

Hoot

Chapters 12–16

by Carl Hiassen

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: apprehension, conceded, harrowing, indignation, interrogating, materialized, ordeal, qualms, sanctuary, scrutiny

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. She waited outside the principal's office with growing **apprehension**.

- A. nervous dread
- B. quiet boredom
- C. mild curiosity

2. After a long debate, my brother **conceded** that he had made a mistake.

- A. admitted it was true
- B. joked about it
- C. explained it calmly

3. The survivors described their **harrowing** escape from the burning building.

- A. deeply distressing
- B. long and tiring
- C. carefully planned

4. She felt **indignation** when the referee blamed her for a foul she never made.

- A. nervousness over a mistake
- B. sadness about a loss
- C. anger at unfair treatment

5. The detective spent hours **interrogating** the nervous suspect.

- A. scolding loudly and angrily
- B. guarding closely and quietly
- C. questioning closely and harshly

6. A stray cat **materialized** on the porch the moment I opened a can of food.

- A. meowed loudly
- B. appeared suddenly
- C. curled up to rest

7. The twelve-hour bus ride turned into a real **ordeal**.

- A. a long journey
- B. a difficult experience
- C. a strange event

8. I had **qualms** about copying my friend's homework.

- A. uneasy doubts
- B. strong opinions
- C. clever ideas

9. After a long day, my bedroom feels like a **sanctuary**.

- A. a crowded place
- B. a safe, peaceful place
- C. a fancy place

10. Every receipt received the manager's **scrutiny** at the end of the day.

- A. quick approval
- B. warm praise
- C. close examination

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	C
6	B
7	B
8	A
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 “Beatrice’s indignation sounded genuine. Roy was impressed.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘indignation’ most nearly suggests that Beatrice acted...

- A. afraid of the doctor
- B. sorry for lying
- C. angry at being doubted

2 “Roy figured it came from years of interrogating shifty characters—gangsters or spies.”

According to the passage, Roy believes his father’s sharp, probing manner came from...

- A. years of questioning suspects
- B. years of training new officers
- C. years of writing police reports

3 “Later, after visiting the Bozeman library and consulting Sibley, Roy’s father conceded that Roy had been right.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, before giving in, Roy’s father had...

- A. argued the bird was something else
- B. ignored the bird entirely
- C. agreed with Roy at once

4 “A woman not much taller than Beatrice materialized in the doorway behind her.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘materialized’ most nearly suggests that the woman...

- A. spoke in a loud voice
- B. seemed solid and real
- C. appeared all at once

5 “Clearly it was an ordeal, raising a goon like Dana.”

Which statement about raising Dana is best supported by the passage?

- A. It has worn his father down.
- B. It has been easy and pleasant.
- C. It has made his father proud.

6 “Roy felt a strange mixture of apprehension and excitement.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Roy’s apprehension comes mainly from...

- A. the danger of the night’s plan
- B. his long ride home in the dark
- C. his excitement about the plan

7 “The creek was incredibly beautiful and wild; a hidden sanctuary, only twenty minutes away from his own backyard.”

Which detail best supports the idea that the creek is a safe, hidden refuge?

- A. It is close to Roy’s home.
- B. It is beautiful to look at.
- C. It is wild and hidden away.

8 “In addition to a fear of getting caught, Roy had serious qualms about trying anything illegal.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Roy’s qualms reflect his belief that...

- A. getting caught is the real risk
- B. a legal act can still be wrong
- C. the owls are not worth saving

9 “Gradually a harrowing thought seeped into Curly’s brain, chilling him like ice water.”

Which detail best supports the idea that Curly finds the thought deeply alarming?

- A. It comes while he searches.
- B. It chills him like ice water.
- C. It seeps in only gradually.

10 “He gulped as the beam illuminated something shiny and black in the water, but upon closer scrutiny he saw that it wasn’t an alligator.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, before looking more closely, Curly...

- A. saw nothing in the water
- B. feared he saw an alligator
- C. knew it was his lost gun

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	A	Event comprehension. The bet was over whether the raptor was a bald or golden eagle; the bird guide proved Roy right.
4	C	Tests the less-common sense of 'materialize'—to appear suddenly—rather than the familiar word 'material.'
5	A	Character comprehension. Mr. Matherson's defeated, ashamed manner shows the strain Dana puts him under.
6	A	Event comprehension. Roy is weighing whether to join Mullet Fingers' risky raid on the construction site.
7	C	
8	B	Theme comprehension. The section turns on Roy's struggle between his conscience and the law—right versus merely legal.
9	B	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 12–16

Roy grows closer to Beatrice and her stepbrother and learns what is really at stake on the lot: burrowing owls living where the pancake house is to be built. He decides to help and starts digging into Mother Paula's permits as the site's troubles escalate. The break groups the chapters in which the cause takes shape, stopping before the story turns toward its public confrontation.