

Hoot

Chapters 1–5

by Carl Hiassen

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: accosted, concealed, culprit, impenetrable, intrigued, merciless, methodically, skeptical, vandalism, venomous

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 • Roy, the new kid in town

Section 2 • Chapters 6–11 • Roy looks for the running boy

Section 3 • Chapters 12–16 • New friends and the construction site

Section 4 • Chapters 17–21 and Epilogue • Pressure mounts on the construction project

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. A stranger **accosted** me as I left the store.

- A. confronted aggressively
- B. greeted in a friendly way
- C. walked past quietly

2. He **concealed** the letter beneath a stack of books.

- A. tore into pieces
- B. marked with ink
- C. hid from view

3. The teacher tried to find the **culprit** who jammed the printer.

- A. the lucky winner
- B. the honest helper
- C. the guilty person

4. The castle had thick, **impenetrable** stone walls.

- A. smooth and polished
- B. impossible to get through
- C. extremely tall and wide

5. He was **intrigued** by the locked door at the end of the hall.

- A. curious and fascinated
- B. puzzled and confused
- C. startled and alarmed

6. The **merciless** coach made us run until we dropped.

- A. cruel and unrelenting
- B. strict but encouraging
- C. cheerful and easygoing

7. He **methodically** checked every item on the list.

- A. in a careful, orderly way
- B. in a confused, random way
- C. in a quick, careless way

8. He looked **skeptical** when I described the deal.

- A. hopeful and eager
- B. doubtful and unconvinced
- C. confused and lost

9. The police charged the teens with **vandalism** after the game.

- A. breaking into a parked car
- B. damaging property on purpose
- C. stealing money from a store

10. The zoo keeps its **venomous** spiders behind thick glass.

- A. having a thick, furry coat
- B. having long, sharp claws
- C. having a poisonous bite

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

like velvet — very soft and gentle

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	C
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	B
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 “You can’t have vandalism without monetary damages, and if nothing on the property was broken or defaced....”

As it is used in the passage, “vandalism” most nearly means...

- A. ruining property on purpose
- B. entering land uninvited
- C. playing a harmless prank

6 “He had a hunch that the culprit (or culprits) intended something more serious than juvenile pranks.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the culprit, in Officer Delinko’s view, is...

- A. an innocent bystander
- B. someone with a serious purpose
- C. a group of bored children

2 “Garrett looked skeptical. An outlaw?”

The passage most strongly suggests that Garrett...

- A. doubts Roy’s outlaw idea
- B. fears the running boy
- C. agrees the boy is an outlaw

7 “Officer Delinko wasn’t a bird-watcher, but he was intrigued by the toy-sized owls.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the owls...

- A. frightened Delinko badly
- B. bored Delinko completely
- C. caught Delinko’s interest

3 “Louis was from Haiti and Dana was merciless.”

Which statement about Dana is best supported by the passage?

- A. He treats weaker kids cruelly
- B. He is gentle when annoyed
- C. He looks out for younger kids

8 “The pine trees gave way to a tangled thicket of Brazilian peppers and dense ground scrub, which looked impenetrable.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the thicket would...

- A. be hard for anyone to enter
- B. make an easy shortcut
- C. offer a clear path

4 “It was the same answer he gave on the school bus when Dana Matherson accosted him on his first day ...”

As it is used in the passage, “accosted” most nearly means...

- A. politely greeted him
- B. confronted him aggressively
- C. quietly walked past him

9 “Concealed beneath a mat of vines he found three plastic garbage bags, each tied at the neck.”

According to the passage, the three garbage bags were...

- A. floating in the lake
- B. hidden under a mat of vines
- C. piled in plain sight

5 “Again the trespassers had methodically removed every survey marker and filled in the stake holes.”

According to the passage, the trespassers went about their sabotage...

- A. in a sudden panic
- B. in a careless, random rush
- C. in a careful, orderly way

10 “He was plenty scared now, with nine venomous snakes crawling around his feet.”

Which statement about the snakes is best supported by the passage?

- A. They were already dead
- B. They were harmless pets
- C. Their bite could poison Roy

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	The passage argues this case isn't vandalism because nothing was damaged; the answer is what the word itself means.
2	A	
3	A	Character comprehension.
4	B	
5	C	
6	B	Event comprehension.
7	C	
8	A	
9	B	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–5

Roy Eberhardt, newly arrived in Coconut Cove, Florida, is bullied on the school bus by Dana Matherson and glimpses a barefoot boy running away from the bus. Curious, Roy begins trying to find the mysterious boy, while a nearby Mother Paula's pancake-house construction site is plagued by acts of vandalism. These opening chapters establish Roy, the bullies, and the two mysteries before his investigation gets underway.