

THE SILVER CHAIR

VOCABULARY

The following is a selection of vocabulary words listed in order of appearance in *THE SILVER CHAIR* (written by C. S. Lewis, published in 1953). Review this list before reading the novel to assess the level of difficulty of the novel or simply to learn more words.

circlet	a thin golden headband worn by a monarch on a daily basis, as opposed to the heavier crown appropriate for formal occasions.
maying	participating in the traditional celebrations of may day, observing the return of spring by the gathering of wild flowers and green branches, the weaving of floral garlands, the crowning of a may king and queen, and the setting up of a decorated may tree, or may pole, around which people danced.
snipe	a long-billed wading bird.
bitterns	wading birds of the heron family that inhabit reedy marshes.
bastioned	fortified by erection of an earthwork faced with brick or stone.
moor	open land, high and rough but not mountainous.
bobance	boasting, pride.
cairn	a heap of stones set up as a landmark, monument, or memorial.
cock-shies	a game in which missiles are thrown at a convenient mark.
portcullis	a strong, heavy grating that can be lowered to block a gateway.
puttee	a long strip of cloth wound spirally round the leg from ankle to knee for protection and support.
posset	a drink made of hot milk curdled with ale or wine and flavoured with spices, formerly drunk as a delicacy or as a remedy for colds.
comfit	a sweet consisting of a nut or other centre coated in sugar.
scullery	a small kitchen or room at the back of a house used for washing dishes and other dirty household work.

scullion

a servant assigned the most menial kitchen tasks.

shingle

small roundish stones or pebbles, as can be found on a beach.

fie!

an expression of rebuke.

play the knave

act dishonorably or deceitfully, be a base and crafty rogue.

squib

firecracker.