

A Wrinkle in Time

Chapters 7–9

by Madeleine L'Engle

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: annihilate, bravado, disembodied, ominous, omnipotent, pedantic, proclaim, tenacity, triumphantly, utter

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 general vowed to **annihilate** the enemy fortress.

- A. to capture and hold
- B. to spy on secretly
- C. to destroy completely

2. He swaggered into the gym with obvious **bravado**.

- A. a bold show of confidence
- B. anger and impatience
- C. great skill and talent

3. A **disembodied** voice echoed through the empty hall.

- A. without a body
- B. faint and distant
- C. deep and booming

4. Dark, **ominous** clouds gathered over the valley.

- A. warning of danger
- B. gray and distant
- C. huge and billowing

5. The wizard seemed **omnipotent** to the frightened villagers.

- A. utterly fearless
- B. all-knowing
- C. all-powerful

6. My **pedantic** uncle turns every dinner into a lecture.

- A. forgetful and scattered
- B. fussy about small details
- C. loud and boastful

7. The mayor stepped up to **proclaim** the start of the festival.

- A. to angrily protest
- B. to quietly postpone
- C. to announce formally

8. She finished the marathon through sheer **tenacity**.

- A. luck and good fortune
- B. a refusal to give up
- C. speed and raw strength

9. She raised her trophy **triumphantly** above her head.

- A. with quiet calm
- B. with victorious pride
- C. with nervous haste

10. The room fell into **utter** silence.

- A. complete and total
- B. sudden and brief
- C. tense and uneasy

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

marionette — a puppet moved by strings; a person controlled by others

miasma — a thick, unpleasant, oppressive atmosphere or vapor

ANSWER KEY

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

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 *"She wondered if Calvin realized that a lot of the arrogance was bravado."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "bravado" most nearly suggests that Charles Wallace's arrogance is...

- A. a sign of true courage
- B. a bold front masking fear
- C. a habit of plain rudeness

2 *"The spoken word is one of the triumphs of man," he proclaimed, "and I intend to continue using it, particularly with people I don't trust."*

Which detail best supports the idea that Charles Wallace "proclaimed" his view rather than merely mentioning it?

- A. He declares it boldly to IT
- B. He admits it with regret
- C. He whispers it to Meg

3 *"But Meg, with the dogged tenacity that had so often caused her trouble, continued."*

According to the passage, the "dogged tenacity" that has so often caused Meg trouble is best understood as her...

- A. sharp and clever cunning
- B. stubborn refusal to give up
- C. quick and fiery temper

4 *"Why don't you trust me enough to come in and find out what I am? I am peace and utter rest. I am freedom from all responsibility. To come in to me is the last difficult decision you need ever make."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "utter" in "peace and utter rest" most nearly means...

- A. complete and total
- B. spoken out loud
- C. calm and gentle

5 *"His voice took on the dry, pedantic tones of Mr. Jenkins."*

Which statement about the "dry, pedantic tones" Charles Wallace takes on is best supported by the passage?

- A. They sound fussy and preachy
- B. They sound loud and angry
- C. They sound warm and kind

6 *"We let no one suffer. It is so much kinder simply to annihilate anyone who is ill."*

The passage most strongly suggests that, on Camazotz, people who become ill are...

- A. sent away to another planet
- B. gently nursed back to health
- C. destroyed rather than cured

7 *"There was something ominous to Meg in the very compactness of the room, as though the walls, the ceiling, the floor might move together and crush anybody rash enough to enter."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the small room feels "ominous" to Meg because it seems...

- A. oddly grand and stately
- B. merely cramped and dull
- C. ready to crush and harm her

8 *"her adored father was bearded and thin and white and not omnipotent after all."*

It can reasonably be inferred that, seeing her father "not omnipotent after all," Meg now understands he...

- A. has grown weak with age
- B. no longer cares about her
- C. cannot fix everything for her

9 *"IT was a brain. A disembodied brain. An oversized brain, just enough larger than normal to be completely revolting and terrifying. A living brain. A brain that pulsed and quivered, that seized and commanded."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "disembodied" most nearly suggests that IT is a brain that...

- A. floats deep underground
- B. exists without any body
- C. hides within a machine

10 *"No!" she cried triumphantly. "Like and equal are not the same thing at all!"*

Which detail best supports the idea that Meg cried out "triumphantly" at this moment?

- A. a truth that breaks IT's hold
- B. a fresh wave of cold fear
- C. a worry about her father

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	
3	B	
4	A	The adjective 'utter' here means complete or total, a different sense from the familiar verb 'to utter,' meaning to speak.
5	A	
6	C	
7	C	
8	C	Character comprehension. Throughout, Meg has believed that finding her father would set everything right; here she realizes he cannot.
9	B	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 7–9

On the rigidly controlled planet Camazotz, the children enter the central city and confront the hypnotic Man with Red Eyes. Charles Wallace lets himself be taken over by the controlling intelligence called IT, and Meg and Calvin reach her father. The section gathers the Camazotz confrontation into one unit; it ends on the forced escape, with Meg injured and Charles Wallace left behind.