

Dracula

Chapters 5–9

by Bram Stoker

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: acquiesced, apathy, convulsed, derelict, heresy, indomitable, languid, paroxysm, sanguine, servile

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. Worn down by the long argument, he finally **acquiesced**.

- A. changed the subject
- B. gave in and agreed
- C. demanded more proof

2. The students met the new rule with total **apathy**.

- A. confusion and worry
- B. anger and resentment
- C. lack of interest or concern

3. The entire valley was **convulsed** by the storm.

- A. hidden under thick fog
- B. thrown into violent turmoil
- C. swept completely clean

4. From the deck, the crew sighted a **derelict** on the horizon.

- A. an abandoned, drifting ship
- B. a distant rocky island
- C. a fast naval patrol boat

5. To question the king's right to rule was once **heresy**.

- A. a clever, original argument
- B. a harmless private daydream
- C. a belief against accepted views

6. Her **indomitable** spirit carried the team through every defeat.

- A. warm and deeply caring
- B. impossible to defeat or subdue
- C. endlessly patient and calm

7. The summer heat left the whole class feeling **languid**.

- A. weak and low in energy
- B. tense and on edge
- C. restless and fidgety

8. The crowd erupted in a **paroxysm** of cheering.

- A. a sudden, violent outburst
- B. a steady, ongoing effort
- C. a planned, organized event

9. The physician noted his **sanguine** temperament in the case file.

- A. of a cheerful, optimistic nature
- B. of a gloomy, sluggish nature
- C. of a warm, full-blooded nature

10. The new clerk was so **servile** that he bowed to every customer.

- A. overly submissive and fawning
- B. eager and hardworking
- C. shy and soft-spoken

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

zoophagous — feeding on living creatures; Stoker's coined term, literally "life-eating"

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	A
8	A
9	C
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 “Why can’t they let a girl marry three men, or as many as want her, and save all this trouble? But this is heresy, and I must not say it.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘heresy’ most nearly suggests that Lucy’s idea is...

- A. a harmless private daydream
- B. a clever, original argument
- C. a violation of accepted belief

2 “R. M, Renfield, age 59. Sanguine temperament, great physical strength, morbidly excitable, periods of gloom, ending in some fixed idea which I cannot make out.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Renfield’s ‘sanguine temperament’ refers to...

- A. a hearty, full-blooded constitution
- B. a gloomy, withdrawn disposition
- C. a cheerful, optimistic outlook

3 “He looked very sad at this, so I said that he must some of them, at all events. He cheerfully acquiesced in this, and I gave him the same time as before for reduction.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, told to reduce his spiders, Renfield...

- A. gave in without resistance
- B. refused to cooperate
- C. bargained for more time

4 “With a rapidity which, at the time, seemed incredible, and even afterwards is impossible to realize, the whole aspect of nature at once became convulsed.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. stress the storm’s sudden violence
- B. emphasize the calm before the storm
- C. show the weather slowly worsening

5 “The men working the searchlight, after scouring the entrance of the harbour without seeing anything, then turned the light on the derelict and kept it there.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the ‘derelict’ the searchlight is trained on is...

- A. the storm-battered south lighthouse
- B. the crewless ship the storm drove in
- C. a mass of wreckage on the sand

6 “... all the time the roses in her cheeks are fading, and she gets weaker and more languid day by day.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Lucy is slowly recovering
- B. Lucy’s vitality is draining away
- C. Lucy is restless and on edge

7 “... the attendant and at times servile, but tonight, the man tells me, he was quite haughty.”

In the passage, Renfield’s usual manner toward the attendant is characterized as...

- A. meekly submissive
- B. coldly indifferent
- C. openly contemptuous

8 “I thought I would find out if his apathy were real or only assumed ...”

In context, the word ‘apathy’ emphasizes Renfield’s...

- A. intense, focused scheming
- B. barely controlled fury
- C. lack of feeling or interest

9 “I never saw a lunatic in such a paroxysm of rage before, and I hope I shall not again.”

Seward most likely describes Renfield’s ‘paroxysm of rage’ in order to...

- A. suggest he was merely sulking
- B. show his anger was short-lived
- C. stress how violent his outburst was

10 “... with an iron nerve, a temper of the ice-brook, and indomitable resolution, self-command, and toleration exalted from virtues to blessings ...”

In the passage, Van Helsing is characterized as a man...

- A. brilliant but coldly aloof
- B. of an unbreakable will
- C. easily worn down by setbacks

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	Tests the older humoral sense of 'sanguine' (warm, full-blooded), not the modern 'optimistic,' which is the trap distractor.
3	A	
4	A	
5	B	Event comprehension. Here 'derelict' is a noun — an abandoned, drifting vessel — a sense students who know only the adjective may miss.
6	B	
7	A	
8	C	
9	C	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 5–9

The narrative moves to England, following Mina Murray and Lucy Westenra through their letters, Lucy's three suitors, and a summer at Whitby. A derelict ship runs aground in a storm, Lucy begins sleepwalking and weakening, and Mina leaves to nurse Jonathan abroad. The grouping keeps the English introduction together and breaks before Lucy's illness becomes a medical crisis.