

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Chapters 4–6

by Mildred D. Taylor

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: aloof, discreetly, envisioned, expounding, feigned, humiliated, malevolently, patronize, recoiled, wheedle

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.

1. The new student seemed **aloof** whenever the others tried to chat.

- A. shy and timid
- B. distant and unfriendly
- C. tired and bored

2. She **discreetly** slipped the note into his hand.

- A. quietly, without notice
- B. gently and politely
- C. cleverly and quickly

3. She had **envisioned** a grand party, but only a few guests came.

- A. eagerly awaited
- B. carefully planned
- C. imagined; pictured

4. At dinner my uncle was **expounding** about politics again.

- A. explaining at length
- B. complaining loudly
- C. joking around

5. The actor **feigned** anger for the scene.

- A. rehearsed; practiced
- B. pretended; faked
- C. exaggerated; overdid

6. She felt **humiliated** when she tripped in front of the whole class.

- A. nervous and frightened
- B. angry and annoyed
- C. ashamed and embarrassed

7. The villain grinned **malevolently** as he revealed his plan.

- A. with smug pride
- B. with wild excitement
- C. with hatred and ill will

8. Our family likes to **patronize** the small bakery on Main Street.

- A. to shop at regularly
- B. to manage or own
- C. to talk down to

9. He **recoiled** when he saw the huge spider on the wall.

- A. stared in wonder
- B. drew back in alarm
- C. froze in place

10. She tried to **wheedle** an extra cookie out of her grandmother.

- A. to coax by flattery
- B. to trick or deceive
- C. to bargain and trade

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

held my peace — stayed silent; refrained from speaking

chignon — a knot or coil of hair worn at the back of the head

ANSWER KEY
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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	C
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 *“See, fellows, there’s a system to getting out of work,” T.J. was expounding as I sat down.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “expounding” most nearly suggests that T.J. is...

- A. begging the boys to listen
- B. grumbling about his chores
- C. explaining his idea at length

2 *“... the three of us forced ourselves to stare into the fire in feigned disinterest.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that the children stared into the fire because they...

- A. were afraid to hear the news
- B. secretly wanted T.J. to go on
- C. had truly lost interest in him

3 *“But Stacey remained aloof and had little to do with him.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that Stacey treated Mr. Morrison with...

- A. nervous, fearful respect
- B. open, bitter anger
- C. cool, distant reserve

4 *“Then, as discreetly as I could, I said, “What’s the matter with you, boy, not liking Mr. Morrison?”*

According to the passage, Cassie spoke to Stacey in a manner that was...

- A. careful and tactful
- B. shy and fearful
- C. blunt and demanding

5 *“She also spoke of finding another store to patronize, one where the proprietors were more concerned about the welfare of the community.”*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Mama urged families to belittle owners
- B. Mama urged families to shop elsewhere
- C. Mama urged families to forgive Wallace

6 *“His endless talk made me wish that he had not managed to wheedle his way so speedily back into Stacey’s good graces ...”*

It can reasonably be inferred that T.J. returned to Stacey’s good graces by...

- A. doing his chores for him
- B. flattering and sweet-talking him
- C. sincerely apologizing to him

7 *“Strawberry was nothing like the tough, sprawling bigness I had envisioned.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that Cassie had expected Strawberry to be...

- A. big, tough, and sprawling
- B. quiet, clean, and peaceful
- C. small, sad, and run-down

8 *“He recoiled as if I had struck him.”*

According to the passage, when Cassie tugged his sleeve, Mr. Barnett...

- A. jerked sharply away from her
- B. grabbed her by the wrist
- C. lunged forward to strike her

9 *“I ain’t nobody’s little nigger!” I screamed, angry and humiliated.”*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Cassie felt both ashamed and angry
- B. Cassie felt proud and triumphant
- C. Cassie felt frightened and helpless

10 *“His dark eyes flashed malevolently as he pushed me in front of him through the crowd.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “malevolently” suggests that Stacey’s eyes showed...

- A. cold, hidden amusement
- B. deep sorrow and regret
- C. fierce anger and ill will

ANSWER KEY
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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	Event comprehension. The children fake indifference to bait T.J. into spilling the night-men news.
3	C	
4	A	
5	B	Tests the 'be a customer of' sense of 'patronize,' not the 'talk down to' sense students often assume.
6	B	
7	A	
8	A	Mr. Barnett pulls back because a Black child has touched him -- the flinch exposes the store's racism as plainly as any insult.
9	A	
10	C	Stacey's glare is aimed at his own sister; his anger springs from fear that Cassie's outburst has put them in real danger.

Teacher Context: Chapters 4–6

The children's secret revenge on the school bus succeeds, and the family deepens its quiet resistance with a boycott of the Wallace store. Cassie endures a humiliating trip to Strawberry, and Uncle Hammer arrives with his fine car and dangerous temper. These three chapters are grouped because the conflict with the Wallaces sharpens across them, ending before the Christmas chapter shifts the mood.