

Words from Kyung-Sook Shin's *Please Look After Mom*

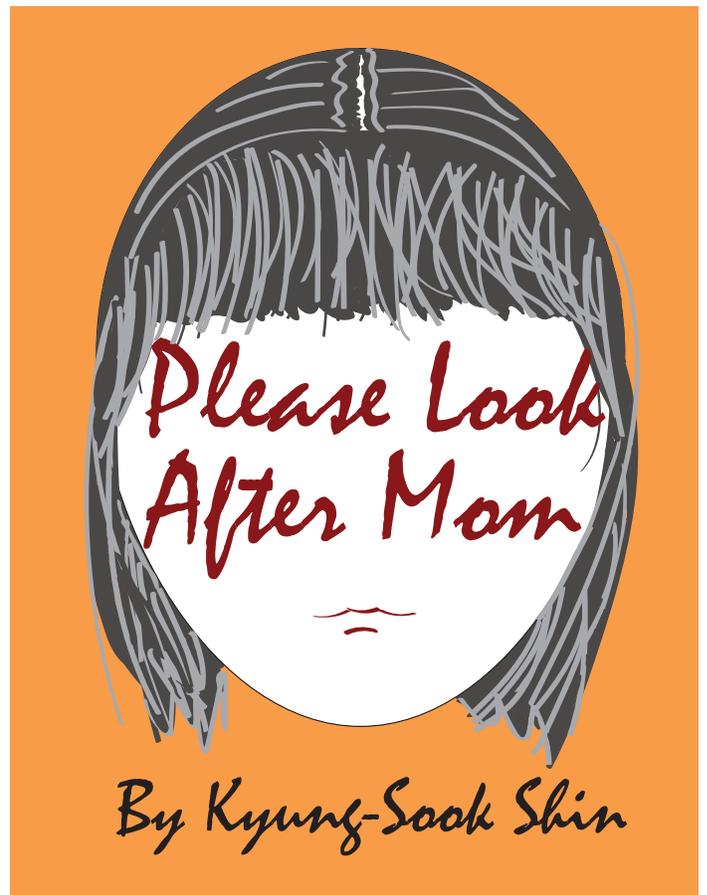
Avocabo Wordlist 102

BALKED, BASIN, EMPYEMA, FRESCOES, GALVANIZED, KEROSENE, LAMENT, LISTLESSLY, MALEVOLENCE, MULBERRY, OBSTINATE, PERILLA, PILGRIMAGE, PLOVER, POMADED, REPRIMAND, SULLEN, VACANTLY, VAGABOND, VEHEMENTLY

This moving novel is the story of So-Nyo, who gets separated from her husband at the Seoul subway, in South Korea. Her family is desperately looking for her as she is now sixty-nine years old and is not as aware as she used to be. It is told from the viewpoints of her daughter, her son, her husband, and herself, as her family reflects on the women they knew. However, as the story unfolds they begin to question how well they really knew their mom.

Exercise 102-1: Fill-in-the-Blanks Write the list word closest in meaning to each definition below. (20 marks)

1. _____ A short-billed gregarious wading bird
2. _____ A type of seed
3. _____ In an expressionless manner
4. _____ Coat with a protective layer
5. _____ Bad-tempered, sulky
6. _____ A journey
7. _____ A person who wanders from place to place without a home or job
8. _____ Impetuous, or violent
9. _____ Hatred
10. _____ To scold
11. _____ Show unwillingness to accept an idea
12. _____ A type of oil
13. _____ Paintings done rapidly in watercolour on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling
14. _____ Stubborn
15. _____ A collection of pus in a cavity in the body, especially in the pleural cavity.
16. _____ Expression grief or sorrow.
17. _____ Spiritlessly, showing no interest.
18. _____ Type of tree.



19. _____ Applied a perfume ointment to the hair.
20. _____ A large bowl.

Exercise 102-2: Fill In the Blanks Complete the following sentences from the novel with the most appropriate list word. (20 marks)

1. She pressed sesame oil and roasted and ground sesame and _____ seeds, so she could present her children with a jar of each as they left.
2. At first the family refused to do that, even when Mom insisted on it, and if she _____ at coming to the city, a few of you went home to celebrate with her.
3. Weighted with pain, her face was a miserable knot. Only some invisible _____ could cause an expression like that.

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4. They said they saw an old woman walking very slowly, sometimes sitting on the floor or standing _____ by the escalators.

5. You took her request as just another chore, similar to heading out to the garden to pick some mallow or going to by some _____.

6. Before, Mom would _____ you harshly if you did something even remotely wrong.

7. Her hand, which was pressing down on her forehead, fell _____ to platform. Mom breathed laboriously, exhausted.

8. At night, the falling snow was reflected on the _____ paper of the window.

9. You were so different from your sister, who got angry quickly and cried and got _____ and turned blue in the face if things didn't work out her way.

10. I couldn't give up when I knew there was enough flour in that _____ for ten days' worth of meals.

11. I told you that there was a(n) _____ route there that took thirty-three days to walk.

12. When you were young and rode into town on the motorcycle, hair _____, wearing a leather jacket, everyone turned to look.

13. Those blue _____ iron gates, their paint peeling.

14. _____ are made with lime plaster, so they had to finish before the plaster set.

15. Father suddenly said, as if he wasn't listened to you carefully, that he should have let Mom get surgery for sinus _____.

