

Cultural Meanings for Colors

Underlined Words Are Meanings Shared With Other Colors

Blue

castration, drunkenness, evil, faith, fiends, ghosts, happiness, holiness, human sacrifice, imagination, immortality, isolation, masculinity, mourning, protection, psychic ability, sadness, slavery, supernatural creatures, tolerance, truth, virtue

Yellow

bad omens, being Jewish, bravery, caution, confinement, cowardice, crime, debauchery, deceit, desirelessness, devil, divinity, eternity, evil, failure, glory, happiness, heresy, humility, illness, illumination, immortality, impure love, infidelity, intellectual talents, intuition, jealousy, life, light, madness, magnanimity, malevolence, marriage, mourning, north, outdoors, piety, power, prohibition, prosperity, protection, quarantine, renunciation, segregation, sensation, severity, shame, spirituality, trashiness, treachery, treason, truth, violence, wisdom, women's rights

Red

adultery, alarm, anarchy, anger, atonement, attack, bad luck, beauty, being Jewish, being part Chinese or Portuguese, blood, boasting, brides, bureaucracy, calamity, charity, cholera, communism, curses, debt, devil, danger, death, diamonds, disaster, doctors, east, embarrassment, energy, envy, explosiveness, feast days, ferocity, fever, fervor, fire, formality, fuel, good health, gout, hearts, hell, homosexuality, humiliation, illness, lawyers, liberty, love, magic, martyrdom, meditation, mourning, naughtiness, pain, poison, prohibition, prostitution, protection, revolution, safety, segregation, sexuality, shame, shock, sin, strength, stress, success, suffering, tearing emotions, terrorism, trauma, victory, violence, volatility, vulnerability, war, wounds, youth

Source: *The Primary Colors* by Alexander Theroux

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Orange

ambition, being Jewish, benevolence, bullying, chastity, clamorous, cleanliness, corruption, day brightener, death, disinterestedness, falsity, fertility, fickleness, fruitfulness, good fortune, happiness, hideous, hospitality, humility, immortality, inferiority, lack of steadiness, lack of warmth, loud, love, magic, marriage, power, pride, prostitution, purity, renunciation, satanic, showy, timidity, unrestrained, vacillation, warning

Purple

acne, Arabia, artifice, authority, babies' cries, bad magic, barrenness, beautiful, being Welsh, bleak, blood blisters, brutalizing cold, burns, check the passions, coffin silk, collapsed lungs, contrition, controls evil thoughts, daring bravery, dawn, dead leaves, death, decadence, defoliants, depressing, dreams, drug addiction, dusk, east in Ireland, edemas, education, elite, enchantment, endurance, erotic, evil, fading, failure, fantasies, fastidious, fasting, fatigue, force, formality, fortune, frailty, funerals, futility, graceful, grief, guilt, harlots' eyes, healing, high nobility, homosexuality, humility, illness, inspiring, instability, intellectual, intelligence, justice, knowledge, languorous, loneliness, loss, love of truth, magic, majesty, malaria, martyrdom, meditation, merciless, mourning, mystery, mystic, old age, oral lesions, overly authoritative, oxygen deprivation, pagan, Passion of Jesus Christ, passive, penitence, piety, pomp, preciosity, pride, prison complexions, protects sailors/doctors/hunters, regret, religious devotion, remorse, repentance, resignation, retreating, revered memories, royalty, ruin, rule of Catholic sacraments, rule of law, sadness, sanctity, sexiness, showy excess, shrewdness in business, sin, sluggishness, sobriety, solemnity, sorrow, sovereignty, spiritual, starvation, stuffing self with food, sublimation, suffering, suffragism, temperance, tenderness, truth, uncontrollable anger, unhealthy, vampires capes, vanity, varicose veins, venerableness, vicious lies, wealth, welts, winter skies, wistful, wit

Green

abundance, adaptability, alien, amateur, bad, bankruptcy, blind fury, bodes ill, callow, Catholic religious symbols, charity, class, corruption, deadly, death, decadence, decay, distortion, divinity, eeriness, Egyptian god Osiris, elite, enticement, envy, evil, fantasy, fear, fertility, folly, fracture, freshness, go, goddess Venus, good health, grow, growth, honor, hope, hysterical, ignorant, ill prepared, illness, immortality, inexact, inexperience, infirmity, initiation, innocence, inveigle, jealousy, life, lividness, looting, male sexuality, medicine, military, moldy, monsters, motion sickness, naive, naiveté, nature, nausea, negativism, new beginning, nihilism, old age, poison, production, prosperity, pus, radioactive, raw, regeneration of the soul, reproduction, royal, sacred, Satan, scum, seduction, sharp and thoughtless comments, sickly, sinister, skin disorders, sour, spooky, supernatural, sympathy, tartness, tranquility, unclean teeth, unskilled, unripe, unsophisticated, upset stomach, vegetation, victory, viper eyes, vomit, weakness, wreck at sea, youth

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