

Educated

Part 2 Chapters 17–29

by Tara Westover

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: counterpoint, dehumanize, disinterested, dissonance, estrangement, repertoire, superimposed, unfathomable, visceral, wrest

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. The quiet ending stood as a **counterpoint** to the film's loud opening.

- A. a contrasting element
- B. a fitting conclusion
- C. a repeated theme

2. Cruel propaganda can **dehumanize** an entire group of people.

- A. to mock or ridicule openly
- B. to treat as less than human
- C. to frighten into obedience

3. He met the wild rumor with a **disinterested** shrug.

- A. bored and uninterested
- B. tired and reluctant
- C. unconcerned and detached

4. A faint **dissonance** ran through the meeting, though no one named it.

- A. a clash or tension
- B. a growing excitement
- C. a sense of boredom

5. Years of **estrangement** followed their bitter argument.

- A. an uneasy truce
- B. a loss of closeness
- C. a deep resentment

6. Over the years the pianist built up an impressive **repertoire**.

- A. a stock of skills or items
- B. a reputation for talent
- C. a record of performances

7. On the screen, two X-rays appeared **superimposed**.

- A. shrunk into one frame
- B. placed side by side
- C. laid one over the other

8. His sudden decision was completely **unfathomable**.

- A. certain to be regretted
- B. difficult to forgive
- C. impossible to understand

9. He felt a **visceral** fear the moment the snake appeared.

- A. sudden and brief
- B. deep and instinctive
- C. vague and uncertain

10. It took both arms to **wrest** the heavy oar.

- A. to pull or twist by force
- B. to drag along slowly
- C. to lift overhead

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

glutinous — gluey, sticky, thick like glue.

Pygmalion — allusion to G. B. Shaw's play (and the Greek myth) about a common woman transformed into a refined lady; here, a label for Tara remade by education.

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	C
8	C
9	B
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 “I wondered at the plausibility of Caravaggio's scene: no one had that look on their face—that tranquil, disinterested expression—when taking off something's head.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “disinterested” most nearly suggests an expression that is...

- A. fair and free of bias
- B. bored and wholly uninterested
- C. calm and emotionally detached

2 “... the woman's serenity standing in powerful counterpoint to the general realism of the piece.”

The author most likely calls the woman's serenity a “counterpoint” in order to...

- A. stress its contrast with the realism
- B. praise the painting's fine detail
- C. reinforce the realism of the painting

3 “... searching through his repertoire of nicknames.”

Based on his “repertoire of nicknames,” Shawn is best characterized as...

- A. impulsive and quick to anger
- B. practiced and inventive in his mockery
- C. playful and harmlessly teasing

4 “I saw their faces superimposed on every purlin Shawn welded into place that summer ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that the faces “superimposed on every purlin” are...

- A. portraits painted onto the metal
- B. reflections thrown by the welder
- C. images she mentally lays over her work

5 “... we had lent our voices to a discourse whose sole purpose was to dehumanize and brutalize others ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that a discourse meant to “dehumanize” others works by...

- A. reducing them to less than human
- B. exaggerating their power
- C. silencing them through force

6 “I stayed up late, twisting my hair into knots as I tried to wrest meaning from the textbook ...”

The author most likely writes that she tried to “wrest” meaning from the textbook in order to...

- A. show how quickly she understood it
- B. convey how hard she had to struggle
- C. suggest the textbook was dull

7 “My opposition was beyond rational, it was visceral.”

As it is used in the passage, “visceral” most nearly describes an opposition that is...

- A. a carefully reasoned objection
- B. a deep, instinctive gut reaction
- C. a mild, passing reluctance

8 “This estrangement was not formalized: I just didn't feel like seeing him, or hearing his voice, so I didn't.”

According to the passage, the “estrangement” between Tara and her father was...

- A. an unspoken, drawn-out withdrawal
- B. a brief, soon-mended quarrel
- C. a formal, declared break

9 “It is unfathomable to me that he was able to move, let alone drag himself a quarter mile through fields and over ditches.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Tara finds it “unfathomable” that her father could move because...

- A. his burns were too severe to allow it
- B. the distance was simply too great
- C. he had always been physically weak

10 “I struggled with this dissonance—a whorish dress, gifted to a loved daughter ...”

According to the passage, the “dissonance” Tara struggles with is that...

- A. her friend had traveled, she had not
- B. she owned no fine clothing herself
- C. a shameful dress was a loving gift

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	The familiar 'disinterested means impartial' sense does not fit here; in context it means calmly unconcerned.
2	A	
3	B	Character comprehension.
4	C	Theme comprehension.
5	A	
6	B	
7	B	
8	A	Event comprehension.
9	A	Event comprehension.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Part 2 Chapters 17–29

Part Two follows Tara's departure from Buck's Peak for Brigham Young University, where she confronts how little of the outside world she knows and struggles to reconcile her upbringing with academic life. She finds mentors, faces financial and emotional strain, and begins to reckon with her family's hold on her. This section covers the whole of Part Two.