

Lord of the Flies

Chapters 4–6

by William Golding

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: appalled, asserted, barren, carcass, chronic, conditioned, generic, inarticulate, incredulity, speculation

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. She was **appalled** when she saw the mess left behind after the party.

- A. horrified and shocked
- B. curious and interested
- C. puzzled and uncertain

2. He **asserted** his right to speak at the meeting.

- A. questioned quietly and shyly
- B. explained slowly and carefully
- C. declared firmly and boldly

3. Nothing grew on the **barren** hillside but a few dry weeds.

- A. bare and empty
- B. steep and rocky
- C. cold and windy

4. Vultures circled above the **carcass** lying in the desert sun.

- A. a shallow pool of water
- B. the dead body of an animal
- C. a heap of broken branches

5. Doctors treated her **chronic** illness with regular medication.

- A. mild and not serious
- B. long-lasting and persistent
- C. sudden and severe

6. The dog had been **conditioned** to sit whenever the bell rang.

- A. trained through repeated experience
- B. forced against its will
- C. taught in a single lesson

7. The report used a **generic** description that could apply to almost any city.

- A. rude and insulting
- B. formal and official in tone
- C. covering a whole group or class

8. Nervous and shaking, she felt **inarticulate** during the interview.

- A. confused about the subject
- B. unable to put thoughts into words
- C. too quiet to be heard

9. She stared in **incredulity** at the magician's impossible trick.

- A. a feeling of disbelief
- B. a surge of anger
- C. a rush of excitement

10. The scientists' **speculation** about life on other planets sparked a lively debate.

- A. measuring with exact precision
- B. recalling from careful memory
- C. guessing without firm evidence

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

funnel — a ship's smokestack

opaque look or opaque face — unreadable; blank

wizard — splendid; excellent (British slang)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	A
7	C
8	B
9	A
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 smaller boys were known now by the generic title of ‘littluns.’”

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

- A. covering a whole group or class
- B. insulting or disrespectful
- C. formal and official

2 “They were used now to stomach-aches and a sort of chronic diarrhoea.”

According to the passage, the littluns had grown used to stomach trouble that was...

- A. ongoing and long-lasting
- B. rare and quickly over
- C. sudden and dangerously severe

3 “Roger gathered a handful of stones and began to throw them. Yet there was a space round Henry, perhaps six yards in diameter, into which he dare not throw. Here, invisible yet strong, was the taboo of the old life. Round the squatting child was the protection of parents and school and policemen and the law. Roger’s arm was conditioned by a civilization that knew nothing of him and was in ruins.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Roger was held in check by...

- A. grown-ups watching close by
- B. fondness for the smaller boy
- C. habits trained into him long ago

4 “Beside the pool his sinewy body held up a mask that drew their eyes and appalled them. He began to dance and his laughter became a bloodthirsty snarling.”

As used in the passage, ‘appalled’ most nearly suggests that those watching the dancer...

- A. admired the clever disguise
- B. were horrified by what they saw
- C. grew angry at his mocking dance

5 “The horizon stretched, impersonal once more, barren of all but the faintest trace of smoke.”

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

- A. distant; out of reach
- B. empty; holding nothing
- C. gloomy and threatening

6 “The gutted carcass of a pig swung from the stake, swinging heavily as the twins toiled over the uneven ground.”

According to the passage, what swung from the stake the twins carried?

- A. only the severed head of a pig
- B. a pig they had trapped alive
- C. the whole body of a dead pig

7 “So Ralph asserted his chieftainship and could not have chosen a better way if he had thought for days.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Ralph asserted his chieftainship in a way that was...

- A. a failure that weakened him
- B. carefully planned in advance
- C. effective even though unplanned

8 “Again he fell into that strange mood of speculation that was so foreign to him. If faces were different when lit from above or below—what was a face? What was anything?”

The author most likely includes Ralph’s questions about faces in order to...

- A. illustrate his wondering mood
- B. explain how lighting alters faces
- C. show his fear of the coming night

9 “Simon became inarticulate in his effort to express mankind’s essential illness.”

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

- A. too quiet to be heard
- B. unable to put thoughts into words
- C. confused in his own thinking

10 “Simon, walking in front of Ralph, felt a flicker of incredulity—a beast with claws that scratched, that sat on a mountain-top, that left no tracks and yet was not fast enough to catch Samneric.”

From Simon’s flicker of incredulity, it can reasonably be inferred that he...

- A. doubted the beast was real
- B. feared the beast would attack him
- C. was eager to hunt the beast down

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	Students often read 'chronic' as 'severe'; it marks duration, not intensity — trouble that persists whether mild or serious.
3	C	The 'protection' round Henry is invisible — it lives in Roger's trained arm, not in any adult actually present; that reversal is the point of the line.
4	B	
5	B	
6	C	
7	C	
8	A	
9	B	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 4–6

Jack's hunters paint their faces and grow obsessed with killing pigs, letting the signal fire die and missing a passing ship. Fear of a 'beast' spreads through the assemblies, and a dead parachutist that lands on the mountain is taken for the beast.