

All the Animated Animals

abound - are plentiful

affable - friendly

agitated - all stirred up

acrimonious - have a bad attitude

angst-filled - full of worry and turmoil

amenable - easy to get along with

apprehensions - fears and worries

ameliorated - made better

abdicate their aspirations - give up their desires

alimentary aggressions - upset stomach

attuned to altitude - used to being up high

alien arrivals - unknown things that come

airborne animals - birds

appropriate atmosphere - a pleasing place to be

arrested antipathy - not getting angry

arguably - it isn't certain

amorous - full of love

approachable - easy to get close to

acquire allies - make friends

addled - confused

act adversely - are opposed to

affords amiability - gives out friendliness

aficionados - true fans

ardent - enthusiastic

auspiciously - favorably

The Babbling Baboons

bedlam - noisy confusion

bombastic bravado - loud, showy acts of bravery

belligerent beasts - quarrelsome animals

berates - scolds

bedazzling - stunning

blithering - crazy, silly

bestial booms - loud animal noises

bias - prejudice

baffled and bewildered - perplexed and befuddled

balderdash - nonsense

barefaced - out in the open

bankrupt - empty of value

barbarity - uncivilized acts

bantering blurbs - teasing outbursts

brood, emboldened - group that's gotten brave

bickering - squabbling

blunders - mistakes

burgeoning - growing

budges the bunion - bumps the swelling

bilious - bad tempered

botany - nature

beguiling - charming

The Calcutta Cat

choleric - quick to get angry

cavils - objects unnecessarily

careens - lurches, leans, tips

conceding their carcass - giving up their bodies

nine conceptions - nine lives

controlled by reincarnation - believes in having many lives

carnal calamity - a terrible thing happening to the body

contrary corporal continuation - something that goes against
being born again in a new life

cosmopolitan - at home everywhere

counsels - gives advice

cosmic condition - eternal life situation

corresponds - is in agreement with

corruption of compulsions - how bad your bad habits are

crass incompetence - insensitive lack of skills

coronary in your corpse - heart attack in your body

carping - nagging

carbolic - harsh, acidic

conceited con - self-centered trick

compose - put together

conducive to catastrophe - inclined to disaster

carnal chorus - worldly noise

cavalier - arrogant, self-satisfied

clangorous clamor - loud demanding sounds

combustible clatter - fiery noise

close-minded condemnation ~ unthinking rejection
conversational combat ~ talking fight
colloquy ~ conversational back and forth
collapsible conveyance ~ vehicle that's falling apart
crave the career ~ desire the work
contrite cadence ~ sorrowful rhythm
confer ~ give with honor
congeniality ~ friendliness
concedes ~ admits
complies ~ agrees to
Capitalism ~ system of private ownership of business

The Deranged Dingo

deranged- mentally unbalanced

delving into - digging into

degradation- efforts to lower the quality

dominion - ruling power

deftly displaying - skillfully showing

duplicity - deception, trickery

dictatorial - telling everyone what to do

deliberate dismissal - intentionally treat as nobody

declivity - downward slope

deadpan - shows no feeling in the face

disgraceful drivel - shameful, stupid talk

dotty - crazy

dissembling - lying

demonic dervish - evil dance

destitute - has no money

discredited - unbeliever

decimate - destroy a part of

delicate dose of the dolorous - a light amount of sadness

disarmingly decent - non threateningly good

dulcet delivery - soft speaking

despicable drift - terrible direction

defang - take the bite out of

disgorge a dramatic drainage - give up a lot of water

douse his dismay - put out his fear

disciples of devotion - followers who care deeply

The Eternal Egg

exhorts - strongly urges

egotistical - thinking only of oneself

emanation - what flows out

evokes - calls for

enmity - dislike, hostility

ensconced - settled on, sitting on

exuberantly - energetic with feeling

evolves into an elaborated entity -

economical ecology - waste free use of animals

expedient - useful

evolution - growth

explication of the edible - explanation of what to eat

erosion and esophagus - natural eating away or swallowing

encompass and enclose - surround and wrap around

Eternity - the state of endless being

epidemic of eradication - fast spreading destruction

endeavors to enlighten - tries to teach

ecstatically embraces - takes in, very happily

émigrés from Earth - those who pass away

enlarges and enriches their essence - makes them better

at the deepest level

egregious essay is erroneous - very bad description is wrong

exasperated - irritated

equipment of extermination - claws and beak that destroy

ersatz evocation - fake attempt to explain

educational embarrassment ~ lack of learning
elongated ~ stretched out
encyclopedia of endorsements ~ lots of statements of approval
endowing ~ giving
evangelizes ~ preaches
extemporaneous expositions ~ made up stories
euphoria of excess ~ the excitement of saying too much
eulogizes ~ praises, after the end of something
equilibrium encompasses every extreme ~ a sense of balance
includes everything

