

St Mark's Word of the Week



Maelstrom

Are you familiar with this word?

What does it mean?

Can you use it in a sentence?



Maelstrom (noun)

Definition

- a situation of confused movement or violent turmoil.



Examples:

1. They were caught in a maelstrom of emotion.
2. A maelstrom of players formed as the ball entered the penalty area.
3. They resigned following the maelstrom of negative attention in the press.



Maelstrom (noun)

Definition

- a situation of confused movement or violent turmoil.

Can you think of any synonyms for maelstrom?

- Anarchy
- Bedlam
- Disorganization
- Free-for-all
- Havoc
- Turbulence
- Turmoil



Where does the word come from? What is its etymology?

Off the coast of Norway, strong currents meet to create whirlpools and turbulent water

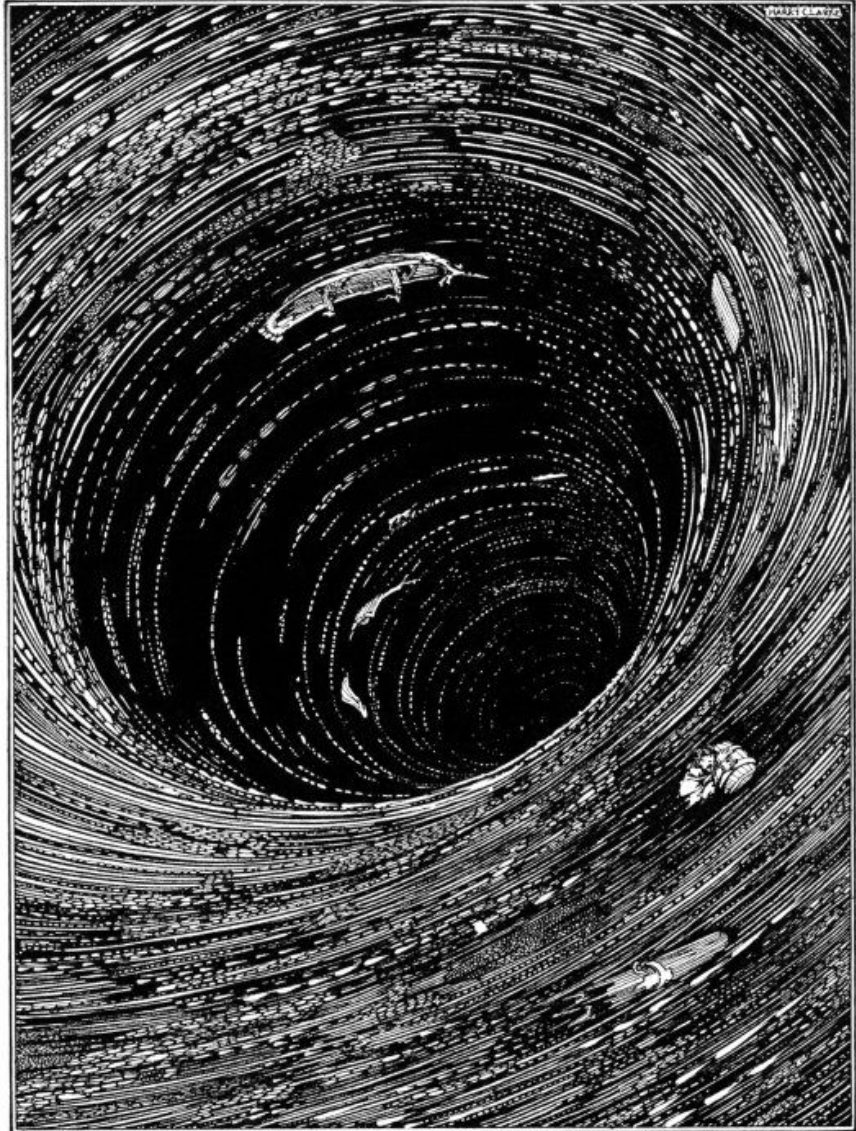


This was called the maelstrom. 'Mael' meaning to grind and 'strom' meaning stream; the grinding stream.

It featured in norse myths and poems and a medieval map of the North Atlantic Ocean. The map is titled 'Carta Marina'.



It was brought into English by Edgar Allan Poe in his short story 'A Descent into the Maelström'.



People's love of metaphors and the lack of whirlpools in most people's lives have ended up with it being used almost entirely metaphorically.

Can you recall the definition of the WOWs this term from the maelstrom of your mind?

Shenanigans

Paraphernalia

Cinch

Maelstrom

Can you recall the definition of the WOWs this term from the maelstrom of your mind?

Shenanigans

- Secret or dishonest activity.
- Silly or high-spirited behaviour

Paraphernalia

- The equipment used for or connected to a particular activity

Cinch

- Secure with a belt
- An extremely easy task

Maelstrom

- A situation of confused movement or violent turmoil.

At St. Mark's, there are 56 different languages spoken by the staff and students.

Next term we want to pick words of the week from these languages.

If you want to suggest a word from a language you speak or even have a go at making the whole presentation, contact Mr Crone on gmail.