# The Hawtorne Mystery – Vocabulary by Chapter

## Chapter 1: The Midnight Discovery

silhouette an outline or shape seen against a lighter background  
creaking making a long high sound when something moves or is stepped on  
inquisitively with curiosity or a desire to learn more  
mildew a musty-smelling fungus that grows in damp places  
tarnished dirty or dull especially because of age or exposure  
slumped sitting or lying down in a bent or collapsed way  
seeped slowly leaked or oozed out  
faint barely noticeable or weak in strength  
whisper a soft or hushed voice  
hesitated paused before doing something usually because of uncertainty  
fragment a small broken piece of something larger  
mansion a large and impressive house  
porch a covered area in front of a house’s entrance  
sagging sinking or drooping due to weakness or weight  
littered scattered or spread messily across a surface  
cobwebs spider webs often old and dusty  
investigate to look into something carefully to discover the truth  
curiosity a strong desire to learn or know something  
pulse the rhythmic beat of the heart felt through the body  
crumpled wrinkled or folded in a messy way  
discovery the act of finding something previously unknown

## Chapter 2: The Friends Behind the Mystery

dawn the first light of day as the sun begins to rise  
macabre related to death or something disturbing and eerie  
scribbled wrote something quickly and carelessly  
discovery the act of finding or learning something for the first time  
fascinated deeply interested or curious about something  
disappearances the act of something or someone going missing  
boiler room a room in a building where heating equipment is kept  
observations noticings or careful examinations of details  
impressed feeling admiration or respect for someone’s abilities  
curiosity a strong desire to know or learn something  
leadership the ability to guide or direct others  
mechanical related to machines or tools  
risk taking a chance where there’s a possibility of danger or failure  
careful acting with thought and attention to avoid danger or mistakes  
naturally done in a normal or expected way  
details small facts or features that help explain something  
pledged promised or committed to do something  
secrets information kept hidden from others  
uncover to reveal or find something that was hidden  
step up to take responsibility or action in a situation

## **Chapter 3: Clues in the Shadows**

shadows dark areas where light is blocked  
buzzing filled with constant activity or excitement  
torn ripped or damaged  
determination strong intention or resolve to do something  
backyard the area behind a house usually outdoors  
tools objects used to carry out a specific job  
historical related to history or past events  
ledger a book for keeping records especially financial or official ones  
sketch a quick drawing or outline  
sealed closed off or covered tightly  
mysterious strange unknown or difficult to explain  
disappearance the act of someone or something going missing  
charm a small decorative object that may hold personal meaning  
symbol an image or object that represents something else  
flickered moved or flashed quickly and unsteadily  
froze stopped suddenly usually from surprise or fear  
reported gave an account or described what was seen or known  
footprints marks left by feet on a surface  
gleamed shone with light or appeared bright  
adventure an exciting and possibly risky experience or journey  
beginning the start of something

## **Chapter 4: The Shadow in the Window**

streaks long thin lines of color or light  
crouched bent low to the ground with knees bent  
tense showing nervousness or strain  
boldly with confidence and courage  
protest to speak out or object to something  
glimpse a quick or partial look at something  
cautiously carefully to avoid danger or mistakes  
hastily done quickly and often carelessly  
handwriting the way a person writes by hand  
raced moved quickly often because of urgency  
rustle a soft sound made by movement especially through leaves or paper  
serious showing deep thought or concern  
taped attached using adhesive tape  
vault a secure room or compartment for storing valuable items  
gestured made a movement to communicate something  
creaked made a high-pitched noise when moving like old wood  
whisper a quiet voice or sound  
barn a large farm building used to store things or house animals  
entrance the opening or way into a place  
sigh a long breath usually showing relief or sadness

## **Chapter 5: Secrets Beneath the Surface**

sealed closed tightly to prevent entry or escape  
echoed repeated or reflected sound off surfaces  
drained emptied of liquid  
straining trying hard to hear or do something with effort  
anticipation a feeling of excitement or nervous waiting  
rusted covered with corrosion from age or moisture  
engraved cut or carved into a surface  
symbol a sign or image that represents an idea or family  
celebrate to express joy or success  
vanished disappeared suddenly  
smoke something hazy or hard to see clearly often used metaphorically  
watched being observed or followed  
careful done with attention to avoid harm or mistakes  
determined showing firmness in purpose or decision  
silhouette a dark outline seen against a lighter background  
guarding protecting or watching over something  
tucked placed carefully or hidden inside something  
footsteps the sound or mark of someone walking  
slipped moved quietly or secretly  
truth what is real or accurate especially when hidden

## **Chapter 6: The Hidden Passage**

excitement a feeling of eagerness or anticipation  
buzzed filled with energy or nervousness  
thoroughly completely and carefully  
interior the inside part of something  
flashlight a handheld electric light used to see in the dark  
panel a flat section of a surface often part of a wall or door  
embedded set firmly into a surface  
ornate decorated with complex or fancy details  
keyhole the slot where a key is inserted  
descending moving downward  
cellar a room below ground level used for storage  
crates large wooden boxes used for storing or shipping  
cobwebs spider webs that are often dusty and old  
suspense a feeling of anxious uncertainty about what may happen  
pinned fastened or attached with a pin or tack  
tarp a large sheet used for covering or protecting things  
vault a secure place for keeping valuables  
footsteps the sound of someone walking  
adventure an exciting and risky journey or undertaking  
danger the possibility of harm or threat

