Vocabulary from “The Everlasting Forrest Fenn”

(https://stories.californiasunday.com/2015-07-05/the-everlasting-forrest-fenn/)

**A. Read the following sentences from the essay and try to guess the meaning of the words in bold.**

1. “The book would also act as a **cryptic** guide to a treasure chest that Fenn was planning to hide somewhere in the Rocky Mountains.”

2. “I kept asking the guy who gave me radiation what my chances were, and all he would say was, ‘ Mr. Fenn, you’ve got **an uphill battle’**.”

3. “Fenn already knew that he didn’t want to **wither** slowly **away** either……what he didn’t know was how to end things **on his own terms**.”

4. “Fenn **tinkered** with the box’s contents constantly, aiming to create a **stash** that would dazzle anyone who opened it.”

5. “The book’s publication **triggered** an explosion of interest, surpassing even Fenn’s **loftiest** expectations.”

6. “For thousands who have been **snared** by Fenn’s gambit, the treasure’s location is an all-consuming mystery. Some have **uprooted** their lives to hunt for the chest.”

7. “… all of them obsessed with the idea of the **trove** just sitting there for the taking, if only they could **unravel** Fenn’s clues.”

8. “There is a **ceaseless** **deluge** of email- 120 a day, arriving in a steady drumbeat of dings.”

9. “There are, of course, the reporters, **incessantly** asking for quotes and interviews.”

10. “ When you leave the confines of the cities, northern New Mexico grows very **austere** very quickly; the land comes to seem like varying altitudes of brown rock…”

Discussion Questions: “The Everlasting Forrest Fenn”

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**A. Discuss the following questions with your partner.**

1. There are many theories as to why Mr. Fenn hid a million dollar treasure and then wrote a poem with clues in it. Why do you think he did it? Do you think it is a good use of the money or would he be better off doing something else with the money? If you were him, would you have done the same?

2. Why do you think some people spend time and money looking for the treasure?

*‘But you spent all your money looking for it.’*

*‘I did’, she laughed. ‘I had to sell everything I had out in Hawaii and came out here basically with a bunch of clothes.”*

Is it just that they want the treasure or do you think that they are looking for something else? Adventure? Escape from their normal life?

3. At the end of the essay Forrest Fenn says, “*When someone finds that treasure chest, everybody’s going to say, ‘My God! Why didn’t I think of that?’”* In English, we can sum up this idea with the expression, “hindsight is 20/20.”

Do you have a similar expression in your language? Does this apply to your life? Do you find that this expression tells a truth about life?

**B. Choose one of the questions above and write your answer below.**

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