

The Fault in Our Stars

Chapters 11–15

by John Green

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: disavow, encroached, eviscerated, existential, legitimacy, malevolent, paragon, solace, transfigured, trope

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 1–5 · Hazel's support group and a new friend

Section 2 · Chapters 6–10 · Planning the trip to Amsterdam

Section 3 · Chapters 11–15 · Amsterdam and the author Van Houten

Section 4 · Chapters 16–20 · Hazel and Augustus's hardest days

Section 5 · Chapters 21–25 · Hazel after a profound loss

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 senator rushed to **disavow** the comments made by his aide.

- A. soften and excuse
- B. explain and justify
- C. deny or disown

2. As the city grew, new buildings **encroached** on the old forest.

- A. intruded or advanced
- B. blended in with
- C. looked out upon

3. The brutal training left the recruits **eviscerated** by week's end.

- A. tense and irritable
- B. gutted and hollowed out
- C. bruised and aching

4. The film's mood is **existential** and quietly unsettling.

- A. about existence and meaning
- B. concerned with right and wrong
- C. focused on memory and the past

5. The new king sought to prove the **legitimacy** of his claim to the throne.

- A. urgency or importance
- B. popularity or wide appeal
- C. lawfulness or validity

6. The villain shot the hero a **malevolent** glare.

- A. spiteful and hostile
- B. smug and boastful
- C. sly and calculating

7. The champion was hailed as a **paragon** of discipline.

- A. perfect model or example
- B. devoted lifelong student
- C. strict enforcer or judge

8. After the funeral, she found **solace** in her sister's company.

- A. courage or resolve
- B. amusement or distraction
- C. comfort or consolation

9. The director's bold vision **transfigured** the dull script.

- A. completely replaced
- B. transformed for the better
- C. lightly revised and polished

10. Fantasy films often reuse the **trope** of the chosen one.

- A. sudden, dramatic plot twist
- B. overused theme or stock device
- C. central lesson or moral

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

wish-granting factory — an invented phrase for the comforting illusion that the world reliably fulfills our wishes

prematorium — an invented word blending 'premature' and 'crematorium'; a place where the dying are warehoused

infinities — endless quantities; here, the idea that some infinite sets are larger than others

ANSWER KEY

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

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 “I wanted to not be a grenade, to not be a malevolent force in the lives of people I loved.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “malevolent” most nearly suggests that Hazel fears she will...

- A. grow distant from her family
- B. do harm to those she loves
- C. lose control of her feelings

2 “... you are familiar with the trope of the stoic and determined cancer victim who heroically fights her cancer with inhuman strength and never complains or stops smiling even at the very end, etcetera?”

Augustus most likely describes the “trope” of the heroic cancer victim in order to...

- A. set up how unlike it Caroline was
- B. honor all cancer patients
- C. praise Caroline’s courage

3 “... she was not, you know, the paragon of stoic cancer-kid heroism.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, in calling Caroline no “paragon,” Augustus admits she...

- A. rarely complained or sulked
- B. was often cruel and difficult
- C. was quietly heroic

4 “... while I was getting eviscerated by chemo, for some reason I decided to feel really hopeful.”

In context, the word “eviscerated” emphasizes...

- A. how hopeful he stayed
- B. how quickly chemo worked
- C. how brutally chemo gutted him

5 “I disavow everything in that putrid novel,” Van Houten said, cutting me off.”

The word “disavow” shows Van Houten’s attitude toward his own novel to be one of...

- A. mild embarrassment
- B. total rejection
- C. reluctant pride

6 “The blackness encroached around my field of vision as I pulled myself up, eighteen steps, steep as hell.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, as Hazel climbs, she is...

- A. adjusting to the dim light
- B. closing her eyes to rest
- C. about to lose consciousness

7 “... The urge to make art or contemplate philosophy does not go away when you are sick. Those urges just become transfigured by illness.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. reject the idea illness ends creativity
- B. describe a new way of making art
- C. explain why art comforts the sick

8 “He was too smart for the kinds of solace I could offer.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Hazel cannot comfort Gus because he...

- A. sees his fate too clearly to be soothed
- B. is angry with her
- C. would rather be alone

9 “Abraham Maslow, I present to you Augustus Waters, whose existential curiosity dwarfed that of his well-fed, well-loved, healthy brethren.”

The word “existential” characterizes Augustus as preoccupied with...

- A. questions of existence and meaning
- B. the approval of his peers
- C. his own physical comfort

10 “... the feeling of legitimacy away from them, if you turn it around so they feel like they are committing a crime by watching ...”

According to Augustus, egging the car will make Monica’s family feel that they have...

- A. been admired by neighbors
- B. won an argument with Isaac
- C. lost the moral high ground

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	Character comprehension. 'Trope' here is the literary sense—a stock convention, not a figure of speech.
3	B	Character comprehension.
4	C	
5	B	
6	C	
7	A	
8	A	Event comprehension. 'Too smart for solace' means Gus sees his prognosis too clearly to be comforted, not that Hazel is unintelligent.
9	A	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 11–15

In Amsterdam, Hazel and Augustus share a romantic dinner and visit the Anne Frank House, but their long-awaited meeting with author Peter Van Houten is a cruel disappointment. A turning point arrives when Augustus reveals troubling news about his own health, casting a shadow over their return home. These chapters are grouped around the Amsterdam trip and its immediate aftermath.