1. discreet **(dih-SKREET)** *adjective*; To be discreet is to be careful about what you say and do, making sure not to attract attention or let out any private information.

For example, Joe doesn’t want everyone to know he is auditioning for his first school play; it adds too much pressure. He tells only his friend Sara. Sara is careful not to mention the audition when other people are around and sends Joe private text messages of encouragement throughout the week. Sara is being discreet.

2. gaunt **(gawnt)** *adjective*; Someone who is gaunt is very thin and bony as a result of hunger, illness, or old age.

3. hubris **(HYOO-bris)** *noun*; Hubris is excessive pride and ambition. In other words, being too confident. Hubris might cause a top athlete to feel like they don’t have to practice as much as other players on the team. In Greek mythology, hubris is seen as a foolish and dangerous quality that often leads to a character’s ruin.

4. hulking **(HUHL-king)** *adjective*; Hulking means “very large or heavy.”

5. incur **(in-KUR)** *verb*; Incur means “to experience or receive as a result of one’s own behavior or actions” or “to bring down upon oneself.” In other words, incur means to have something unpleasant or unwelcome happen to you because of something you did. If you don’t turn in your library books on time, you might incur late fees. A hockey player might incur a one-minute penalty for a foul.

6. intricate **(IN-trih-kit)** *adjective*; Something that is intricate is very complicated or detailed. A car engine has an intricate design, with many parts that are connected in complex ways. A mystery novel with an intricate plot might be difficult to follow at first.
7. **opulent** *(OP-yuh-luhnt) adjective; Opulent* means “rich and luxurious.” Opulent things or places look grand and expensive. A throne made of gold and decorated with diamonds is opulent. A simple wooden stool is not opulent.

8. **wield** *(weeld) verb; Wield* means “to hold and be ready to use,” as in “The knight wielded his sword, ready to fight.” It can also mean “to control and use an item with competence,” as in, “Luke Skywalker wields a lightsaber with great skill.”

   *Wield* can also mean “to have and to use one’s power or influence,” as in “Despite Tara’s best efforts, her babysitter wielded his authority and made her go to bed.”

**Directions:** Below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the play or poem whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.
Vocabulary Practice

Into the Burning Sun

Directions: Underline the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

1. The **hulking/intricate** puzzle has more than 1,000 pieces.

2. Ava turned down her music so that she wouldn’t **incur/wield** her neighbor’s anger.

3. Cam reminded Haley to be **opulent/discreet** when handing out invitations to the surprise party.

4. The **intricate/opulent** theater has red velvet seats, crystal light fixtures, gold-plated walls, and angels in the sky painted on the ceiling.

5. The movie we watched last night was full of **gaunt/hulking** zombies. They were so thin, they looked like skeletons.

Directions: Choose the best answer to each question.

6. Which place is opulent?
   - A a camping tent
   - B a palace

7. Which sentence uses **incur** correctly?
   - A “I didn’t realize you could incur so many charges with the new app; I deleted it after getting a bill for $100.”
   - B “I incur my allowance every Saturday.”

8. In which situation might a person try to be **discreet**?
   - A when opening a birthday present
   - B when telling a friend he has food in his teeth

Directions: Choose the word or phrase that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

9. **wield**
   - A forget
   - B possess

10. **intricate**
    - A elaborate
    - B simple

11. **hulking**
    - A massive
    - B miniature

12. **hubris**
    - A pride
    - B respect