

The Giver

Chapters 9–13

by Lois Lowry

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: absurdity, distinctive, exempted, exhilarating, mutilated, perceive, phenomenon, precision, skeptically, unnerving

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 · Jonas awaits the Ceremony of Twelve

Section 2 · Chapters 6–8 · The Ceremony of Twelve

Section 3 · Chapters 9–13 · Jonas begins training with the Giver

Section 4 · Chapters 14–18 · Jonas receives memories of pain

Section 5 · Chapters 19–23 · Jonas questions the practice of release

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 pointed out the **absurdity** of wearing snow boots to the beach.

- A. obvious discomfort
- B. complete ridiculousness
- C. needless expense

2. The old car had a **distinctive** rattle we could hear from a block away.

- A. faint and hard to place
- B. harsh and unpleasant
- C. unique and easy to notice

3. Because of his injury, Marcus was **exempted** from the fitness test.

- A. freed from a requirement
- B. removed as a punishment
- C. delayed until a later date

4. The first ride down the water slide was **exhilarating**.

- A. thrilling and exciting
- B. dizzying and exhausting
- C. sudden and brief

5. Hunters found the **mutilated** carcass at the edge of the woods.

- A. badly torn and damaged
- B. half-buried in leaves
- C. frozen solid and stiff

6. Only after a long pause did she **perceive** the faint hum of the refrigerator.

- A. grow used to
- B. grow annoyed by
- C. become aware of

7. The northern lights are a **phenomenon** that draws visitors every winter.

- A. a popular festival
- B. a local legend
- C. an observable event

8. Our teacher expects **precision** when we write out directions.

- A. speed and efficiency
- B. exactness and accuracy
- C. neatness and good form

9. She listened **skeptically** to his story about the three-minute mile.

- A. in a doubting way
- B. in an interested way
- C. in an impatient way

10. The silence of the empty hallway was **unnerving**.

- A. making one feel lonely
- B. making one feel uneasy
- C. making one feel bored

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Sameness — the sweeping uniformity the Community engineered — differences like color, climate, and terrain deliberately erased

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	C
8	B
9	A
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 “From this moment you are exempted from rules governing rudeness. You may ask any question of any citizen and you will receive answers.”

As used in the passage, ‘exempted’ most nearly suggests that the rules of rudeness are...

- A. removed for the whole community
- B. lifted for one person only
- C. about to be enforced more strictly

2 “He was so completely, so thoroughly accustomed to courtesy within the community that the thought of asking another citizen an intimate question, of calling someone’s attention to an area of awkwardness, was unnerving.”

He may now ask anyone anything. Given what he finds ‘unnerving,’ he will most likely...

- A. enjoy pointing out awkward topics
- B. question other citizens eagerly
- C. rarely use the new permission

3 “Once, when he had been a Four, he had said, just prior to the midday meal at school, ‘I’m starving.’ Immediately he had been taken aside for a brief private lesson in language precision. He was not starving, it was pointed out. He was hungry.”

Which detail best supports the claim that the community demanded ‘precision’ of language?

- A. his being only a Four at the time
- B. its timing, just before the midday meal
- C. ‘starving’ being corrected to ‘hungry’

4 “‘It’s like going downhill through deep snow on a sled,’ he said, finally. ‘At first it’s exhilarating: the speed; the sharp, clear air ...’”

It can reasonably be inferred that the feeling the speaker calls ‘exhilarating’...

- A. grows stronger near the bottom
- B. fades as the ride goes on
- C. comes mainly from fear

5 “And this time I’m not going to tell you the name of it, because I want to test the receiving. You should be able to perceive the name without being told.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘perceive’ most nearly means...

- A. become aware of
- B. choose for yourself
- C. repeat from memory

6 “Jonas told him about the experience with the apple. Then the moment on the stage, when he had looked out and seen the same phenomenon in the faces of the crowd.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the ‘phenomenon’ Jonas saw in the crowd’s faces...

- A. was the same thing he had seen in the apple
- B. was a trick of the stage lighting
- C. was caused by the crowd’s excitement

7 “That’s the one you are starting to see. Your friend Fiona has red hair – quite distinctive, actually; I’ve noticed it before.”

As used in the passage, ‘distinctive’ most nearly suggests that Fiona’s hair...

- A. is admired throughout the community
- B. stands out from other people’s
- C. changes color now and then

8 “What if they were allowed to choose their own mate? And chose wrong? ‘Or what if,’ he went on, almost laughing at the absurdity, ‘they chose their own jobs?’”

In the passage, the speaker’s laughing at the ‘absurdity’ characterizes him as...

- A. unable to take free choice seriously
- B. angry at the community’s strict rules
- C. eager to pick his own job someday

9 “Very slowly it walked to the mutilated body and looked down. With its sinuous trunk it stroked the huge corpse; then it reached up, broke some leafy branches with a snap, and draped them over the mass of torn thick flesh.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘mutilated’ most nearly means...

- A. dead for many days
- B. covered with branches
- C. badly damaged and disfigured

10 “... did you know that once there really were elephants? Live ones? She glanced down at the ragged comfort object and grinned. ‘Right,’ she said, skeptically. Sure, Jonas.”

In the passage, answering ‘skeptically’ characterizes her as...

- A. unconvinced by what Jonas says
- B. upset that Jonas teases her
- C. amazed that elephants were real

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	'Exempted' implies the rule remains in force for everyone else — being freed from a rule is not the same as the rule being abolished.
2	C	
3	C	
4	B	
5	A	
6	A	
7	B	
8	A	Jonas speaks sincerely — to him, choosing a job really is ridiculous. The novel's irony lives at the reader's level, so the question tests the plain sense of the word.
9	C	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 9–13

Jonas begins his training with the current Receiver, now the Giver, who transmits memories the Community has surrendered – snow, sunshine, color. Jonas starts to see beyond Sameness and to grasp what has been given up.