

Helping you choose books for children



opening extract from

# **Oxford School Thesaurus**

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**pledge** NOUN

- 1 Labour's pledge to spend billions on education
- promise, undertaking, assurance, commitment, guarantee
- 2 She gave her rings as a pledge.

**pledge** VERB

- 1 They all pledged their loyalty to the Queen.
- promise, swear, vow, guarantee, undertake

**plentiful** ADJECTIVE

- 1 a plentiful supply of fruit
  - abundant, copious, ample, liberal, profuse, generous, lavish, bountiful, prolific, inexhaustible
- OPPOSITES ARE sparse, scarce

**plenty** NOUN

- 1 a time of plenty
- prosperity, wealth, affluence, opulence, luxury, well-being, comfort
- 2 plenty of There is plenty of time before they arrive.
- a lot of, a great deal of, much, enough, (more informal) lots of, (more informal) heaps of, (more informal) loads of, (more informal) masses of

**pliable** ADJECTIVE

- 1 a pliable material
  - flexible, bendable, pliant, supple, plastic, springy, (more informal) bendy
- AN OPPOSITE IS stiff
- 2 a pliable mind
  - adaptable, impressionable, responsive, suggestible, compliant, flexible, tractable, biddable, accommodating
- AN OPPOSITE IS rigid

**plight** NOUN

- 1 the plight of the homeless
- difficulty, predicament, danger, trouble, extremity, quandary, straits

**plod** VERB

- 1 Mary plodded up the path.
- trudge, tramp, lumber, stomp
- 2 It will take hours to plod through the whole book.
- plough, wade, trawl, labour, persevere, grind on

**plot** NOUN

- 1 He grew vegetables in a plot behind the house.
- piece of ground, patch, allotment, smallholding, lot
- 2 The novel has a complicated plot.
- storyline, story, outline, action, thread, scenario, narrative
- 3 A plot was revealed against the government.
- conspiracy, intrigue, plan, scheme, cabal, machination

**plot** VERB

- 1 The president's brother was plotting his downfall.
- plan, scheme, concoct, devise, hatch
- 2 He was accused of plotting against the government.
- conspire, scheme, intrigue
- 3 They plotted their course on the map.
- chart, mark, map

**plough** VERB

- 1 Farmers ploughed the fields.
- cultivate, till, work, turn over
- 2 A van had ploughed into a shop window.
- plunge, crash, career, smash, bulldoze

**play** NOUN

- 1 It was just a play to get rid of Doreen.
- trick, ruse, move, device, stratagem, manoeuvre

**pluck** NOUN

- 1 He must have taken a lot of pluck to walk along a path marked 'danger'.
- courage, daring, nerve, audacity, boldness, heroism, (more informal) bottle, (more informal) guts, (more informal) guts

**pluck** VERB

- 1 She began to pluck hairs off her skirt.
- pick, pull, take off, snatch
- 2 He sang and plucked a guitar.
- pick, twang, strum, finger
- 3 The girls stood plucking fruit from the trees.
- pick, gather, collect, harvest, garner

**plucky** ADJECTIVE

- 1 a plucky young woman's tale of escape
  - brave, courageous, bold, daring, intrepid, valiant, resolute
- OPPOSITES ARE timid, cowardly

**plug** NOUN

- 1 He put a plug in the top of the bottle.
- stopper, cork, bung
- 2 (informal) They put in a plug for their new song.
- advertisement, piece of publicity, mention, (informal) puff, (informal) boost

**plumb** ADVERB

- 1 The arrow hit the target plumb in the middle.
- exactly, precisely, dead, (more informal) slap

**plumb** VERB

- 1 They seem to have plumbed the depths of despair.
- penetrate, probe, sound, explore, measure

**plummet** VERB

- 1 A stone came loose and plummeted to the ground.
- plunge, fall, hurtle, drop, crash, dive

**plump** ADJECTIVE

- 1 a plump little boy
  - chubby, pudgy, tubby, fat, dumpty, rotund, round, overweight, stout, portly, pudgy
- OPPOSITES ARE thin, slim, skinny

**plump** VERB

- 1 Jill plumped down on the sofa and fell asleep.
- sink, drop, flop, fall, collapse
- 2 plump for I'm going to plump for the vegetarian menu.
- choose, opt for, go for, pick, decide on

