

Cinder

Book Two, Chapters 9–20

by Marissa Meyer

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: deduced, derogatory, devoid, ethereal, impish, incarcerated, plummeted, qualms, usurp, vain

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 detective **deduced** who the thief was before lunch.

- A. figured out by reasoning
- B. loudly announced
- C. secretly suspected

2. The coach made a **derogatory** remark about the rookie's skills.

- A. harsh and insulting
- B. lighthearted and joking
- C. lengthy and detailed

3. The new policy was **devoid** of clear purpose.

- A. completely lacking
- B. uncertain about
- C. narrowly focused on

4. The dancer moved with an **ethereal** grace across the stage.

- A. practiced and precise
- B. lively and energetic
- C. delicate and heavenly

5. The **impish** twins hid their teacher's chalk and giggled.

- A. bold and rebellious
- B. playfully mischievous
- C. clumsy and careless

6. The thief was **incarcerated** for three years after the trial.

- A. fined heavily
- B. imprisoned
- C. closely monitored

7. The temperature **plummeted** as the storm rolled in.

- A. fell sharply
- B. wavered unevenly
- C. changed slowly

8. He felt no **qualms** about telling his friend the hard truth.

- A. feelings of guilt
- B. feelings of doubt
- C. feelings of pride

9. The general tried to **usurp** the young king's throne.

- A. openly challenge
- B. lawfully inherit
- C. seize wrongfully

10. He made a **vain** attempt to fix the old clock.

- A. bold and risky
- B. slow and patient
- C. producing no result

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

glamour — (in the Lunar sense) a magical illusion a Lunar projects to control how others perceive them — for example, to appear divinely beautiful

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	C
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 “An impish grin spread across the doctor’s weathered face. ‘You are the first. I have some theories about how it could be possible, but I’ll need to run tests, of course.’”

As it is used in the passage, the word “impish” most nearly suggests the doctor’s

- A. cold cunning
- B. delighted mischief
- C. guarded suspicion

2 “We should have her incarcerated.”
“A Lunar ambassador? That’s hardly a show of peace.”

Which choice best describes Kai’s attitude toward the Lunar ambassador?

- A. hostile; she should be jailed
- B. wary but hopeful of peace
- C. respectful of her rank

3 “What if there’s a girl out there who could usurp Levana? Someone even stronger?”

The passage most strongly suggests that Kai hopes a hidden heir could

- A. escape to Earth from Levana
- B. take Levana’s throne from her
- C. form an alliance with Levana

4 “He grinned at the prince, eyes devoid of concern.”

The author describes the doctor’s “eyes devoid of concern” mainly to show that he

- A. betrays no guilt while lying
- B. secretly regrets the lie
- C. is bored by the prince

5 “She’d had no qualms dismissing her when she found a lucrative means to do it ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that Adri dismissed Cinder

- A. after long, careful thought
- B. with deep private regret
- C. without any guilt or hesitation

6 “Kai peered into the sickroom just as a med-droid pulled a white cloth over his father’s closed eyes. His hammering heart plummeted.”

The word “plummeted” primarily functions in the excerpt to convey Kai’s

- A. sudden plunge into grief
- B. brief flash of relief
- C. slow, building dread

7 “Don’t let me die, Cinder. I wanted to go to the ball. Remember? You were going to introduce me to Prince —’ She turned her head, scrunching her face up in a vain attempt to hold in the tears ...”

In context, Peony’s “vain attempt to hold in the tears” emphasizes that the attempt was

- A. quiet and dignified
- B. proud and self-admiring
- C. useless; the tears came anyway

8 “Miss Linh, from your blood samples I have deduced that you are, in fact, Lunar.”

According to the passage, the doctor concluded that Cinder is Lunar by

- A. asking about her childhood
- B. guessing from her appearance
- C. reasoning from her blood samples

9 “They’re called shells, which is a slightly derogatory connotation on Luna ...”

Which statement about the term “shells” is best supported by the passage?

- A. It is a neutral medical label
- B. It is meant to insult the non-gifted
- C. It is a term of respect on Luna

10 “That the sun had gone black, leaving the ethereal queen the only source of light in the galaxy.”

In the passage, Levana is characterized as

- A. delicate and otherworldly
- B. cruel and menacing
- C. plain and ordinary

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	
3	B	
4	A	Event comprehension. The doctor is covering for Cinder, so his calm eyes mark a deliberate lie.
5	C	Character comprehension.
6	A	
7	C	Here 'vain' means futile, not conceited—the sense students reach for first.
8	C	
9	B	
10	A	Character comprehension. Kai sees Levana as 'ethereal' only through her Lunar glamour, not as she truly is.

Teacher Context: Book Two, Chapters 9–20

After the plague touches her family, Cinder is handed over by Adri as a test subject for the palace's plague research under Dr. Erland. She discovers she is immune to letumosis and begins learning unsettling truths about her own origins. Her connection to Prince Kai deepens even as her status as a cyborg keeps her in danger.