

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Chapters 14–17

by J. K. Rowling

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: bewildered, courage, feeble, glaring, loathed, monstrous, omen, remorse, sacrifice, seared

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 new student looked **bewildered** by the school's twisting halls.

- A. clearly amazed
- B. completely confused
- C. growing impatient

2. It took real **courage** to dive in and rescue the drowning swimmer.

- A. skill from long training
- B. quick thinking under pressure
- C. the strength to face fear

3. The sick old dog gave only a **feeble** wag of its tail.

- A. weak and without force
- B. stiff and clumsy
- C. shy and gentle

4. The coach stood **glaring** at the players who broke the rules.

- A. shouting out loud
- B. shaking with rage
- C. staring fiercely and angrily

5. She **loathed** the smell of rotten eggs in the kitchen.

- A. hated very much
- B. barely even noticed
- C. minded only a little

6. The villain's **monstrous** scheme would put thousands in danger.

- A. clever and well-hidden
- B. shockingly cruel or evil
- C. huge and far-reaching

7. The sailors took the dark storm clouds as a bad **omen**.

- A. a sign of things to come
- B. a reason to feel afraid
- C. a patch of passing weather

8. She felt great **remorse** after lying to her best friend.

- A. embarrassment in front of others
- B. deep guilt for doing wrong
- C. worry about getting caught

9. Her parents made a **sacrifice** so she could go to the best school.

- A. giving up something valued
- B. a bold demand
- C. a clever plan

10. The hot pan **seared** his hand the moment he touched it.

- A. scratched it slightly
- B. bruised it badly
- C. burned it with intense heat

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

centaur — a creature from Greek mythology with the upper body of a human and the lower body of a horse

elixir — a liquid believed to have magical or healing powers

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	A
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 “Excuses, alibis, and wild cover-up stories chased each other around Harry’s brain, each more feeble than the last.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘feeble’ most nearly suggests that Harry’s excuses were...

- A. increasingly dishonest
- B. too weak to be convincing
- C. growing more desperate

2 “That is because it is a monstrous thing, to slay a unicorn, said Firenze. ... You have slain something pure and defenseless to save yourself, and you will have but a half-life, a cursed life, from the moment the blood touches your lips.”

Which detail from the passage best supports the idea that slaying a unicorn is a ‘monstrous’ act?

- A. its blood can keep a person alive
- B. it kills something pure and defenseless
- C. it leaves the killer with a half-life

3 “But leaving Neville lying motionless on the floor didn’t feel like a very good omen.”

In context, the word ‘omen’ emphasizes...

- A. Harry’s dread of trouble ahead
- B. Harry’s doubt about the plan
- C. Harry’s guilt over hurting Neville

4 “That’s chess!” snapped Ron. “You’ve got to make some sacrifices! I take one step forward and she’ll take me — that leaves you free to checkmate the king, Harry!”

It can reasonably be inferred that, by saying he must make ‘sacrifices,’ Ron means he will...

- A. give himself up so Harry can win
- B. trick the queen into a blunder
- C. capture as many pieces as he can

5 “He was at Hogwarts with your father, didn’t you know? They loathed each other.”

According to the passage, the word ‘loathed’ shows that the two men...

- A. hated each other intensely
- B. annoyed each other often
- C. envied each other quietly

6 “Where there should have been a back to Quirrell’s head, there was a face, the most terrible face Harry had ever seen. It was chalk white with glaring red eyes and slits for nostrils, like a snake.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the face’s ‘glaring red eyes’...

- A. shift about nervously
- B. shine with a gentle glow
- C. stare out fiercely and harshly

7 “At once, a needle-sharp pain seared across Harry’s scar; his head felt as though it was about to split in two ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that the pain that ‘seared’ across Harry’s scar felt...

- A. like a dull, throbbing ache
- B. like a sudden, sharp burning
- C. like a cold, numbing chill

8 “... let go of his neck and stared, bewildered, at his own palms — Harry could see they looked burned, raw, red, and shiny.”

Which statement about Quirrell is best supported by the passage?

- A. He is confused by his burned palms.
- B. He is furious that Harry escaped.
- C. He is afraid his hands won’t heal.

9 “... shocked to see Hagrid shaking with grief and remorse, great tears leaking down into his beard.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Hagrid is full of remorse because he...

- A. fears Dumbledore will fire him
- B. is grieving the dead unicorn
- C. blames himself for endangering Harry

10 “There are all kinds of courage,” said Dumbledore, smiling. “It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.”

Which detail from the passage best supports Dumbledore’s claim that there are different kinds of courage?

- A. courage means never feeling afraid
- B. enemies are harder to face than friends
- C. it is brave to stand up to friends

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	'Monstrous' names the cruelty of the act itself -- killing something pure and defenseless; the half-life is the price paid, not the wrong.
3	A	
4	A	
5	A	
6	C	
7	B	
8	A	
9	C	Event comprehension. Hagrid's guilt is for telling the hooded stranger how to get past Fluffy, which nearly got Harry killed.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 14–17

Hagrid's illegal dragon lands the children in trouble and a detention in the Forbidden Forest, where Harry glimpses a dark threat. The trio go down through the trapdoor past the obstacles guarding the Sorcerer's Stone, building to the final confrontation. Section runs to the end of the novel.