

## Words and Explanations

**artifice** (AHR tuh fihs) Artifice is the skillful and clever use of tricks, such as disguises, to fool others.

**assiduously** (uh SIHJ u uhs lee) When you do something assiduously, you put a lot of effort and hard work into it.

**bereavement** (bih REEV muhnt) Bereavement is the feeling of pain and loss you experience when a close friend or family member dies.

**caustic** (KAWS tihk) Someone or something that is caustic is so harsh that it damages whatever it comes into contact with.

**censor** (SEHN suhr) Someone who censors something removes any part of it that is thought to be harmful or dangerous.

**despotic** (dehs POT ihk) A despotic person uses his or her powers over others in an unfair and often cruel way.

**inverted** (ihn VUR tihd) Something that is inverted is upside down or opposite from what it usually is.

**patronizingly** (PAY truh nyz ihng lee) People who act patronizingly toward you treat you like they are smarter or better than you are.

**subjection** (suhb JEHK shuhn) When people are forced into subjection, they are brought under complete control.

**submissive** (suhb MIHS ihv) Submissive people quietly do what others tell them to do.

*“Words have the power to both destroy and heal. When words are both true and kind, they can change our world.”*

—Siddhartha Gautama