

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Chapters 1–5

by J. K. Rowling

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: cunning, flout, intelligence, livid, malice, meddlesome, peril, petrified, prudent, relenting

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 1–5 · Harry's miserable summer with the Dursleys

Section 2 · Chapters 6–9 · The new term at Hogwarts begins

Section 3 · Chapters 10–13 · Quidditch and the search for answers

Section 4 · Chapters 14–18 · The Ministry comes to Hogwarts

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The **cunning** fox slipped past the guard dogs unseen.

- A. playful and curious
- B. wise and thoughtful
- C. clever and scheming

2. Some students **flout** the dress code every chance they get.

- A. to quietly memorize
- B. to proudly defend
- C. to openly disobey

3. The general relied on **intelligence** about the enemy's plans.

- A. lucky guessing
- B. secret information
- C. clever reasoning

4. His **livid** face frightened everyone in the room.

- A. dark with rage
- B. wet with tears
- C. twisted with pain

5. There was clear **malice** in the bully's voice.

- A. a feeling of envy
- B. a desire to harm
- C. a sense of pride

6. Everyone groaned when the **meddlesome** cousin arrived.

- A. always interfering
- B. always complaining
- C. constantly bragging

7. The climbers were in **peril** when the rope began to fray.

- A. serious danger
- B. great discomfort
- C. sudden confusion

8. She stood **petrified** when the dog leapt toward her.

- A. shaking with anger
- B. numb with cold
- C. frozen with fear

9. A **prudent** shopper compares prices before buying.

- A. careful and sensible
- B. wealthy and generous
- C. cheerful and friendly

10. After hours of begging, the coach showed signs of **relenting**.

- A. growing nervous
- B. softening; giving in
- C. becoming confused

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Muggle — a person without magical powers

house-elf — enslaved magical servant

prefect — student given authority over classmates

taking a leaf out of Percy's book — following his example

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	A
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 “Voldemort might be a ruin of his former self, but he was still terrifying, still cunning, still determined to regain power.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘cunning’ most nearly suggests that Voldemort is...

- A. physically strong again
- B. honest and open about his plans
- C. cleverly scheming and sly

2 “... Harry kept waking in the night, drenched in cold sweat, wondering where Voldemort was now, remembering his livid face, his wide, mad eyes ...”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘livid’ most nearly describes a face that is...

- A. free of feeling
- B. twisted with rage
- C. drained with fear

3 “Harry Potter must not put himself in peril. He is too important, sir!”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Returning would put Harry in danger.
- B. Harry has lost his place at Hogwarts.
- C. Harry is no longer important to anyone.

4 “We have received intelligence that a Hover Charm was used at your place of residence this evening at twelve minutes past nine.”

According to the letter, the word ‘intelligence’ refers to...

- A. information they have gathered
- B. a warning carried by an owl
- C. Harry’s cleverness and skill

5 “Three days later, the Dursleys were showing no sign of relenting, and Harry couldn’t see any way out of his situation.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the Dursleys...

- A. were about to set him free
- B. would not soften toward Harry
- C. had decided to forgive him

6 “And I would remind you that it is not – prudent – to appear less than fond of Harry Potter, not when most of our kind regard him as the hero who made the Dark Lord disappear ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that the speaker thinks openly disliking Harry Potter would be...

- A. a sign of his true admiration
- B. an unwise, risky move
- C. a bold and honest stand

7 “The name Malfoy still commands a certain respect, yet the Ministry grows ever more meddlesome.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the speaker resents the Ministry for...

- A. interfering in his affairs
- B. ignoring his family completely
- C. openly admiring his family name

8 “He thrust it at her, his eyes glittering with malice.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. The man returns it by mistake.
- B. The man hands it over kindly.
- C. The man acts with spiteful ill will.

9 “Harry well remembered putting it on, exactly one year ago, and waiting, petrified, for its decision as it muttered aloud in his ear.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, as Harry waited for the decision, he felt...

- A. frozen with fear
- B. bored and impatient
- C. calm and confident

10 “... these boys have flouted the Decree for the Restriction of Underage Wizardry, caused serious damage to an old and valuable tree ...”

According to the passage, in flouting the Decree the boys have...

- A. carefully obeyed its rule
- B. been unfairly blamed for nothing
- C. openly broken its rule

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	
3	A	Event comprehension.
4	A	'Intelligence' here means gathered information, not cleverness; the Ministry has learned a charm was used.
5	B	
6	B	The speaker is Draco's father, no friend of Harry's, so his counsel is about appearances, not real fondness.
7	A	
8	C	
9	A	
10	C	Event comprehension. The blame option is ruled out only by knowing Harry and Ron really did fly the car.

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–5

Harry endures a wretched summer at the Dursleys', is warned by the house-elf Dobby, and is rescued by the Weasleys. After a trip to Diagon Alley, he and Ron miss the Hogwarts Express and fly the enchanted car to school, crashing into the Whomping Willow. The break falls after their arrival, grouping the pre-Hogwarts setup chapters together.