

Every meaning in this set was written by Quinn, the team's word-chooser, after reading a dictionary page for the word. Angela checks them before the bus goes live. Every sentence is hers, word for word.

Mood and home words

Each card shows a word and how it is labelled: formal or everyday.

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.

armchairs (everyday)

Say it: /'ɑ:mtʃɛəz/

Comfortable chairs with sides to rest your arms on.

“Ample armchairs were spun of sea foam thread, sparkling defiantly to any chancing dread!”

A Garden Room page (More from the shelf), piece 1

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 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.

birdsong (everyday)

Say it: /'bɜːdsɒŋ/

The singing calls of birds; the musical sounds that birds make.

“Birdsong arrived as kite-strings.”

*Kettle page (the Mood Book line),
Example Eight*

*On the bus: This Kettle Wants to
Explore! To Climb Mountains and More!
(Example Eight)*

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

cherished (everyday)

Say it: /'tʃerɪʃt/

Loved, cared for and held very dear.

“In this home of cherished walls, walls that hug in their all-squared way, we flow in the pulse of daily living.”

*House & Home page (More from the
shelf), piece 1 (Homes as well loved)*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

coddle (everyday)

Say it: /'kɒdəl/

To treat someone or something gently and with great care.

“The chattering brook did coddle the wild roses with tales of merriment.”

*Roses page (the Mood Book line),
Example Two*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

confidants (formal)

Say it: /'kɒnfɪdənts/

People you trust with your secrets and private thoughts.

“Holly trees and robins remained all year long as garrulous companions and gentle confidants.”

*A Garden Room page (More from the
shelf), piece 2*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

daffodils (everyday)

Say it: /'dæfədɪlz/

Spring flowers with yellow or white trumpet-shaped blooms.

“A smile of daffodils curved around the old house as it basked in spring light.”

Old House & Home page (More from the shelf), piece 2

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

dwelling (formal)

Say it: /'dwɛlɪŋ/

A place where someone lives; a home.

“So one day, backpack snug to my shoulders, I made the climb with fullest-heart. Then there it was, a humble concrete dwelling, white painted, cherry window sills and blackest asphalt door.”

Old House & Home page (More from the shelf), piece 1

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

empathy (everyday)

Say it: /'empəθi/

The ability to understand and share how someone else feels.

“Angels emotionally flood you see,
because they take the pain of empathy,
they hold that rope made of shards as
their duty to love, to kith and kin.”

*Emotions page (More from the shelf),
piece 4*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

*This sentence comes from a sad-mood
piece about tears and pain, so it suits
the older groups only.*

For ages: 11 to 14, 14 and over.

fortitude (formal)

Say it: /'fɔ:tɪtju:d/

Strength of mind that lets you keep going bravely through trouble.

“Ne'er once 'twas it in deficient hearty radiance. If love is a rose, the iron rose is protective love, defence and noble fortitude.”

Positive Emotions page (More from the shelf), piece 10

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

This is the last line of a piece read with the last line left off for ages 7 to 11, so it suits the older groups only.

For ages: 11 to 14, 14 and over.

humility (everyday)

Say it: /hju:'mɪlɪti/

Being humble; not thinking you are better than other people.

“To stand with tears a-flow is a courage the scarless cannot measure, a stoic steadfast humility.”

Emotions page (More from the shelf), piece 4

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

This sentence comes from a sad-mood piece about tears and pain, so it suits the older groups only.

For ages: 11 to 14, 14 and over.

jollity (formal)

Say it: /'dʒɒlɪti/

Cheerfulness and merry fun.

“Air was aromatic laughter. Light was warmest jollity.”

*Water page (the Mood Book line),
Example Two*

Not yet on the bus

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

lullaby (everyday)

Say it: /'lʌləbaɪ/

A soft, gentle song sung to help a child fall asleep.

“The light was a lullaby.”

*Spring Street story starter page (Spring
Street and Spring Ring), KS1 story
starter*

*On the bus: Spring Street story starter
(KS1)*

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

marrow (everyday)

Say it: /'mærəʊ/

The soft substance inside bones. Used as here, right to your marrow means right into your deepest self.

“Let the breeze speak of birthday cake icing and the dogs bounce in helicopter-wag. For when you come, my baby love, when we are together, there is happiness right to my marrow.”

Positive Emotions page (More from the shelf), piece 1

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

melancholy (formal)

Say it: /'mɛlənkeɪli/

A deep, quiet sadness, often thoughtful, as when the mind broods.

“Melancholy is Winter’s cloak, woven of cold-spun cloud.”

Emotions page (More from the shelf), piece 3

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

This sentence comes from a gloomy sad-mood piece, so it suits the older groups only.

For ages: 11 to 14, 14 and over.

mirth (everyday)

Say it: /mɜːθ/

Merriment and laughter; the feeling that makes you laugh.

“A dawn of mirth and merriment announces that happiness hath come.”

Clocks page (the Mood Book line),

Example Six

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source

library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

nostalgia (everyday)

Say it: /nɒˈstældʒə/

A warm, bittersweet longing for happy times in the past.

“Sebastian had had the floor polished, the curtains made anew and the walls painted... yet still it remained, giving treasured mind-photographs, the best kind of life-nostalgia.”

House & Home page (More from the shelf), piece 3 (Nostalgia in a Home)

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 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.

pensive (formal)

Say it: /'pɛnsɪv/

Quietly thoughtful, often with a serious or dreamy mood.

“It lingered, tarried long as misty-fog, as if the concept of making haste was quite alien to its mode of thought. For both sights and aromas it was a blank canvas I suppose, one that invited the imagination to bring its easel and stand, to awaken creativity from its pensive slumbers.”

*Rain page (the Mood Book line),
Example Three*

*On the bus: How Rain Romances
Mischiefs Soul (Example Three)*

*Angela's original, from the source
library (live page, read 22 October
2026)*

Meaning written by Quinn

quilt (everyday)

Say it: /kwɪlt/

A warm bed covering made of two layers of cloth stitched together with soft padding between them.

“Let my love be your quilt, each square a sweet pocket of memory.”

Positive Emotions page (More from the shelf), piece 2

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

Meaning written by Quinn

sanctuary (everyday)

Say it: /'sæŋktjuəri/

A safe place that gives shelter and protection; a refuge.

“This book was her shangri-la, her doorway into a world made of laughter. In those times of trouble, that book had become her sanctuary and friend.”

An Old Book page (More from the shelf), piece 1 (Happy mood)

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 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.

wonder (everyday)

Say it: /ˈwʌndə/

A feeling of amazement and delight at something beautiful or new.

“There was something so transporting in the expanse of that idle post-noon: a dream, a wish most pleasant, a sauntering sense of wonder.”

Butterflies page (the Mood Book line), piece 1

Not yet on the bus

Angela's original, from the source library (live page, read 22 October 2026)

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