The Frog and the Footstool

far from foreign - not unfamiliar

familiar with fantasy - used to wild imagination

facility for factuality - ability for finding the truth

fatuous - foolish

farfetched - unbelievable

fulsome - excessive

forges on - pushes forward

fanatically fastened on - much too enthusiastically attached to

fomenting - stirring up

fetish - crazy interest in

fiscally flush - has lots of money every year

flimsy forecast - poorly made prediction

fosters futile flattery - encourages saying positive things
that won't work

fustian - talks pretentiously

fecund - productive, fertile

filches - steals

festooned - adorned

flaunt- show off

farcical frenzy - ridiculous excitement

fidgety - nervous

fickle - easy to change their mind

fiendishly - wickedly

fervid fauna - passionate animals

folklore flops - stories fall flat

feeler - offer

frazzled - tattered, worn out

fugitive - someone on the run

floozy - gaudy, silly woman

frugality - being thrifty, not wasteful

fond of finger food - likes food that can be picked up

feigns - pretends

fractious - trouble making

fertilizes - causes to grow

The Gazelle and the Goat

gangly - long-legged, awkward

gamboling - frolicking, playing

gluttonous - tendency to eat way too much

gusto - great liveliness

gimpy - limping

galumphs - moves clumsily

gloaming - late afternoon

grapples - wrestles with

gadabout - wandering about for fun

gorges his gut - stuffs his belly

grotty gruel - nasty soup

goblet - tall drinking glass

gams - legs

gumming - chewing

geezer - goofy old man

gruff - rough

girth - the distance around the middle

grovels - crawls

glommed - grabbed

gurgitates - coughs up

grazes - scrapes

gluteus - butt muscle

grimacing - straining the face in pain

ghastly graphics - horrible details

galled - annoyed

gooney for glitter - goofy for shiny things

gaga for glitz - crazy for showy things

gratis gifts of gilt - free gifts of gold covered things

gawk - stare

goatee - small chin beard

gravitates - is attracted toward

The Hotheaded Horses

haunches - hips and upper thighs

haven - safe place

hex - bad luck curse

hokey - corny

humdrum - boring, dull

hoists - lifts

hoary hedge - very old row of shrubs

histrionic - artificial show of emotions

hypocrisy - acting something that's not true

harrying - tormenting

highfalutin' - acting superior

hibernation - being asleep for a long time

hairsplitting - arguing over small details

haughtily - high sense of self toward others

haphazard - happening by chance

hyperbole - exaggeration that isn't necessary

harrumphs - clearing one's throat in a noisy way

harassing - bothering

henchmen - buddies, pals

hooey - nonsense

hulking - bulky and clumsy

humongous - huge, very large

hapless - unlucky

hectoring - bullying

hamper - to prevent the progress of

higgledy-piggledy - in a confused way

hems and haws - gropes for words

hoo-hah - fuss

heedless - not paying attention
hovers hard by - hangs in the air next to
hoe-down - a square dance
hasten - hurry
heyday - the best time of life
hence - from now on
hightail it - go as fast as possible
hitches up his hose - pulls up his socks
hobnobs - hangs out with

The Ibex and the Impala

inflamed - seriously upset

indulgence - satisfying of pleasures

imbibe - drink

indiscriminately - without making choices

indisposed - slightly ill

iterates - says again

ichthyology - study of fishes

intermittently - from time to time

interposes - sticks in

ingest - eat

inkling - idea

insinuates - hints at

inherited - got from others who came before

inclination - tendency

intones - to say, to recite

impulsive - like a sudden urge

inventory - list

incidental - unimportant

instigator - one who starts something

intersperses - puts in, here and there

incandescence - glow

inaugurator - one who begins something

irrational - unreasonable

incoherence - not clear

interjects - interrupts with

incisive - sharp

ingenious - clever

inane - silly

incise - bite
incants - chants
irked - annoyed
instinct informs me - natural wisdom tells me
interfacing - meeting with
interfering - coming between
infrastructure - basic system
incited - urged to act
inconvenience - lack of comfort
indignity - insult to self-respect
icing - putting an end to
interpolates - inserting something new
inconsistency - something that doesn't fit
intellectual intercourse - mental communication
illustrates ill will - shows bad feeling toward
initiation - the start of something
illuminates - shines a light on, reveals
intrauterine - of the womb
intumescence - swelling
intrinsic - part of the real nature of anything
inducement - what makes something start to happen
invokes - calls on
incontinent - not able to contain one's urine
interrogates - questions
inflates - makes larger
incubated - developed
implanted - put into
incredulous - unbelieving
inflects - changes the tone while speaking

