

Welcome to the Circus of Words: Words from Erin Morgenstern's The Night Circus

Circus

AVOCABO WORD LIST 76

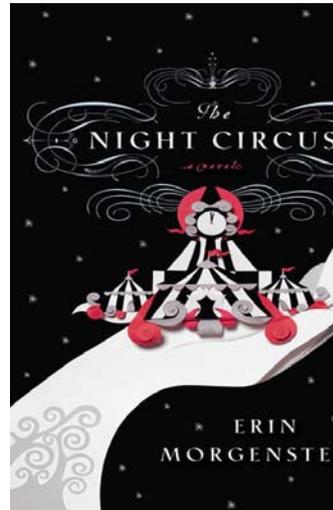
AESTHETIC, CALLIGRAPHY, CIRCUS, CONTORTIONIST, ENIGMATIC, ETHEREAL, EXSANGUINATED, FLAMBOYANT, ILLUSION, ILLUSIONIST, INSOMNIA, KISMET, LABYRINTH, MAGIC, MAGICIAN, MANIPULATION, MATERIALIZED, MUNDANE, NOCTURNAL, PARAMOUR, PROSCENIUM, RÊVES, RÊVEURS, RHAPSODIES

Black and white with a hint of colour. That's the world that Celia and Marco live in. Even before they understand their own abilities they find themselves bound in a game over which they have no control. At first it is a simple enough competition, magician vs magician, but soon others become involved and they learn just how dangerous their game can be. With only one victor possible, Celia and Marco have to find a way to end the contest without losing everything they hold dear, especially their beloved Cirque du Rêves.

by Madelle Krucker

Exercise 76-1: Fill-In-Blanks (Enter the Tent of Perforation)
Complete each sentence from *The Night Circus* with the most appropriate word from the wordlist which matches the definition. (24 marks)

1. Have you seen the contraptions these magicians build to accomplish the most _____ feats? *adj. 1. lacking interest or excitement; dull 2. Of this earthly world rather than a heavenly or spiritual one*
2. The boy watches both the _____ and his modest audience curiously. *n. a person with magical powers*
3. She becomes quite good at _____ fabric, altering her gowns as expertly as a master tailor to accommodate the weight she has regained, her body feeling like her own again. *n. The act of controlling, typically in an artful or unfair and insidious manner*



4. "So she'll be doing what you said he did, actual magic disguised as stage _____." *n. A misleading image presented to the vision; something that deceives or misleads intellectually*
5. If the _____ is still there in the daytime, he cannot feel it. *n. the power or apparently influencing the course of events by using mysterious or supernatural forces*
6. You can do just as much as she does without passing it off as _____ spectacle and trickery. *adj. of a person or their behavior tending to attract attention because of their exuberance, confidence, and stylishness*
7. And for reasons Bailey cannot quite put words to, he is walking towards the _____ with a considerable amount of determination. *n. a traveling company of acrobats, trained animals, and clowns that gives performances, typically in a large tent, in a series of different places*
8. It _____ in the same spot then, and now it looks like it never left. *v. 1. of a ghost, spirit, or similar entity appear in bodily form; become actual fact; happen*
9. Some are introduced to Le Cirque des _____ through his writing, while others feel an instant connection with him as they read his words, an affinity for this man who experiences the circus as they do, as something wondrous and inimitable. *v. French word for dream; the name of the Night Circus is based on....*
10. Trespassers will be _____ *v. draining a person, animal, or organ of blood*
11. Flights of Fancy, reads one: _____ Enigmas, another. *adj. extremely delicate and light in a way that seems too perfect for this world*
12. They were originally concocted by Chandresh on a whim, brought about by a combination of chronic _____ and keeping theatrical hours, along with an innate dislike of proper dinner-party etiquette. *n. habitual sleeplessness; inability to sleep*

13. But the Midnight Dinners have an air of _____
 ___ mystery already, and Chandresh finds that providing no
 menu, no map of the culinary route, adds to the experience.
adj. done, occurring, or active at night

14. Other courses are more _____, concealed in
 sweet sauces or spiced soups; unidentifiable meats hidden in
 pastries and glazes. *adj. difficult to interpret or understand; mysteri-
 ous*

15. She is a fiend for _____ with an eye for fash-
 ion that is both unique and coveted, and provides her with
 a sizable incomes since her retirement from the ballet. *adj.
 concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty*

16. Traditionally, _____ are either front bending
 or back bending, depending on the flexibility of their re-
 spective spines, and their tricks and performances are based
 upon this distinction. *n. an entertainer who twists and bends their
 body into strange and unnatural positions*

17. This is _____, her coming here tonight.
n. destiny; fate

18. Bailey tries to ask more questions about the
 _____ and their scarves, but before he can,
 Poppet pulls him into another tent and he is immediately
 silenced by the sight he is met with inside. *n. French word for
 dreamer*

19. The _____ waiting in the lobby grumble when
 they are thanked for their time and politely dismissed. *n. a
 person who performs tricks that deceive the eye; a magician*

20. The opposite side is white, with elegant
 _____ in blank ink that reads: *n. decorative handwrit-
 ing or handwritten lettering*

21. “Number twenty-three,” he says, before descending
 a small set of stairs near the _____ and hovering by
 the edge of the front row, pen poised over his open note-
 book. *n. the part or a theater stage in front of the curtain, or the wall
 and arch that separate a stage from the auditorium*

