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ne·pen·the  (nĭ-pĕn thē)

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n.

1. A drug mentioned in the *Odyssey* as a remedy for grief.
2. Something that induces forgetfulness of sorrow or eases pain.

[Alteration of Latin *nēpenthes*, from Greek *nēpenthes* (*pharmakon*), grief-banishing (drug), nepenthe, neuter of *nēpenthēs* : *nē-*, not; see **ne** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *penthos*, grief; see **k^went(h)-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ne·pen the·an (-thē-ən) *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

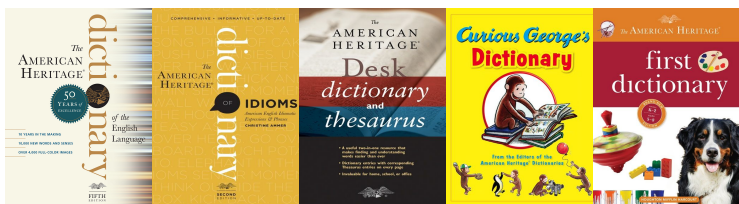
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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