## **Chapter 7: The Unexpected Ally**

echoing repeating sound bouncing off surfaces  
pressed leaned or pushed closely against something  
alcove a small recessed section of a room or wall  
cramped uncomfortably small or tight  
obscured hidden or made unclear  
cloak a long loose outer garment  
protecting keeping something safe from harm  
secrets things kept hidden or unknown  
buried hidden deeply or kept from being discovered  
testimony a formal statement or declaration often given as evidence  
proof evidence that shows something is true  
promised gave a commitment or assurance to do something  
careful done with caution to avoid mistakes or harm  
dangerous likely to cause harm or risk  
gathered came together or assembled  
watched observed closely often in a secretive way  
crate a large wooden box for storage or shipping  
faintly in a way that is slight or barely noticeable  
shadow something dark caused by light being blocked  
hope a feeling of expectation or desire for a certain outcome

## **Chapter 8: The Hidden Door**

dusty covered with fine dry dirt from age or disuse  
embedded placed firmly and deeply into a surface  
crowbar a metal tool used for prying or lifting  
groaned made a deep sound from pressure or movement  
spiraling winding downward in a circular shape  
slippery slick or difficult to walk on due to moisture or smoothness  
bricks rectangular blocks used for building walls  
moss a green plant that grows in damp shady places  
ominously in a way that suggests danger or something bad may happen  
plank a flat piece of wood used in flooring or construction  
snapped broke suddenly with a sharp sound  
hooks curved devices used to hang or hold objects  
discarded thrown away or left behind  
clipping a small piece cut from a newspaper or magazine  
faded worn or dulled in color or clarity  
betrayal the act of being disloyal or dishonest  
recognized knew or identified from seeing before  
rusted damaged or colored from oxidation over time  
evidence information that helps prove something is true  
test a situation that challenges someone's courage or skill

## **Chapter 9: Peril in the Darkness**

damp slightly wet often in an unpleasant way  
magnified made to appear larger or louder  
steady firm and not shaking  
tense showing nervousness or unease  
maze a confusing network of paths or tunnels  
etched scratched or carved into a surface  
resembling looking like or similar to something  
suggested recommended or proposed  
faded dulled or worn down over time  
squeeze to fit through a tight space by pressing in  
crumbling falling apart or breaking down  
pitfall a hidden trap or hole  
grimly in a serious or worried way  
booby traps hidden devices meant to trick or harm  
scratched marked or scored with something sharp  
deliberate done on purpose with intention  
glances quick looks  
closing in moving closer usually in a threatening way  
alive still active or dangerous not finished  
buried hidden from view or kept secret

## **Chapter 10: The Race Through Shadows**

echoed repeated as sound bounced off surfaces  
twisting turning or curving repeatedly  
dodged moved quickly to avoid something  
muffled softened or unclear in sound  
tangled mixed up in a messy or twisted way  
traps hidden dangers or devices meant to catch someone  
glittered shined with small flashes of light  
vault a secure room or container for valuables or secrets  
covered placed over something to hide or protect it  
journal a personal record of thoughts or events  
belonged was owned by someone  
heir a person who inherits or is next in line for property or a title  
betrayal an act of disloyalty or going against someone’s trust  
narrow small in width; tight space  
blocking preventing movement through a space  
grate a metal frame with openings used for ventilation or drainage  
pried opened with force using a tool  
emerged came out from a hidden or enclosed place  
collapsed fell down suddenly from exhaustion or relief  
victorious having won or succeeded in a challenge

## **Chapter 11: Unveiling the Past**

crept moved slowly and quietly  
huddled sat closely together often for warmth or comfort  
faded lightened or worn due to age  
whispering speaking very softly  
revelations new and surprising pieces of information  
expose to reveal something hidden or secret  
fiduciary a person responsible for managing someone else’s money or assets  
charged formally accused of a crime  
fraud the act of lying or cheating to gain something  
murder the unlawful killing of another person  
connected related or linked in some way  
adjusting moving slightly to improve position or comfort  
ghosts spirits of the dead (used here to symbolize the past)  
deserves should rightfully receive  
carefully done with thought or attention to detail  
extraordinary very unusual or remarkable  
appeared became visible or arrived unexpectedly  
protecting keeping safe from harm  
storm a serious or troubling event (literal and metaphorical)  
horizon the line where the sky meets the earth often suggesting something coming

## **Chapter 12: Shadows Lifted**

roared made a loud deep sound like thunder or strong wind  
gathered came together in one place  
convened assembled for a meeting or discussion  
reveal to show something that was hidden or unknown  
feud a long and bitter fight or disagreement often between families  
haunted troubled or affected by something from the past  
evidence information or proof used to support a claim  
murmurs soft low voices or whispers from a crowd  
stern serious and strict in manner  
swiftly quickly and without delay  
fiduciary someone trusted to manage money or property for others  
intimidate to frighten or threaten someone to gain control  
shocked very surprised or upset by unexpected news  
trusted relied on or believed to be honest  
arrested taken by police because of a suspected crime  
charged formally accused of a specific crime  
fraud cheating or deception intended to gain something dishonestly  
rallied came together in support of a cause  
uncover to reveal or bring to light something hidden  
justice fair treatment and due punishment under the law  
cleared became free of clouds confusion or trouble

## **Epilogue: New Beginnings**

weeks a period of seven days  
lifted removed or taken away (as in a burden or feeling)  
preserving protecting something so it remains unchanged or safe  
sealed closed off or made inaccessible  
studied examined carefully  
historians people who study and write about history  
secrets hidden truths or information  
interest curiosity or desire to learn more  
confident having belief in one’s own abilities  
wiser having more knowledge or good judgment from experience  
mysteries things that are difficult to understand or explain  
charged accused formally of a crime  
fraud an act of deception for personal gain  
notebook a book of blank pages for writing or drawing  
grinned smiled broadly  
adventure an exciting and sometimes risky journey or experience  
friendship a close and trusting relationship between people  
changed become different over time  
next future or following  
ready prepared to take action