

Lord of the Flies

Chapters 1–3

by William Golding

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: antagonism, clambering, compulsion, flaunted, fulcrum, incredulous, oppressive, strident, surmounted, taut

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 1–3 · Marooned schoolboys gather on the island

Section 2 · Chapters 4–6 · Painted hunters and talk of a beast

Section 3 · Chapters 7–9 · Hunting the beast in the forest

Section 4 · Chapters 10–12 · Two rival tribes on the island

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 two rival captains regarded each other with open **antagonism**.

- A. quiet, guarded suspicion
- B. cold, distant indifference
- C. active hostility or opposition

2. The children went **clambering** over the rocks along the shore.

- A. climbing awkwardly with hands and feet
- B. crawling flat along the ground
- C. hurrying quickly across level ground

3. She felt a sudden **compulsion** to check the lock again.

- A. a calm sense of duty
- B. an urge too strong to resist
- C. a faint, passing curiosity

4. He **flaunted** his new watch the moment he arrived.

- A. displayed boldly to draw attention
- B. mentioned modestly in passing
- C. offered around for others to try

5. She placed a rock under the plank to serve as a **fulcrum**.

- A. a surface for sliding things along
- B. a weight to hold something down
- C. the tipping point of a lever, as with a seesaw

6. She gave an **incredulous** laugh when she heard the wild story.

- A. warm and delighted
- B. disbelieving and doubtful
- C. nervous and uneasy

7. The **oppressive** heat left everyone drained by noon.

- A. dry and dusty
- B. steady and unchanging
- C. heavy and stifling

8. The whistle blew with a **strident** note over the field.

- A. low and steady
- B. harsh and grating
- C. faint and far-off

9. The tower was **surmounted** by a bright golden dome.

- A. topped by something resting above
- B. ringed around on every side
- C. held up from underneath

10. He kept the fishing line **taut** as the fish struggled.

- A. stretched or pulled tight
- B. damp and slippery
- C. coiled and tangled

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

chapter chorister and head boy — a cathedral choirboy and a student appointed to lead other students

mortification — intense humiliation or wounded pride

enormity — monstrous wickedness, not mere hugeness

Coral Island — an adventure novel about British boys who remain civilized on a tropical island; the boys invoke it as a model for their own situation

littluns — the younger boys; the group's recurring name for them

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	C
8	B
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 “He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks when a bird, a vision of red and yellow, flashed upwards with a witch-like cry; and this cry was echoed by another.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘clambering’ most nearly means...

- A. crawling flat along the ground
- B. scrambling awkwardly over obstacles
- C. swinging from vine to vine

2 “Ralph used one hand as a fulcrum and pressed down with the other till the shell rose, dripping, and Piggy could make a grab.”

According to the passage, Ralph raised the shell within Piggy’s reach by...

- A. scooping it up with both hands at once
- B. dragging it closer with a long stick
- C. pivoting a lever on his hand to seesaw it up

3 “The note boomed again: and then at his firmer pressure, the note, fluking up an octave, became a strident blare more penetrating than before.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘strident’ most nearly means...

- A. harsh, grating, and loud
- B. echoing and far-carrying
- C. smooth and richly musical

4 “They were twins, and the eye was shocked and incredulous at such cheery duplication.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘incredulous’ most nearly suggests that...

- A. the twins seemed too alike to be real
- B. the twins’ arrival delighted onlookers
- C. the twins struck onlookers as alarming

5 “The most usual feature of the rock was a pink cliff surmounted by a skewed block; and that again surmounted, and that again, till the pinkness became a stack of balanced rock projecting through the looped fantasy of the forest creepers.”

According to the passage, the rock’s most common formation was...

- A. a cliff split apart by thick creepers
- B. a cliff ringed round by fallen blocks
- C. a cliff with blocks piled on top of it

6 “Any day there may be a ship out there—he waved his arm at the taut wire of the horizon—‘and if we have a signal going they’ll come and take us off.’”

In context, the word ‘taut’ emphasizes...

- A. how tightly drawn the horizon’s line is
- B. how empty the surrounding sea is
- C. how distant any passing ship would be

7 “The silence of the forest was more oppressive than the heat, and at this hour of the day there was not even the whine of insects.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. show how calm and peaceful the forest is at rest
- B. make the forest’s silence feel heavy and unsettling
- C. show that the day’s worst heat had finally broken

8 “He tried to convey the compulsion to track down and kill that was swallowing him up.”

In the excerpt, Jack is characterized as...

- A. gripped by an urge he cannot control
- B. reluctant to keep up the hunt
- C. calmly explaining a careful plan

9 “His invitation might have passed as casual, were it not for the undertone. ‘You wouldn’t care to help with the shelters, I suppose?’
‘We want meat—’
‘And we don’t get it.’
Now the antagonism was audible.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the antagonism between the two speakers...

- A. went unnoticed by the boys themselves
- B. arose only over the question of meat
- C. had been simmering before it was spoken

10 “A great tree, fallen across one corner, leaned against the trees that still stood and a rapid climber flaunted red and yellow sprays right to the top.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘flaunted’ most nearly means...

- A. draped limply downward
- B. displayed boldly and showily
- C. scattered loosely about

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	In the full scene Ralph pries the shell up with a plant stem, resting the stem across one hand (the fulcrum / pivot point of the lever) and pressing down on the free end. The concept of a lever is prominent again in Chapter 11 when Piggy is killed.
3	A	
4	A	
5	C	Watch for students hearing 'surrounded': 'surmounted by' means topped by, and the repeated 'and that again' builds the stacked-tower image; the ringed-round option is there to catch that misreading.
6	A	
7	B	
8	A	'He' is Jack, trying to explain to Ralph why he kept hunting; the excerpt itself leaves him unnamed.
9	C	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–3

Boys are marooned on a tropical island after a plane crash; Ralph is elected chief and the conch establishes a fragile order, while Jack leads the choir as hunters. They light a signal fire that rages out of control, and a littlun with a birthmark vanishes in the blaze.