1. **ambition** (am-BISH-uhn) **noun**; An ambition is a particular goal or aim; something a person hopes to do or achieve. Your best friend might be working hard to achieve her ambition of running a mile in under seven minutes.

   *Ambition* can also mean “a strong desire for success,” as in, “Steph Curry’s fierce ambition helped him become a professional basketball player.”

2. **dismal** (DIZ-muhl) **adjective**; If something is dismal, it is gloomy and depressing. If it’s cold and raining, you could say that the weather is dismal. *Dismal* can also mean “very bad or poor,” as in, “Last year, the football team’s record was dismal: zero wins and nine losses.”

3. **giddy** (GID-ee) **adjective**; Giddy can mean “dizzy,” or “playful and silly,” or “filled with joy.” *Giddy* can also mean a combination of these feelings—when you’re so happy and excited that you feel silly and a little dizzy.

4. **heed** (heed) **verb**; If you heed someone’s advice or warning, you pay close attention to it and do what they suggest. If a sign in the hallway says “CAUTION: WET FLOOR,” you should heed the warning and walk carefully so you don’t slip and fall.

5. **miserly** (MAHY-zer-lee) **adjective**; A miser (MAHY-zer) is a person who is stingy—someone who spends as little money as possible, to the point of living in harsher conditions than they need to. *Miser* is not a nice thing to call someone—it has negative connotations. *Miserly* means “like or typical of a miser.” A miserly tip for a server at a restaurant is a very small, ungenerous tip. A miserly billionaire is ungenerous and doesn’t give any money to charity.

6. **morose** (muh-ROHSS) **adjective**; Someone who is morose is extremely serious, unhappy, and quiet.

7. **ogre** (OH-ger) **noun**; An ogre is a frightening giant from myths and fairy tales that eats people. A person who is frightening and cruel might be referred to as an ogre.

8. **shabby** (SHAB-ee) **adjective**; If something is shabby, it is old and worn out. A shabby couch has gotten a lot of use—its color has faded, its fabric has frayed, and its stuffing might be coming out.
“An Imagined Interview With Charles Dickens”

1. **galvanize (GAL-vuh-nahyz)** *verb*; The word *galvanize* means “to shock or excite a person into taking action.” In other words, to make people so excited or concerned about an issue that they feel they have to do something about it. Seeing a park covered in trash might galvanize a group of students to organize a park cleanup day.

2. **injustice (in-JUHS-tis)** *noun*; Justice (JUHS-tis) is treatment that is just, meaning that it is morally right and fair.

   The prefix *in* means “not,” “opposite of,” or “without.” Injustice is the absence of justice—in other words, unfair treatment. *Injustice* can also refer to a particular act of unfair treatment—a situation in which the rights of a person or a group of people are ignored. For example, sending an innocent person to prison is an injustice.

3. **reform (rih-FORM)** *noun*; As it is used in the interview, *reform* means “the improvement or correction of what is wrong in a system or society.” If citizens think a law is in need of reform, they want the government to fix the problems with the law by changing it.

**Directions:** On the back of this page, list any other words from the play or imagined interview 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.
Directions: Rewrite each sentence using a form of one of the words in the box. There are two words you will not use.

Vocabulary: reform ambition ogre galvanize morose giddy

1. Janna’s dream is to secure a spot in one of the country’s top ballet programs.

2. In the early 20th century, labor laws were changed; it became illegal for children to work.

3. In Carla’s favorite movie *Shrek*, a big ugly monster learns the true meaning of self-worth.

4. Trey’s passionate speech about the environmental damage caused by plastic bottles inspired his classmates to switch to reusable water bottles instead.

Directions: Choose the best answer to each question.

5. Which item is shabby?
   - a brand-new shirt that you plan to wear to the school dance
   - your favorite sneakers, which are dirty and have holes in the bottoms

6. Which might be described as a dismal afternoon?
   - sitting outside in the rain watching your favorite soccer team lose the game
   - having fun at an amusement park

7. Which could be called an injustice?
   - not giving someone a job because of their gender
   - giving someone a raise for doing a good job

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

8. miserly
   - generous
   - cheap

9. heed
   - pay attention to
   - ignore

10. morose
    - cheerful
    - gloomy

11. giddy
    - lighthearted
    - bored