# 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