

Into the Wild

Chapters 6–10

by Jon Krakauer

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: burgeoning, callow, emanates, ephemeral, equanimity, fulminate, harangues, hubris, opprobrium, paucity

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 · Author's Note and Chapters 1–5 · A hitchhiker bound for Alaska

Section 2 · Chapters 6–10 · McCandless's travels across the West

Section 3 · Chapters 11–15 · McCandless's family and childhood

Section 4 · Chapters 16–18 and Epilogue · The final journey into Alaska

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 region's **burgeoning** wine industry drew tourists from across the country.

- A. rapidly growing
- B. long-established
- C. highly profitable

2. The **callow** knight charged into battle without a plan.

- A. bold and reckless
- B. immature and naive
- C. lazy and careless

3. A faint warmth **emanates** from the dying campfire.

- A. flows outward
- B. fades quickly
- C. reflects back

4. The **ephemeral** beauty of the fireworks lit up the night sky.

- A. delicate
- B. short-lived
- C. breathtaking

5. She accepted the bad news with **equanimity**.

- A. quiet amusement
- B. polite indifference
- C. calm composure

6. He would **fulminate** against the new rules at every meeting.

- A. loudly rage
- B. quietly grumble
- C. openly campaign

7. The coach's halftime **harangues** left every player silent.

- A. brief reminders
- B. rambling stories
- C. scolding tirades

8. His **hubris** led him to ignore every warning sign.

- A. reckless impatience
- B. sheer carelessness
- C. excessive pride

9. After the scandal, the senator faced widespread **opprobrium**.

- A. intense public scrutiny
- B. harsh public scorn
- C. loud public debate

10. There was a **paucity** of evidence to support the claim.

- A. a scarcity
- B. a misuse
- C. a distortion

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

beggars the modern imagination — is so extraordinary that it's hard to imagine or understand

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	C
8	C
9	B
10	A

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 “Franz took these harangues in stride and in fact delighted in the boy’s company.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “harangues” most nearly suggests that McCandless

- A. scolded Franz at length
- B. gently teased Franz
- C. rarely spoke to Franz

2 “... McCandless’s face would darken with anger and he’d fulminate about his parents or politicians or the endemic idiocy of mainstream American life.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, when McCandless spoke of his parents and politicians, he

- A. offered mild, measured criticism
- B. raged and denounced them fiercely
- C. discussed them calmly

3 “Franz relished being with McCandless, but their burgeoning friendship also reminded him how lonely he’d been. The boy unmasked the gaping void in Franz’s life even as he helped fill it.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the friendship between Franz and McCandless

- A. had formed and grown quickly
- B. had lasted for many years
- C. was beginning to fade

4 “You are wrong if you think Joy emanates only or principally from human relationships.”

The statement in the excerpt primarily functions to

- A. insist joy comes mainly from others
- B. deny that joy comes only from people
- C. recall a joyful time with Franz

5 “The article about McCandless in Outside generated a large volume of mail, and not a few of the letters heaped opprobrium on McCandless ...”

Which choice best describes the attitude of these letter writers toward McCandless?

- A. detached curiosity
- B. cautious admiration
- C. scornful condemnation

6 “... London’s protagonist, who freezes because he ignores advice and commits big-time hubris ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that London’s protagonist freezes to death because of his

- A. lack of physical strength
- B. streak of unforeseeable bad luck
- C. overconfident, self-destructive pride

7 “Rosellini appeared to accept the failure of his hypothesis with equanimity.”

Which choice best describes Rosellini’s response to the failure of his experiment?

- A. calm, composed acceptance
- B. bitter resentment
- C. anxious denial

8 “Like Waterman and McCunn, he displayed a staggering paucity of common sense.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, despite his intelligence, McCandless

- A. planned his trip meticulously
- B. badly lacked practical sense
- C. doubted his own decisions

9 “The ephemeral bloom of a sego lily peeks from the toe of a ninety-foot stone arch ...”

In context, the word “ephemeral” emphasizes that the lily’s bloom

- A. lasts only a short time
- B. glows in bright colors
- C. spreads across the rock

10 “Ruess was, in the words of Wallace Stegner, ‘a callow romantic, an adolescent esthete, an atavistic wanderer of the wastelands.’”

Which choice best describes Stegner’s view of Ruess?

- A. a disciplined expert
- B. a hardened, worldly cynic
- C. a naive, immature idealist

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	A	
4	B	
5	C	
6	C	
7	A	
8	B	Character comprehension. The section shows McCandless as stubbornly self-assured, not one to doubt his plans -- which is why the 'doubted his own decisions' option is wrong.
9	A	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 6–10

McCandless's road years continue with his bond with the elderly Ronald Franz and a return stint working for Westerberg in Carthage. Krakauer then steps back to compare McCandless with other young men drawn into the wilderness, before the body in the bus is finally identified. Grouped at chapter level; the break falls before Chapter 11, where the focus shifts to McCandless's family.