

Educated

Part 1 Chapters 9–16

by Tara Westover

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: bravado, capricious, conjure, despondency, enraptured, feral, mania, solace, succumb, veneer

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. He strutted in with the bravado of a champion.
A. graceful, practiced skill
B. a bold show of courage
C. calm, genuine confidence | 6. A pack of feral dogs roamed the empty streets.
A. filthy and disease-ridden
B. wild and untamed
C. hungry and half-starved |
| 2. Her capricious moods made plans impossible to keep.
A. gloomy and easily discouraged
B. secretive and hard to read
C. unpredictable and changeable | 7. His mania for collecting coins ruled his life.
A. an obsessive enthusiasm
B. an occasional fondness
C. a natural talent for it |
| 3. A familiar smell can conjure memories of childhood.
A. jumble together
B. blur and confuse
C. call up as if by magic | 8. After the funeral, she found solace in long walks.
A. comfort and consolation
B. distraction and forgetfulness
C. a renewed sense of purpose |
| 4. A deep despondency settled over him after the loss.
A. hopeless low spirits
B. restless, anxious worry
C. bitter, simmering anger | 9. Exhausted, the hikers refused to succumb to the cold.
A. give in and be overcome
B. quietly put up with it
C. grow used to it over time |
| 5. The audience sat enraptured through the concert.
A. tense with quiet worry
B. filled with delight
C. only mildly interested | 10. Her cheerful veneer fooled everyone at the party.
A. burst of genuine warmth
B. clever and quick wit
C. an outward show that conceals |

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

frothing at the mouth — in a frenzy of rage (literally foaming, as a rabid animal).
churchish — (coinage) outwardly pious; putting on a show of churchgoing virtue.
save face — to preserve one's dignity or reputation; avoid humiliation.

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	A
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 “He slipped into despondency, dragging himself in from the junkyard each night ...”

As it is used in the passage, the word “despondency” most nearly suggests that Dad

- A. was worn out from heavy labor
- B. had lost all hope and spirit
- C. was quietly furious at his critics

2 “I don’t know what I saw—what creature I conjured from that violent, compassionate act—but I think it was my father, or perhaps my father as I wished he were.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the figure Tara “conjured” was

- A. a stranger she failed to recognize
- B. created by her own mind
- C. a clear view of the real Shawn

3 “But feral horses don’t yield easily, not even to a man like Grandpa.”

The passage most strongly suggests that a feral horse, unlike a tame one,

- A. is too old to be ridden safely
- B. was bred and raised by ranchers
- C. resists being broken or owned

4 “But after, when it was just the two of us, the mask lowered, the bravado peeled off like a breastplate, and he was my brother.”

In the passage, Shawn is characterized as a boy whose public toughness

- A. was a carefully trained skill
- B. came from genuine fearlessness
- C. masked a gentler self beneath

5 “It was not inherent; it was bestowed. What was of worth was not me, but the veneer of constraints and observances that obscured me.”

The “veneer” metaphor primarily functions to capture Tara’s fear that her worth came only from

- A. outward obedience, not her real self
- B. her family’s growing wealth
- C. her natural musical talent

6 “There was solace in its strange formulas and equations.”

Which statement about Tara’s study of math is best supported by the passage?

- A. It impressed her demanding father
- B. It bored her despite its order
- C. It gave her comfort amid distress

7 “What I knew of physics I had learned in the junkyard, where the physical world often seemed unstable, capricious.”

In context, the word “capricious” emphasizes how the junkyard’s physical world seemed

- A. dull and unchanging over time
- B. unpredictable and ever-changing
- C. cruel and deliberately hostile

8 “He did succumb to rages, moments of blind anger when all he wanted was to hurt someone.”

The phrase “succumb to rages” suggests that Shawn’s violent outbursts were something he

- A. was overcome by, not in control of
- B. coldly planned in advance
- C. could easily have prevented

9 “Dad couldn’t suppress his grin. I’d never seen him so enraptured.”

The word “enraptured” characterizes Dad’s feeling toward the dangerous new machine as

- A. a thrilled, entranced delight
- B. a calm, practical approval
- C. a nervous, reluctant caution

10 “But Dad’s mania for the machine had carried him beyond the reach of reason.”

The author most likely describes Dad’s “mania for the machine” in order to

- A. explain why he ignored the danger
- B. show his pride in repairing machines
- C. praise his skill running the Shear

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	C	
4	C	Character comprehension.
5	A	Theme comprehension.
6	C	
7	B	
8	A	
9	A	
10	A	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Part 1 Chapters 9–16

Tara moves into adolescence at home, beginning with her father's Y2K preparations, as her world on the mountain grows more dangerous and her sense of herself starts to shift. The chapters carry her toward the choices that will end Part One. The section opens at Chapter 9 because the preceding section already held the first half of Part One's childhood material.