

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Chapters 1–3

by Mildred D. Taylor

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: caravan, embittered, formidable, gleaned, indignation, maverick, meticulously, noncommittal, oblivious, temerity

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 · The Logan children's first day of school

Section 2 · Chapters 4–6 · Hard rains on the road to school

Section 3 · Chapters 7–9 · Christmas on the Logan farm

Section 4 · Chapters 10–12 · Growing danger for the Logan family

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. We watched a caravan wind slowly across the desert.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a line of travelers togetherB. a herd of wild horsesC. a swirling sandstorm <p>2. Years of broken promises left him embittered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. filled with fearB. filled with sadnessC. filled with resentment <p>3. The formidable fortress towered over the entire valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. cold and gloomyB. ancient and mysteriousC. powerful and impressive <p>4. The hens gleaned the last seeds scattered across the yard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. scratched around forB. gathered bit by bitC. snatched up all at once <p>5. She spoke with indignation after being sent to the back of the line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. nervous surpriseB. sadness and regretC. anger at being wronged | <p>6. The young senator was known as a maverick in her party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. an independent nonconformistB. a popular favoriteC. a harsh critic <p>7. She meticulously lined up her pencils by size before class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. proudly and cheerfullyB. very carefully and preciselyC. quickly and casually <p>8. When I asked if she liked my plan, her answer was noncommittal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. vague and guardedB. warm and approvingC. sharp and critical <p>9. He was so oblivious that he walked right past his own brother.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. openly angryB. completely unawareC. deeply embarrassed <p>10. He had the temerity to argue with the referee's call.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. bold nerve or daringB. stubborn prideC. burning anger |
|--|--|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

give oneself airs — to behave as if better or more important than others
bite the hand that feeds you — to harm or turn against someone who helps or supports you

ANSWER KEY
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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
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 *"Always meticulously neat, six-year-old Little Man never allowed dirt or tears or stains to mar anything he owned."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "meticulously" most nearly suggests that Little Man...

- A. was very careful and precise
- B. felt proud of his new clothes
- C. owned more things than his brothers

2 *"... not until the last puff of cotton had been gleaned from the fields ..."*

According to the passage, the cotton is taken from the fields by...

- A. cutting the stalks all at once
- B. leaving it for the winter rain
- C. gathering it bit by bit

3 *"'Dirty!' Miss Crocker echoed, appalled by such temerity."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Miss Crocker is appalled because she sees the request as...

- A. a sign of careless reading
- B. a shockingly bold act of nerve
- C. an honest, harmless mistake

4 *"Yes, ain't that something?" Miss Crocker said, forgetting her teacher-training-school diction in her indignation."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Miss Crocker has become...

- A. too angry to mind her speech
- B. too rushed to speak carefully
- C. too embarrassed to talk clearly

5 *"But her tone was so quiet and noncommittal that I knew Miss Crocker was not satisfied with her reaction."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Mama's quiet tone is a way of...

- A. showing she fully agrees
- B. covering up her confusion
- C. hiding that she disagrees

6 *"... she was still considered by many of the other teachers as a disrupting maverick."*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Mama keeps quiet and to herself
- B. Mama goes her own independent way
- C. Mama causes trouble carelessly

7 *"... gazing upward at the most formidable-looking being we had ever encountered, we huddled closer to Papa."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "formidable" most nearly suggests that the man...

- A. looks strange and out of place
- B. looks dressed in fine clothing
- C. looks powerful and frightening

8 *"... each day when he found his clean clothes splashed red by the school bus, he became more and more embittered ..."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the daily bus splashing leaves Little Man feeling...

- A. more and more resentful
- B. more determined to stay clean
- C. more fearful of the bus driver

9 *"And for once in his life, Little Man was happily oblivious to the mud spattering upon him."*

According to the passage, in this moment Little Man...

- A. tries to dodge the mud
- B. does not notice the mud at all
- C. is upset about the mud

10 *"... froze as a caravan of headlights appeared suddenly in the east, coming fast along the rain-soaked road like cat eyes in the night."*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Many cars are approaching together
- B. The morning sun is rising
- C. A single car is speeding away

ANSWER KEY
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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	B	
4	A	
5	C	Character comprehension. Mama's gluing of the books soon after shows the disagreement her noncommittal tone conceals.
6	B	
7	C	
8	A	
9	B	Little Man's usual fussiness about neatness makes his indifference to the mud here pointedly ironic.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–3

The Logan children walk to school in rural Depression-era Mississippi, where the family's ownership of their land sets them apart from their sharecropping neighbors. Cassie and her brothers face daily humiliations from the white school bus and begin to grasp the racial injustice around them, while news of the Berry burnings brings Mr. Morrison to the farm. Section ends after Chapter 3, grouping the three opening chapters that establish the family, the land, and the children's first taste of trouble before the bus retaliation that follows.