Today on Wondrous Words, we’ll focus on the word wizened. W-I-Z-E-N-E-D

I stand tall in 5 foot 9 inches, 140 pounds, have great hair and my skin looks better than ever. Well, my skin is wrinkle-free. Unlike most people of my generation, I’m not scared to get older and lose the physical appearance as it becomes more wizened with age.

Wizened means to be dry, shrunken, wrinkled, shriveled or to wither and comes from the early 1500’s Anglo-Saxon word wisnian which means to become dry, but the origin of the word can be traced even further to the Middle English wisenen, from Old English wisnian; related to Old High German wesanēn which meant to wither, or even Lithuanian vysti.

Wizened is most notably used to describe people that have grown older, but can also be used in sentences like: “As the grape aged, it became more wizened and eventually became a prune” or “the little boy went to get his mother flowers but didn’t notice how wizened they were til he got closer.”

Even though wizened sounds negative, it really isn’t a bad thing. It’s a natural occurrence that happens with age, and has even happened to me at the ripe age of 17.

After jumping out of bed and turning my swagger on, I took a look in the mirror and said “What’s that on my face?” I knew I was a little mad the day before but I hadn’t been that angry to have a frown indentation stuck on me. I’m hoping it was just from a worry I had about my height and weight but I have a feeling that my wizening has already begun.

I’m Jeremy with the word story of Wizened, here on KEOM’s Wondrous Words. If you’d like to hear this, or any of the other Wondrous Words from the past week, visit k-e-o-m dot f-m to find our podcasts.

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Sources:
