

Romeo and Juliet

Act V

by William Shakespeare

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: borrowed, contempt, detestable, discharged, fly, mischief, monument, outcry, press, thwarted

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 Play:

Section 1 · Prologue and Act I · Feuding households and Capulet's masked ball

Section 2 · Act II · Romeo in the Capulet orchard

Section 3 · Act III · A hot day in Verona's streets

Section 4 · Act IV · Preparations for a Thursday wedding

Section 5 · Act V · Romeo in exile, awaiting news

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. He treated every extra day as **borrowed** time.

- A. temporary
- B. wasted
- C. stolen

2. He could not hide the **contempt** in his voice.

- A. scorn for someone
- B. envy of someone
- C. suspicion of someone

3. The town remembered his **detestable** treatment of his servants.

- A. strict and demanding
- B. careless and forgetful
- C. deserving to be hated

4. The barge was **discharged** at the dock before nightfall.

- A. towed away
- B. inspected closely
- C. emptied out

5. The villagers had to **fly** when the flood waters rose.

- A. to run away
- B. to shout for help
- C. to gather together

6. The letter was written to do real **mischief** to her name.

- A. confusion or delay
- B. harm or evil-doing
- C. gossip or rumor

7. In the old churchyard, each family had its own **monument**.

- A. a low iron gate
- B. a tomb or burial vault
- C. a carved stone bench

8. The mayor's decision caused an immediate **outcry**.

- A. a long investigation
- B. a loud public protest
- C. a public celebration

9. Shoppers began to **press** through the open doorway.

- A. to push forward
- B. to wander slowly
- C. to move cautiously

10. Her older brother **thwarted** every attempt she made to leave.

- A. quickly forgot
- B. watched closely
- C. blocked or stopped

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

weeds — clothing, not plants

utters — sells; puts into circulation

cordial — a reviving drink; here Romeo's word for the poison

lantern — a glass-walled tower that floods a building with light

winking at — deliberately shutting my eyes to

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	C
4	C
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	B
9	A
10	C

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 *"Her body sleeps in Capels' monument,
And her immortal part with angels lives."*

As used in the passage, the word 'monument' most nearly means...

- A. a statue raised in honor
- B. a shrine built for worship
- C. a tomb where the dead lie

2 *"O mischief, thou art swift
To enter in the thoughts of desperate men."*

It can reasonably be inferred that the speaker is about to...

- A. attempt a playful trick
- B. send word to his friends
- C. resort to something evil

3 *"... And that the trunk may be discharged of breath
As violently as hasty powder fired
Doth hurry from the fatal cannon's womb."*

The speaker most likely includes the cannon comparison in order to...

- A. stress how far the poison goes
- B. stress how loud the death is
- C. stress the force of the emptying

4 *"Famine is in thy cheeks,
Need and oppression starveth in thy eyes,
Contempt and beggary hangs upon thy back."*

In the passage, the man being addressed is characterized as...

- A. sickly but widely respected
- B. destitute and looked down on
- C. poor but proud and defiant

5 *"Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death,
Gorged with the dearest morsel of the earth,
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,
And in despite I'll cram thee with more food."*

Which choice best describes the speaker's attitude toward the 'womb of death'?

- A. hatred for something vile
- B. sorrow for what it holds
- C. awe at its ancient power

6 *"Good gentle youth, tempt not a desp'rate man.
Fly hence and leave me. Think upon these gone."*

It can reasonably be inferred that the speaker believes the youth is in...

- A. mourning for the dead
- B. danger of being killed
- C. need of a guide home

7 *"A greater power than we can contradict
Hath thwarted our intents."*

According to the passage, the speakers' plan has been...

- A. stopped by a stronger force
- B. changed by their own choice
- C. delayed by a small mistake

8 *"O, the people in the street cry 'Romeo,'
Some 'Juliet,' and some 'Paris,' and all run
With open outcry toward our monument."*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. The whole town is alarmed.
- B. The crowd wants revenge.
- C. The victims are still unknown.

9 *"O thou untaught! What manners is in this,
To press before thy father to a grave?"*

In context, the word 'press' emphasizes...

- A. the weight of a father's grief
- B. the son's unmannerly haste
- C. the crowd around the grave

10 *"... That he should hither come as this dire night
To help to take her from her borrowed grave,
Being the time the potion's force should cease."*

The speaker most likely calls it a 'borrowed grave' in order to...

- A. stress the burial was temporary
- B. hint the grave had been stolen
- C. suggest she was buried in haste

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	'Monument' is this play's ordinary word for the Capulet burial vault, not a memorial statue. The sense recurs constantly in Act V, where nearly everyone is heading for it.
2	C	Shakespeare's 'mischief' means real harm, not the harmless naughtiness the word suggests today. The whole turn in the speaker's thinking rides on the stronger sense.
3	C	'Discharged of breath' uses the older physical sense — emptied out — rather than the modern senses students meet with phones, patients, and duties.
4	B	'Contempt' here is not the man's own attitude but what others aim at him — it hangs on his back alongside the beggary. Students who read it as his scorn get the line backwards.
5	A	
6	B	'Fly' here means flee, not soar. It is the most common false friend in the play's English, and once students have it, it unlocks lines throughout.
7	A	
8	A	
9	B	Montague pictures his son shoving ahead of him in a line toward the grave. The verb is what turns a father's grief into an accusation of bad manners.
10	A	'Borrowed' extends the everyday sense to mean held only for a time — the grave was on loan because the potion was always going to wear off.

Teacher Context: Act V

In Mantua, Romeo hears of Juliet's death before the Friar's letter can reach him, buys poison from an apothecary, and returns to Verona and the Capulet tomb. Section runs to the end of the play.