



The Night Diary

Mini Spelling Bee



We believe that great readers make great spellers, and that encountering words in stories helps you master their spellings and definitions. We've put together a list of some of our favorite words from this month's Bee's Bookshelf selection, *The Night Diary*, to help you host your own mini spelling bee at your next book club meeting.

1. prosperous PRAHS-per-us

This word went from Latin-derived French to English.

adjective

Definition: attended with or marked by good fortune : successful, thriving.

Example from the book: *Normally on our birthday he only gives me the jewelry and we do puja at our temple and offer the gods handfuls of leaves and sweets for a **prosperous** year.*

2. independence in-dih-PEN-duns

Originally Latin, this word went through French before becoming English.

noun

Definition: the quality or state of being not subject to control by others.

Example from the book: *Maybe this is what those in charge really thought of us, India's people, when this decision was made. I ask myself again what this has to do with **independence**?*

3. partition par-TIH-shun

This word went from Latin to French before becoming English.

noun

Definition: the action of dividing an area forming a single governmental unit into two or more areas under separate authorities.

Example from the book: *Papa says it was a group decision between Lord Mountbatten for the British, Jinnah for the Muslims, and Nehru for everyone else. They all agreed to the **partition**.*

4. turmeric TUR-mur-ik

This word is a modification of an originally Latin-derived French word.

noun

Definition: the cleaned, boiled, sun-dried and usually pulverized rhizome of an East Indian perennial herb used as a coloring agent or condiment.

Example from the book: *We watched as he fried the onion in a big pan and sprinkled in some mustard seed, garlic, salt, cumin, **turmeric**, and chopped ginger.*

5. ostracized AHS-truh-saizd

This word is from Greek.

verb

Definition: banished from society : excluded from a group.

Example from the book: *When they first came here, they were **ostracized** from the community, even though all kinds of people get along here.*

6. appreciative uh-PREESH-uh-tiv

This word is from Latin.

adjective

Definition: having or showing an expression of gratification and approval, of gratitude.

Example from the book: *I don't ask many questions, so it would be fairer if he answered the few I ask. He should be more **appreciative**.*

7. sitar sih-TAHR

This word is from an originally Persian word that passed through Hindi.

noun

Definition: a Hindu lute with a long broad neck and a varying number of strings.

Example from the book: *One boy played the **sitar**, one played a tabla. Another played a bansuri.*

8. bangles BANG-gul

This word is from Hindi.

plural noun

Definition: stiff usually ornamental bracelets or anklets slipped or clasped on.

Example from the book: *I looked into their busy, glittery eyes as they spoke, wrists jingling with **bangles**.*

9. balmy BAHM-mee

The first part of this word went from Latin to French to English and the second part is an English combining form.

adjective

Definition: gentle in nature or behavior : not harsh.

Example from the book: *"I told Malli that we were leaving, and she didn't know. I thought everyone knew," I spoke into the **balmy** darkness.*

10. smoldering or smouldering SMOHL-dur-ing

This word is made up of two originally English parts.

adjective

Definition: showing scarcely suppressed or contained anger, hate, jealousy.

Example from the book: *But in the last few days, I could see an anger always behind his eyes, **smoldering**.*

No winner yet? Open your book and find some words of your own!