

Three meanings (bonhomie, glacial and hearth) are Angela's own words. The chilblained meaning is hers with a first sentence added by Quinn. The rest are standard definitions chosen by the team. Angela checks them before the bus goes live.

Winter words

Each card shows a word and how it is labelled: formal, everyday, literary or British English.

Under it are its meaning and Angela's sentence.

Then you see the piece it comes from and who wrote the meaning.

Try it: Use this word in a sentence of your own.

aeons (British English)

Extremely long periods of time. Spelt “eons” in the US.

“For sunset and stars breath aeons air with a perspective of immortal care.”

Winter sunset page (the season book), first description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

aloof (everyday)

Distant and cool in manner; not friendly or keen to join in with others.

“It was far better to appear aloof from afar, cool, detached and decidedly casual.”

Winter sunset page (the season book), second description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

arboreal (formal)

Relating to trees, or living in trees.

“Even as the frost layers as moss, as ice-armour plates cover earth, they stand in supreme arboreal self-worth.”

Winter trees page (the season book), first description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026, spelling made UK

Spelling made UK: ice-armor to ice-armour.

Meaning written by Quinn

blanches (everyday)

Turns pale or loses its colour. (Cooks also use “blanch” to mean dip food briefly in boiling water.)

“The marram grass blanches as salt wind is stuck on repeat.”

Winter page (the season book), first use of ApplePipStars

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

bonhomie (formal)

Say it: /'bänəmə/

A cheerful, friendly and good-natured disposition, or a warm feeling of friendliness among a group of people.

“A bonhomie of snowy-cloud chattered its cargo upon the sleepy country town.”

Winter page (the season book),

December 4, 2025

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Angela

Ages 7 to 11 use this piece with its last line left off for schools. This sentence is not the last line.

chilblained (everyday)

A chilblain is a painful, itchy red swelling of the skin caused by cold. We use it when cold weather is enough to feel like a burn or redden the skin.

“Moonlight as a maternal hand soothed the shock of chilblained land.”

*Winter page (the season book),
December 4, 2025*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, pasted 22 October
2026*

*Meaning written by Angela, with the first
sentence added by Quinn*

*Ages 7 to 11 use this piece with its last
line left off for schools. This sentence is
not the last line.*

constellations (everyday)

Groups of stars that make a pattern and have a name.

“Sunset or sunrise, the constellations are constant.”

Winter sunset page (the season book), first description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

cosset (everyday)

To look after and protect someone or something with great care and kindness; to pamper.

“For they light up the Heavens and cosset the Earth.”

Winter sunset page (the season book), first description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

feigned (everyday)

Pretended; not real.

“So, rascal raspberries blew with threads of pumpkin and heather petals too. Until the twilight took over with equal feigned disdain.”

Winter sunset page (the season book), second description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

gentility (everyday)

Polite, respectable good manners. It can also mean belonging to a high social class.

“Gentility was given in a generous dose, and all for the sake of the wildest rose.”

Mild winter page (the season book), fourth description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

glacial (everyday)

Say it: /'glāSH(ə)l/

Relating to, caused by or produced by glaciers or ice. It can also mean extremely cold, cold and unfriendly (a glacial stare), or extremely slow (a glacial pace).

“Glacial clouds coast a wintry sky,
where cold air meets colder and cruises
higher.”

*Cold winter page (the season book),
first piece*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, pasted 22 October
2026*

Meaning written by Angela

*Ages 7 to 11 use this piece with its last
line left off for schools. This sentence is
not the last line.*

glade (literary)

An open, grassy space without trees in a wood or forest.

“All around the woodland and glade stirred, the silent announcement loudly heard.”

Winter to spring page (the season book)

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

hearth (everyday)

Say it: /härTH/

The brick, stone or concrete floor of a fireplace and the non-combustible area immediately extending into the room. In everyday speech, the fireplace itself.

“Hearth fires roared. Music elevated. Souls found the merriest season's salvation. Secluded sanctuary. Smiles as gentle faeries.”

*Winter page (the season book),
December 4, 2025*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, her own pasted copy,
spelling 'faeries' chosen by Angela on
purpose (22 October 2026)*

*Angela chose the spelling 'faeries' on
purpose, which is her own pasted copy.
The live winter page (4 December
2025) spells it 'fairies'. The passage
ends at 'faeries.', harsh last sentence
left off.*

Meaning written by Angela

*Ages 7 to 11 use this piece with its last
line left off for schools. This passage is
not the last line.*

indignantly (everyday)

In a way that shows you are shocked and angry because something seems unfair.

“Twigs rustled indignantly even as they granted birds shelter, even as they rerouted rude winds down their helter-skelter.”

*Winter trees page (the season book),
second description*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, pasted 22 October
2026*

Meaning written by Quinn

loam (everyday)

Rich, dark soil made of sand, clay and rotted plant matter, good for growing things.

“As a delinquent anti-ghost it roamed to happily haunt the frosty loam and send white wisps of vapour skyward.”

Winter to spring page (the season book)

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026, spelling made UK

Spelling made UK: wisps to wisps; vapor to vapour.

Meaning written by Quinn

resolute (formal)

Firm and determined; not giving up or changing your mind.

“Evergreen trees stand resolute in crystalline cloaks, deep rooted beneath the white dunes of sunlight smoke.”

*Cold winter page (the season book),
second piece (Evergreen)*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, pasted 22 October
2026*

Meaning written by Quinn

*Ages 7 to 11 use this piece with its last
line left off for schools. This sentence is
not the last line.*

resplendent (formal)

Looking brilliant and splendid; bright and impressive to see.

“The trees were resplendent in white cloaks amid patches of sunlight-smoke, curling as my breath with a song of its own.”

Winter wonderland page (the season book), first description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

ruddy (everyday)

Red or reddish in colour, often in a healthy, warm way.

“It blazed so merry, those hearth-some lights, bringing a ruddy glow to the frost bitten streets.”

Winter sunset page (the season book), second description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

serenaded (everyday)

Sang or played music for someone, traditionally outdoors in the evening.

“The winter sunset serenaded the stars, calling upon far those away hearths.”

Winter sunset page (the season book), first description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

sleight of hand (everyday)

Quick, clever movements of the hands, used to do magic tricks. It can also mean a skilful way of tricking someone.

“Doubtless Winter felt its storm was mighty grand, yet in conclusion the trees found it a cheap sleight of hand.”

Winter trees page (the season book), second description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026, typo fixed

Spelling made UK: slight of hand to sleight of hand (typo).

Meaning written by Quinn

wayfarer (everyday)

A traveller, especially someone who journeys on foot.

“How the sights delight the weariest wayfarer.”

Winter wonderland page (the season book), third description

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, pasted 22 October 2026

Meaning written by Quinn

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