

Night

Chapters 1–3

by Elie Wiesel

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: annihilate, conflagration, delusion, exterminate, fraught, harangued, indiscriminately, invectives, lucidity, surreptitiously

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 · A devout boy in Sighet

Section 2 · Chapters 4–5 · The work camp at Buna

Section 3 · Chapters 6–9 · A forced march through the snow

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 single nuclear blast could **annihilate** an entire city in seconds.

- A. damage in part
- B. shake violently
- C. destroy completely

2. Firefighters battled the **conflagration** that swept through the old warehouse.

- A. a loud, sudden explosion
- B. a huge, destructive fire
- C. a thick cloud of smoke

3. He clung to the **delusion** that he would win the lottery and never work again.

- A. a strong hope
- B. a sincere wish
- C. a false belief

4. The farmer hired a crew to **exterminate** the rats in the barn.

- A. kill off entirely
- B. round up and count
- C. drive away briefly

5. The merger talks were **fraught**, and no one expected an easy deal.

- A. nearly finished
- B. kept secret
- C. full of tension

6. The general **harangued** the troops before sending them into battle.

- A. lectured forcefully
- B. questioned sharply
- C. praised warmly

7. The toddler grabbed candy **indiscriminately** from every bowl on the table.

- A. without any selection
- B. one piece at a time
- C. in nervous silence

8. The losing coach hurled **invectives** at the referee after the call.

- A. abusive insults
- B. desperate pleas
- C. sarcastic jokes

9. In a rare moment of **lucidity**, the old man knew exactly where he was.

- A. calm patience
- B. mental clearness
- C. sudden energy

10. She **surreptitiously** slipped the note into his bag.

- A. in a sudden panic
- B. secretly and quietly
- C. with great care

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Kabbalah — a Jewish mystical tradition that seeks hidden meanings in Scripture and a deeper understanding of God

Kapo — a concentration-camp prisoner put in charge of supervising other prisoners

phylacteries — small leather boxes holding Hebrew scripture, worn by observant Jewish men during morning prayer

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	A
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 “Maimonides tells us that one must be thirty before venturing into the world of mysticism, a world fraught with peril.”

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

- A. free of all risk
- B. hard to master
- C. full of danger

2 “Yes, we even doubted his resolve to exterminate us.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the people of Sighet...

- A. expected to be deported for labor
- B. could not believe in their mass murder
- C. feared only ordinary war deaths

3 “Annihilate an entire people? Wipe out a population dispersed throughout so many nations? So many millions of people!”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. report the population’s exact size
- B. convey disbelief at total destruction
- C. outline a plan of resistance

4 “The ghetto was ruled by neither German nor Jew; it was ruled by delusion.”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward the ghetto’s optimism?

- A. critical of its self-deception
- B. hopeful about its future
- C. admiring of its resilience

5 “The Hungarian police used their rifle butts, their clubs to indiscriminately strike old men and women, children and cripples.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. They struck only those who resisted.
- B. They targeted a few specific people.
- C. They struck all kinds of people alike.

6 “Some of the Jewish police surreptitiously went to fill a few jugs.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the Jewish police filled the jugs...

- A. openly, with the guards’ consent
- B. secretly, to avoid being caught
- C. calmly, since there was no danger

7 “The stars were but sparks of the immense conflagration that was consuming us.”

The author most likely describes the stars as ‘sparks of the immense conflagration’ in order to...

- A. show a vast destruction consuming them
- B. admire the calm beauty of the sky
- C. suggest the stars offered them hope

8 “Another inmate appeared, unleashing a stream of invectives: ‘Sons of bitches, why have you come here?’”

Which choice best describes the inmate’s attitude toward the new arrivals?

- A. abusive and contemptuous
- B. calm and indifferent
- C. sympathetic and protective

9 “In one terrifying moment of lucidity, I thought of us as damned souls ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that the moment of ‘lucidity’...

- A. left him confused and dazed
- B. filled him with sudden comfort
- C. brought a flash of clear awareness

10 “He harangued us from the center of the barrack: ‘You are in a concentration camp. In Auschwitz ...’”

According to the passage, the officer first addressed the prisoners by...

- A. lecturing them harshly
- B. whispering brief orders
- C. answering their questions

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	
3	B	
4	A	Theme comprehension. The key turns on the narrator's hindsight that the ghetto's calm hope was self-deception.
5	C	
6	B	Event comprehension. Fetching water meant breaking rank, which was forbidden, so the police hid the act.
7	A	
8	A	
9	C	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–3

Eliezer, a deeply religious teenager in the town of Sighet, ignores Moishe the Beadle's warnings as the Jews are confined to ghettos and then deported by cattle car to Auschwitz–Birkenau, where he is separated from his mother and sisters and survives his first night. The section ends with arrival because Chapter 4 shifts to settled existence in the Buna labor camp -- a clean break between the journey in and life inside the camp.