22. While they traverse the _____, Widget tells
 the story of the Minotaur is such detail that Bailey keeps
 expecting to encounter the monster around every turn. *n. a
 complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is dif-
 ficult to find one’s way; a maze*

23. Bedtime Stories, Eventide _____, An-
 thologies of Memory *n. a portion of an epic poem adapted for
 recitation*

24. “She has a lot of names,” Poppet says, “but mostly
 they call her the _____.” *n. a lover, esp., the illicit
 partner of a married person*

Exercise 76-2: Etymology (Enter the Tent of Derivation)
 Provide the list word described by its etymology. (8 marks)

- _____ origin late Middle English from Old
 French, from Latin *mundus* ‘world’
- _____ origin Middle English via Old French
 from *illudere* ‘to mock,’ from in- ‘against’ + *ludere* ‘play’
- _____ origin early 16th cent via Latin from
 Greek *aitherios* (from *aithēr* ‘ether’) + -al
- _____ origin early 17th cent.: from Latin, from
in- (expressing negation) + *somnus* ‘sleep.’
- _____ origin late 18th century from Greek
aisthētikos, from *aisthēta* ‘perceptible things,’ from *aist-
 hesthai* ‘perceive.’
- _____ origin early 19th century from Turk-
 ish, from Arabic *ismat* ‘division, portion, lot,’ from *asama* ‘to
 divide’
- _____ origin early 17th century via Latin from
 Greek *proskēnion*, from *pro* ‘before’ + *skēnē* ‘stage’
- _____ origin early 17th century from Greek
kalligraphia, from *kalligraphos* ‘person who write beautifully’,
 from *kallos* ‘beauty’ + *graphein* ‘write’

Exercise 76-3: Synonyms (Enter the Tent of Analogous
 Meaning) From the three choices provided, circle the one that is closest
 in meaning to the bold list word in the context displayed. (11 marks)

- The **enigmatic** presence of his father made the hair on
 the back of his neck stand up.
 a) mysterious b) clear c) straightforward
- The **magician** performed his tricks before a stunned
 crowd.
 a) human b) necromancer c) scientist

3. Melodic phrases of **ethereal** beauty.
a) crude b) substantial c) exquisite
4. The **flamboyant** red blazed against the black backdrop.
a) dull b) exuberant c) simple
5. The circus **materialized** overnight.
a) appeared b) synchronized c) dissolved
6. Claude suffered from **insomnia** after he murdered his brother.
a) indigestion b) sleeplessness c) pneumonia
7. She was in love with her sister's **paramour**.
a) concubine b) dog c) husband
8. Many **aesthetic** gardens were found in the land surrounding Versailles.
a) ugly b) elegant c) gauche
9. The **illusion** of his father appeared before him in the heavy rain.
a) elusive b) simulacrum c) image
10. Daedalus created a **labyrinth** to hold the Minotaur.
a) maze b) house c) maize
11. The activities of her **mundane** life bored her.
a) exciting b) imaginative c) ordinary

Exercise 76-4: Antonyms (Enter the Tent of Contradictory)
Match the word with its corresponding antonym. (5 marks)

1. spiritual ___ flamboyant
2. modest ___ ethereal
3. realist ___ rêveurs
4. clumsy ___ enigmatic
5. open ___ mundane

Exercise 76-5: Making Connections (Enter the Tent of Analogy) *In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. (14 marks)*

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Flyspace | Proscenium |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| 2. Kosher | Exsanguinated |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| 3. Enterology | Contortion |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| 4. Knossos | Labyrinth |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| 5. Church of Saint-Maclou | Flamboyant |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |

Bonus: For those who have read the book

Bon Rêves! Unit by Madelle Krucker, May 2012

Exercise 76-6: Tents *Match the tent with its corresponding definition from the book. (8 marks)*

- ___ Playing with Fire
- ___ The Lovers
- ___ The Pool of Tears
- ___ Darkness and Stars
- ___ The Hanged Man
- ___ Charming but Deadly
- ___ Hall of Mirrors
- ___ The Cloud Maze

1. You are met not with floor-length unadorned planes of mirrored glass, as you half expected, but hundreds of mirrors varying sizes and shapes, each in a different frame.
2. Beyond the ticket booth the only way forward is through a heavy striped curtain...When it is your turn, you pull back the fabric and step forward, only to be engulfed by darkness as the curtain closes again.
3. The only illumination in this tent comes from the fire. The flames are a radiant, flickering white, like the bonfire in the courtyard.
4. An Excursion in Dimension. A Climb Through the Firmament. There Is No Beginning. There Is No End. Enter Where You Please. Leave When You Wish. Have No Fear of Falling.
5. The sign outside this tent is accompanied by a small box full of smooth black stones...In the center of the room there is a pool. A pond enclosed within a black stone wall that is surrounded by white gravel.
6. You follow the sound of a flute into a hidden corner, the hypnotic melody beckoning you closer...Two white cobras coil around each other as they rise from the woven basket, in perfect time with the music.
7. In this tent, suspended high above you, there are people. Acrobats, trapeze artists, aerialists.
8. Standing on the platform in the midst of the crowd, high enough that they can be viewed clearly from all angles, are two figures, still as statues.