

VOCABULARY – THE PURPLES ARE COMING!

(Symbolism included for advanced class discussion)

Agile

- able to move quickly and with suppleness, skill, and control
- able to think quickly and intelligently

Context: Chasing a mischievous dragonfly who was both elusive and agile...

Symbolism: The dragonfly, Gabriel Villaseñor (Name: “Gabriel”=Power of God + “Villaseñor”=House of the Lord), is described as “elusive and agile.” As an insect, he is the lowest level of creature in the story, and yet Gabriel Villaseñor is no ordinary insect--he not only has wings to fly, but he wears boots besides! We see his mental agility through his reference to God, both in his name and by his statements: 1) “I can only be caught by the Good God who made me.” 2) “Be not afraid. We are your friends . . . be of good cheer.”

Question: Do you think angels are elusive and agile?

Bloom

- a flower, especially on a plant cultivated chiefly for its flowers
- the state of being in flower
- a fresh, youthful, healthy complexion
- the condition of greatest freshness or health (*literary*)

Context: It was the breezy time of day when all the flowers were in bloom...

Symbolism: The presence of Grace inspires all of creation to bloom in perfection

Breezy

- with a light to moderate wind
- lively, cheerful, and relaxed

Context: It was the breezy time of day when all the flowers were in bloom...

Symbolism: The word “Spirit” comes from the Latin root “*Spiritus*” which means

“breathing” (The book begins in the late afternoon or early evening just as a light wind begins to stir throughout the meadowland (i.e., garden) a subtle reminder that it is the Holy Spirit who animates us all).

Dazzle (or a’dazzle)

- to amaze somebody with brilliance or skill or with a wonderful spectacle or display
- to make somebody temporarily unable to see

Context: And the trees were a’dazzle with color and light . . .

Symbolism: We are witnesses to the splendor and beauty of the Lord, hidden in the beauty and splendor of the world he creates and sustains. Light illumines the hearts and minds of men.

Echo

- the repetition of a sound caused by the reflection of sound waves from a surface
- a reaction of agreement or sympathy
- something that looks back to an earlier period or is reminiscent of it
- a lingering effect of an earlier event
- the repetition of sounds within a sequence of verse or prose
- the repetition, usually quieter, of a phrase or note in music

Context: And the meadowland twittered and echoed with life . . .

Symbolism: There are many echoes throughout THE PURPLES ARE COMING! Examples are, the echo from the twittering and echoing with life; the echo of the sounds within the various sequences of poetic verse; the echo of the wren’s alarm: “THE PURPLES ARE COMING!” the echo of the sacred liturgy in the bunny’s “Grant us peace! Grant us peace! Grant us peace!”

Elusive

- difficult to find or catch
- difficult to understand, define, or identify
- not easily called to mind or memory

Context: Chasing a mischievous dragonfly who was both elusive and agile...

Symbolism: The dragonfly is elusive and agile; angels are elusive and agile, just as

God Himself is elusive and agile. But just because something is not easily called to mind doesn't mean it remains beyond our reach. As children of God, we can be mindful of His presence by thinking in the light of faith, we can see him in the beauty of His Creation. Though God is hidden from our senses, He nonetheless speaks to our conscience with a voice that is in us but not of us.

Extraordinary

- very unusual and deserving attention and comment because of being wonderful, excellent, strange, or shocking
- additional and having a special purpose
- additional to and going beyond the ordinary or established scope of something

Context: Are the most extraordinary flowers wherever they grow...

Symbolism: A life lived in God's Grace is an extraordinary life. It is a life quite literally beyond the ordinary. What could be more extraordinary (or "supernatural") than a life that lives forever with God in eternity?

Fragrant

- having a pleasant sweet smell

Context: When the air was sweet with fragrant perfume...

Symbolism: Signifies the odor of sanctity

Happiness march (happiness + march)

- feeling or showing pleasure, contentment, or joy +
- to walk with regular formalized movements of the arms and legs at a steady rhythmic pace, often in formation
- to set off, usually on foot, on a military campaign or expedition

Context: And so, the four friends set out on a happiness march...

Symbolism: We are all individuals, we are all unique, and yet we move through life together as one body in Christ. When we choose to live in God's grace we accept what God accepts and reject what God rejects, we have friendship with God and with one another, which makes us happy.

Mischievous

- behaving or likely to behave in a naughty or troublesome way, but in fun and not meaning serious harm
- intended to tease or cause trouble, though usually in fun or without much malice

Context: Chasing a mischievous dragonfly . . .

Symbolism: The dragonfly's close relationship with God Himself: "I may only be caught by the good God who made me!" hints at a favored position with the Lord. The dragonfly's pride is a pride boastful of the Lord, which he is eager to share with others. Like with the bunny, for instance, to whom the dragonfly offers his friendship and a share in his happiness. "Be not afraid! We are your friends! Be of good cheer!"

Twitter

- to sing in a succession of light high-pitched chirping sounds (*refers to birds*)
- to chatter or giggle in an overexcited or nervous way
- to sing or say something in a light shaky high-pitched voice
- to quiver or move about nervously and quickly

Context: And the meadowland twittered and echoed with life . . .

Symbolism: It is as if the meadowland were quietly pulsing in joyful hope of some great event.