

Lord of the Flies

Chapters 7–9

by William Golding

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: antagonism, brandishing, corruption, indignity, lame, loathing, maternal, scar, temple, vessel

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. A strong sense of **antagonism** filled the room during the debate.

- A. open hostility
- B. nervous excitement
- C. growing boredom

2. In the old painting, a soldier stands **brandishing** a long spear.

- A. sharpening its point
- B. leaning on it wearily
- C. waving it as a threat

3. A stench of **corruption** hung over the battlefield after the fight.

- A. rot and decay
- B. thick gun smoke
- C. churned-up mud

4. Losing the match was a small **indignity**, but he shrugged it off.

- A. a humiliating experience
- B. a painful injury
- C. a stroke of bad luck

5. His excuse for missing the test was **lame**, and no one believed it.

- A. long and detailed
- B. weak and unconvincing
- C. bold and angry

6. A look of pure **loathing** crossed his face when his enemy walked in.

- A. sudden fear
- B. deep sorrow
- C. intense disgust

7. The nurse had a **maternal** manner that comforted the frightened child.

- A. patient and calm
- B. cheerful and friendly
- C. gentle and motherly

8. A long **scar** ran across the sailor's cheek from a knife fight years ago.

- A. a mark left by a wound
- B. a fresh bruise
- C. a deep wrinkle

9. The boxer took a hard blow to the **temple** and staggered backward.

- A. the back of the head
- B. the side of the forehead
- C. the base of the jaw

10. A **vessel** deep in his leg had swollen and darkened.

- A. a small bundle of muscle
- B. a tube that carries blood
- C. a nerve that sends signals

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

pig-run — a narrow trail regularly used by wild pigs

Berengaria — medieval queen of legend said to have sucked poison from a wound

low water — a low ebb; a moment of weakness

Windy — scared, nervous (British slang)

prefect — an older pupil given authority over others in a British school

Lord of the Flies — a traditional name for Beelzebub, a biblical demon

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	B
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 “Jack had him by the hair and was brandishing his knife.”

As it is used in the passage, ‘brandishing’ most nearly suggests that Jack is...

- A. cutting the boy with his knife
- B. quietly putting his knife away
- C. waving his knife as a threat

2 “Ralph sighed, sensing the rising antagonism, understanding that this was how Jack felt as soon as he ceased to lead.”

Ralph’s ‘rising antagonism’ tells us he is beginning to feel...

- A. angry resentment toward Jack
- B. fear of the forest ahead
- C. relief at following for once

3 “He bound himself together with his will, fused his fear and loathing into a hatred, and stood up.”

In the passage, Ralph is characterized as someone who...

- A. feels calm, sensing no real danger
- B. wills himself past dread and disgust
- C. is overcome by sorrow and despair

4 “A little apart from the rest, sunk in deep maternal bliss, lay the largest sow of the lot. She was black and pink; and the great bladder of her belly was fringed with a row of piglets that slept or burrowed and squeaked.”

The author most likely includes the row of piglets in order to...

- A. show the sow’s motherly contentment
- B. hint that the piglets sense danger
- C. suggest the sow has been abandoned

5 “He opened his eyes quickly and there was the head grinning amusedly in the strange daylight, ignoring the flies, the spilled guts, even ignoring the indignity of being spiked on a stick.”

In the passage, the sow’s head is characterized as...

- A. eager to drive the flies away
- B. ashamed of being put on display
- C. unbothered even by its own disgrace

6 “In Simon’s right temple, a pulse began to beat on the brain.”

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

- A. a small bone behind the ear
- B. the flat side of the forehead
- C. a building used for worship

7 “After the many brilliant speeches that had been made on this very spot Ralph’s remarks seemed lame, even to the littluns.”

Since even the littluns find Ralph’s remarks ‘lame’, it can reasonably be inferred that...

- A. Ralph’s words have lost their force
- B. Ralph has hurt his leg on the rocks
- C. the littluns cannot hear him clearly

8 “Even when the vessel broke in Simon’s nose and the blood gushed out they left him alone, preferring the pig’s high flavor.”

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

- A. a large boat used for carrying cargo
- B. a thin tube that carries blood in the body
- C. a nerve in the nose that senses pain

9 “The tangle of lines showed him the mechanics of this parody; he examined the white nasal bones, the teeth, the colors of corruption. He saw how pitilessly the layers of rubber and canvas held together the poor body that should be rotting away.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the thing being examined is...

- A. a creature only pretending death
- B. a machine held together by canvas
- C. a body already far gone in decay

10 “The dark sky was shattered by a blue-white scar. An instant later the noise was on them like the blow of a gigantic whip.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the ‘blue-white scar’ is...

- A. a jagged flash of lightning
- B. a crack splitting the storm clouds
- C. a burst of moonlight in the dark sky

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	B	
4	A	Golding sets this image of motherly calm just before the hunters kill the sow; the irony sharpens the brutality of the scene.
5	C	Simon's perception of the impaled sow's head as amused and indifferent to its own degradation opens the Lord of the Flies episode.
6	B	
7	A	
8	B	
9	C	Context: Simon has climbed the mountain and discovered that the 'beast' is the dead parachutist, animated by wind in the parachute lines. 'Corruption' here carries its older, physical sense — bodily decay, rot — not dishonesty; 'the colors of corruption' means the discoloration of a decomposing body. Students who know only the moral sense can still reach the right answer via 'white nasal bones' (exposed bone means long dead), so no one should be stranded — but the word deserves a moment of explanation, ideally after the preview activity (both senses share the root idea of something breaking down — a body physically, a person morally).
10	A	The lightning 'scar' echoes the island's literal scar torn by the crashed plane in Chapter 1; a nice symbol thread for students to trace.

Teacher Context: Chapters 7–9

The boys mount a hunt for the beast; Jack breaks away to found his own tribe and impales a pig's head as an offering, the 'Lord of the Flies.' Simon grasps that the beast is the boys themselves and is killed by the frenzied group when he stumbles into their dance. Grouping the hunt, the split, and Simon's death keeps the novel's moral turning point in one section.