

Dracula

Chapters 1–4

by Bram Stoker

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: acumen, imperious, lurid, pallor, prodigious, reticent, satiate, semblance, veritable, voluptuous

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 1–4 · Jonathan Harker's journey to Transylvania

Section 2 · Chapters 5–9 · Mina and Lucy by the sea

Section 3 · Chapters 10–13 · Lucy's mysterious illness

Section 4 · Chapters 14–18 · Mina reads Jonathan's foreign journal

Section 5 · Chapters 19–23 · The search for the Count's lairs

Section 6 · Chapters 24–27 · The pursuit to Transylvania

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. Her business **acumen** helped the small shop thrive.

- A. keen, shrewd insight
- B. patience and calm
- C. energy and drive

2. The duchess spoke in an **imperious** tone to her servants.

- A. anxious and hurried
- B. calm and measured
- C. commanding; overbearing

3. The fire cast a **lurid** glow over the night sky.

- A. faint, silvery light
- B. glaring, fiery red
- C. soft, golden shine

4. A sudden **pallor** crept across her frightened face.

- A. paleness of the skin
- B. sheen of sweat
- C. look of confusion

5. The ox pulled the heavy cart with **prodigious** force.

- A. slow but steady
- B. remarkably great
- C. carefully controlled

6. She stayed **reticent** whenever reporters asked about her past.

- A. polite and formal
- B. unwilling to speak
- C. calm and patient

7. No amount of praise could **satisfy** his vanity.

- A. fully satisfy
- B. soften or calm
- C. fully expose

8. The cardboard set gave the stage a **semblance** of a real city.

- A. faint memory
- B. small section
- C. outward appearance

9. The cluttered desk was a **veritable** mountain of paper.

- A. true; genuinely so
- B. huge; towering
- C. messy; disordered

10. The café served a **voluptuous** chocolate dessert.

- A. freshly baked
- B. lightly sweetened
- C. richly pleasurable

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

calèche — a light, horse-drawn carriage, often with a folding top

boyar — a powerful nobleman in parts of Eastern Europe

crucifix — a cross bearing an image of Jesus; here, given for religious protection against evil

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	A
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 *“...making inquiries as to details he seemed somewhat reticent, and pretended that he could not understand my German.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘reticent’ most nearly suggests that the landlord...

- A. was holding back what he knew
- B. truly could not understand German
- C. was eager to share castle gossip

2 *“...the driver helping me with a hand which caught my arm in a grip of steel. His strength must have been prodigious.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that the driver...

- A. was weakened by the long journey
- B. was gentle and careful with Harker
- C. had more-than-human strength

3 *“I heard his voice raised in a tone of imperious command, and looking towards the sound, saw him stand in the roadway.”*

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

- A. gentle and quietly reassuring
- B. frightened and begging for mercy
- C. commanding and expecting obedience

4 *“The general effect was one of extraordinary pallor.”*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. stress his robust, ruddy health
- B. show his warmth toward his guest
- C. deepen his corpse-like appearance

5 *“The castle is a veritable prison, and I am a prisoner!”*

Which statement is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. The castle is genuinely a prison.
- B. He only exaggerates its gloom.
- C. It just resembles a prison.

6 *“For a man who was never in the country, and who did not evidently do much in the way of business, his knowledge and acumen were wonderful.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that the Count...

- A. had sharp business insight
- B. knew nothing of business
- C. was clumsy in practical affairs

7 *“What manner of man is this, or what manner of creature, is it in the semblance of man?”*

The passage most strongly suggests that the creature Harker sees...

- A. is certainly an ordinary man
- B. only outwardly appears human
- C. has openly turned into a beast

8 *“All three had brilliant white teeth that shone like pearls against the ruby of their voluptuous lips.”*

Which choice best describes how the excerpt portrays the three women?

- A. as sensually alluring
- B. as plain and unremarkable
- C. as sickly and frail

9 *“His eyes were positively blazing. The red light in them was lurid, as if the flames of hell fire blazed behind them.”*

In context, the word ‘lurid’ emphasizes...

- A. a dull, colorless dimness
- B. a hellish, fiery red glow
- C. a soft, gentle candlelight

10 *“This was the being I was helping to transfer to London, where, perhaps, for centuries to come he might, amongst its teeming millions, satiate his lust for blood, and create a new and ever-widening circle of semi-demons to batten on the helpless.”*

The author most likely includes the image of the Count loosed on London in order to...

- A. suggest his thirst will soon end
- B. stress the vast horror he would unleash
- C. show the Count’s restraint and mercy

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	C	
4	C	Character comprehension.
5	A	'Veritable' here means truly so in every sense, not merely figurative exaggeration.
6	A	
7	B	Event comprehension.
8	A	
9	B	
10	B	Theme comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–4

Solicitor Jonathan Harker travels to Transylvania to finalize a property sale for Count Dracula and gradually realizes he is a prisoner in the castle. He discovers the Count's monstrous nature and is left trapped as Dracula departs for England. The section closes Harker's Transylvanian ordeal before the narrative shifts to England and a new set of narrators.