16. Did you become a(n) _____ because you were forced to leave home and sleep outside, blanketed in the dew.

17. When you shook off your son, who _____, disagreed with your coming home by yourself, and you took the morning train, a small corner of your heart nurtured the hope that when you walked in and called, "Are you here? I'm home!" your wife would greet you as in old times-"You're home!"-Perhaps while she cleaned the room or trimmed vegetables in the shed or washed rice in the kitchen.

18. In their small room, Mom ordered his _____ sister: "I told you to ask him to forgive you."

19. Only when Mom's _____ turned into teardrops did his sister say, "That's not it!"

20. It's a black-bellied _____. Strange- it's not a bird that flies alone, so why is it here?

Exercise 102-3: Synonyms Circle the word closest in meaning to the bold list word. (10 marks)

1. the elderly **balk** at proposed rate increases.
are: a) unwilling b) ignorant of c) unaware

2. A recently closed Campus Pizza sits **vacantly** in Stadium Village on Wednesday afternoon.
appearing: a) open b) secret c) empty

3. Her **sullen** daughter Sam unhappily married.
a) bad-temper b) dark c) unwilling

4. The degree of **malevolence** towards the director was at a level I have never seen. Every client I ran into seemed unhappy.
a) charitableness b) sinister c) wonder

5. A top judge has said the High Court could not compel an insurer from deviating from the **obstinate** stance it has adopted towards the couple.
a) adamant b) yielding c) restful

6. I **listlessly** reached for the remote.
a) carefully b) casually c) lazily

7. The intellect is **vagabond**, and the universal system of education fosters restlessness.
a) liked b) happy c) nomad

8. The officials were **reprimanded** for their poor work.

- a) saddened b) scolded c) ignored

9. He was **lamenting** the death of his father.

- a) grieving b) disproving c) unforgiving

10. The **frescoes** were beautiful.

- a) paintings b) sculptures c) drawings

Exercise 102-4: Antonyms Match the list word in the first column with its closest antonym in the second column by writing the letter in the space provided. (10 marks)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. _____ Obstinate | a) Permanent |
| 2. _____ Lament | b) Hectically |
| 3. _____ Vagabond | c) Accept |
| 4. _____ Vehemently | d) Kindness |
| 5. _____ Malevolence | e) Confused |
| 6. _____ Reprimand | f) Jaunt |
| 7. _____ Listlessly | g) Cheerful |
| 8. _____ Sullen | h) Happy |
| 9. _____ Balked | i) Compliment |
| 10. _____ Pilgrimage | j) Calmly |
| | k) Willing |

Exercise 102-5: Anagrams Unscramble the words, in order to form a word from the list above. (12 marks)

- | | |
|-------|------------------|
| _____ | 1. Real Lip |
| _____ | 2. Rev Pol |
| _____ | 3. Recess Of |
| _____ | 4. Knee Sore |
| _____ | 5. Age Girl Lip |
| _____ | 6. As Bin |
| _____ | 7. Pay Me Em |
| _____ | 8. Mad Dope |
| _____ | 9. Glazed Vain |
| _____ | 10. Sell Its Sly |
| _____ | 11. Dear Mr Nip |
| _____ | 12. Blurry Me |

Exercise 102-6: Korean Words featured in the novel (for those who have read the book) Write the word from the word list above that matches each definition. (5 marks)

CHOGORI, HANBOK, KOMSO, NAMSAN-DONG, RAMEN

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | 1. A neighbourhood in Busan, South Korea. |
| _____ | 2. A place located near Uijongbu and Pongujae. |
| _____ | 3. A traditional Korean dress. |
| _____ | 4. A type of blouse worn with the hanbok. |
| _____ | 5. A well-known Korean food that is mainly made of noodles. |

Answers to Unit

Exercise 102-1: Fill-in-the-Blanks

1. Plover, 2. Perilla, 3. Vacantly, 4. Galvanized, 5. Sullen, 6. Pilgrimage, 7. Vagabond, 8. Vehemently, 9. Malevolence, 10. Reprimand, 11. Balked, 12. Kerosene, 13. Frescoes, 14. Obstinate, 15. Empyema, 16. Lament, 17. Listlessly, 18. Mulberry, 19. Pomaded, 20. Basin

Exercise 102-2: Fill In the Blanks

1. Perilla, 2. Balked, 3. Malevolence, 4. Vacantly, 5. Kerosene, 6. Reprimand, 7. Listlessly, 8. Mulberry, 9. Sullen, 10. Basin, 11. Pilgrimage, 12. Pomaded, 13. Galvanized, 14. Frescoes, 15. Empyema, 16. Vagabond, 17. Vehemently, 18. Obstinate, 19. Lament, 20. Plover

Exercise 102-3: Synonyms

1. a, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b, 5. a, 6. c, 7. c

Exercise 102-4: Antonyms

1. Perilla, 2. Plover, 3. Frescoes, 4. Kerosene, 5. Pilgrimage, 6. Basin, 7. Empyema, 8. Pomaded, 9. Galvanized, 10. Listlessly, 11. Reprimand, 12. Mulberry

Exercise 102-5: Anagrams

- e) Willing h) Happy a) Permanent j) Calmly d) Kindness i) Compliment b) Hectically g) Cheerful c) Accept f) Jaunt

Exercise 102-6: Korean Words featured in the novel

1. Namsan-dong, 2. Ramen, 3. Hanbok, 4. Chogori