

Dracula

Chapters 19–23

by Bram Stoker

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abasement, exigency, implacable, inured, laconic, lethargy, overwrought, perfunctory, prosaic, wily

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. He bowed his head in **abasement** when the whole class laughed at him.

- A. quiet sadness
- B. helpless confusion
- C. deep humiliation

2. The **exigency** of the flood forced the town to evacuate overnight.

- A. a sudden wave of terror
- B. an urgent, pressing demand
- C. a steadily rising danger

3. The judge's **implacable** glare made every excuse die in my throat.

- A. cold and deeply suspicious
- B. burning with open fury
- C. impossible to appease

4. After years on the ward, the nurse grew **inured** to the sight of blood.

- A. hardened by long exposure
- B. made skillful through practice
- C. made curious and fascinated

5. His **laconic** answers made the interview feel painfully short.

- A. using very few words
- B. rude and dismissive in tone
- C. vague and hard to follow

6. A heavy **lethargy** settled over us during the long afternoon class.

- A. sluggishness and low energy
- B. dizziness and nausea
- C. irritation and unease

7. By the final exam, she was so **overwrought** that her hands trembled.

- A. extremely agitated
- B. completely exhausted
- C. badly confused

8. She gave the report a **perfunctory** glance before signing it.

- A. calm and approving
- B. sharp and suspicious
- C. done with little care

9. The town's **prosaic** streets held nothing worth photographing.

- A. quiet and deserted
- B. ordinary and dull
- C. cramped and run-down

10. The **wily** salesman talked us into buying the more expensive model.

- A. smooth and charming
- B. clever and cunning
- C. pushy and aggressive

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

phosphorescence — a faint glow without flame or heat; here, many tiny lights twinkling in the darkness

aquiline nose — a nose with a high bridge and a curved, eagle-like shape

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	A
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	B
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 “... but sat in his implacable sullenness as indifferent to me as though I had not been in the room at all.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “implacable” most nearly suggests that Renfield’s sullenness...

- A. could not be softened or won over
- B. was a deliberate pretense
- C. shifted from hour to hour

2 “... would have got out to make certain on the point, but some leaden lethargy seemed to chain my limbs and even my will.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Mina’s lethargy left her...

- A. unable to rouse herself to move
- B. alert despite her exhaustion
- C. too frightened to fall asleep

3 “Again he paused longer, and raised his eyebrows still more. ‘It is sold, sir,’ was again his laconic reply.”

In the passage, the house agent is characterized as...

- A. curt and sparing with words
- B. flustered by the request
- C. guarded about his client

4 “Inured as I was to sick beds and death, this suspense grew and grew upon me.”

By calling himself “inured” to sick beds and death, Seward emphasizes that...

- A. he doubts the operation will work
- B. even he finds this suspense unbearable
- C. he is unmoved by Renfield’s plight

5 “... that the exigency of affairs was helping her to forget for a time the terrible experience of the night.”

According to the passage, what helped Mina briefly forget the night’s horror?

- A. a long and restful sleep
- B. the pressing demands of their work
- C. the comfort of her husband’s words

6 “... the two so overwhelmed her that her overwrought nature had its voice in that dreadful scream.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Mina’s scream came from a nature that was...

- A. roused to sudden defiance
- B. calm under great pressure
- C. strained past its breaking point

7 “... sank on her knees on the floor in an agony of abasement.”

In context, the word “abasement” emphasizes Mina’s overwhelming sense of...

- A. anger at her betrayer
- B. physical pain and weakness
- C. shame and self-degradation

8 “It was hard to believe that amongst so prosaic surroundings of neglect and dust and decay there was any ground for such fear as already we knew.”

The word “prosaic” for Carfax’s surroundings mainly sharpens the contrast between the setting and...

- A. the wealth of its former owner
- B. the beauty of the countryside
- C. the dread they know it holds

9 “We had a sort of perfunctory supper together, and I think it cheered us all up somewhat.”

Which statement about the supper is best supported by the passage?

- A. It was eaten with little spirit.
- B. It left the group more downcast.
- C. It was a carefully planned feast.

10 “Our old fox is wily. Oh! So wily, and we must follow with wile.”

Which choice best describes Van Helsing’s attitude toward the Count as he calls him “wily”?

- A. scorn for a clumsy coward
- B. wary respect for a cunning foe
- C. pity for a doomed creature

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	A	
4	B	
5	B	Event comprehension.
6	C	Event comprehension.
7	C	Character comprehension. Mina's abasement is spiritual shame — she feels the burned Wafer marks her as unclean before God, not mere embarrassment.
8	C	
9	A	
10	B	Character comprehension. 'Our old fox is wily' extends the hunt metaphor — Van Helsing casts the Count as crafty quarry the hunters must out-trick.

Teacher Context: Chapters 19–23

The group hunts down and sterilizes the boxes of earth Dracula has hidden around London, while Renfield's behavior grows more disturbed. The Count strikes back at the heart of the group, and the men discover that Mina herself has been targeted. The break comes before the chase leaves England.