

Educated

Part 3 Chapters 30–40

by Tara Westover

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: docile, emancipate, fetid, incongruous, recant, renounce, symbiosis, tilting at windmills, venerate, vindication

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.*



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(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 **docile** puppy sat calmly at its owner's feet.
 - A. nervous and fearful
 - B. obedient; easily managed
 - C. playful and restless
2. After years of struggle, the rebels fought to **emancipate** the oppressed villagers.
 - A. set free; liberate
 - B. take command of
 - C. speak on behalf of
3. A **fetid** odor drifted from the swamp.
 - A. foul-smelling; rotten
 - B. faint and sweet
 - C. damp and earthy
4. A grand piano looked **incongruous** in the tiny, cluttered kitchen.
 - A. oddly old-fashioned
 - B. strangely oversized
 - C. out of place; clashing
5. Under pressure, the witness was forced to **recant** her testimony.
 - A. repeat word for word
 - B. take back; withdraw
 - C. carefully review
6. She decided to **renounce** her claim to the family fortune.
 - A. pass on to an heir
 - B. stubbornly defend
 - C. give up; abandon
7. There is a kind of **sympiosis** between the farmer and his bees.
 - A. a mutually helpful bond
 - B. a brief, chance meeting
 - C. a one-sided dependence
8. Arguing with him about it felt like **tilting at windmills**.
 - A. showing off one's skill
 - B. stirring up old quarrels
 - C. fighting useless battles
9. Many people **venerate** the elders for their wisdom.
 - A. closely observe
 - B. deeply respect; revere
 - C. quietly envy
10. Winning the appeal brought her a deep sense of **vindication**.
 - A. being proved right
 - B. sudden fame
 - C. quiet relief

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

brittle — hard but easily broken; here, figuratively rigid and fragile.

bristle — to react with sudden anger or indignation; to stiffen defensively.

consecrated — declared sacred; dedicated to a religious purpose.

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	C
7	A
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 “Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “emancipate” most nearly means to...

- A. release the mind from bondage
- B. overthrow a harsh ruler
- C. escape physical captivity

2 “... although I had renounced my father’s world, I had never quite found the courage to live in this one.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the narrator had...

- A. reconciled with her father
- B. returned to her childhood home
- C. rejected her family’s way of life

3 “The room suited my father perfectly: it was larger than life and wonderfully incongruous.”

In the passage, the narrator’s father is characterized as...

- A. quietly conventional
- B. full of clashing extremes
- C. coldly practical

4 “My instinct was to worship, to venerate. That was how I felt toward the whole city: that it should be behind glass, adored from a distance, never touched, never altered.”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward the city of Rome?

- A. casual curiosity
- B. wary suspicion
- C. reverent awe

5 “There was a kind of symbiosis in their relationship to these grand places: they gave life to the ancient architecture by making it the backdrop of their discourse.”

Which statement about the students and the ancient places is best supported by the passage?

- A. The students ignored the places
- B. Each gave something to the other
- C. The places overwhelmed them

6 “... she, that docile woman, had a power in her the rest of us couldn’t contemplate.”

The ironic description of the mother as “docile” most strongly suggests that she was...

- A. far stronger than she seemed
- B. as meek as she appeared
- C. openly defiant of her husband

7 “... happier I became in Cambridge, the more my happiness was made fetid by my feeling that I had betrayed Buck’s Peak.”

The author most likely describes her happiness as “made fetid” in order to...

- A. show guilt spoiling her joy
- B. contrast Cambridge with home
- C. stress how fragile joy is

8 “... they become of one mind, then they are both tilting at windmills.”

As it is used in the passage, the idiom “tilting at windmills” most nearly means...

- A. fighting imaginary enemies
- B. working hard toward a goal
- C. arguing over small matters

9 “I imagined my surrender, imagined closing my eyes and recanting my blasphemies.”

According to the passage, the narrator imagines herself...

- A. defending her beliefs
- B. withdrawing her statements
- C. repeating her accusations

10 “But vindication has no power over guilt. No amount of anger or rage directed at others can subdue it ...”

The author most likely writes that “vindication has no power over guilt” in order to show...

- A. guilt is always deserved
- B. others caused her pain
- C. being right cannot ease guilt

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	B	Character comprehension. 'Incongruous' describes the room, but the excerpt makes it a portrait of Dad himself.
4	C	
5	B	
6	A	Character comprehension. The answer turns on the ironic gap between her outward meekness and her real power.
7	A	'Fetid' literally means foul-smelling; here it is figurative—guilt rotting an otherwise happy life.
8	A	An allusion to Don Quixote, who charged at windmills believing they were giants.
9	B	
10	C	Theme comprehension. Caps the memoir's idea that being proved right cannot undo guilt.

Teacher Context: Part 3 Chapters 30–40

Part Three takes Tara abroad to Cambridge and beyond as a graduate student, where academic success deepens the rift with her family and forces a reckoning over memory, loyalty, and who she has become. The section traces her hardest personal struggles and the meaning she finally gives to her education. Section runs to the end of the memoir.