**Word notes:**

**Huddle: gather**

**Squeezed: crowded,**

**Refugee: exile, fugitive**

**Whimpering : making a series of low, feeble sound**

**Shivering: trembling**

**Limp: walk with difficulty**

**Platitudes: commonplace**

**Badinage: humorous, witty conversation**

**Skeleton: frame**

**Wary: careful, cautious**

**Plop: the short sound as of a small, solid object dropping into water without a splash**

**Scrub:rub**

**Ajar: slightly open**

**Noose: a loop with a running knot**

**Demur: raise objections, show reluctance**

**Shabbily: in poor condition through long use or lack of care**

**(Characters: Mallika, Pramatha, Ramlochan, Bhusan**