthquakes following a major earthquake

Pg 201 **doorjamb**s – the wooden trim around a door (the top and sides)

Pg 201 **duck under** – go under, dip her head in order to go under Mr. P's arm

Pg 202 **peering** – looking

Pg 202 **fetal position** – laying on his side with his knees close to his chest (like a baby/fetus inside its mother)

Pg 202 **reproachless** – lacking disapproval

Pg 202 **Mnemosyne** – Greek goddess of memory

Pg 202 **wheezing** – difficult breathing, lots of congestion

Pg 202 **blanched** – pale

Pg 202 **platitudinous** – words used so often they lose their meaning

Pg 202 **stubbled** – refers to the stiff hairs that grow on a man's face if he doesn't shave. This is called “stubble.”

Pg 203 **flushed** – pink (flush with blood)

Pg 203 **prop** – sit, in a supported way

Pg 203 **filial perfidies** – her untrustworthiness (perfidies) as a daughter (filial)

Pg 203 **cringed** – bend one’s head or body in fear; fearful body language

Pg 203 **elation** – extreme happiness

Pg 204 **cupped their hands** – to bend the hands into the shape of a cup

Pg 204 **clangings** – harsh, loud noises

Pg 204 **craning** – stretching his neck out as far as he can (to see better or farther)

Pg 204 **figure out** – understand

Pg 204 **perish** – die

Pg 204 **gingerly** – carefully

Pg 205 **give me a hand** – help me

Pg 205 **retch** – vomit, or make a vomiting noise

Pg 205 **heaves** – big, deep breaths

Pg 205 **Cameron’s decline** – his worsening health

Pg 205 **fetch** – get

Pg 205 **rallied** – encouraged

Pg 206 **makeshift** – not real, a temporary substitute for something

Pg 206 **Stygian chorus** – choir (no idea what Stygian is)

Pg 206 **sobbed** – cried

Pg 206 **cosmic joke** – a joke played by the universe or fate

Pg 206 **desultory** – unfocused, without thought

Pg 206 **conjunction** – magic

Pg 206 **perk them up** – make them happier

Pg 206 **tyrannical** – cruel, oppressive

Pg 207 **strike out** – move out, begin

Pg 207 **brag** – boast, be proud of

Pg 207 **took my absence hard** – it was very hard for her

Pg 207 **made-from-scratch** – homemade

Pg 207 **dissolve into tears** – start crying

Pg 207 **admonished** – told her in a disapproving way

Pg 207 **pull herself together** – get her emotions under control

Pg 207 **monosyllabic** – one syllable (like “yes” and “no”)

Pg 207 **prospective** – future

Pg 207 **remonstrated** – to protest forcefully

Pg 207 **suavity** – his ability to be suave (charming)

Pg 207 **foliage** – plants

Pg 207 **innocuous** – innocent

Pg 208 **settled down** – gotten used to, become comfortable in

Pg 208 **queries** – questions

Pg 208 **gerund** – choice of words (pronounced jer-und)

Pg 208 **skim** – move quickly over the top of something, not too deep

Pg 209 **metaphysical** – dealing with big life questions

Pg 209 **rhetorical** – a questions that answers itself (is not intended to be answered)

Pg 209 **the blow** – the pain (like a physical blow or hit to her body)

Pg 209 **deep down** – deep inside her (heart or mind)

Pg 210 **eyeing** – looking at

Pg 210 **decadent** – full of luxury

Pg 210 **ennui** – French for boredom or lack of excitement

Pg 210 **patrician** – nobleman

Pg 210 **kickboxing** – an exercise class

Pg 210 **fortified** – strengthened

Pg 210 **termed seedy** – called low-class (maybe even dangerous)

Pg 210 **exorcise** – remove

Pg 210 **waif-thin** – very, very thin

Pg 210 **leotard** – the stretchy fabric clothing worn by gymnasts

Pg 210 **gamine** – mischievous or boyish

Pg 210 **regaled** – entertained me with

Pg 210 **treacheries** – problems

Pg 210 **on the verge of** – about to, almost going to do something

Pg 210 **frenetic** – fast and energetic

Pg 210 **dumped** – broke up with (is no longer dating)

Pg 210 **SOB** – Son Of a Bitch (a swear word/term)

Pg 210 **drenched** – wet

Pg 211 **set me up with** – get me, provide me with

Pg 211 **No shit!** – No way! I can't believe it!

