*Pygmalion* (1914)

According to the ancient Roman poet Ovid, Pygmalion was a sculptor (or the king of Cyprus in another version) who carved a woman out of ivory, named her Galatea, and fell in love with it. Unable to love any living woman, Pygmalion made offerings at the altar of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, quietly wishing for a bride who would be the living likeness of his ivory beauty. When he returned home, he kissed his ivory statue, and found that its lips felt warm. He kissed it again and found that the ivory metamorphosed into a real woman. Pygmalion married his “statuesque” woman under Aphrodite's blessing. In Ovid's narrative, they had a son named Paphos, who was later to found the namesake city in Cyprus.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1925/shaw/biographical/>

Act 1

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| Vocabulary  | Definition  |
| Amenity  | pleasantness, attractiveness, service  |
| Amiable  | Pleasant, amicable, agreeable  |
| Appalled  | Shocked, dismayed  |
| Bilious  | Nauseated, bad-tempered  |
| Conciliatory  | Appeasing, pacifying, reconciling |
| Cryptograms  | Coded or secret writings |
| Decipher  | To interpret, decode |
| Derisive  | Mocking, sarcastic |
| Didactic  | Morally instructive |
| Eminence  | A position of superiority |
| Exorbitant  | Excessive |
| Gumption  | Spirit, grit, common sense  |
| Haughty  | High-and-mighty, arrogant  |
| Inept  | Incompetent, absurd, awkward  |
| Inscrutable  | Difficult to understand, mysterious |
| Libelous  | Defamatory, slanderous, harmful  |
| Mendacity  | Dishonesty, insincerity  |
| Overbearing  | Domineering, arrogant, iron-handed  |
| Plight  | Difficulty, dilemma  |
| Repudiation  | Rejection, refusal  |
| Satires  | Literary works using humor to ridicule something or someone |
| Staid  | Serious, calm, composed  |
| Syndicate  | A business that sells publications to periodicals |
| Upstart  | A social climber  |
| Vulgarly  | Crudely indecent, offensively expressed |
| “have a jaw over” | To have a discussion |
| “his Pharisaic want of charity” | his hypocritically self-righteous desire to help others |