

Dracula

Chapters 14–18

by Bram Stoker

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abhorred, chagrin, conjecture, corporeal, desecration, harrowing, phlegmatic, sordid, supplication, wanton

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](https://www.verbalworkout.com).



[verbalworkout.com](https://www.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. He **abhorred** the smell of the rotting fish on the dock.

- A. slowly grew used to
- B. hated and was disgusted by
- C. barely even noticed

2. To his **chagrin**, he tripped on stage in front of the whole school.

- A. anger at the noisy crowd
- B. embarrassment at failing
- C. confusion about what happened

3. Asked who broke the window, I could only offer a **conjecture**.

- A. a direct accusation
- B. a sincere apology
- C. a guess from little evidence

4. Some say the spirits become **corporeal** on certain nights of the year.

- A. extremely large and powerful
- B. having a physical body
- C. glowing with an eerie light

5. The whole town was shocked by the **desecration** of the old church.

- A. disrespect of a sacred place
- B. the slow decay of an old place
- C. the robbery of a holy place

6. The survivors described their **harrowing** escape from the burning building.

- A. deeply distressing
- B. surprisingly lucky
- C. carefully planned

7. The **phlegmatic** captain gave his orders in the same flat tone all evening.

- A. calm and unemotional
- B. cheerful and talkative
- C. strict and demanding

8. They lived in a **sordid** little room above the noisy bar.

- A. dirty and wretched
- B. cramped and crowded
- C. cold and drafty

9. The prisoner raised his hands in **supplication** before the stern judge.

- A. a calm, silent prayer
- B. a long, formal speech
- C. a humble, earnest plea

10. The invaders left a trail of **wanton** destruction behind them.

- A. sudden and unexpected
- B. widespread and costly
- C. reckless and unrestrained

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

cerements of the grave — the clothing or shroud in which a body is buried
adamantine, heartless cruelty — cruelty that is utterly hard, unyielding, and without pity
nosferatu — in the novel, an Eastern European name for a vampire—one of the Un-Dead

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	C
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	A
8	A
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 *"I can hazard no opinion. I do not know what to think, and I have no data on which to found a conjecture."*

As it is used in the passage, the word 'conjecture' most nearly suggests that Seward lacks what he needs to...

- A. make a reasoned guess
- B. deliver a final verdict
- C. confirm an established fact

2 *"And prove the very truth he most abhorred."*

The author most likely includes the quoted Byron line in order to...

- A. offer a light, scholarly aside
- B. show the narrator's love of poetry
- C. stress the truth Seward most loathes

3 *"... the effect was more miserable and sordid than could have been imagined."*

Which choice best describes the narrator's attitude toward the tomb as he describes it?

- A. awed by its splendor
- B. repelled by its squalor
- C. soothed by its calm

4 *"At any rate, he showed neither chagrin nor triumph."*

The passage most strongly suggests that, in this moment, Van Helsing feels...

- A. relieved the ordeal is over
- B. bitter that his theory has failed
- C. no sting of defeat or gloating

5 *"I am willing to be patient in all things that are reasonable, but in this, this desecration of the grave, of one who ..."*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Arthur sees the act as a sacrilege
- B. Arthur defers to the Professor
- C. Arthur is curious about the tomb

6 *"Quincey Morris was phlegmatic in the way of a man who accepts all things, and accepts them in the spirit of cool bravery, with hazard of all he has at stake."*

In the passage, Quincey Morris is characterized as...

- A. calm and unshaken by danger
- B. reckless and spoiling for a fight
- C. anxious and quick to panic

7 *"When she advanced to him with outstretched arms and a wanton smile he fell back and hid his face in his hands."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Lucy's smile, as she advances on Arthur, marks her as...

- A. shamelessly sensual and corrupt
- B. still the pure girl Arthur loved
- C. frightened of the watching men

8 *"... with a corporeal body as real at that moment as our own, pass through the interstice where scarce a knife blade could have gone."*

In context, the word 'corporeal' emphasizes that Lucy's body, as she slips through the gap, is...

- A. bound by a business contract
- B. solid and physically real
- C. ghostly and without substance

9 *"... one step of our work is done, one the most harrowing to ourselves."*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. signal the danger has now passed
- B. claim the men enjoyed the work
- C. admit how distressing the task was

10 *"... threw himself on his knees, and held up his hands, wringing them in plaintive supplication, and poured forth a torrent of entreaty ..."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Renfield's gesture expresses...

- A. a proud, angry demand
- B. a desperate, humble plea
- C. a calm, formal request

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	B	
4	C	Event comprehension. Seward has just run out of counterarguments; Van Helsing, though vindicated, neither gloats nor shows distress.
5	A	
6	A	
7	A	Character comprehension. The horror turns on the contrast with the pure, gentle Lucy of the earlier sections.
8	B	The 'business contract' option plays on the look-alike 'corporate'; the tested sense is bodily.
9	C	Event comprehension. The staking of Lucy is done, but the greater task—hunting Dracula—remains, so the danger has not passed.
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 14–18

Mina reads Jonathan's journal and Van Helsing pieces the scattered records together, confirming the supernatural nature of the threat. The men confront what Lucy has become and put her finally to rest, then unite with the Harkers in a common purpose. The grouping covers the band's formation and first resolve before the active pursuit begins.