

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Chapters 6–9

by J. K. Rowling

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: cunning, ensnaring, gaunt, petrified, quaver, sallow, sneer, stern, subtle, triumphant

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
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The **cunning** thief tricked the guards and slipped away.

- A. sly and clever
- B. brave and bold
- C. fast and strong

2. The mysterious music was **ensnaring** everyone who walked by.

- A. confusing and puzzling
- B. annoying and bothering
- C. capturing and holding

3. The old sailor had a **gaunt** face after his long journey.

- A. thin and bony
- B. stern and angry
- C. rough and scarred

4. She stood **petrified** as the huge dog charged toward her.

- A. weak with exhaustion
- B. trembling with anger
- C. frozen with fear

5. There was a **quaver** in his voice as he gave the bad news.

- A. a sharp, angry tone
- B. a trembling in the voice
- C. a low, booming sound

6. Years of working night shifts left his face **sallow**.

- A. puffy and tired
- B. pale and sickly
- C. rough and wrinkled

7. A **sneer** crossed his face when he saw my cheap shoes.

- A. a look of surprise
- B. a look of contempt
- C. a look of confusion

8. The judge gave us a **stern** look from the bench.

- A. puzzled and confused
- B. tired and bored
- C. strict and severe

9. The painting had **subtle** shades of blue and green.

- A. faint and delicate
- B. strange and unusual
- C. rich and deep

10. She raised her arms, **triumphant**, after crossing the finish line first.

- A. proud and joyful
- B. nervous and unsure
- C. exhausted and breathless

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

riffraff — an insulting term for people regarded as rough, disreputable, or undesirable
the third-floor corridor is out of bounds — no one is allowed to enter the corridor

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	B
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 *"She had a very stern face and Harry's first thought was that this was not someone to cross."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "stern" most nearly suggests that Professor McGonagall is...

- A. serious and strict
- B. tired and gloomy
- C. calm and patient

2 *"Or perhaps in Slytherin
You'll make your real friends,
Those cunning folk use any means
To achieve their ends."*

It can reasonably be inferred that students sorted into Slytherin are willing to...

- A. scheme slyly to get their way
- B. work hard and follow rules
- C. help others before themselves

3 *"Harry looked over at the Slytherin table and saw a horrible ghost sitting there, with blank staring eyes, a gaunt face, and robes stained with silver blood."*

Which detail best supports the idea that the ghost looks frightening?

- A. its thin, hollow face
- B. its round, rosy face
- C. its calm, smiling face

4 *"Professor Quirrell, in his absurd turban, was talking to a teacher with greasy black hair, a hooked nose, and sallow skin."*

Which statement about the teacher's skin is best supported by the passage?

- A. It is tanned from the sun.
- B. It is rough and scarred.
- C. It has a sickly, pale color.

5 *"You are here to learn the subtle science and exact art of potionmaking," he began."*

In context, the word "subtle" emphasizes that the science of potion-making is...

- A. simple and quickly learned
- B. delicate and easy to miss
- C. loud and full of action

6 *"... the delicate power of liquids that creep through human veins, bewitching the mind, ensnaring the senses..."*

The passage most strongly suggests that, to Snape, potions have the power to...

- A. heal serious wounds quickly
- B. capture and control the senses
- C. clean and purify the body

7 *"Snape's lips curled into a sneer."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Snape's sneer expresses...

- A. pride in Harry
- B. contempt toward Harry
- C. amusement at a joke

8 *"... there was a quaver in Neville's voice that said only too clearly that he wanted to keep his feet on the ground."*

According to the passage, the quaver in Neville's voice shows that he is...

- A. cheerful and eager
- B. angry and impatient
- C. nervous and afraid

9 *"Harry caught sight of Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle's triumphant faces as he left, walking numbly in Professor McGonagall's wake as she strode toward the castle."*

It can reasonably be inferred from their triumphant faces that Malfoy and his friends are...

- A. sad to see Harry go
- B. worried about Harry
- C. gloating at Harry's defeat

10 *"Harry mouthed to the others and, petrified, they began to creep down a long gallery full of suits of armor."*

According to the passage, the children crept along the gallery because they were...

- A. frozen with fear
- B. tired from walking
- C. bored and restless

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	A	
4	C	
5	B	
6	B	
7	B	Character comprehension.
8	C	
9	C	Event comprehension.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 6–9

Harry travels to Hogwarts, meets Ron and Hermione, is sorted into Gryffindor, and starts his first classes. Rivalries form with Draco Malfoy and Professor Snape. Section covers Harry's arrival and earliest weeks, ending before the Halloween episode that draws the trio together.