

The Fault in Our Stars

Chapters 16–20

by John Green

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: convention, eulogy, excruciating, indomitable, irrevocably, martyrdom, mortified, nostalgia, pretentious, self-aggrandizing

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. By **convention**, guests remove their shoes before entering the house.

- A. a strict written law
- B. a recent fashion trend
- C. an accepted custom

2. The veteran's daughter gave a heartfelt **eulogy** at the service.

- A. a report of local news
- B. a speech praising the dead
- C. a formal welcome to guests

3. After hours in tight shoes, the blisters were **excruciating**.

- A. intensely painful
- B. slow to heal
- C. red and swollen

4. The team showed an **indomitable** spirit all season long.

- A. calm and steady
- B. impossible to defeat
- C. endlessly cheerful

5. Cutting down the old forest changed the land **irrevocably**.

- A. so it cannot be undone
- B. in surprising ways
- C. slowly over many years

6. Stories of the saint's **martyrdom** inspired believers for centuries.

- A. death suffered for a cause
- B. many famous miracles
- C. rise to great power

7. She was **mortified** when she tripped in front of the whole class.

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

8. Hearing that old song filled Grandpa with **nostalgia**.

- A. a burst of energy
- B. a wave of confusion
- C. a fond longing for the past

9. He had such a **pretentious** way of talking that it annoyed everyone.

- A. loud and rushed
- B. long and rambling
- C. seeming better than one is

10. The **self-aggrandizing** manager put his name on every successful project.

- A. boosting one's own importance
- B. keeping things well organized
- C. avoiding every possible risk

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

quantum entanglement — in physics, a deep linking of particles; here a figure for two bodies hopelessly intertwined

singularity — a point of infinite density at a black hole's center; here, a figure for total collapse

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	C
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 “My nostalgia is so extreme that I am capable of missing a swing my butt never actually touched.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “nostalgia” most nearly suggests that the speaker longs for...

- A. an exciting unknown future
- B. a cherished past, real or imagined
- C. relief from constant pain

2 “... he was slowly waking up out of the narcotics to the excruciating day.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, as he wakes, Augustus faces a day that will be...

- A. busy but rewarding
- B. calm and restful
- C. filled with intense pain

3 “With each passing minute, I’m developing a deeper appreciation of the word mortified ...”

Which choice best describes Augustus’s attitude toward his own situation in this moment?

- A. irritation and impatience
- B. shame and embarrassment
- C. weary indifference

4 “Maybe he’d been hallucinating, or his martyrdom fantasies had gotten the better of him.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Augustus’s martyrdom fantasies are dreams of...

- A. dying heroically for a cause
- B. escaping his illness unnoticed
- C. recovering against all odds

5 “According to the conventions of the genre, Augustus Waters kept his sense of humor till the end ...”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to present a version of events that...

- A. predicts an unlikely recovery
- B. reports what truly happened
- C. follows the genre’s expected script

6 “... his spirit soared like an indomitable eagle until the world itself could not contain his joyous soul.”

The author’s ironic use of the “indomitable eagle” image is meant to...

- A. mock a sentimental cliché
- B. praise Augustus’s real courage
- C. portray an unconquerable hero

7 “He came home from the hospital a few days later, finally and irrevocably robbed of his ambitions.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the loss of Augustus’s ambitions is...

- A. sudden and unexpected
- B. painful but still reversible
- C. permanent and beyond undoing

8 “Augustus Waters was a self-aggrandizing bastard.”

In Isaac’s eulogy, Augustus is characterized as someone who...

- A. inflated his own importance
- B. deflected praise onto others
- C. kept his feelings hidden

9 “And he was pretentious: Sweet Jesus Christ, that kid never took a piss without pondering the abundant metaphorical resonances of human waste production.”

The example about pondering “metaphorical resonances” is included in order to...

- A. highlight his crude humor
- B. show how he overreached for depth
- C. prove his scientific curiosity

10 “Then I walked up to the podium and unfolded the piece of paper on which I’d printed my eulogy.”

Which statement about Hazel’s piece of paper is best supported by the passage?

- A. a tribute praising Augustus
- B. a private apology to him
- C. a record of his last words

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	
3	B	
4	A	Character comprehension.
5	C	Theme comprehension. The narrator immediately contrasts this genre script with the grim truth.
6	A	
7	C	
8	A	Character comprehension.
9	B	
10	A	Event comprehension. Gus has staged a 'prefuneral,' so Hazel delivers this tribute while he is still alive.

Teacher Context: Chapters 16–20

Back in Indianapolis, Augustus's cancer worsens rapidly, and his friends and family rally around him. They gather for a prefuneral at which Hazel and Isaac deliver eulogies, and shortly afterward Augustus dies. The section groups the chapters of his decline and death into one continuous emotional arc.