

A Wrinkle in Time

Chapters 1–3

by Madeleine L'Engle

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: antagonistic, assimilate, belligerent, disillusion, essence, prodigious, serenity, tangible, tesseract, uncanny

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 · Chapters 1–3 · A stormy night at the Murry house

Section 2 · Chapters 4–6 · The children's journey with their three guides

Section 3 · Chapters 7–9 · Entering the city's central building

Section 4 · Chapters 10–12 · Meg wakes on an unfamiliar planet

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



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The two neighbors had an **antagonistic** relationship for years.

- A. playful and teasing
- B. distant and cold
- C. hostile and opposed

2. It took me a while to **assimilate** all the new rules.

- A. memorize and repeat
- B. absorb and understand
- C. sort and organize

3. He gave a **belligerent** reply and refused to back down.

- A. hostile and aggressive
- B. loud and boastful
- C. cold and formal

4. I hate to **disillusion** you, but that famous story is not actually true.

- A. free from a false belief
- B. fill with disappointment
- C. confuse with new facts

5. The **essence** of the recipe is its blend of spices.

- A. fundamental nature
- B. special ingredient
- C. lasting popularity

6. He has a **prodigious** memory and never forgets a name.

- A. carefully trained
- B. oddly photographic
- C. remarkably great

7. She faced the bad news with quiet **serenity**.

- A. tired resignation
- B. bitter resentment
- C. calm composure

8. The tension in the room was almost **tangible**.

- A. loud enough to hear
- B. real enough to touch
- C. sharp enough to sting

9. In the movie, the crew used a **tesseract** to jump across the galaxy instantly.

- A. a fold in space for instant travel
- B. a detailed star map
- C. a giant rocket engine

10. She had an **uncanny** ability to guess what you were thinking.

- A. lucky but unreliable
- B. eerie and almost supernatural
- C. quick and well practiced

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

wraithlike — ghostlike; resembling a wraith (a ghost or phantom)

give a hoot — to care at all (used in the negative: 'don't give a hoot' = don't care in the least)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “But if it did she gave no outward sign. Nothing ruffled the serenity of her expression.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘serenity’ most nearly suggests that Mrs. Murry’s expression was...

- A. cheerful and lively
- B. anxious and strained
- C. calm and composed

2 “Even Charles Wallace, the “dumb baby brother,” who had an uncanny way of knowing when she was awake and unhappy, and who would come, so many nights, tiptoeing up the attic stairs to her—even Charles Wallace was asleep.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Charles Wallace...

- A. had an eerie sense of Meg’s moods
- B. had learned Meg’s daily habits
- C. read Meg’s mood from her face

3 “Let’s be exclusive,” Charles Wallace said. “That’s my new word for the day. Impressive, isn’t it?” “Prodigious,” Mrs. Murry said.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. She tops his word with a grander one
- B. She corrects his grammar
- C. She ignores his comment

4 “... there is such a thing as a tesseract. Mrs. Murry went very white and with one hand reached backward and clutched at a chair for support. Her voice trembled. “What did you say?”

As the word is used in the novel, a ‘tesseract’ most nearly means...

- A. a fold in space that shortens travel
- B. a tool for measuring distance
- C. a code used by scientists

5 “Do you enjoy being the most belligerent, uncooperative child in school?”

According to the passage, the principal sees Meg as a child who is...

- A. too quiet and shy in class
- B. eager to argue and fight
- C. unwilling to do her work

6 “Go on back to study hall. Try to be a little less antagonistic.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the principal wants Meg to...

- A. speak more softly in class
- B. act less hostile toward others
- C. spend more time on homework

7 “Thinking I’m a moron gives people something to feel smug about,” Charles Wallace said. “Why should I disillusion them?”

The passage most strongly suggests that Charles Wallace...

- A. is hurt by what people say
- B. hides his real intelligence on purpose
- C. is genuinely a slow learner

8 “Let’s not talk about it till we’ve had something to eat. I need fuel so I can sort things out and assimilate them properly.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. He wants to absorb it all first
- B. He already understands it all
- C. He is too hungry to walk farther

9 “No, Meg, but people are more than just the way they look. Charles Wallace’s difference isn’t physical. It’s in essence.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Charles Wallace’s difference lies in...

- A. the unusual things he says
- B. his advanced way of speaking
- C. his fundamental inner nature

10 “Silence fell between them, as tangible as the dark tree shadows that fell across their laps ...”

Which detail best supports the idea that the silence felt almost solid?

- A. It makes Meg begin to cry
- B. It is broken by Calvin’s question
- C. It is compared to dark tree shadows

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	A	The humor is that Mrs. Murry caps Charles's 'exclusive' with an even grander word.
4	A	In the novel a tesseract is a fold in space–time for instant travel; this section only hints at it.
5	B	
6	B	
7	B	Character comprehension. The chapter shows Charles Wallace is highly intelligent and only pretends to be slow.
8	A	
9	C	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–3

During a midnight storm, Meg Murry, her gifted young brother Charles Wallace, and their mother are visited by the eccentric Mrs Whatsit. The next day Meg and Charles Wallace meet Calvin O'Keefe and the three otherworldly women, who reveal they can help find the children's missing scientist father. Grouped as the opening movement; the section ends as the group prepares to set off, before the journey itself begins.