

Cinder

Book One, Chapters 1–8

by Marissa Meyer

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: congealed, disdain, eccentricities, exemplary, inconspicuous, indignation, loathed, mutilate, placebo, precarious

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 · Book One, Chapters 1–8 · A cyborg mechanic in New Beijing

Section 2 · Book Two, Chapters 9–20 · The plague reaches Cinder's household

Section 3 · Book Three, Chapters 21–29 · Pressure mounts on Prince Kai

Section 4 · Book Four, Chapters 30–38 · The night of the royal ball

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 gravy **congealed** as it sat on the cold plate.
 - A. turned sour and spoiled
 - B. dried into a crust
 - C. thickened as it cooled
2. She looked at the sloppy work with **disdain**.
 - A. scornful contempt
 - B. quiet sadness
 - C. mild surprise
3. His friends had grown used to his many **eccentricities**.
 - A. hidden talents
 - B. odd, unusual habits
 - C. strong opinions
4. Her **exemplary** behavior earned praise from every teacher.
 - A. the best of its kind
 - B. cheerful and eager
 - C. calm and well-behaved
5. She slipped to the back of the room to stay **inconspicuous**.
 - A. cool and confident
 - B. not easily noticed
 - C. calm and patient
6. He spoke with **indignation** after being called a cheater.
 - A. anger at being wronged
 - B. nervous worry
 - C. deep embarrassment
7. He **loathed** waking up early on cold winter mornings.
 - A. grew bored with
 - B. strongly disliked
 - C. felt uneasy about
8. He warned us never to **mutilate** the borrowed library books.
 - A. lose or misplace
 - B. scribble notes inside
 - C. badly damage or deface
9. The doctor gave the patient a **placebo** during the trial.
 - A. a fake, inactive pill
 - B. a daily vitamin
 - C. a strong painkiller
10. The hiker edged across the **precarious** rope bridge.
 - A. long and narrow
 - B. old and weathered
 - C. dangerously unstable

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

prosthesis — an artificial replacement for a missing body part.

sacrifice — here, a person given up to death as an offering

ANSWER KEY

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

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 “Having loathed the too-small foot for four years, she swore to never put the piece of junk back on again.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “loathed” most nearly suggests that...

- A. she deeply hated the foot
- B. she was indifferent to the foot
- C. she felt anxious about the foot

2 “For the briefest moment, the prince almost looked embarrassed. ‘Dying,’ he said, ‘but I’m trying to be inconspicuous.’”

The passage most strongly suggests that the prince dresses plainly because...

- A. he hopes to go unrecognized
- B. he dislikes formal clothing
- C. he cannot afford fine clothes

3 “She was sure she’d go mad if all the market shopkeepers looked at her with the same disdain as Chang Sacha did.”

Which choice best describes Chang Sacha’s attitude toward Cinder?

- A. warm affection
- B. cautious respect
- C. scornful contempt

4 “It will be a miracle if you can find something suitable to wear that will hide your”—her gaze dropped to Cinder’s boots—“eccentricities.”

Adri most likely chooses the word “eccentricities” in order to...

- A. praise Cinder’s unique style
- B. name Cinder’s odd habits
- C. politely mask her disgust

5 “The precarious fantasy crashed down around her as quickly as it had begun.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Cinder’s hope of attending the ball was...

- A. firmly within reach
- B. fragile and short-lived
- C. carefully planned out

6 “They said she had forced her stepdaughter to mutilate her own face because, at the sweet age of thirteen ...”

Which statement about Queen Levana is best supported by the passage?

- A. She scarred her own face in grief
- B. She made a girl disfigure her face
- C. She hid her beautiful stepdaughter

7 “Indignation flared in Cinder’s chest.”

Which choice best describes Cinder’s reaction when Peony dismisses the old car?

- A. offended and defensive
- B. amused and playful
- C. calm and uninterested

8 “‘I received a comm an hour ago,’ she said once the silence had congealed in the room.”

The author most likely describes the silence as having “congealed” in order to...

- A. hint the room had turned cold
- B. show how fast Adri spoke
- C. stress how thick the tension felt

9 “Now, give him a placebo and submit a report so he can be on his way.”

According to the passage, why does Dr. Erland order a placebo for the man he turns away?

- A. to cure the man’s illness
- B. to give a fake, inactive dose
- C. to test a real antidote

10 “... you are quite the exemplary model of modern science, young lady.”

The ironic use of “exemplary” suggests that the doctor sees Cinder as...

- A. a prized specimen, not a person
- B. a gifted young scientist
- C. a flawed, useless subject

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	Character comprehension.
3	C	
4	C	Character comprehension. 'Eccentricities' is Adri's polite euphemism for the cyborg limbs she is ashamed of.
5	B	
6	B	
7	A	
8	C	Literally, to congeal is for a liquid to thicken and set as it cools; here the silence does the same, growing heavy with tension.
9	B	
10	A	Theme comprehension. The doctor's praise is bitterly ironic – Cinder is a test subject he expects to die.

Teacher Context: Book One, Chapters 1–8

Introduces Cinder, a gifted teenage cyborg mechanic in New Beijing who is treated as a second-class citizen by her stepmother Adri. Prince Kai brings his malfunctioning android to her market booth while the deadly plague letumosis spreads through the city. The section establishes Cinder's world, her bond with her stepsister Peony and the android Iko, and ends as the plague strikes close to home.