

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Chapters 14–18

by J. K. Rowling

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abject, buoyant, consorted, disembodied, hoodwinked, imploringly, mutinous, scuttling, shrewdly, yearned

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. After losing everything, the family lived in abject poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. common and ordinaryB. sudden and briefC. complete and hopeless <p>2. After winning the game, the whole team felt buoyant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. proud and seriousB. calm and relaxedC. cheerful and lighthearted <p>3. For years he consorted with a rough and dangerous crowd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. kept company withB. got into fights withC. did business with <p>4. A disembodied voice echoed through the empty hallway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. faint and far awayB. coming from no visible sourceC. low and threatening <p>5. The clever salesman hoodwinked us into buying a broken car.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. loudly naggedB. deceived or fooledC. firmly pressured | <p>6. She looked imploringly at her parents, hoping they would say yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. in a pleading wayB. in a cheerful wayC. in a nervous way <p>7. The crew grew mutinous when the new rules were announced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. quiet and gloomyB. rebellious and defiantC. nervous and worried <p>8. The crab went scuttling across the sand toward the water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. leaping in long, high boundsB. gliding in slow, smooth motionsC. moving in quick, short steps <p>9. He shrewdly chose the deal that saved the most money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. in a sharp, clever wayB. in a calm, patient wayC. in a bold, daring way <p>10. All winter she yearned for the warm days of summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. longed deeply forB. got prepared forC. calmly waited for |
|--|--|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

It is our choices ... that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities —
Dumbledore's statement that character is revealed more by the choices we make than by our natural talents

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	A
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 *"... as more and more days went by with no whisper from the disembodied voice, they became hopeful that they would never need to talk to him ..."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "disembodied" most nearly suggests that the voice...

- A. belonged to one of the teachers
- B. was fading a little each day
- C. came from no visible body

2 *"I never," said Hagrid, looking imploringly at Dumbledore."*

According to the passage, how does Hagrid act as he speaks to Dumbledore?

- A. he angrily denies everything
- B. he pleads to be believed
- C. he calmly states the facts

3 *"Several large spiders were scuttling over the ground on the other side of the glass, moving in an unnaturally straight line as though taking the shortest route to a prearranged meeting."*

It can reasonably be inferred that the spiders, "scuttling" along, were...

- A. creeping forward in fear
- B. wandering about aimlessly
- C. hurrying off with a purpose

4 *"Every other teacher in the place was looking grimmer than usual, but Lockhart appeared nothing short of buoyant."*

In context, the word "buoyant" emphasizes how Lockhart...

- A. stayed cheerful and upbeat
- B. hid a growing worry
- C. grew unusually serious

5 *"... irritated Harry so much that he yearned to throw Gadding with Ghouls right in Lockhart's stupid face."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Harry "yearned to throw" the book because he...

- A. meant to return the book
- B. longed to vent his anger
- C. wanted to amuse Lockhart

6 *"There was a great deal of mutinous muttering around the room, which made Professor McGonagall scowl even more darkly."*

Which statement about how the students react to McGonagall's announcement is best supported?

- A. they were amused by it
- B. they were rebelling against it
- C. they were confused by it

7 *"That's a phoenix said Riddle, staring shrewdly back at it."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Riddle, "staring shrewdly" at the phoenix, was...

- A. sizing it up cleverly
- B. admiring it with delight
- C. watching it in plain fear

8 *"... sank so deeply into the Dark Arts, consorted with the very worst of our kind, underwent so many dangerous, magical transformations, that when he resurfaced as Lord Voldemort, he was barely recognizable."*

Which statement about Voldemort's path after leaving school is best supported by the passage?

- A. he tried to help other wizards
- B. he studied entirely alone
- C. he joined the worst of wizards

9 *"Older and wiser wizards than she have been hoodwinked by Lord Voldemort."*

Which statement best explains why Dumbledore says Ginny should not be punished?

- A. she was deceived by Voldemort
- B. she has already confessed
- C. she is far too young to blame

10 *"Dobby went scurrying in after him, crouching at the hem of his cloak, a look of abject terror on his face."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Dobby's "abject terror" shows he is...

- A. utterly terrified of his master
- B. a little terrified of his master
- C. no longer terrified of his master

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	The disembodied voice is the basilisk, heard only by Harry.
2	B	
3	C	
4	A	
5	B	
6	B	Event comprehension. McGonagall has just announced that year-end exams will go ahead despite the attacks.
7	A	
8	C	
9	A	Event comprehension. Ginny was deceived all year through Tom Riddle's diary.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 14–18

Cornelius Fudge arrives, Hagrid is taken to Azkaban, and Dumbledore is forced out. Following Hagrid's clue, Harry and Ron find the giant spider Aragog and learn the monster's true nature; Harry then descends into the Chamber to face the Heir of Slytherin and save Ginny. Section runs to the end of the novel.