Holes

Chapters 21-30

by Louis Sachar

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: barren, defiance, delirious, depriving, grotesque, mob, refuge, resent, stranded, vile

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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

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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 1-10 · Stanley arrives at Camp Green Lake

Section 2 · Chapters 11-20 · Stanley and the boys of Group D

Section 3 · Chapters 21-30 · Zigzag, Zero, and the Warden's demands

Section 4 · Chapters 31-40 · Stanley and Zero in the wilderness

Section 5 · Chapters 41-50 · The return to Camp Green Lake

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

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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____

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

1. Few animals lived on the **barren** mountainside.

A. steep and rocky
B. cold and windy
C. bare and lifeless

2. With a look of **defiance**, she stared back at the principal.

A. sudden surprise
B. bold resistance
C. quiet sadness

3. The sick child grew **delirious** with a high fever during the night.

A. weak and sleepy
B. confused and raving
C. hot and shivering

4. The harsh winter was **depriving** the deer of food.

A. driving away from
B. hiding things from
C. keeping from having

5. A **grotesque** stone face glared down from the castle wall.

A. ugly and twisted
B. proud and stern
C. worn and ancient

6. A **mob** pushed through the gates and filled the streets.

A. a wild, angry crowd
B. a marching parade
C. a team of workers

7. During the storm, the hikers found **refuge** in a small cave.

A. a safe shelter
B. a secret passage
C. a useful tool

8. I began to **resent** my brother for always taking my things.

A. feel bitter toward
B. feel jealous of
C. feel sorry for

9. The sailors were **stranded** on the tiny island after the wreck.

A. resting and relaxed
B. hidden from view
C. stuck with no escape

10. A **vile** smell rose from the garbage left in the sun.

A. strong and spicy
B. disgusting and foul
C. faint and dusty

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

emerald — a bright green gemstone; here used to describe the sparkling water of Green Lake

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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Vocabulary in Context

Holes

Chapters 21–30

by Louis Sachar

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____ **Score** _____ / 10

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

1 *"He tried to imagine how he must have felt after Kissin' Kate had left him stranded in the desert."*

As it is used in "left him stranded in the desert," the word "stranded" most nearly suggests that the great-grandfather was…

A. too tired to keep walking
B. left with no way to escape
C. lost and wandering in circles

2 *"Kate Barlow had left his great-grandfather to face the hot barren desert."*

It can reasonably be inferred that the "hot barren desert" the great-grandfather faced would…

A. be shaded by many trees
B. have streams of fresh water
C. have little growing in it

3 *"When he was asked how he had lived so long, he said he found refuge on God's thumb."*

The passage most strongly suggests that by finding "refuge on God's thumb," the great-grandfather found…

A. a map pointing the way home
B. a place that kept him alive
C. a town full of other people

4 *"For a second, he thought he saw a flash of defiance in Zero's eyes, but then it passed."*

In context, the word "defiance" in "a flash of defiance in Zero's eyes" emphasizes…

A. Zero's urge to resist
B. Zero's sudden fear
C. Zero's wish to please

5 *"No one even dared to look at his grotesque face."*

Which statement is best supported by the description of Mr. Sir's "grotesque face"?

A. His face looked stern and proud
B. His face looked ugly and twisted
C. His face looked tired and pale

6 *"Doc Hawthorn did not resent Sam."*

It can reasonably be inferred that because Doc Hawthorn "did not resent Sam," he…

A. felt no bitterness toward Sam
B. had never met Sam before
C. refused to speak with Sam

7 *"She heard a noise outside the door, then suddenly a mob of men and women came storming into the school building."*

Which detail best supports the idea that the "mob" was violent and out of control?

A. they were turning over desks
B. they waited quietly outside
C. they sat and listened politely

8 *"He hated to think what land of vile substance Mr. Sir might have put in it."*

According to the passage, Stanley feared the water held a "vile substance" — that is, something…

A. tasteless and harmless
B. cool and refreshing
C. disgusting and harmful

9 *"He was delirious when he said it."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the great-grandfather was "delirious," which is why…

A. his words made little sense
B. he spoke a foreign language
C. he refused to explain himself

10 *"Mr. Sir was no longer depriving him of water."*

Which statement is best supported by the line "Mr. Sir was no longer depriving him of water"?

A. Stanley had stopped feeling thirsty
B. Stanley no longer needed to drink
C. Stanley could now get water

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	
3	B	Event comprehension. He survives seventeen days alone in the desert, so the 'refuge' must be whatever sheltered and saved him.
4	A	
5	B	
6	A	
7	A	
8	C	
9	A	Event comprehension. No one — not even the great-grandfather himself — ever knew what 'God's thumb' meant.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 21-30

Zigzag attacks Stanley during digging; when counselor Pendanski humiliates Zero publicly, Zero strikes Pendanski with a shovel and flees into the desert. Stanley steals a water truck to follow but crashes it, then pursues Zero on foot; the two find Sam's old boat, 'Mary Lou,' half-buried in the desert, and shelter beneath it. Section ends with the boys in hiding, cut off from the camp.

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