

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Chapters 10–13

by J. K. Rowling

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: alchemy, desperate, dwell, immortal, inscription, lumbered, luminous, mangled, sinister, transfixed

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 old book described the strange art of **alchemy**.

- A. old study of distant stars
- B. old study of changing metals
- C. old study of healing herbs

2. She had a **desperate** need to prove herself.

- A. very deeply felt
- B. reckless and rash
- C. nearly hopeless

3. Try not to **dwel** on your mistakes for too long.

- A. to keep thinking about
- B. to keep joking about
- C. to keep bragging about

4. In the old myth, the gods were **immortal** and feared by all.

- A. impossibly powerful
- B. able to live forever
- C. endlessly wealthy

5. We could barely read the **inscription** on the old ring.

- A. words marked on a surface
- B. a faint scratch or dent
- C. a small glowing jewel

6. The huge bear **lumbered** across the open field.

- A. moved quickly and quietly
- B. moved heavily and clumsily
- C. moved smoothly and gracefully

7. She wore a **luminous** bracelet to the party.

- A. glowing with light
- B. set with bright gems
- C. made of pure silver

8. The bike was left **mangled** after the accident.

- A. dusty and scratched
- B. faded and rusted
- C. badly crushed and torn

9. A **sinister** figure followed them down the dark alley.

- A. quick and clumsy
- B. tall and shadowy
- C. evil and threatening

10. The children stood **transfixed** before the giant fireworks.

- A. jumping with delight
- B. chatting in surprise
- C. held still by wonder

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	C
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 *"It lumbered around, blinking stupidly, to see what had made the noise."*

As it is used in the passage, the word 'lumbered' most nearly suggests that the troll moved

- A. quickly and silently
- B. heavily and clumsily
- C. smoothly and gracefully

2 *"One of his legs was bloody and mangled."*

According to the passage, one of Snape's legs was

- A. stiff, sore, and swollen
- B. badly torn and bleeding
- C. bruised but already healing

3 *"There was an inscription carved around the top: Erised stra ehru oyt ube cafru oyt on wohsi."*

According to the passage, the inscription on the mirror was

- A. a message written backwards with spaces shuffled
- B. a magical design that enchanted when touched
- C. a series of cuts that revealed hidden layers

4 *"Ron, though, was staring transfixed at his image."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Ron stays before the mirror because he

- A. is confused by his reflection
- B. is unable to look away from himself
- C. is frightened by his reflection

5 *"Ron threw the cloak back over them as the luminous eyes of Mrs. Norris came round the door."*

According to the passage, Mrs. Norris's eyes were

- A. glowing in the dark
- B. narrowed and watchful
- C. brimming with tears

6 *"It shows us nothing more or less than the deepest, most desperate desire of our hearts."*

As it is used in the passage, the word 'desperate' most nearly describes a desire that is

- A. deeply and intensely longed for
- B. sudden and quickly passing
- C. reckless and without hope

7 *"It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live, remember that."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Dumbledore is warning Harry not to

- A. fall asleep beside the mirror
- B. hide the mirror from others
- C. let his mind linger on the mirror

8 *"Speaking quietly so that no one else would hear, Harry told the other two about Snape's sudden, sinister desire to be a Quidditch referee."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Harry sees Snape's wish to referee as

- A. an honest love of the sport
- B. a harmless bid for attention
- C. a threatening sign of evil intent

9 *"The ancient study of alchemy is concerned with making the Sorcerer's Stone, a legendary substance with astonishing powers."*

As it is used in the passage, the word 'alchemy' most nearly refers to

- A. a craft of mining gold
- B. a modern science of metals
- C. an old study of transforming substances

10 *"It also produces the Elixir of Life, which will make the drinker immortal."*

According to the passage, the Elixir of Life makes the drinker

- A. able to live forever
- B. wealthy beyond measure
- C. young and healthy again

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	A	
4	B	Character comprehension. Ron is gripped because the mirror shows him as head boy, the success he longs for.
5	A	
6	A	Here 'desperate' means deepest, most heartfelt longing, not the more common 'reckless' or 'hopeless' sense.
7	C	Event comprehension. The warning lands because Harry has spent three nights entranced before the mirror.
8	C	Event comprehension. Harry already believes Snape jinxed his broom and is after the Stone, so the wish reads as a threat.
9	C	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–13

A mountain troll on Halloween cements the friendship of Harry, Ron, and Hermione. Harry shines at Quidditch, finds the Mirror of Erised, and the three begin investigating Nicolas Flamel and what lies hidden in the school. Section ends before the dragon subplot opens the final stretch.