

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Chapters 1–5

by J. K. Rowling

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: astounding, destined, drawling, exasperated, faltered, heed, hushed, minuscule, peculiar, piercing

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 life with the Dursleys

Section 2 · Chapters 6–9 · The journey to Hogwarts begins

Section 3 · Chapters 10–13 · Halloween at Hogwarts

Section 4 · Chapters 14–17 · Hagrid keeps a dangerous secret

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



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Chapters 1–5
by J. K. Rowling

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. The gymnast's final routine was simply astounding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. extremely amazingB. risky and dangerousC. smooth and graceful <p>2. Everyone believed the young prince was destined to rule one day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. eager and willingB. fated to happenC. well prepared <p>3. The actor spoke in a drawling Southern voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. slow and drawn-outB. deep and boomingC. harsh and scratchy <p>4. The coach grew exasperated when the players kept missing easy passes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. confused and unsureB. very irritated or frustratedC. tired and worn out <p>5. Her voice faltered as she tried to finish the speech.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. shook with angerB. dropped to a whisperC. grew unsteady or hesitant | <p>6. The hikers paid heed to the warning signs along the trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. careful attentionB. polite respectC. a short visit <p>7. The crowd spoke in hushed tones as the ceremony began.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. cheerful and brightB. rushed and hurriedC. quiet and subdued <p>8. The ant carried a minuscule crumb across the floor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. soft and crumblyB. extremely smallC. surprisingly heavy <p>9. There was a peculiar smell coming from the basement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. strange or oddB. old and staleC. strong and powerful <p>10. The detective fixed the suspect with a piercing stare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. cold and unfriendlyB. calm and steadyC. sharp and intense |
|--|---|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Muggle — a person without magical powers

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Chapters 1–5
by J. K. Rowling

#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	C

Vocabulary in Context
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Chapters 1–5
by J. K. Rowling

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 *"It was on the corner of the street that he noticed the first sign of something peculiar – a cat reading a map."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "peculiar" most nearly suggests that what Mr. Dursley noticed was...

- A. strange and out of place
- B. funny and charming
- C. too dim to see clearly

2 *"I know you haven't, said Professor McGonagall, sounding half exasperated, half admiring."*

It can reasonably be inferred that, while admiring Dumbledore, McGonagall also feels...

- A. frightened of him
- B. irritated with him
- C. amused by him

3 *"... had she fixed Dumbledore with such a piercing stare as she did now."*

In context, the word "piercing" emphasizes how McGonagall...

- A. looked at him with affection
- B. stared at him with great intensity
- C. glanced at him only briefly

4 *"It's – it's true?" faltered Professor McGonagall."*

Which statement about McGonagall is best supported by the word "faltered"?

- A. She speaks firmly and boldly.
- B. She whispers to stay quiet.
- C. She can hardly steady her voice.

5 *"It's just astounding... of all the things to stop him... but how in the name of heaven did Harry survive?"*

The passage most strongly suggests that McGonagall finds the news of Harry's survival...

- A. almost impossible to believe
- B. mildly interesting at best
- C. frightening and dangerous

6 *"... people meeting in secret all over the country were holding up their glasses and saying in hushed voices: 'To Harry Potter – the boy who lived!'"*

According to the passage, the people raising their glasses speak in voices that are...

- A. low and full of quiet awe
- B. bright with laughter
- C. loud and full of anger

7 *"Enter, stranger, but take heed
Of what awaits the sin of greed,
For those who take, but do not earn,
Must pay most dearly in their turn.
So if you seek beneath our floors
A treasure that was never yours,
Thief, you have been warned, beware
Of finding more than treasure there."*

It can reasonably be inferred that "take heed" tells the reader to...

- A. hurry past the doors
- B. enter boldly without fear
- C. pay close attention and beware

8 *"He had a bored, drawling voice."*

Which statement about the boy is best supported by his "bored, drawling voice"?

- A. He speaks quickly and eagerly.
- B. He speaks shyly and nervously.
- C. He speaks in a slow, superior way.

9 *"... minuscule, glittery-black beetle eyes (five Knuts a scoop)."*

According to the passage, the "minuscule" beetle eyes for sale are...

- A. almost too small to see
- B. as big as unicorn horns
- C. far too costly to buy

10 *"It is very curious indeed that you should be destined for this wand when its brother – why, its brother gave you that scar."*

The passage most strongly suggests that being "destined for this wand" means Harry...

- A. was the first to ask for it
- B. was meant to have it by fate
- C. paid the most for it

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Chapters 1–5
by J. K. Rowling

#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	B	
4	C	
5	A	Event comprehension.
6	A	
7	C	
8	C	Character comprehension. The drawling boy is Draco Malfoy; his slow, lazy tone marks him as a snob.
9	A	
10	B	The 'brother' of this wand is Voldemort's; Harry being destined for it hints at their connection.

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–5

Harry, an orphan mistreated by the Dursleys, learns on his eleventh birthday that he is a wizard. Hagrid takes him from his relatives, reveals the truth about his parents, and brings him to Diagon Alley for school supplies. Section ends after Diagon Alley, grouping the entire ordinary-world-to-threshold arc before Harry boards the Hogwarts train.