

Jurassic Park

Fourth Iteration

by Michael Crichton

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: acuity, equilibrium, excruciating, expansive, extraneous, innate, maudlin, ponderous, proprietary, silhouetting

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 · Introduction, Prologue, and First Iteration · Strange events on the Costa Rican coast

Section 2 · Second Iteration · A paleontologist's badlands dinosaur dig

Section 3 · Third Iteration · Arriving at the island and its park

Section 4 · Fourth Iteration · The island tour, after dark

Section 5 · Fifth Iteration · A search across the island

Section 6 · Sixth Iteration · The return to the visitor center

Section 7 · Seventh Iteration and Epilogue · The group regroup at the lodge

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 old hawk still hunts with remarkable **acuity**.

- A. tireless energy
- B. keen sharpness
- C. fierce hunger

6. Some people seem to have an **innate** talent for music.

- A. inborn and natural
- B. widely admired
- C. rare and unusual

2. The tightrope walker fought to keep his **equilibrium**.

- A. a steady rhythm
- B. a state of balance
- C. a burst of courage

7. The old man grew **maudlin** whenever he recalled his youth.

- A. overly sentimental
- B. sharply bitter
- C. cheerful and lively

3. The burn on her hand was **excruciating**.

- A. itchy and irritating
- B. dull and throbbing
- C. intensely painful

8. The **ponderous** old freight elevator groaned upward.

- A. heavy and slow-moving
- B. jerky and unsteady
- C. loud and rattling

4. After the good news, Dad was **expansive** all evening.

- A. genial and talkative
- B. proud and boastful
- C. dreamy and distracted

9. He grew **proprietary** about the garden he had planted.

- A. vaguely anxious
- B. quietly proud
- C. possessive of one's own

5. The editor cut every **extraneous** detail from the report.

- A. confusing and unclear
- B. false or misleading
- C. irrelevant and unneeded

10. Dawn light was **silhouetting** the bare trees on the ridge.

- A. casting a warm glow
- B. showing as a dark outline
- C. lighting up brightly

ANSWER KEY

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

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 *"He looked back at the tyrannosaur as lightning flashed again, momentarily silhouetting the huge black shape against the white-flaring sky."*

As it is used in the passage, 'silhouetting' most nearly suggests that the tyrannosaur appeared as...

- A. a dark shape against bright sky
- B. a blur lost in the rain
- C. a glowing form in the dark

2 *"... and felt a sudden, excruciating pain in his eyes, stabbing like spikes into the back of his skull ..."*

The author most likely describes Nedry's pain as 'excruciating' in order to...

- A. stress how unbearable it was
- B. hint the wound was minor
- C. show the pain soon eased

3 *"In part, it was an emotional liability, flaring anger one moment, maudlin sentimentality the next."*

The phrase 'maudlin sentimentality' characterizes Hammond as...

- A. stubborn and evasive
- B. sharp and quick-witted
- C. tearfully over-sentimental

4 *"They probably wouldn't react. Dinosaurs have excellent visual acuity, but they have a basic amphibian visual system: it's attuned to movement."*

According to the passage, the dinosaurs' visual acuity is...

- A. weak in daylight hours
- B. sharp, but keyed to movement
- C. blurry at all distances

5 *"This innate conservatism of DNA emboldened Wu to use whatever DNA he wished."*

It can reasonably be inferred that the 'innate conservatism of DNA' is...

- A. a rare, unstable defect
- B. a recent lab-made change
- C. a natural, built-in trait

6 *"... there's a lot of extraneous movement out there. Branches blowing in the wind, birds flying around, all kinds of stuff."*

Which detail best supports the idea that the movement is 'extraneous'?

- A. the kids moving in the park
- B. the rex sleeping out of sight
- C. wind-blown branches and birds

7 *"Arnold was in an expansive mood. The park was almost back in order."*

In context, the word 'expansive' emphasizes that Arnold was...

- A. physically large and bulky
- B. relaxed, genial, and talkative
- C. anxious and short-tempered

8 *"Living systems are never in equilibrium. They are inherently unstable."*

The passage most strongly suggests that living systems...

- A. resist all outside change
- B. never settle into balance
- C. stay perfectly steady

9 *"... he had a proprietary feeling about this animal: it was probably a maiasaur, from the late Cretaceous in Montana."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Grant feels 'proprietary' toward the maiasaur because he...

- A. first described the species
- B. feared it might attack
- C. had once hunted one

10 *"Grant braced himself to run, but the animal shifted its ponderous bulk and then it settled back against the tree trunk and gave a long, growling belch."*

The author describes the tyrannosaur's 'ponderous bulk' mainly to stress its...

- A. great, heavy slowness
- B. sudden burst of speed
- C. quiet, sneaking movements

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	C	Character comprehension. 'Stubborn and evasive' is a real trait Wu notes in Hammond, not what 'maudlin' means.
4	B	
5	C	
6	C	
7	B	Tests the figurative sense of 'expansive' (genial and open), not the literal sense of large.
8	B	
9	A	Character comprehension. Tests the possessive sense of 'proprietary,' not the everyday business meaning.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Fourth Iteration

The motorized tour heads out along the main road as a tropical storm closes in and the park's systems are pushed toward failure. Tim, Lex, and the others are caught on the road after dark when things begin to go wrong. Section runs to the end of the Fourth Iteration.