

Jane Eyre

Chapters 21–27

by Charlotte Brontë

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: ascetic, despotic, ensnare, indomitable, inexorable, inextricable, lurid, obscure, presentiment, vindictive

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 1–4 · Jane's childhood at Gateshead Hall

Section 2 · Chapters 5–10 · Jane arrives at Lowood School

Section 3 · Chapters 11–20 · A governess arrives at Thornfield Hall

Section 4 · Chapters 21–27 · Jane is called away from Thornfield

Section 5 · Chapters 28–35 · Jane finds shelter at Moor House

Section 6 · Chapters 36–38 · Jane sets out to find Rochester

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at [verbalworkout.com](https://www.verbalworkout.com).



[verbalworkout.com](https://www.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. Even after inheriting a fortune, she kept her **ascetic** habits.

- A. thrifty with money
- B. self-denying and strict
- C. tidy and orderly

2. The **despotic** manager allowed no one to question his orders.

- A. cold toward his staff
- B. obsessed with small details
- C. wielding absolute power

3. The poachers tried to **ensnare** the deer before dawn.

- A. to feed and tame
- B. to track and follow
- C. to trap or catch

4. Her **indomitable** spirit carried the team through every setback.

- A. cheerful and easygoing
- B. impossible to defeat
- C. calm under pressure

5. The **inexorable** judge rejected every appeal for mercy.

- A. slow and cautious
- B. impossible to persuade
- C. easily angered

6. The fishing lines had twisted into one **inextricable** tangle.

- A. very tightly pulled
- B. extremely complicated
- C. impossible to separate

7. A **lurid** light filled the sky that night.

- A. eerily fiery and glowing
- B. soft and golden
- C. harsh and yellow

8. He spent years as an **obscure** clerk before anyone noticed his talent.

- A. lowly and unimportant
- B. quiet and secretive
- C. lazy and unambitious

9. She had a **presentiment** that the journey would end badly.

- A. a sense of coming trouble
- B. a sudden wave of regret
- C. a faint, distant memory

10. She turned **vindictive** whenever she felt slighted.

- A. eager for revenge
- B. moody and withdrawn
- C. quick to take offense

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	C
4	B
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	A
9	A
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 “Presentiments are strange things! and so are sympathies; and so are signs; and the three combined make one mystery to which humanity has not yet found the key.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “presentiment” most nearly refers to...

- A. a mysterious bond between kin
- B. a foreboding that trouble is near
- C. a sudden, vivid recollection

2 “... with a sallow face and severe mien. There was something ascetic in her look, which was augmented by the extreme plainness of a straight-skirted, black, stuff dress ...”

In the passage, Eliza is characterized as...

- A. frail and worn down by illness
- B. severely self-denying and austere
- C. vain about her plain dress

3 “The well-known face was there: stern, relentless as ever — there was that peculiar eye which nothing could melt, and the somewhat raised, imperious, despotic eyebrow.”

The detail of Mrs. Reed’s “despotic eyebrow” primarily functions to...

- A. reveal her regret toward Jane
- B. stress how illness has weakened her
- C. show her domineering nature endures

4 “My disposition is not so bad as you think: I am passionate, but not vindictive.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Jane means she...

- A. is mild and rarely feels deeply
- B. nurses wrongs and wants revenge
- C. feels strongly but seeks no revenge

5 “... her eye of flint was covered with its cold lid; her brow and strong traits wore yet the impress of her inexorable soul.”

Which detail best supports the idea that Mrs. Reed’s hard will outlasted her death?

- A. her face kept an unbending look
- B. her eye was sealed beneath its lid
- C. her frame lay rigid and still

6 “... had a string somewhere under my left ribs, tightly and inextricably knotted to a similar string ...”

The author most likely includes the image of the knotted cord in order to...

- A. show an unbreakable bond with Jane
- B. describe a real pain in his side
- C. hint that he feels bound to Thornfield

7 “Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little, I am soulless and heartless?”

In context, the word “obscure” most nearly emphasizes that Jane is...

- A. hidden away from public view
- B. hard for others to understand
- C. low in social standing

8 “I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will, which I now exert to leave you.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Jane...

- A. will not let herself be trapped
- B. feels caught and powerless
- C. wishes she could fly off like a bird

9 “... she thrust up her candle close to my face, and extinguished it under my eyes. I was aware her lurid visage flamed over mine, and I lost consciousness.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the face flaming over Jane...

- A. glowed with an eerie, fiery light
- B. was pale and faintly glowing
- C. looked calm and sorrowful

10 “Still indomitable was the reply — ‘I care for myself. The more solitary, the more friendless, the more unsustained I am, the more I will respect myself.’”

Which choice best describes Jane’s attitude as she gives this reply?

- A. bitter and sunk in self-pity
- B. unconquerable in self-respect
- C. wavering and ready to give in

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	C	Character comprehension.
4	C	
5	A	
6	A	Character comprehension.
7	C	Here 'obscure' carries its social sense — of low standing and insignificance — not the everyday 'unclear.'
8	A	
9	A	
10	B	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 21–27

Summoned to the deathbed of her aunt at Gateshead, Jane returns there and then comes back to Thornfield, where Rochester proposes marriage. On the wedding day a shocking revelation -- that he already has a living wife, the madwoman hidden in the house -- halts the ceremony, and Jane, refusing to stay as his mistress, flees Thornfield. The section ends as she leaves the hall behind.