**“The Telltale Heart” Vocabulary**

**Hearken/Hark** – pay attention/listen

**Dissimulation** – pretending

**Sagacity** – keen perception; ability to make wise judgments

**Deathwatches** – beetles that live in old wood. Their ticking noises were thought to warn of death

**Crevice** – a crack forming an opening

**Stealthily** – to be done secretly; sneaky

**Tattoo** – drumming/knocking or strong pulsation

**Vex** – to irritate, annoy, or provoke

**Dismembered** – to divide into parts, especially to remove limbs (arms, legs)

**Scantlings** – timbers (floorboards)

**Cunningly** – crafty or sly in deception (lying)

**Suavity** – smoothly agreeable or polite

**Audacity** – boldness or daring, especially with confident/arrogant disregard for safety

**Vehemently** – strongly emotional; intensely passionate

**Dissemble** – to hide one’s true motives