

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Chapters 31–41 and Appendix

by Harriet Jacobs

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: apprehend, destitute, indelible, iniquitous, odious, precarious, sanction, sanguine, solace, trepidation

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 1–9 · Linda's childhood and family

Section 2 · Chapters 10–16 · A young woman's perilous years

Section 3 · Chapters 17–23 · The flight and life in hiding

Section 4 · Chapters 24–30 · The long wait in hiding

Section 5 · Chapters 31–41 and Appendix · A new life in the North

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



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. She began to apprehend that the trip would end in disaster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. to fear and expectB. to firmly denyC. to slowly realize <p>2. Years of failed harvests left the village families destitute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. extremely poorB. without steady workC. deeply in debt <p>3. Meeting my hero in person made an indelible impression on me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. lasting and unforgettableB. vague and unclearC. pleasant but brief <p>4. History remembers the iniquitous laws that stripped people of their rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. strictly enforcedB. old and outdatedC. grossly unjust <p>5. His arrogance made him odious to others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. hateful and repugnantB. frightening and mysteriousC. annoying but harmless | <p>6. The climbers inched across a precarious rope bridge over the gorge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. old and rarely usedB. very long and highC. dangerously unstable <p>7. The city council voted to sanction the new building project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. to formally delayB. to officially approveC. to publicly fund <p>8. Even after three rejections, she stayed sanguine about her chances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. calm and unbotheredB. cheerfully optimisticC. stubbornly determined <p>9. After the loss of her dog, she found solace in old photographs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. escape and distractionB. comfort and consolationC. energy and motivation <p>10. She opened the exam results with trepidation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. eager excitementB. impatient hopeC. nervous dread |
|--|---|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

millstone — a crushing burden

traffic — the buying and selling of goods – here, the trade in human beings as property

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	C
7	B
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 *"The words he had spoken made an indelible impression upon me. They brought up great shadows from the mournful past."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "indelible" most nearly suggests that the impression...

- A. was vivid but easily ignored
- B. could not fade or be forgotten
- C. was painful but soon faded

2 *"Their knowledge of my precarious situation placed me in their power ..."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Linda stayed on good terms with the Hobbs family because...

- A. she had grown genuinely fond of them
- B. they had promised to free her children
- C. she was insecure and in their power

3 *"You need not apprehend any unkind treatment, as we have not put ourselves to any trouble or expense to get you."*

The claim that Linda need not apprehend unkind treatment functions mainly to...

- A. coax her back by easing her fears
- B. warn her about dangers in the North
- C. apologize for past mistreatment

4 *"I did not like to tell the sanguine, happy little fellow how much he was mistaken."*

In the passage, Benny is characterized as...

- A. cautious and worldly-wise
- B. discouraged by his losses
- C. cheerfully but mistakenly hopeful

5 *"I repeat that the most ignorant and the most destitute of these peasants was a thousand fold better off than the most pampered American ..."*

In context, the word "destitute" emphasizes the peasants'...

- A. extreme poverty
- B. lack of education
- C. moral corruption

6 *"... the distress brought on our oppressed people by the passage of this iniquitous law ..."*

Which best describes Linda and William's attitude toward the "iniquitous law"?

- A. they accept it as necessary
- B. they feel mild disappointment
- C. they condemn it as deeply unjust

7 *"When a man has his wages stolen from him, year after year, and the laws sanction and enforce the theft ..."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the laws, with regard to a man's stolen wages,...

- A. quietly overlook the theft
- B. officially permit and uphold the theft
- C. punish those who commit the theft

8 *"... yet I could never go out to breathe God's free air without trepidation at my heart."*

It can reasonably be inferred that, even as a free woman, Linda...

- A. still felt fear whenever she went out
- B. had grown calm about being caught
- C. disliked going outdoors in general

9 *"There are wrongs which even the grave does not bury. The man was odious to me while he lived, and his memory is odious now."*

Which choice best describes the narrator's attitude toward Dr. Flint after his death?

- A. grudging pity for a flawed man
- B. unrelenting hatred beyond the grave
- C. calm indifference to his memory

10 *"I would gladly forget them if I could. Yet the retrospection is not altogether without solace; for with those gloomy recollections come tender memories of my good old grandmother, like light, fleecy clouds floating over a dark and troubled sea."*

The memoir's closing image primarily functions to...

- A. end on comfort drawn from memory
- B. dismiss her grandmother's role
- C. deny that her past caused pain

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	Event comprehension.
3	A	Character comprehension. Elsewhere this letter uses 'apprehend' to mean seize; here it means to dread.
4	C	
5	A	
6	C	
7	B	'Sanction' here means to authorize—the opposite of its 'impose a penalty' sense students may expect.
8	A	Event comprehension.
9	B	
10	A	This is the memoir's closing line; the comfort it names is tender memory amid sorrow.

Teacher Context: Chapters 31–41 and Appendix

Linda reaches Philadelphia and then New York, reunites with her children, and finds work, but the Fugitive Slave Law keeps Dr. Flint's family on her trail. Her freedom is ultimately secured when a friend purchases it, and an appended testimony reinforces the narrative's authenticity. Section runs to the end of the book, including the Appendix.