

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Chapters 6–9

by J. K. Rowling

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: grisly, heir, immaculate, pandemonium, persecution, petrified, purge, rift, scathing, venom

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 campers told **grisly** tales around the fire.
 - A. horrifying and gruesome
 - B. old and familiar
 - C. strange and puzzling
2. The wealthy banker named his daughter as his **heir**.
 - A. one who will inherit
 - B. one who gives advice
 - C. one who lends money
3. He kept his uniform **immaculate** for the morning inspection.
 - A. perfectly clean and neat
 - B. thick and warm
 - C. bright and colorful
4. When the lights went out, **pandemonium** broke out in the stadium.
 - A. a brief argument
 - B. a wild, noisy uproar
 - C. a joyful celebration
5. Many families fled their homeland to escape **persecution**.
 - A. heavy, unfair taxes
 - B. cruel, ongoing mistreatment
 - C. sudden, harsh poverty
6. In the old myth, one look from the beast left its victims **petrified**.
 - A. filled with sudden terror
 - B. put into a deep sleep
 - C. frozen stiff, like stone
7. The dictator ordered his soldiers to **purge** the village.
 - A. to tax very heavily
 - B. to violently clear out
 - C. to search house by house
8. A **rift** slowly formed between the two business partners.
 - A. a deep, lasting split
 - B. a secret agreement
 - C. a quiet rivalry
9. The critic wrote a **scathing** review of the new restaurant.
 - A. vague and confusing
 - B. long and detailed
 - C. harshly critical
10. She spoke of her former boss with pure **venom**.
 - A. proud satisfaction
 - B. open fear and worry
 - C. bitter spite or hatred

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Muggle-born — a witch or wizard whose parents are both non-magical

Mudblood — a cruel, insulting name for a witch or wizard whose parents are both non-magical

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	C
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 “Gilderoy Lockhart, however, was immaculate in sweeping robes of turquoise, his golden hair shining under a perfectly positioned turquoise hat with gold trimming.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘immaculate’ most nearly suggests that Lockhart’s appearance was...

- A. brightly colored and showy
- B. spotlessly neat and groomed
- C. plain and poorly kept

2 “Loud and scathing, Draco Malfoy’s voice echoed around the courtyard.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Malfoy’s words were meant to...

- A. quietly warn Harry
- B. mock and belittle Harry
- C. sincerely praise Harry

3 “It was pandemonium. The pixies shot in every direction like rockets.”

Which detail best supports that the scene had become pure pandemonium?

- A. pixies rocketing everywhere
- B. the pixies stayed caged
- C. Lockhart took control

4 “It was a voice, a voice to chill the bone marrow, a voice of breathtaking, ice-cold venom.”

In context, the word ‘venom’ emphasizes that the voice was full of...

- A. cold hatred and malice
- B. deep sadness and sorrow
- C. literal snake poison

5 “The chamber of secrets has been opened. Enemies of the heir, beware.”

The warning most strongly suggests that the ‘heir’ is someone who has...

- A. inherited a connection to Slytherin
- B. helped found the school
- C. newly arrived at Hogwarts

6 “Harry, Ron, and Hermione stood alone, in the middle of the corridor, as silence fell among the mass of students pressing forward to see the grisly sight.”

Which detail best supports that the sight in the corridor was grisly?

- A. the corridor stood empty
- B. the students laughed
- C. a shocked silence fell

7 “‘But why’s she all – all stiff and frozen?’ ‘She has been Petrified,’ said Dumbledore ...”

According to the passage, being ‘Petrified’ has left Mrs. Norris...

- A. frightened but unharmed
- B. stiff, frozen, and lifeless
- C. injured and bleeding

8 “They built this castle together, far from prying Muggle eyes, for it was an age when magic was feared by common people, and witches and wizards suffered much persecution.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the founders built far from Muggles because...

- A. Muggles admired their powers
- B. they wanted more open space
- C. magic-users were mistreated

9 “A rift began to grow between Slytherin and the others.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the founders’ friendship was...

- A. starting to break apart
- B. growing closer than before
- C. staying exactly the same

10 “The heir alone would be able to unseal the Chamber of Secrets, unleash the horror within, and use it to purge the school of all who were unworthy to study magic.”

According to the legend, to ‘purge’ the school means to...

- A. clean the castle of dirt
- B. expel students who misbehave
- C. force out Muggle-born students

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	A	
4	A	
5	A	Character comprehension. The heir is Slytherin's descendant, not one of the founders himself.
6	C	
7	B	'Petrified' here is the magical sense (turned rigid), not the everyday sense of 'terrified' that the wrong answers play on.
8	C	
9	A	
10	C	Theme comprehension. 'Unworthy' reflects Slytherin's blood-purity belief — Muggle-borns, not rule-breakers.

Teacher Context: Chapters 6–9

The school year opens under the inept new teacher Gilderoy Lockhart as tensions rise and Draco uses the slur 'Mudblood.' At Nearly Headless Nick's deathday party Harry hears a sinister voice, and the section ends with the first petrification and the message that the Chamber of Secrets has been opened. The break leaves that discovery as a cliffhanger opening the next section.