**Chapter 1**

Cloaked - hidden

Homesteaders - a family that lives on a parcel of land where they strive to make their home, usually with a high degree of self-sufficiency

Gnarled - full of knots, bent, twisted

Craggy - rough, rugged

Tunic - a long shirt that may be belted

Cane (river cane) - a bamboo-like plant with a hollow stem

Intertwining - wrapped around each other

Sapling - a young tree

Tranquil - peaceful, still

Clan - a large group of people who are related

Coveted - wanted very strongly

Barken - like the bark of a tree

Slunk - moved in a secretive way

Riverine - related or similar to a river

Lair - the sleeping place of a wild animal, also a place for hiding

Tendrils - thin, curly stems of plants or any thin, curly substance

**Chapter 2**

Hunkered - crouched down

Quills - a hollow sharp spine on an animal

Mantel - a shelf above a fireplace

Embers - glowing coals from a fire

Reed - bendable tall grasses

Satchel - a small bag with a shoulder strap

Mottled - covered in spots or blotches

Looming - appearing in a large, strange, or frightening form

Clutch - a small group of something

Bristled - covered with short, stiff hairs

**Chapter 3**

Mamaw - an Appalachian dialect word for grandmother

Limbs - arms and legs

Identical - exactly the same

Rasp - to speak in a rough voice

Sniveling - speaking in a whining way

Writhing - twisting painfully

Locket - a small case usually worn on a chain as a necklace

Furrowed - formed into ridges

Ensnared - captured

Bewildering - confusing

Lurched - moved in a sudden way

Headlong - headfirst

Careening - moving without control

**Chapter 4**

Radiating - to move outward from a source

Wrested - pulled something away from someone

Gnashing - grinding teeth together

Cover - place to hide

Bleating - making the sound a goat or sheep makes

Debilitating - makes someone weak

Utter - complete and total

Tremor - shaking

Stanch - to stop blood from flowing

**Chapter 5**

Hinder - to stop or slow down something or someone

Trudging - walking with slow, heavy steps

Underbrush - plants that grow under large trees

Akin - similar or related

Scoffed - laughed or talked about disrespectfully

Relentless - not stopping for any reason

Dispersing - moving in different directions

Spasms - painful tightening of muscles

Treading - walking

Tromping - walking with heavy, stamping steps

Riffle - a shallow part of a river where water flows wavy and fast

Beset - suffering from

Churning - moving in a confused way

Plaintive - sounding very sad

**Chapter 6**

Wincing - making a face of embarrassment or pain

Compelled - forced

Scruff - the back of the neck

Jutting - sticking out in a sharp or jagged way

Flanks - areas on an animal’s sides between the ribs and hips

Craning - stretching out to see better

Keenest - sharpest, having the most ability at something

Kinship - feeling of being closely related to a group

Ravine - a small, deep, narrow valley

Treacherously - very dangerous

Undulating - moving like waves

**Chapter 7**

Seeping - flowing slowly through a small opening

Prominence - a prominent feature of a landscape that sticks out

Cascading - flowing down quickly

Trundling - walking slowly and heavily

Unison - all together as one

Arduously - with great effort and difficulty

Gout - a disease that causes painful swelling of the joints

Temples - the small, flat areas on each side of a person’s forehead

**Chapter 8**

Pang - sudden, strong feeling of emotion or pain

Reverently - with much respect

Cloven - split or divided in two

Timidly - shyly, nervously

Serene - peaceful and calm

Lumbered - walked slowly and heavily

Immense - huge

Wallowing - rolling around in mud or water

Avert - avoid

Muffled - softened, covered up

Decrepit - old and broken down

Bracingly - pleasantly cool

Frigid - extremely cold

Ursine - like or related to bears

Taut - pulled tightly

Maneuvered - moved in a careful and skillful way

**Chapter 9**

Atlatls - Weapons used by the Cherokee for throwing darts or spears

Realms - areas brought together by something or someone

Gorge - a rocky, deep, narrow area between hills or mountains

Receded - moved away gradually

Nuzzled - pushed a nose or face gently against someone

Vowed - promised very seriously to do something