

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Chapters 10–12

by Mildred D. Taylor

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: adamantly, condescending, crescendo, desolate, despicable, despondently, emitted, ferociously, interminable, transfixed

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. My little brother adamantly insisted that he was right.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. in a firm, unshakable wayB. in a calm, gentle wayC. in a loud, angry way | <p>6. He stared despondently at his failing grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. blankly and tiredlyB. angrily and bitterlyC. hopelessly and sadly |
| <p>2. The new coach had a condescending way of talking to the younger players.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. speaking in a nervous rushB. joking in a friendly wayC. acting superior to others | <p>7. The strange machine emitted a low hum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. gave out or releasedB. echoed back faintlyC. picked up from outside |
| <p>3. As the home team scored, a crescendo of cheers filled the gym.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a wild mix of noisesB. a gradual rise in soundC. a sudden burst of sound | <p>8. The guard dog barked ferociously at the stranger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. nervously and warilyB. loudly and nonstopC. fiercely and savagely |
| <p>4. We drove for miles across the desolate desert.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. barren and lifelessB. wide and endlessC. hot and sandy | <p>9. The car ride to my grandparents' house felt interminable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. tense and scaryB. endlessly longC. bumpy and rough |
| <p>5. Everyone agreed that his despicable trick had crossed the line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. risky and foolishB. shameful and hatefulC. clever and surprising | <p>10. The whole audience sat transfixed as the magician performed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. frozen with amazementB. amused and laughingC. puzzled and confused |

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

shroud — a cloth used to wrap a dead body; here, a metaphor for the heavy heat covering the land

roll of thunder — the opening lines of the spiritual that gives the book its title; the rolling thunder stands for a cry against injustice and a refusal to be beaten down

ANSWER KEY
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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	C
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 “Stacey sat across from Papa looking despondently at the broken leg.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “despondently” most nearly suggests that Stacey feels...

- A. discouraged and without hope
- B. bored and restless
- C. calm and relieved

2 “No,” said Papa adamantly, “You do better in Chicago.”

When Hammer offers to stay, which statement about Papa’s reply does the passage best support?

- A. He firmly refuses
- B. He cannot decide
- C. He quietly agrees

3 “Melvin nodded, a condescending smirk on his face which was lost on T.J.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Melvin’s smirk shows he...

- A. is nervous around T.J.
- B. admires and trusts T.J.
- C. feels superior to T.J.

4 “Perhaps he felt that even a person as despicable as T.J. needed someone he could call ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that Stacey helps T.J. even while seeing him as...

- A. misunderstood by all
- B. secretly kindhearted
- C. deserving of contempt

5 “For what seemed an interminable wait, we stood watching those lights drawing nearer and nearer ...”

According to the passage, the wait seemed interminable mainly because the children...

- A. dreaded the coming cars
- B. had far left to walk
- C. were tired of standing

6 “T.J. emitted a cry of awful pain and fell prone upon the ground.”

Which detail best supports the claim that Kaleb’s kick caused T.J. great pain?

- A. He argued with the men
- B. He cried out and fell
- C. He stood there quietly

7 “... she was caught by the arm and flung so ferociously against the house that she fell, dazed ...”

Which statement about Mrs. Avery is best supported by the passage?

- A. She fell on her own
- B. She was moved gently
- C. She was thrown violently

8 “A crescendo of ugly hate rose from the men as the second car approached.”

In context, the word “crescendo” emphasizes that the men’s hatred...

- A. grew louder and fiercer
- B. stayed calm and quiet
- C. suddenly faded away

9 “There we gazed transfixed as the flames gobbled the cotton and crept dangerously near the forest edge.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the children stand transfixed because they are...

- A. eager to fight the fire
- B. frozen by fear for family
- C. too sleepy to move

10 “... the land was charred, desolate, black, still steaming from the night.”

It can reasonably be inferred from the word “desolate” that the burned field is now...

- A. ready for harvest
- B. barren and lifeless
- C. lush and recovering

ANSWER KEY
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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	Stacey blames himself for Papa's broken leg, which deepens his dejection here.
2	A	
3	C	The smirk being 'lost on T.J.' is ironic — T.J. is boasting the Simmses are his best friends.
4	C	Character comprehension. Stacey's loyalty to T.J. despite his contempt runs through the story.
5	A	Event comprehension. The headlights belong to the mob coming for T.J. and Mr. Morrison.
6	B	
7	C	
8	A	
9	B	Event comprehension. Papa, Stacey, and Mr. Morrison are in the woods the fire is nearing.
10	B	Students often know only 'sad' or 'lonely'; here 'desolate' means barren and lifeless.

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–12

The family's troubles turn violent as Papa is ambushed and the costs of the boycott mount. T.J.'s entanglement with the Simms brothers brings disaster to the Logans' door, and the family must act to prevent a tragedy. Section runs to the end of the novel.