

Sixth Grade Language Arts – Dictation

The Music of Words

Henrietta loved words, both the shape and the sound of them. "Silver" was a word that she especially loved. She thought it was the loveliest of words because it was so cool. It gave her pleasure to hear Miss Lavender say silver, for she immediately thought of fountains playing and a long, cool drink on a hot day. It was a satisfactory word to write, too, with its capital S flowing like a river, its l tall like a silver spear, and the v like an arrowhead upside down.

From the delight of forming letters into words, Henrietta went on to the intoxication of forming words into sentences, and here her instinct was unerring. She seemed to know just what words to choose and how to arrange them so that they sounded like a bar of music and not like the tea things falling downstairs.

E. Goudge, *A City of Bells*

Falling in Love with Words

Mrs. McWillie never scared us into grammar, of course. It was my first-year Latin teacher in high school who made me discover that I had fallen in love with it. It took Latin to thrust me into bona fide alliance with words in their true meaning. Learning Latin fed my love for words upon words, words in continuation and modification, and the beautiful, sober accretion of a sentence. I could see the achieved sentence finally standing there, as real, intact, and built to stay as the Mississippi State Capitol at the top of my street, where I could walk through it on my way to school and hear underfoot the echo of its marble floor, and over me the bell of its rotunda.

Eudora Welty

Directions: Look up the following words from your dictations in the dictionary. Write out the definition that seems to make the most sense in the context of the story.

(Extra Credit: Write the language of origin and the etymology of each word)

- ❖ Satisfactory
- ❖ Intoxication
- ❖ Bona fide
- ❖ Modification

- ❖ Accretion
- ❖ Intact
- ❖ Rotunda