abased  humiliated; debased
abstruse  hard to understand; obscure
abyss  deep or bottomless pit
acrid  bitter; biting
adduced  reasoned; showed proof
alchemist  one who practices alchemy, a medieval science involving magic as well as chemistry
amenable  agreeable
anathema  curse
animadversion  criticism; unfavorable comment
antique  ancient; old
apostle  important Christian missionary
apotheorization  glorified; made into a god
apparition  unexpected appearance; ghost
appliance  name
ascetic  austere; severe; practicing self-denial
aspect  demeanor; countenance; appearance
asperity  harshness; severity
augured  was an omen of; indicated; hinted at
autumnal  aged
avenger  one who gets revenge
Babylon  in the Bible, a sinful, wicked city
Bristol  port city in England
Bunyan, John (1628-1686)  Puritan author
cabalistic  mystical; obscure; mysterious
caprice  whim; sudden change of mind
catechism  book of questions and answers designed to teach Christianity
celestial  heavenly
counter  platform on which criminals were hung
draught  portion for drinking; also spelled draft
dryad  wood nymph
dryad  wood nymph
earnest  assurance; future indication
effervescence  bubbling quality; liveliness
efficacy  effectiveness
efflux  emanation; a flowing out
elderly  eerie; weird
elixir  alchemist’s substance for supposedly changing things into gold
Elizabeth (1533-1603)  powerful queen of England
embracing  abnormally thin
embryo  developing; beginning; tiny
eminence  prominence; fame; also, high ground
emolument  earnings; fee
erudite  learned; scholarly
escutcheon  shield-shaped emblem in a coat of arms
eternal  relating to the hereafter; lasting forever
ethereal  heavenly; spiritual; intangible
expiation  making amends for a sin
farthing  framework for an expanding skirt
fatal  fated
feigned  pretended
fiend  demon the Fiend the devil
firmament  sky; expanse of the heavens
fitful  restless
fragile  weakness
freakish  whimsical; moody
gallows  platform on which criminals were hung
garb  clothing; costume
gentility  membership in the upper classes; good breeding; good manners
gesticulating  motioning with one’s hand
grave  serious; somber
guillotine  bladed device used during the French Revolution for executions by beheading
hieroglyphic  symbol
hieroglyphic  symbol
hierarchy  lowest part of the sky, where it seems to meet the land
horn-book  book used to teach the alphabet
Hutchinson, Anne (1591-1643)  religious leader whom the Puritans accused of heresy and drove from Boston
ignominy  deep disgrace
illuminated  lit; glowing
imbue  permeated; saturated; filled
impediment  obstacle
importunate  urgent; demanding; persistent
inauspicious  unfavorable; unfortunate
incantation  spell; words that enchant or bewitch
incredulity  unwillingness to believe; disbelief
indestructible  undeniable
infamy  public disgrace for great wrongdoing
infernal  relating to hell; devilish
iniquity  wickedness; sin