

The Fault in Our Stars

Chapters 21–25

by John Green

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: absolved, conjecture, depraved, extolling, indefatigable, monolith, nihilism, omnipotent, sentient, voracious

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 priest **absolved** her after she admitted her mistake.

- A. questioned
- B. comforted
- C. forgave

2. The detective's **conjecture** about the suspect turned out to be wrong.

- A. a guess
- B. a careful record
- C. a firm accusation

3. The villain's **depraved** schemes shocked the entire town.

- A. morally corrupt
- B. deeply secretive
- C. highly ambitious

4. The fans kept **extolling** the goalie's brilliant saves.

- A. describing in detail
- B. praising highly
- C. asking about

5. The **indefatigable** reporter chased the story for months.

- A. cheerful
- B. fearless
- C. tireless

6. The skyscraper loomed over the street like a giant **monolith**.

- A. huge solid mass
- B. ancient ruin
- C. shining beacon

7. After the war, a mood of **nihilism** spread among the survivors.

- A. longing for the past
- B. belief that nothing matters
- C. distrust of all authority

8. In the myth, the **omnipotent** king could bend the seas to his will.

- A. all-powerful
- B. all-knowing
- C. ever-present

9. Scientists debate whether a machine could ever become **sentient**.

- A. able to move on its own
- B. able to feel and perceive
- C. able to repair itself

10. She was a **voracious** reader who finished a novel each night.

- A. having great patience
- B. having sharp focus
- C. having a huge appetite

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

haunter — one who haunts (the opposite of one who is haunted); an author's coined reversal

Omnis cellula e cellula — Latin for 'all cells come from cells'; here a refrain meaning life comes from life

Nothing gold can stay — an allusion to Robert Frost's poem 'Nothing Gold Can Stay'; nothing beautiful or precious lasts

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
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 “... people who were extolling his various virtues now that he was dead, even though I knew for a fact they hadn’t seen him in months ...”

As it is used in the passage, the word “extolling” most nearly means that the strangers were...

- A. mourning Gus quietly
- B. praising Gus lavishly
- C. mocking Gus harshly

2 “Or did an omnipotent God create the basketballs out of the vacuum of space?”

It can reasonably be inferred that Augustus invokes an “omnipotent” God to stress the gap between...

- A. earthly life and the afterlife
- B. vast power and a petty task
- C. faith and scientific proof

3 “... he was quite insistent that I’d be absolved for my misbehavior if I attended his funeral ...”

Which statement about Van Houten’s visit is best supported by the passage?

- A. Gus offered to forgive him
- B. Van Houten apologized to Gus
- C. Gus blamed him for the trip

4 “... the depraved meaninglessness of these things ...”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward the meaninglessness of suffering?

- A. moral outrage
- B. calm acceptance
- C. mild curiosity

5 “... the absolutely inhuman nihilism of suffering.”

In the passage, calling suffering “nihilism” primarily functions to...

- A. offer a comforting explanation
- B. praise the strength of sufferers
- C. cast suffering as utterly meaningless

6 “... not the collective idea of sentient life but each of us, as individuals.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Hazel wants the universe to notice...

- A. each conscious being individually
- B. only the most successful people
- C. humanity as a single mass

7 “... so that the ocean is a great and endless monolith.”

In context, the word “monolith” emphasizes the ocean’s...

- A. vast, featureless sameness
- B. gentle, rolling waves
- C. sparkling, colorful surface

8 “... the voracious ambition of humans is never sated by dreams coming true ...”

The author most likely describes human ambition as “voracious” in order to...

- A. mock human laziness
- B. praise human achievement
- C. stress it is never satisfied

9 “... my indefatigable mother zigzagging mustard across her turkey sandwich ...”

In the passage, Hazel’s mother is characterized as...

- A. coldly distant
- B. loving but weary
- C. tirelessly devoted

10 “Who is Peter Van Houten to assert as fact the conjecture that our labor is temporary?”

The passage most strongly suggests that Hazel objects to Van Houten because he...

- A. refuses to share his opinion
- B. states a mere guess as fact
- C. proves his claim with evidence

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	A	Character comprehension. The 'misbehavior' is Van Houten's earlier cruelty in Amsterdam.
4	A	
5	C	
6	A	
7	A	
8	C	
9	C	Character comprehension. 'Indefatigable' means never tiring, so the weary option is wrong despite Mom's exhaustion elsewhere.
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 21–25

The novel follows Hazel through her grief: Augustus's funeral, an unexpected encounter with Van Houten, and her discovery that Augustus had been writing something for her. Hazel ultimately receives the pages he composed, a kind of eulogy affirming their love. Section runs to the end of the novel.