

Vocabulary for *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street* by Rod Serling

1. [apprehensive](#) in fear or dread of possible evil or harm

As they stand there, fearful, **apprehensive**, mothers clutching children, men standing in front of wives.

2. [antagonism](#) an actively expressed feeling of dislike and hostility

Sally
(in a whisper, sensing the **antagonism** of the crowd)

3. [menace](#) something that is a source of danger

And stop telling me who's dangerous and who isn't and who's safe and who's a **menace**.
(he turns to the group and shouts)

4. [defiantly](#) in a rebellious manner

He stands there **defiantly** close to them.

5. [flustered](#) thrown into a state of agitated confusion

A little power failure and right away we get all **flustered** and everything.

6. [idiosyncrasy](#) a behavioral attribute peculiar to an individual

Let's pick out every **idiosyncrasy** of every single man, woman, and child on the street.

7. [incriminate](#) to suggest that someone is guilty

Now I suppose that's supposed to **incriminate** me!

8. [insomnia](#) an inability to sleep

I'm guilty of **insomnia**.

9. [metamorphosis](#) striking change in appearance or character or circumstances

In this brief fraction of a moment they take the first step toward performing a **metamorphosis** that changes people from a group into a mob.

10. [optimism](#) a general feeling to expect the best in all things

Likely as not--
(he turns to the group, now trying to weight his words with an **optimism** he obviously doesn't feel but is desperately trying to instill in himself as well as the others)

11. [pan](#) make a sweeping movement

As the CAMERA begins a SLOW **PAN** across the heavens--

12. [persistently](#) in a firm or steady manner

Persistently but a little intimidated by the crowd.

13. [prejudice](#) preconceived negative idea; having an opinion without all the facts

There are weapons that are simply thoughts, attitudes, **prejudices** - to be found only in the minds of men.

14. [reflective](#) deeply or seriously thoughtful

Maple Street in the last calm and **reflective** moment...before the monsters came!

15. [precisely](#) indicating exactness

At the sound of the roar and the flash of light it will be **precisely** 6:43 P.M. on Maple Street.

16. [scapegoat](#) someone who is punished for the errors of others

You're standing here all set to crucify - all set to find a **scapegoat** - all desperate to point some kind of a finger at a neighbor!

17. [sluggish](#) moving slowly

It turns over sluggishly and then just stops dead.

18. [suspicion](#) the state of being believed to be guilty

For the record, prejudices can kill and **suspicion** can destroy and a thoughtless frightened search for a scapegoat has a fallout all its own for the children...and the children yet unborn.

19. [transfixed](#) having your attention fixated as though by a spell; fascinated

The man who's been polishing his car and now he stands there **transfixed**, staring upwards.

20. [tremendous](#) extraordinarily large in extent or amount or power

At this moment one of the little boys, Tommy, looks up to listen to a sound of a **tremendous** screeching roar from overhead.