

Hoot

Chapters 6–11

by Carl Hiaassen

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: altercation, devastated, exasperated, fiasco, inevitable, jeopardy, oblivious, perpetrators, somber, surveillance

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. The two neighbors got into a noisy **altercation** over the broken fence.

- A. a long discussion
- B. an angry argument
- C. a formal meeting

2. He was **devastated** when he heard the final score.

- A. overwhelmed by grief
- B. embarrassed and ashamed
- C. angry and bitter

3. She grew **exasperated** after explaining the rules three times.

- A. very irritated and frustrated
- B. confused and unsure
- C. bored and sleepy

4. The school play was a complete **fiasco** this year.

- A. a total mystery
- B. a total surprise
- C. a total failure

5. With dark clouds rolling in, rain seemed **inevitable**.

- A. certain to happen
- B. heavier than usual
- C. harmless this time

6. One careless mistake put the whole project in **jeopardy**.

- A. a period of delay
- B. danger of harm or failure
- C. a state of confusion

7. She was completely **oblivious**, humming as she worked.

- A. unaware of her surroundings
- B. tired from the long day
- C. pleased with her work

8. Police searched the city for the **perpetrators** of the robbery.

- A. those who witnessed a crime
- B. those who reported a crime
- C. those who commit a crime

9. He spoke in a **somber** voice as he shared the news.

- A. calm and gentle
- B. gloomy and serious
- C. loud and rushed

10. The detectives set up **surveillance** near the old warehouse.

- A. a search for hidden clues
- B. a trap to catch intruders
- C. a close watch to catch wrongdoing

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

go ballistic — to suddenly become extremely angry

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	C
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 *“David volunteered for this surveillance duty at the construction site.”*

“As it is used in the passage, the word ‘surveillance’ most nearly suggests that Officer Delinko was...”

- A. helping to build the new site
- B. guarding the workers from harm
- C. keeping watch to catch wrongdoers

2 *“Because I wanted to catch the perpetrators, Officer Delinko replied.”*

“According to the passage, the ‘perpetrators’ Officer Delinko hopes to catch are the people who...”

- A. are committing the crimes
- B. are guarding the site
- C. are reporting the crimes

3 *“My whole career is in jeopardy, Officer Delinko thought angrily.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Officer Delinko is angry because he could...

- A. lose the career he values
- B. have to work longer hours
- C. be teased by other officers

4 *“Another confrontation seemed inevitable, and part of him simply wanted to get it over with.”*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Roy expects the fight to happen
- B. Roy thinks the fight may wait
- C. Roy hopes to avoid the fight

5 *“Actually, two good things had come out of the altercation with Dana Matherson.”*

“The passage most strongly suggests that Roy’s ‘altercation’ with Dana was...”

- A. a fair, playful contest
- B. a heated, angry fight
- C. a calm, friendly chat

6 *“Unfortunately, that wasn’t the case—the driver was as oblivious to Dana’s bad behavior as ever.”*

“Which detail best supports the idea that the bus driver was ‘oblivious’ to Dana’s behavior?”

- A. he scolded Dana for bullying
- B. he never noticed the bullying
- C. he warned Dana to settle down

7 *“He was very conscious of being an only child, and he knew his mom would be devastated if something had happened to him.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that, if Roy were hurt, his mother would feel...

- A. crushed by grief and shock
- B. annoyed at his choices
- C. slightly worried for a bit

8 *“It was because of him that the spray-painting fiasco had made the newspaper and gotten Curly into hot water with the Mother Paula’s company.”*

“Which detail best supports the idea that the spray-painting was a ‘fiasco’?”

- A. it pleased the company bosses
- B. it was quietly cleaned up
- C. it hit the news and caused trouble

9 *“Lonna arrived at the church towing a somber, bony-shouldered boy with sun-bleached hair and a deep tan.”*

“It can reasonably be inferred that the ‘somber’ boy at the church feels...”

- A. shy but content
- B. gloomy and downcast
- C. bored but relaxed

10 *“Roy was completely exasperated. ‘Hold on right there.’”*

“In context, the word ‘exasperated’ emphasizes how Roy has become...”

- A. truly frightened and tense
- B. tired and ready to quit
- C. deeply frustrated and annoyed

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	A	
4	A	
5	B	
6	B	
7	A	A nearby passage about the mother's lost baby deepens why she would be 'devastated.'
8	C	
9	B	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 6–11

Roy skips school to track down the running boy and tangles again with Dana, landing himself in trouble. He meets the tough Beatrice Leep and learns the running boy is her stepbrother, while Officer Delinko and foreman Curly fail to catch whoever keeps sabotaging the construction site. The break falls before Roy's loose connections harden into a real alliance.