immaculate inception ~ birth without a father

importunes ~ asks

intimates ~ says privately

insistent inamorata ~ demanding boyfriend

impassioned ~ full of feeling

instrumentation ~ the means of action

The Juggler in the Jungle

jarring - jolting, upsetting

juxtaposition - when things are side by side

jangle - a harsh, metallic sound

jugular - of the neck or throat

jake - OK, good

jibe with my jocularité - agree with my sense of fun

justifiably jazzed - excited for good reason

jolly and jocose - very happy and fun

jacked-up - very excited

jag - to jab sharply

jovial - full of good humor

jukes and jives - jumps around and acts silly

jig - dance

The Kentucky Kangaroo

kith and kin - friends and family

kinetic - always moving

kilt - a kind of skirt worn by men

kimono - a robe

put the kibosh on - to bring to an end

klutzy - clumsy

ketch - a sail boat

kibitzing - giving advice

kingfish - a man in charge

cuisine - fancy food

keens - cries out

keglers - bowlers

keystone - necessary piece

kooky - slightly crazy

karma - fate

kernel - the central part

off-kilter - not right

kinky - odd

kvetches - complains

keelhauled - dragged under

kleptomania - stealing

kaput - done for

kangaroo court - an invented system of justice

kazoos - toy instruments that buzz when hummed into

kaleidoscopes - tubes with colored glass and mirrors

kanoodles - plays around

The Lonely Lion

lair - home, resting place

lacy layers - light folds

lamentation - a joyful song of sorrow

lush lyrics - rich words of a song

lyre - a stringed instrument

lackey - servant

legally liable - responsible, according to the law

linchpin - most important part

liaison - getting together

limn and laud - describe and praise

legendary - famous for a very long time

lustrous - shining

livelihood - way of living

luminescence - glow

linguistic - of languages

lavish lament - generous sorrow

The Majestic Marmoset

majestic - showing greatness

maritime - of the sea

meanderings - carefree wanderings

maneuvers - moves, tries to do

marvelous - wonderful

murmurs - says softly

malignant - harmful

meager - scanty, poor, not much

mediocre - not bad, but not very good

melancholy - sad

melodramatic - emotionally exaggerated

miserly - stingy

moping - gloomy

morbid - unhealthy

muddled - confused

mundane - ordinary

mocked - ridiculed

manipulated - used

marginalized - ignored

minimalized - treated as less than

moralized - lectured to

mortified - scared

mourned - felt sorry for

musters - comes up with

magnificent - great

matchless - has no equal

meritorious - worthy

mysterious - unknown

mythological - wonderfully imaginary

mutters - says quietly

mystified - confused, amazed

masquerades - pretends to be

mentored - taught, advised

matures - grows older and wiser

mugs - makes faces

The Nickel-Plated Newt

nickel plated - coated with a silvery metal

nudges - pushes gently

natal nook - birth place

never-ending niche - grave

notoriety - fame

nobility - quality of high standing

needle - prod, tease

nebulous - vague

naïve - unknowing

numerous negations - many things wrong

nauseating - sickening

nautical navigations - sea voyages

nest egg - savings

newfangled necessities - recent inventions

nocturnal naughtiness - night life

nuptials - marriage

nuisance - annoyance

neurotic - full of anxiety

niggle - fuss

nibble - bite at

nonchalance - lack of concern

nub - gist, the main point

nodding off - falling asleep

noteworthy - outstanding

nonconformist - one who is deliberately different

notable for nada - famous for nothing

nuance - a slight change

notches - makes a mark

noggin ~ head

nourished and nurtured ~ fed and cared for

nuzzles ~ snuggles

nymphs ~ young females

