

A Wrinkle in Time

Chapters 10–12

by Madeleine L'Engle

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: assuaged, corrosive, despondency, fallible, opaque, relinquish, revulsion, temporal, trepidation, vestige

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. Kind words from a friend **assuaged** his worry before the big test.

- A. eased or relieved
- B. reminded him of
- C. explained the cause of

2. Be careful with that **corrosive** cleaning liquid near your bare hands.

- A. likely to give off strong fumes
- B. thick and slow to pour out
- C. able to wear away or destroy

3. After losing the championship, a heavy **despondency** settled over the team.

- A. deep loss of hope
- B. sharp flash of anger
- C. restless sense of boredom

4. My older brother thinks he is never **fallible** about anything.

- A. able to change his mind
- B. able to admit he is sorry
- C. able to make mistakes

5. The artist mixed the paint until it was thick and **opaque**.

- A. not see-through
- B. smooth and glossy
- C. quick to dry

6. The champion had to **relinquish** her title after the new rules.

- A. give up or let go of
- B. loudly complain about
- C. officially announce

7. He felt **revulsion** when he saw the rotten food in the fridge.

- A. mild curiosity
- B. strong disgust
- C. sudden surprise

8. The priest reminded them that all riches are merely **temporal**.

- A. shared by everyone
- B. lasting only for a time
- C. earned through luck

9. She opened the letter with **trepidation**, unsure what it would say.

- A. growing impatience
- B. careful, slow attention
- C. nervous fear or worry

10. A **vestige** of perfume lingered in the empty room.

- A. a fresh spray
- B. a small remaining trace
- C. a heavy cloud

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

brittle — hard but easily broken or cracked; here, sharp and fragile like ice

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	C
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 “Disappointment was as dark and corrosive in her as the Black Thing.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “corrosive” most nearly suggests that Meg’s disappointment was...

- A. steadily eating away at her
- B. flaring up into sudden anger
- C. spreading to those around her

6 “The Black Thing does not relinquish its victims willingly.”

Which statement about the Black Thing is best supported by the passage?

- A. It releases its victims when asked
- B. It gives up its victims unwillingly
- C. It quickly forgets its victims

2 “I am a human being, and a very fallible one.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Mr. Murry calls himself “a very fallible” man because he...

- A. never truly cared about coming home
- B. knows he cannot fix everything for Meg
- C. has decided to give up the search

7 “They have told us that our atmosphere is what they call opaque, so that the stars are not visible ...”

Which detail best supports the idea that the planet’s atmosphere is “opaque”?

- A. the beasts know the stars’ music
- B. the stars cannot be seen through it
- C. the sun gives the beasts warmth

3 “... she felt utter loathing and revulsion as it reached out a tentacle to touch her face.”

In context, the word “revulsion,” paired with “loathing,” emphasizes...

- A. the depth of Meg’s disgust
- B. the depth of Meg’s confusion
- C. the depth of Meg’s sadness

8 “For the things which are seen are temporal. But the things which are not seen are eternal.”

The passage most strongly suggests that things which are “temporal” are...

- A. lasting only for a time
- B. too far away to be seen
- C. greater than all other things

4 “... she felt a soft, tingling warmth go all through her that momentarily assuaged her pain.”

According to the passage, the warmth from the beast’s tentacle...

- A. briefly relieved Meg’s pain
- B. briefly worsened Meg’s pain
- C. briefly deepened Meg’s sleep

9 “Such a wave of despondency came over Meg that she was no longer able to eat.”

According to the passage, what deepens Meg’s despondency at the meeting?

- A. Calvin refuses to speak to her
- B. Aunt Beast will not sit with her
- C. her father will not risk tessering back

5 “The middle beast, a tremor of trepidation in his words, said, “You aren’t from a dark planet, are you?””

It can reasonably be inferred that the “tremor of trepidation” in the beast’s words shows that he...

- A. is annoyed that the visitors arrived
- B. is eager to make new friends
- C. is nervous the visitors may be a threat

10 “With the last vestige of consciousness she jerked her mind and body.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, calling on “the last vestige of consciousness,” Meg is...

- A. slipping into an ordinary sleep
- B. calmly resting after her victory
- C. barely holding on against IT’s pull

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	Character comprehension. Earlier in the section Meg idealized her father as able to set everything right; 'fallible' is his honest correction of that.
3	A	
4	A	
5	C	
6	B	
7	B	
8	A	Here 'temporal' means lasting only for a time, set against 'eternal'—not the more familiar sense of 'worldly.'
9	C	Event comprehension. The despondency comes right after Mr. Murry explains he cannot risk tessering back to Camazotz for Charles Wallace.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–12

Meg, gravely hurt, is carried to a gentle planet and healed by the tentacled creature she calls Aunt Beast. Realizing that only she can reach Charles Wallace, Meg returns alone to face IT. Section runs to the end of the novel.