

Night

Chapters 4–5

by Elie Wiesel

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: altruistic, crucible, dissipated, emaciated, famished, imprudent, lament, manacled, reprieve, wrath

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. Donating the prize money was an **altruistic** gesture.

- A. unselfish
- B. spontaneous
- C. well-planned

2. Boot camp proved to be a true **crucible** for the recruits.

- A. a turning point
- B. a fresh start
- C. a severe trial

3. The morning fog slowly **dissipated** as the sun rose.

- A. settled over the valley
- B. drifted toward the hills
- C. gradually faded away

4. Years of hardship had left the old miner **emaciated**.

- A. bent and aging
- B. very thin and weak
- C. rough and weathered

5. By the time dinner was ready, the children were **famished**.

- A. completely worn out
- B. extremely thirsty
- C. extremely hungry

6. It was **imprudent** of her to reply before reading the letter.

- A. unwise or rash
- B. bold or fearless
- C. rude or disrespectful

7. The villagers gathered to **lament** the loss of their leader.

- A. to mourn
- B. to recall
- C. to discuss

8. The prisoner stood **manacled** before the courtroom judge.

- A. guarded by police
- B. bound with chains
- C. dressed in rags

9. The governor granted the convict a last-minute **reprieve**.

- A. a prison transfer
- B. a delay of punishment
- C. a new trial

10. He feared his coach's **wrath** after missing the easy shot.

- A. fierce anger
- B. deep disappointment
- C. harsh criticism

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

pipel — camp slang for a young boy kept as a servant, often by a Kapo

Muselman — camp slang for a prisoner so starved and broken as to be near death

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	B
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 “... this affection was not entirely altruistic; there existed here a veritable traffic of children ...”

As used here, ‘not entirely altruistic’ most nearly suggests that the leader’s kindness...

- A. was unusually generous
- B. served a hidden self-interest
- C. came without any planning

2 “The bread, the soup—those were my entire life. I was nothing but a body. Perhaps even less: a famished stomach. The stomach alone was measuring time.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. explain why he saved his bread
- B. show how hunger reduced him to a body
- C. describe the camp’s meal routine

3 “It was imprudent of me to say those few words to you ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that, in calling her own words ‘imprudent,’ the woman admits she...

- A. took an unwise risk by speaking
- B. regretted speaking so harshly
- C. spoke only out of pure kindness

4 “What’s more, if I felt anger at that moment, it was not directed at the Kapo but at my father. Why couldn’t he have avoided Idek’s wrath? That was what life in a concentration camp had made of me ...”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward his father in this moment?

- A. fear of being beaten next
- B. pride in his silent endurance
- C. resentment that he drew Idek’s rage

5 “The last sound of the American plane dissipated in the wind and there we were, in our cemetery.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. report where the plane was headed
- B. mark hope fading into grim reality
- C. celebrate the factory’s destruction

6 “He was pale but seemed more solemn than frightened. His manacled hands did not tremble.”

In the passage, the condemned youth is characterized as...

- A. trembling against the chains
- B. free to move and gesturing
- C. steady even while bound for death

7 “But now, I no longer pleaded for anything. I was no longer able to lament. On the contrary, I felt very strong. I was the accuser, God the accused.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the narrator...

- A. has turned from grief to defiance
- B. has lost the power of speech
- C. has begun to pray more humbly

8 “One more hour. Then we would know the verdict: death or reprieve.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the prisoners are waiting to learn whether they will...

- A. be spared from death
- B. be moved to an easier camp
- C. be released from the camp

9 “A poor emaciated Jew questioned him anxiously, his voice trembling: ‘But... sir. They did write me down!’”

According to the passage, the man’s appearance shows that he is...

- A. wasted thin from starvation
- B. aged beyond his real years
- C. weak from a sudden illness

10 “... far from the block, far from the crucible of death, from the center of hell.”

In context, the word ‘crucible’ most nearly emphasizes...

- A. a vessel for melting metal
- B. a test of the prisoners’ faith
- C. a place of extreme suffering

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	A	
4	C	
5	B	
6	C	
7	A	
8	A	Event comprehension.
9	A	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 4–5

At the Buna camp Eliezer endures forced labor, beatings, and public hangings while his faith erodes through the High Holy Days and the camp selections. The section ends as the Red Army nears and the camp is ordered evacuated. Chapters 4–5 are grouped as the camp–life arc, with the evacuation order opening the final journey in the next section.