

Cinder

Book Three, Chapters 21–29

by Marissa Meyer

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: cadence, complacent, gaunt, gratuitous, haughty, imminent, incensed, mortified, uncanny, vehemence

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. I loved the **cadence** of the poet's reading voice.
 - A. heavy foreign accent
 - B. deep, booming volume
 - C. rhythmic rise and fall
2. After one easy win, the team grew **complacent**.
 - A. smugly self-satisfied
 - B. tired and sloppy
 - C. loud and rowdy
3. Months of illness had left him pale and **gaunt**.
 - A. tired and grumpy
 - B. thin and bony
 - C. weak and shaky
4. The film drew complaints for its **gratuitous** violence.
 - A. needless and unjustified
 - B. shockingly extreme
 - C. realistic and gritty
5. The **haughty** actor barely glanced at his adoring fans.
 - A. arrogant and scornful
 - B. famous and wealthy
 - C. rushed and distracted
6. Dark clouds warned that a storm was **imminent**.
 - A. rare and unusual
 - B. about to happen
 - C. extremely powerful
7. She was **incensed** when the referee ignored the foul.
 - A. extremely angry
 - B. badly confused
 - C. quietly worried
8. He was **mortified** when he tripped on the stage.
 - A. slightly hurt
 - B. badly frightened
 - C. deeply embarrassed
9. The old house had an **uncanny** stillness at midnight.
 - A. deep and total
 - B. cold and damp
 - C. eerie and unsettling
10. She argued her point with surprising **vehemence**.
 - A. nervous, jittery energy
 - B. intense, forceful feeling
 - C. stubborn, fixed pride

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

shell — in this story, a Lunar born without the 'gift' of mind control

empower — to give power or strength to

square one's shoulders — to straighten up and brace oneself with resolve before a hard or frightening act

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	C
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 “He would be mortified. She would be mortified.”

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

- A. both would feel deeply humiliated
- B. both would feel openly resentful
- C. both would feel slightly embarrassed

2 “Her expression was stern—bitter—but the look did nothing to dispel her uncanny beauty.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the queen’s beauty is...

- A. fading with age
- B. eerily, unnaturally perfect
- C. plain and unremarkable

3 “The queen’s sweet smile had turned haughty and controlling.”

In the passage, the queen is characterized as...

- A. arrogant and superior
- B. gentle and welcoming
- C. nervous and unsure

4 “She started, surprised by his vehemence.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Dr. Erland’s vehemence reveals...

- A. how little he trusts Cinder
- B. how tired he is of her visits
- C. how serious the danger has become

5 “Our sources lead me to believe that war is not only likely but imminent.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. warn that a Lunar attack is near
- B. describe the Lunar soldiers’ looks
- C. suggest the war can still be avoided

6 “... gazed at her little sister’s gaunt face and lifeless eyes.”

According to the passage, Peony’s face shows that she is...

- A. bruised from a fall
- B. feverish but still alert
- C. thin and wasted by illness

7 “... the cadence of her voice swooning like a lullaby.”

The author most likely compares the queen’s voice to a lullaby in order to...

- A. stress how loudly she speaks
- B. stress its soothing, musical rhythm
- C. stress her harsh, clipped tone

8 “Sybil’s beautiful face remained complacent.”

In the passage, Sybil is characterized as...

- A. anxious and torn
- B. calm and untroubled
- C. openly horrified

9 “To sneak out of the house without permission, without even informing me, to attend some gratuitous parade ...”

In context, the word “gratuitous” emphasizes that Adri sees the parade as...

- A. needless and unjustified
- B. free and without cost
- C. grand and impressive

10 “Cinder dug her fingers into her thighs, too incensed to argue.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Cinder stays silent because she is...

- A. too frightened to argue
- B. too confused to respond
- C. too furious to speak

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	A	Character comprehension. The 'sweet smile' is the queen's glamour; the shift to 'haughty' reveals the arrogance beneath it.
4	C	Event comprehension.
5	A	Event comprehension.
6	C	
7	B	
8	B	Character comprehension. The horror of the scene makes her calm chilling — 'complacent' marks her cold indifference.
9	A	Students may know 'gratuitous' only as 'free of charge'; here it means uncalled-for or unjustified.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Book Three, Chapters 21–29

The Lunar queen Levana arrives in New Beijing and political pressure closes in around Prince Kai as he faces an impossible choice for his people. Cinder wrestles with what she is learning about herself while the royal ball approaches. She reluctantly prepares to attend despite the risks.