Pg 211 **hit the road** – leave, go

Pg 211 **illicit** – forbidden

Pg 211 **akin** – like

Pg 211 **well-executed** – well-done

Pg 211 **dozed off** – slept

Pg 211 **carry-on suitcase** – a small suitcase that can be carried onto an airplane with the passenger

Pg 211 **pang** – strong feeling, usually sad or negative

Pg 211 **batik** – a fabric art form

Pg 211 **small bills** – currency that is small in amount (like 1's, 5's, 10's, and 20's, but not 100's)

Pg 211 **glove compartment** – in a car, it's the small cabinet in front of the passenger seat (most people keep maps and the car's manual in there)

Pg 211 **ramshackle** – run down

Pg 211 **mimosa** – tree

Pg 211 **dozing** – sleeping

Pg 212 **scoured** – looked very hard for

Pg 212 **dab** – very small amount

Pg 212 **stoic-impatience** – enduring his impatience without showing his feelings

Pg 212 **rapping** – knocking

Pg 212 **berated** – criticized

Pg 212 **miser** – a person who doesn't like to spend (or give) money

Pg 212 **spring for** – pay for

Pg 212 **glinted** – reflected, shone

Pg 212 **fetch** – get

Pg 212 **necks of two bottles** – the long narrow part of a bottle just below the opening

Pg 213 **Styrofoam** – a type of plastic used often for cups and carry out containers

Pg 213 **red light** – a traffic light

Pg 213 **duffel bag** – fabric suitcase-like bag

Pg 213 **punk hair** – spiked, purple, common on teenagers

Pg 213 **sported** – wore

Pg 213 **emaciated** – thin, under-nourished

Pg 213 **complicity** – cooperation, working together

Pg 213 **dumped** – left, abandoned

Pg 213 **slit** – cut (as with a sharp knife)

Pg 213 **honking** – making angry noises with their car horns

Pg 213 **seven and sevens** – an alcoholic drink consisting of 7-Up and Seagram's 7 whiskey

Pg 213 **buzz** – a feeling of intoxication or drunkenness (from the alcohol)

Pg 214 **intermittent** – stopping and starting, discontinuous

Pg 214 **"Toto, I don't think . . ."** – a reference to *The Wizard of Oz*

Pg 214 **Cheetos** – a chip-like snack

Pg 214 **Seagrams** – a brand of whiskey

Pg 214 **carnal** – sexual

Pg 214 **gash** – cut

Pg 214 **weld** – glue, join

Pg 214 **use the facilities** – go to the bathroom

Pg 214 **joints** – marijuana

Pg 214 **drags** – a deep inhalation (like with a cigarette)

Pg 215 **pulsating** – beating in a rhythm, sparkling

Pg 215 **kaleidoscope** – like a small telescope, with colored glass or cut glass at one end which makes everything look very colorful, but unrecognizable

Pg 215 **effing** – f-ing (pronounced “effing”)

Pg 215 **aurora borealis** – green and pink lights seen in the night sky of the north

Pg 215 **sublimely plausible** – awesomely possible

Pg 215 **amorous** – in a loving mood

Pg 216 **dew** – a wetness on the ground caused by the cool temperatures of nighttime

Pg 216 **askew** – not straight

Pg 216 **dispatched** – sent

Pg 216 **tackle** – fight

Pg 216 **remonstrance** – protest

Pg 216 **eqanimity** – peace, calm

Pg 217 **demeanor** – attitude

Pg 217 **ado** – wait (pronounced ah-doo)

Pg 217 **surmised** – figured out, understood

Pg 217 **brink** – edge, like on a cliff

Pg 217 **lobbed** – threw

Pg 217 **oblige** – honor, do what he wanted

Pg 217 **absurdity** – ridiculousness

Pg 218 **monosyllabic** – words containing only one syllable (like yes and no)

Pg 218 **status quo** – Latin for “the current conditions of life” or “the existing state of affairs)

Pg 218 **thus** – therefore

Pg 218 **oblivious** – unseeing, unaware

Pg 218 **illicitly** – immorally, wrongly

Pg 218 **yanked** – torn, ripped

Pg 218 **oozing** – seeping, leaking

Pg 218 **indiscriminately** – random, unselective, haphazard

Pg 219 **resurrected** – made new again

Pg 219 **sandpaper** – heavy paper covered in sand, used to make wood smooth

Pg 219 **stoned** – high on marijuana

Pg 219 **smashed** – high, drunk

Pg 220 **SOBs** – Sons of Bitches (a negative term for someone)

Pg 220 **mess with my head** – interfere with my thinking

Pg 220 **screwed up** – messed up, made mistakes with

Pg 220 **surreal** – unreal in a magical, mystical way

