

flushed = excited or elated

animated = full of interest and energy

incandescent = very bright

intently = with great interest and attention

consciousness = the state of awareness

inkling = an idea or a feeling about something likely to happen

humbug = nonsense

sleight-of-hand = skillfully deceptive

conjuror = magician

scarcely = barely, hardly

crystalline = having the structure of a crystal

mantel = a shelf above a fireplace