noodles ~ make up music for fun

The Owl and the Orangutan

obnoxious - unpleasant

ornery - mean and nasty

occasionally - once in a while

offsets - balances, makes up for

outbidding - offering a higher price

overwrought - very nervous

offensive - disgusting

obsessed - completely focused on

ointment - a thick liquid

outrageous - shocking

ornithological - having to do with birds

optimists - positive thinkers

orb - the globe, Earth

oversight - mistake

onerous - oppressive

outlaw - illegal

opportunism - taking advantage

The Peripatetic Pig

peripatetic - of one who goes from place to place

penny-farthing - big-wheel bicycle

proceeds - money

plantains - a fruit like bananas

panoramas - wide views

porcine - pig

patella - kneecap

planetarium - place for looking at the stars

proprietor - owner

pulchritude - beauty

providential prudence - heavenly good sense

preeminent - the best

punster - one who makes humorous use of words

pleads - begs

preposterous - ridiculous, laughable

plodding - trudging, moving slowly

patter and piffle - empty talk and nonsense

prevails - wins out

presumes - dares

polarize their proposals - separates their plans

peer - gaze, look

proffers - offers

pluckily pitches - bravely tosses forward

ply their plaint - work their problems

plausible placation - reasonable peace

partial - in favor of

percolates - is lively, bubbles

plunge - dive

prodigious - great in size
piglet propagation - baby making
promoted - encouraged
prolonged - made to go on for a long time
proposition - plan
propitious - favorable
prudent - not rash, wise
perambulate - walk
punctuates - emphasize
pilgrimage - journey

The Quail and the Queen

quipster - one who makes clever, witty remarks

queasy - uneasy

qualify - earn

quantities - large amounts

quaint - unusual

quarantined - separated, kept apart

quarters - areas

quivers - shakes

quenches - satisfies

quaffs - drinks

quince - an apple like fruit

quota - share

quavers and quakes - trembles and shakes

quick - the deepest part

quest - search

quietude - calm

quintessential - the central part

quirk - peculiarity

quell - stop

quandary - question, dilemma

quagmire - a difficult situation

quarter - relief

quartzite - crystal rock

quadruped - animal with four feet

quarry - where stone is dug up

quoth - said

querulous - questioning

quest - adventure

The Regal Rooster

restraint - emotional control

responsibility - dependability

rambunctious - boisterous, disorderly

ragamuffin - someone who is dirty, ragged

rustic - rough, country

ruthless - without pity or compassion

rascal - one who is mischievous

ravages - destroys

ravines - hollows, narrow valleys

roughshod - harshly

rivals - competitors

ransom - money paid to kidnappers

runs riot - acts wildly

runs amok - loses control

ragtag - shaggy, ragged

rake - wild one

rampage - running around wildly

rap - opinion

rank - offensive

rebuke - scolding

reign - power, rule

rogues - scoundrels, rascals

ruffian - a tough or rowdy fellow

rallies - comes back together

read the riot act - order to obey

restrained - held back, held down

reclaimed - taken back

roost - perch, home

ransacking - search and theft
renounce - give up
reprobate - shameless
requisite - required
ripe - ready for taking
riposte - a quick answer
rampant - widespread
ruination - destruction
reluctance - unwillingness
remedy - solution
resolutely - firmly
respite - relief
refuge - a safe place
reviled - cursed at
revered - honored
refugee - someone looking for a safe place
regard - respect and affection
repertoire - range of accomplishments
revulsed - turned off, disgusted
reverence - admiration
rout - defeat
rudimentary - basic
revival - renewed interest in
rhyme and reason - order and sense

