

Educated

Prologue and Part 1 Chapters 1–8

by Tara Westover

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abomination, coalescing, fervor, gentile, impassive, inscrutable, livid, lucid, proselytizing, subvert

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 · Prologue and Part 1 Chapters 1–8 · Growing up on Buck's Peak

Section 2 · Part 1 Chapters 9–16 · The last years on the mountain

Section 3 · Part 2 Chapters 17–29 · A new life at college

Section 4 · Part 3 Chapters 30–40 · Studying abroad at Cambridge

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. To the chef, putting ketchup on a fine steak was an **abomination**.

- A. something done in secret
- B. something hated or detested
- C. something slightly unusual

2. Over the bay, the dark clouds were **coalescing** as the storm grew.

- A. merging into a single mass
- B. glowing at the edges
- C. swirling in slow circles

3. She argued for the cause with surprising **fervor**.

- A. gentle humor
- B. intense passion or zeal
- C. careful logic

4. The preacher warned his flock to be wary of any **gentile** in town.

- A. a wandering preacher
- B. a strict traditionalist
- C. an outsider to the faith

5. The judge listened to the verdict with an **impassive** face.

- A. showing no emotion
- B. showing slight boredom
- C. showing deep sadness

6. Behind his calm smile, his thoughts remained **inscrutable**.

- A. impossible to understand
- B. fixed and unchanging
- C. calm and untroubled

7. The skater's knee was **livid** after the hard fall.

- A. numb and cold
- B. discolored and bruised
- C. swollen and tender

8. Even after the long illness, her mind stayed **lucid**.

- A. clear-thinking and rational
- B. calm and relaxed
- C. busy and active

9. The volunteers spent the whole summer **proselytizing** door to door.

- A. raising money for charity
- B. gathering signatures for a cause
- C. converting others to a belief

10. The rebels worked quietly to **subvert** the king's rule.

- A. to secretly observe
- B. to openly protest against
- C. to undermine or overthrow

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

corps de ballet — the ensemble of ballet dancers who move together as a unit (not soloists); here, the wheat field swaying in unison.

Illuminati — a supposed secret society conspiring to control world events; central to her father's conspiracy beliefs.

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	B
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 had grown up preparing for the Days of Abomination, watching for the sun to darken, for the moon to drip as if with blood.”

As it is used in the passage, ‘the Days of Abomination’ most nearly refers to

- A. the ordinary change of seasons
- B. a sacred religious festival
- C. a dreaded end of the world

2 “Mother’s being a midwife would subvert the Medical Establishment, but in order to be a midwife she needed a phone.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the family accepted Mother’s midwifery partly because it

- A. undercut a distrusted institution
- B. followed state medical rules
- C. won approval from local doctors

3 “Now I’m older, I sometimes wonder if Dad’s fervor had more to do with his own mother than with doctrine.”

Which choice best describes how the narrator portrays her father’s fervor?

- A. a burning, driving passion
- B. a fading, halfhearted duty
- C. a calm, reasoned habit

4 “She had the ring before Dad served a mission—which was expected of all faithful Mormon men—and spent two years proselytizing in Florida.”

According to the passage, during his two-year mission in Florida, Dad was

- A. training to be a doctor
- B. winning converts to his faith
- C. earning money for marriage

5 “The notion that a person could be functional, lucid, persuasive, and something could still be wrong, had never occurred to me.”

The passage most strongly suggests the realization disturbed the narrator because it fit

- A. a dull, uninspiring professor
- B. her own seemingly rational father
- C. a stranger from a news story

6 “That smile haunts me. It was constant, the only eternal thing, inscrutable, detached, dispassionate.”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s response to her grandmother’s smile?

- A. she found it impossible to read
- B. she found it openly warm
- C. she found it clearly mocking

7 “Choices, numberless as grains of sand, had layered and compressed, coalescing into sediment, then into rock, until all was set in stone.”

The image in the excerpt primarily functions to

- A. praise the women’s sudden courage
- B. show choices hardening into fate
- C. explain how desert rock forms

8 “Everyone looked at Dad. His expression was folded, impassive. The silence was worse than shouting.”

The author most likely describes Dad’s ‘folded, impassive’ expression in order to

- A. lighten the scene with humor
- B. show he no longer cares for Tyler
- C. convey fury held tightly in check

9 “Parts of the leg were livid, red and bloody; others were bleached and dead.”

In context, the word ‘livid’ most nearly describes flesh that is

- A. discolored and bruised
- B. smooth and unharmed
- C. flushed with rage

10 “There was scarcely a person in the church that Dad hadn’t called a gentile—for visiting a doctor or for sending their kids to the public school ...”

Which statement about Dad is best supported by the passage?

- A. he rarely criticized his church
- B. he praised neighbors who saw doctors
- C. he saw even churchgoers as outsiders

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	A	
4	B	
5	B	Theme comprehension. The lecture's point -- a clear-minded, persuasive person can still be gravely ill -- lands because it describes her own father, later thought to be bipolar.
6	A	
7	B	Theme comprehension. The image caps the chapter's meditation on the Apache women, whose deaths the narrator frames as set long before by a lifetime of accumulated choices.
8	C	Character comprehension. Dad bitterly opposes college; the blank face masks rage, not indifference -- 'the silence was worse than shouting.'
9	A	Used in its older sense -- discolored, bruised flesh -- not the 'furiously angry' most students assume; the excerpt's 'red and bloody' fixes the meaning.
10	C	In Mormon usage a 'gentile' is a non-Mormon; the irony is that Dad aims the word at fellow churchgoers he judges unfaithful.

Teacher Context: Prologue and Part 1 Chapters 1–8

Tara introduces her survivalist Mormon family on their Idaho mountain, where the children don't attend school, see doctors, or hold birth certificates, and her father prepares for the end of the world. These chapters establish life on Buck's Peak: the junkyard, the parents, the siblings, and her mother's midwifery and herbalism. The section breaks at the end of Chapter 8 to split Part One's long childhood arc into two manageable halves.