

Verse Vocabulary Answer Key

1. **Ancient** - Very old; from a long time ago.

- Adds to the mood of history and timelessness by describing the arch of stone.

2. **Mystic** - Having a magical or mysterious quality.

- Creates a sense of wonder and mystery in the forest setting.

3. **Solemn** - Serious, grave, or thoughtful.

- The river's tune feels weighty and reflective, shaping a serious atmosphere.

4. **Steadfast** - Firm, loyal, or unwavering.

- Suggests determination, showing the pilgrim's strong will despite tiredness.

5. **Omen** - A sign or symbol that predicts something in the future.

- Hints at destiny, foreshadowing challenges or triumphs ahead.

Teacher Notes:

- Allow students to come up with **approximate meanings** as long as they are reasonable and supported by context.
- Reinforce that poets often choose words to create a particular **mood or tone**, not just to tell facts.
- Extension idea: Assign students to choose one of the bolded words and use it in an original poem of their own.