

Hoot

Chapters 17–21 and Epilogue

by Carl Hiassen

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: accomplice, apprehended, barricade, decoy, futile, inquisitive, intimidated, ominously, preoccupied, slanderous

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 robber and his **accomplice** fled in a stolen car.

- A. a partner in a crime
- B. a longtime friend
- C. a distant cousin

6. She gave me an **inquisitive** look.

- A. angry and impatient
- B. curious and questioning
- C. bored and distant

2. The thief was **apprehended** two blocks from the bank.

- A. caught and arrested
- B. spotted by a witness
- C. chased on foot

7. The loud crowd left the young speaker feeling **intimidated**.

- A. bored and restless
- B. confused and unsure
- C. too scared to go on

3. Protesters built a **barricade** across the road.

- A. a barrier to block the way
- B. a shelter from the rain
- C. a stage for speeches

8. The sky darkened **ominously** before the storm.

- A. in a strange, sudden way
- B. in a threatening way
- C. in a slow, gradual way

4. The hunters set up a wooden duck as a **decoy**.

- A. a tasty treat
- B. a lure or distraction
- C. a warning signal

9. He seemed **preoccupied** all through dinner.

- A. bored and restless
- B. tired and sleepy
- C. deep in thought

5. Their efforts to start the old car were **futile**.

- A. doomed to fail
- B. risky and rushed
- C. slow but steady

10. He spread **slanderous** rumors about his rival.

- A. old and forgotten
- B. loud and constant
- C. spreading damaging lies

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	C
8	B
9	C
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 “Considering we’ve got nothing better to work with, I intend to tell Chief Deacon that the Mother Paula’s vandal has been apprehended.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “apprehended” most nearly means that the vandal has been...

- A. filled with dread
- B. finally understood
- C. caught and jailed

2 “An inquisitive pair of bright amber eyes peeked up from the blackness.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the baby owl peering up from the burrow was...

- A. sleepy and confused
- B. frightened and hiding
- C. curious about the intruder

3 “The policeman was grimly preoccupied with another concern. His gaze shifted from the massive bulldozer to the bird burrow, then back again.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, preoccupied with the owls’ fate, Officer Delinko...

- A. forgot why he was there
- B. felt calm about his job
- C. barely noticed anything else

4 “Young fellow, you’d better get your facts straight before making such outrageous and slanderous charges.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. The charges are fair but rude
- B. The charges are false and harmful
- C. The charges are minor and silly

5 “Chuck Muckle pivoted in slow motion. Ominously he pointed the blade of the shovel at the boy in the owl burrow.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Chuck Muckle pointed the shovel in order to...

- A. offer the boy the shovel
- B. threaten the boy with harm
- C. begin digging the burrow

6 “They were tall, strong girls who weren’t the least bit intimidated by Chuck Muckle’s blustery threats.”

Which detail best supports the idea that the girls were not intimidated by Muckle?

- A. They stood close together
- B. They brushed off his threats
- C. They were tall and strong

7 “Roy watched in wonderment as more and more kids slipped out of the crowd and began joining hands, forming a human barricade around Beatrice’s self-buried stepbrother.”

According to the passage, the kids formed a human barricade in order to...

- A. block others from reaching the boy
- B. help dig the boy out
- C. cheer on the boy’s escape

8 “There the boy had lasted only seventeen hours before breaking out, this time with an unlikely accomplice.”

In context, the word “accomplice” emphasizes that the boy escaped with someone who...

- A. helped carry out his escape
- B. watched from a distance
- C. happened to be nearby

9 “Mullet Fingers was fleet and slippery while Dana was sluggish and sore-footed, still not fully recovered from his encounter with the rattraps. The perfect decoy—that was Dana.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Dana made the perfect decoy because he would...

- A. pull pursuers off the real runner
- B. outrun the police easily
- C. scout the escape route

10 “Later came the white heron, gliding low in futile search of a shallow edge to wade.”

According to the passage, the heron’s search for a place to wade was...

- A. certain to fail
- B. nearly finished
- C. quick and easy

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	Here 'apprehended' means arrested — a different sense from 'apprehension' (dread); the two wrong choices echo other senses of 'apprehend.'
2	C	
3	C	Character comprehension.
4	B	
5	B	
6	B	
7	A	Event comprehension.
8	A	
9	A	Event comprehension.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 17–21 and Epilogue

Corporate boss Chuck Muckle pressures Curly to push the stalled project to its groundbreaking ceremony, where Roy and his friends make their stand on behalf of the owls. The Epilogue settles the aftermath for the characters and the site. Section runs to the end of the novel.