**plunder** VERB

- 1 Pirates plundered towns and villages near the coast.
- loot, pillage, raid, ransack, ravage, despoil, rifle, rob, sack, steal from

**plunder** NOUN

- 1 The army was bent on plunder and murder.
- looting, robbery, pillage, pillooting, marauding

**plunge** VERB

- 1 The plane plunged to the ground.
- dive, plummet, fall, hurtle, drop, crash, swoop, nosedive
- 2 I plunged into the lake.
- dive, leap, jump, throw yourself, hurl yourself
- 3 He plunged the knife into the man's back.
- thrust, force, stab, shove, stick, push
- 4 She plunged a hand in the water.
- dip, immerse, submerge, sink

**poach** VERB

- 1 The new company was poaching staff from its rivals.
- steal, purloin, filch, (more informal) pinch, (more informal) nick

**pocket** NOUN

- 1 There were some pockets of resistance to the new regime.
- area, patch, centre, cluster

**pocket** VERB

- 1 The management was accused of pocketing all the profits.
- take, steal, appropriate, help yourself to, take for yourself

**podgy** ADJECTIVE

- 1 She looked a bit podgy.
  - plump, chubby, tubby, fat, dumpty, rotund, round, overweight, pudgy
- OPPOSITES ARE thin, slim, skinny

**poem** NOUN

- 1 He read her some of his poems.
- verse, rhyme, poetry

**NAMES FOR TYPES OF POEM**

- 1 longer narrative poems: epic, ballad, lay, chanson.

- 2 poems for singing: chanson, madrigal, lay, dithyramb (ancient choral hymn), ballad.

- 3 laments: elegy.

- 4 short pastoral and romantic poems: eclogue, pastoral, georgic, idyll.

- 5 short poems and rhymes: lyric, ode, sonnet (of fourteen lines), nursery rhyme, epigram, limerick, clerihew, nonsense verse, lay.

**Japanese poems:** haiku, tanka.**NAMES FOR POETIC FEATURES**

- 1 verse, stanza; rhyme, enjambement, free verse, rhythm, couplet, imagery, metre, alliteration (use of similar sounds at the beginning of a sequence of words), assonance (similarity of syllables in words, e.g. stone and cold), simile, metaphor; blank verse (without end-of-line rhymes), concrete poetry (with the meaning echoed by visual patterns in the words).

**poet** NOUN

- 1 She wrote stories and was a poet.
- writer of verse, rhymester, lyricist, lyricist, versifier, bard

**poetic** ADJECTIVE

- 1 poetic language
  - expressive, lyrical, poetical, emotive, metrical, imaginative
- AN OPPOSITE IS prosaic

**poetry** NOUN

- 1 a book of poetry
- poems, verses, rhymes

**poignant** ADJECTIVE

- 1 a poignant moment of farewell
- touching, moving, affecting, sad, tender, emotional, pitiful, pathetic, sorrowful

**point** NOUN

- 1 the point of the needle
- tip, end, sharp end, spike, extremity
- 2 points of light
- spot, speck, dot, fleck
- 3 at this point, the door opened.
- moment, instant, time, stage
- 4 I wish they would get to the point.
- essence, crux, meaning, thrust
- 5 a few points of detail
- detail, item, issue, factor, consideration, particular, facet, feature
- 6 She admitted he had some good points
- characteristic, feature, attribute, aspect, peculiarity, side
- 7 There didn't seem much point in staying.
- purpose, reason, object, aim, goal, advantage, benefit
- 8 They could get on the train at a point further up the line.
- place, position, location, spot, site, locality

**point** VERB

- 1 point or point to An official pointed the way. He pointed to a picture on the stairs.
- indicate, point out, draw attention to, show, signal
- 2 She saw the man was pointing a gun at her.
- aim, direct, level, train
- 3 I'll point you in the right direction.
- direct, guide, lead, steer

**point-blank** ADJECTIVE

- 1 The gun was fired at point-blank range.
- close
- 2 Their request met with a point-blank refusal.
- blunt, direct, straight, plain, frank, open, explicit, forthright

**point-blank** ADVERB

- 1 She told him point-blank that it was over.
- bluntly, directly, straight, straight out, frankly, openly, plainly, clearly, forthrightly

**pointed** ADJECTIVE

- 1 He used the pointed end of a stick.
- sharp, tapered, spiky