

1984

Part 1 Chapters 6–8

by George Orwell

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: advocated, apparent, concrete, conspire, displacing, obscure, principal, reflected, severed, subtle

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Part 1 Chapters 1–5 · Victory Mansions and the Ministry of Truth

Section 2 · Part 1 Chapters 6–8 · The diary and the prole districts

Section 3 · Part 2 Chapters 1–5 · A message in the corridor

Section 4 · Part 2 Chapters 6–10 · O'Brien makes contact with Winston

Section 5 · Part 3 Chapters 1–2 · A cell in the Ministry of Love

Section 6 · Part 3 Chapters 3–6 · The three stages of reintegration

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

1984

Part 1 Chapters 6–8

by George Orwell

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The mayor **advocated** building a new library downtown.

- A. took full credit for
- B. quietly looked into
- C. argued in support of

2. He accepted the offer with **apparent** enthusiasm.

- A. openly stated
- B. seeming, not actual
- C. plainly obvious

3. The detective finally had **concrete** proof of the theft.

- A. widely believed
- B. solid and real
- C. newly discovered

4. The two clerks **conspire** to hide the missing money.

- A. plot secretly together
- B. try again and again
- C. find a clever way

5. Cheap plastic is **displacing** glass in most kitchens.

- A. selling better than
- B. taking the place of
- C. sitting alongside

6. They ate at an **obscure** diner off the highway.

- A. little-known
- B. old-fashioned
- C. run-down

7. Farming is still the **principal** industry in that county.

- A. oldest
- B. fastest-growing
- C. main

8. He **reflected** for a moment before answering the question.

- A. thought it over
- B. hesitated in doubt
- C. looked around

9. The falling branch **severed** the phone line.

- A. knocked loose
- B. weighed down
- C. cut through

10. He drew a **subtle** distinction between the two arguments.

- A. fine and hard to grasp
- B. long and detailed
- C. firm and confident

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

two and two made five — the Party's emblem of forced belief — not an arithmetic error, but submission to its claims over the evidence of your own mind

give you in charge — Old British slang: hand you over to the police for arrest

Golden Country — Winston's term for the idyllic pastoral landscape in his dreams

wainscoting — wooden paneling lining the lower part of an interior wall

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

1984

Part 1 Chapters 6–8

by George Orwell

#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	C
8	A
9	C
10	A

Vocabulary in Context

1984

Part 1 Chapters 6–8

by George Orwell

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Your worst enemy, he reflected, was your own nervous system.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘reflected’ most nearly means

- A. thought to himself
- B. spoke out loud
- C. saw a mirror image

2 “There were even organizations such as the Junior Anti-Sex League, which advocated complete celibacy for both sexes.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘advocated’ most nearly suggests that the League

- A. enforced celibacy by rule
- B. publicly pushed for celibacy
- C. quietly practiced celibacy

3 “But the proles, if only they could somehow become conscious of their own strength, would have no need to conspire. They needed only to rise up and shake themselves like a horse shaking off flies. If they chose they could blow the Party to pieces tomorrow morning.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the proles would not need to conspire because

- A. the Party already allows revolt
- B. they are too few to be noticed
- C. their strength could act openly

4 “Just once in his life he had possessed – after the event: that was what counted – concrete, unmistakable evidence of an act of falsification.”

According to the passage, the evidence Winston once held was

- A. solid and past all doubt
- B. rumored among his coworkers
- C. written in his own hand

5 “His heart sank as he thought of the enormous power arrayed against him, the ease with which any Party intellectual would overthrow him in debate, the subtle arguments which he would not be able to understand, much less answer.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Winston would lose such a debate because he could not

- A. follow the reasoning
- B. recall the facts
- C. control his temper

6 “When he got up to it he saw that it was a human hand severed at the wrist. ... He kicked the thing into the gutter, and then, to avoid the crowd, turned down a side-street to the right.”

In the passage, Winston’s response to the severed hand characterizes him as

- A. numbed to ordinary horror
- B. eager to help the injured
- C. frightened into panic

7 “It was probable that there were some millions of proles for whom the Lottery was the principal if not the only reason for remaining alive.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the lives of those proles held

- A. many rival entertainments
- B. steady, modest comfort
- C. little else worth living for

8 “The thing was doubly attractive because of its apparent uselessness, though he could guess that it must once have been intended as a paperweight.”

As used in the passage, ‘apparent uselessness’ suggests the object

- A. never had any intended function
- B. is still used as a paperweight
- C. is useless now, whatever its past

9 “She must have followed him here, because it was not credible that by pure chance she should have happened to be walking on the same evening up the same obscure backstreet, kilometers distant from any quarter where Party members lived.”

According to the passage, the backstreet where Winston saw the girl was

- A. one guarded by patrols
- B. one that few people use
- C. one Party members often use

10 “The face of Big Brother swam into his mind, displacing that of O’Brien.”

The author most likely includes the word ‘displacing’ in order to show that

- A. O’Brien’s face grows sharper
- B. Big Brother crowds O’Brien out
- C. the two faces blend together

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

1984
Part 1 Chapters 6–8
by George Orwell

#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	Students often hear 'reflect' as 'mirror'; here it is the older sense of turning something over in the mind, and the commas mark it as unspoken thought.
2	B	
3	C	
4	A	Here 'concrete' is the adjective meaning solid and tangible, not the building material; the point is that Winston held real physical proof rather than a suspicion.
5	A	
6	A	
7	C	'Principal' is the adjective meaning main or chief; students often confuse it with the unrelated noun 'principle', which would make no sense here.
8	C	Here 'apparent' means seeming rather than obvious; the two senses pull opposite ways. The 'though' clause is the signal that the uselessness is only on the surface.
9	B	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Part 1 Chapters 6–8

Winston's diary turns to a squalid memory from three years earlier, and he works out his conviction that hope, if there is any, lies with the proles. He wanders the prole districts, talks with an old man in a pub, and returns to Mr Charrington's junk shop. Chapters 6–8 are grouped so the section closes at Part One's own boundary.