

The Diary of a Young Girl

October 1943–February 1944

by Anne Frank

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: adrift, articulate, chastise, contempt, despondent, impenetrable, indifferent, menacing, mercurial, solace

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 · June–November 1942 · Anne's birthday and going into hiding

Section 2 · December 1942–September 1943 · Settling into life in the Secret Annex

Section 3 · October 1943–February 1944 · Autumn and winter in the annex

Section 4 · March–April 1944 · Anne's reflections in spring 1944

Section 5 · May–August 1944 and Afterword · Late spring 1944 and hopes of liberation

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. After moving to a new city, she felt **adrift** among strangers.

- A. curious and excited
- B. shy and uneasy
- C. lost and aimless

2. She could **articulate** her argument in just a few sentences.

- A. memorize and repeat
- B. shorten and simplify
- C. express clearly in words

3. The coach would **chastise** any player who skipped practice.

- A. gently warn
- B. scold sharply
- C. calmly question

4. She looked at the cheater with open **contempt**.

- A. envy of someone
- B. fear of someone
- C. scorn for someone

5. After failing the test, she felt **despondent** for days.

- A. very sad and hopeless
- B. tense and nervous
- C. angry and resentful

6. The fortress was protected by an **impenetrable** stone wall.

- A. impossible to pass through
- B. very tall and steep
- C. smooth and polished

7. She felt **indifferent** about which movie they picked.

- A. feeling no interest
- B. feeling great curiosity
- C. feeling mild annoyance

8. A **menacing** dog growled at us from behind the fence.

- A. huge and powerful
- B. threatening and scary
- C. wild and untrained

9. The actress was famous for her **mercurial** personality.

- A. bold and daring
- B. changeable and moody
- C. warm and generous

10. She found **solace** in music after her grandmother died.

- A. comfort in sorrow
- B. escape from boredom
- C. pride in success

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

at loggerheads — in serious, stubborn disagreement

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	A
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 "I'm so used to it that I've become completely indifferent to Mother's rebukes and Margot's moodiness."

As it is used in the passage, the word "indifferent" most nearly suggests that Anne...

- A. grows angrier at them each day
- B. is no longer bothered by their behavior
- C. secretly enjoys their attention

2 "I cling to Father because my contempt of Mother is growing daily"

Which choice best describes Anne's feelings toward her mother, as shown by the word "contempt"?

- A. she envies her sister Margot
- B. she looks down on her mother
- C. she resents being blamed unfairly

3 "... I've cut myself adrift from them. I'm charting my own course"

The passage most strongly suggests that by "cutting herself adrift," Anne means she will...

- A. stop speaking to her family
- B. try to escape from the Annex
- C. rely on herself, not her family

4 "I have my own ideas, plans and ideals, but am unable to articulate them yet."

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. show she has ideas she cannot yet voice
- B. show she has no opinions of her own
- C. show she refuses to share her ideas

5 "I see the eight of us in the Annex as if we were a patch of blue sky surrounded by menacing black clouds."

The author most likely calls the black clouds "menacing" in order to...

- A. convey the danger closing in on them
- B. describe the gloomy winter sky
- C. show a storm frightened Anne

6 "It looms before us like an impenetrable wall, trying to crush us, but not yet able to."

Which statement is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. The family has already been crushed.
- B. The wall keeps them safe from harm.
- C. A crushing barrier blocks their escape.

7 "... those whom I, with my mercurial temperament, had hurt or offended"

As it is used in the passage, the word "mercurial" most nearly describes a temperament that is...

- A. quick to shift moods
- B. lively and energetic
- C. harsh and sharp-tongued

8 "Then I'd chastise myself for playing the victim, when really, I'd always been so fortunate."

It can reasonably be inferred that to "chastise" herself, Anne would...

- A. indulge in self-pity
- B. scold herself harshly
- C. laugh off her mistakes

9 "... I know that there will be solace for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances."

According to the passage, Anne believes that...

- A. some griefs allow no comfort
- B. every sorrow will fade in time
- C. every sorrow can find comfort

10 "I'm sentimental, I know. I'm despondent and foolish, I know that too."

Which choice best describes Anne's state of mind, as conveyed by "despondent"?

- A. sunk in low spirits
- B. calm and reflective
- C. nervous and restless

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	Character comprehension. Anne insists elsewhere in the section that she is not jealous of Margot, so that option misreads her feelings.
3	C	
4	A	
5	A	Theme comprehension.
6	C	
7	A	
8	B	
9	C	
10	A	

Teacher Context: October 1943–February 1944

Continues through a tense autumn and winter of air raids, illness, burglary scares, and rising friction among the eight residents, with Anne increasingly turning inward in her writing. Covers October 1943 through February 1944, grouped at a month boundary to keep sections roughly even.