

The Book Thief

Parts 7–8

by Markus Zusak

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abject, apprehension, castigating, derision, formidable, immutable, incensed, nonchalance, temerity, vindication

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 · Prologue and Parts 1–2 · Liesel arrives on Himmel Street

Section 2 · Parts 3–4 · Secrets in the Hubermann house

Section 3 · Parts 5–6 · War comes closer to Molching

Section 4 · Parts 7–8 · Difficult choices in wartime Molching

Section 5 · Parts 9–10 and Epilogue · Liesel's story nears its end

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. They lived in **abject** poverty.

- A. completely hopeless
- B. slowly worsening
- C. carefully hidden

6. The laws of mathematics are **immutable**.

- A. unchangeable
- B. mysterious
- C. complicated

2. He felt growing **apprehension** before the exam.

- A. anxious fear
- B. total confusion
- C. great impatience

7. She was **incensed** by the rude remark.

- A. deeply embarrassed
- B. clearly confused
- C. extremely angry

3. The coach was **castigating** his players after the loss.

- A. closely studying
- B. loudly questioning
- C. harshly scolding

8. He answered the hard question with surprising **nonchalance**.

- A. open honesty
- B. casual calm
- C. quiet pride

4. The crowd met his wild idea with **derision**.

- A. mockery and scorn
- B. loud confusion
- C. cautious doubt

9. He had the **temerity** to question the judge openly.

- A. honest concern
- B. reckless boldness
- C. quiet patience

5. The new coach had a **formidable** reputation.

- A. shady and dishonest
- B. powerful and impressive
- C. strange and unfamiliar

10. After years of doubt, he longed for **vindication**.

- A. a fresh start
- B. public sympathy
- C. proof of being right

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	C
8	B
9	B
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 “Two other boys had looked formidable, and Liesel had a feeling in her stomach that Rudy could not win this one.”

As it is used in the passage, ‘formidable’ most nearly suggests that the two boys...

- A. were friendly rivals
- B. looked tired and slow
- C. appeared strong and intimidating

2 “The young man, Rolf Schultz, kept to himself in the corner, speaking silently at the air around him, castigating it.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Rolf Schultz, speaking at the air, is...

- A. calmly praying for safety
- B. quietly humming a tune
- C. berating his situation in fear

3 “In that place, there was only fear and apprehension, and the dead song at Rosa Hubermann’s cardboard lips.”

According to the passage, the prevailing feeling in the Fiedler shelter is...

- A. dread that disaster is near
- B. calm acceptance of danger
- C. hope that the raid is over

4 “Even Rudy stood completely erect, feigning nonchalance, tensing himself against the tension.”

In the passage, Rudy is characterized as...

- A. truly relaxed and fearless
- B. calm on the surface but afraid
- C. openly weeping like the kids

5 “That was still an immutable fact, but at least they were distracted now, by the girl with the book.”

Which statement about the threat of bombing is best supported by the passage?

- A. It had finally passed
- B. It remained fixed and unchanged
- C. It worsened as she read

6 “Whether they watched this parade with pride, temerity, or shame, nobody came forward to interrupt it.”

It can reasonably be inferred that watchers who felt ‘temerity’ regarded the parade with...

- A. brazen, defiant boldness
- B. deep personal shame
- C. quiet, fearful sympathy

7 “The Jew stood before him, expecting another handful of derision, but he watched with everyone else as Hans Hubermann held his hand out and presented a piece of bread, like magic. When it changed hands, the Jew slid down. He fell to his knees and held Papa’s shins.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. describe a routine food handout
- B. contrast expected cruelty with mercy
- C. explain why the prisoner fell ill

8 “Hans Hubermann needed vindication. He needed to know that Max Vandenburg had left his house for good reason.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Hans needs ‘vindication’ because he...

- A. longs to be proven right
- B. hopes to be forgiven by Max
- C. wants revenge on the soldiers

9 “When his underpants came down, it was with abject humiliation that he stood in the small, cool office.”

In the passage, Jürgen Schwarz is characterized as...

- A. quietly defiant
- B. calmly cooperative
- C. utterly stripped of dignity

10 “Incensed, he immediately ordered the tree to be cut down.”

The author most likely shows the Führer ‘incensed’ at the tree in order to...

- A. show his fury at what he can’t control
- B. praise his decisive leadership
- C. explain why the tree grew tall

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	A	Distinguish from 'apprehend' (to seize); here the sense is anxious fear, not arrest.
4	B	
5	B	
6	A	
7	B	Event comprehension.
8	A	Character comprehension.
9	C	
10	A	Theme comprehension.

Teacher Context: Parts 7–8

The war intensifies; Hans's public act of kindness toward a Jewish prisoner brings danger to the family, and Max must leave Himmel Street. Liesel's friendship with the mayor's wife and her own writing deepen. Parts 7 and 8 are paired to size the section evenly.