

***"Wise and strong is he who leaves his heart open and searches without fear."*** –The Monna



**JSC2009-E-122461 --- The Soyuz TMA-15 launches from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on May 27, 2009. Photo credit: ESA/CSA/NASA/Stephane Corvaja**

**In the pantheon of awesome images of explosions, this has got to rank pretty high. Astronauts floating high above earth in the International Space Station snapped this shot of Russia's Sarychev Peak volcano in the Kuril Islands busting through the atmosphere on June 12 (click on the image for full-size).**



[Read the whole story here.](#)  
Thanks to Jon for the heads up on the volcano!

## vignette

\vin-YET\   
*noun*  
[Play Podcast](#)

### Meaning

- 1 : a running ornament or design (as of vine leaves, tendrils, and grapes) on a page
- 2 a : a picture (as an engraving or photograph) that shades off gradually into the surrounding paper b : the pictorial part of a postage stamp
- 3 \*a : a short descriptive literary sketch b : a brief incident or scene (as in a play or movie)

### Example Sentence

As a writing exercise, Jamie filled her journal with vignettes about her teachers and classmates.

### Did you know?

"Vignette" comes from Middle French "vignete," the diminutive form of the noun "vigne," meaning "vine." In English, the word was first used in the mid-18th century for a design or illustration that ran along the blank border of a page, or one that marked the beginning or end of a chapter. Such designs got their name because they often looked like little vines. It wasn't until the late 19th century that usage of "vignette" had shifted to cover a brief literary sketch or narrative, as we commonly see it used today.

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.


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Best Regards,

**Ron Van Alstyne**

### Ready, Willing & Able

The WebSmith Team  
We Build WebSites, Make Changes & Updates  
9860 Southern Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411 USA-Earth

 (561) 798-2010

 (561) 798-3339

 [rva@GotoWebSmith.com](mailto:rva@GotoWebSmith.com)

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