The Song of the Sailfish

seldom - not very often

serene - peaceful, calm

slime and sludge - sticky ooze

salvation - freedom from difficulties

shanties - songs

surrenders - gives up

stimulating - exciting

sincerity - honesty, being genuine

subtle - not obvious

surge - increase of power

suspends - holds back, puts off

somber - gloomy

suspicious - doubts and worries

succumbs - gives in to

sounding - underwater

shoals - shallow places

sympathetic - agreeable

syncopation - a kind of rhythm

The Trumpeter Tarantula

tempo - speed of performance

trainee - student

tranquillity - peacefulness

tickle - play with

tantrum - outburst

trenchant - sharp, vigorous

tremolo - a rapidly repeating tone

tropes - musical language

tinker - make small adjustments

tolerate - put up with

transform - change

topsy-turvy - upside down

torrential - like a wild flood

tunesmith - composer of melodies

tenderfoot - beginner

tutelage - instruction

temerity - boldness

temperamental - excitable

tempestuous - wild

traditional - handed down from the past

trendy - stylish, new

topical - current

tribal - belonging to a small group

turbulent - full of deep motion

titanic - very large

torrid - intense

tactics - methods

triumphs - great successes

Ursula and the Unicorn

undertaker - the one in charge of burials

unsavory - offensive

uncommitted - not in favor of

uncouth urbanites - crude city dwellers

unethical - not right

uplift - raise

unveiling - exposure

ubiquitous - everywhere at once

ultimately - finally

undulations - waves, wiggles

unconventional - out of the ordinary

unfeigned - not pretend

unfettered - not held back

unburdened - opened up

unravels - falls apart

unpreparedness - lack of expectations or plans

understated - expressed enough

ungulate - having hooves

undergraduate - student

usurper - someone who takes from others

usurer - someone who charges too much for loans

unanimous - everyone is in agreement

ultimatum - final demand

utterance - speaking

uppity - nervy

unparalleled - unequalled

unabated - unstopped

unhitched - set free

unsaddled ~ unburdened

usher ~ bring

unworldly unification ~ spiritual union

universal unconscious ~ thoughts of everyone

utopia ~ perfect place

The Vicuna's Valentine

ventures - goes forth bravely

vacillates - goes back and forth

vacant - empty

vagabond - wanderer

venom - liquid poison

virus - microscopic poison

varmint - objectionable animal

veteran - one who is experienced

vicious - malicious, evil

victimization - being harmed

vivid - bright

victories - wins, successes

voracious - very eager

villainous - wicked

ventilate - expose

vain - conceited

vulgarity - crudeness

visionary vamp - one whose perception is seductive

vamooses - leaves

vociferous - loud

vaults - jumps

vehicle - transportation

vessel - boat, ship

virgin vicinity - untouched area

virtues - good qualities

vilified - spoken about viciously

venerates - respects, honors

valiant - brave

volunteers - those who offer their services
ventricular volcano - the heart
vigilant - alert
verve - liveliness
vivid - bright
vibrato - pulse
vibrant - very lively, energetic
vocation - occupation, calling
voltage - high energy
voluptuousness - rich fullness
vortex - whirlpool
voluble - talkative
veracity - truth
voluminous - large, great
vulnerability - openness
vast void - endless space
vigil - watchfulness
vouches - promises
validate - prove
venue - place
veritable - true
verbal ventriloquy - speaking for others
versify - compose verses
verbiage - lots of words

The Woodchuck and the Wolverine

wont ~ habit

wiseacre ~ smart aleck

wishy-washy ~ weak

wary ~ careful of, worried about

witchcraft ~ dark powers

wisecracks ~ unkind remarks

weaned in ~ brought up as a child

whiny whelp ~ complaining youngster

wallows ~ rolls around in

wanes ~ becomes less

witnesses ~ sees

whiff ~ smell

wends ~ goes on, moves

winces ~ pulls back slightly

wails ~ cries

wacky ~ a little crazy

hoodwinked ~ fooled

wheels around ~ turns quickly

Xavier's X-ray

exhume - dig up

xylograph - engraving on wood

xylophone - percussion instrument

The Yak with a Yacht

yen - desire

yacht - fancy boat

yearning - deeply desiring

yield - give in to

yammers - whines, yells

yanking - pulling

yoked - tied

yarn - story

yardarm - support for a sail

yam - sweet potato

yoga - meditation practice

yabbers - jabbers, talks

yawl - sailboat

yawps - talks loudly

yegg - criminal

yahoo - brute

yeoman - dependable

yokel - bumpkin

yonder - over there

yippee - cheer

yuppies - young urban professionals

yin and yang - the forces of the universe

yeasty - agitated

yes man - one who always agrees

yummies - tasty things

yourn - yours

youth hostel - inn for young travelers

yodels - sings

yore - the distant past
yocks - laughs
yackety-yak - chatter, talk
yawns - gets a big gap in
yaws - swings back and forth

The Zany Zebra

zany - funny, in a crazy way

zig-zags - jumps back and forth

zones - areas

zealously - enthusiastically

zeroing in - gets closer and closer

zest - enjoyment

zaxed - worn out

zeitgeist - way of being

zealot - fanatic

zephyr - breeze

zeppelin - airship

zygote - cell

zenith - top

zodiac - the path of the sun, in parts

zydeco - dance music

zoot suit - dramatic style of clothing

zoris - sandals

zaftig - full-figured

zilch - nothing

zonked - exhausted

zapper - destructive device

zircons - fake gems

zombies - dead bodies that act alive

ziggurat - tower

Zen - the wisdom of humor and intuition