

The Giver

Chapters 14–18

by Lois Lowry

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: anguish, at the mercy of, excruciating, fleeting, glee, grief, murky, ominous, parched, spare

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. The letter left him in **anguish** for days.
 - A. complete confusion
 - B. restless excitement
 - C. extreme suffering
2. The small boat was **at the mercy of** the storm.
 - A. helpless against
 - B. drifting toward
 - C. racing ahead of
3. The burn on his hand was **excruciating**.
 - A. intensely painful
 - B. slow to heal fully
 - C. badly swollen
4. A **fleeting** smile crossed her face.
 - A. warm and genuine
 - B. forced and unnatural
 - C. lasting only a moment
5. The twins ran through the sprinkler shrieking with **glee**.
 - A. nervous energy
 - B. lively joy
 - C. playful mischief
6. She carried her **grief** quietly for many months.
 - A. bitter anger
 - B. deep sadness
 - C. secret worry
7. He waded into the **murky** water of the swamp.
 - A. dark and cloudy
 - B. cold and deep
 - C. calm and shallow
8. An **ominous** silence fell over the room.
 - A. caused by confusion
 - B. full of quiet respect
 - C. warning of trouble
9. After the long hike his throat was **parched**.
 - A. extremely dry
 - B. raw from coughing
 - C. sore and scratchy
10. She asked the doctor not to **spare** her the truth.
 - A. explain in detail to
 - B. keep from suffering
 - C. delay in telling

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

released — the Community's euphemism for putting a person to death

Elsewhere — the Community's term for the unknown world beyond its borders

Stirrings — the Community's name for the first feelings of desire, suppressed by a daily pill

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	C
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 “Jonas pulled at the rope, trying to steer, but the steepness and speed took control from his hands and he was no longer enjoying the feeling of freedom but instead, terrified, was at the mercy of the wild acceleration downward over the ice.”

As used in the passage, the phrase ‘at the mercy of’ most nearly means...

- A. being treated kindly by
- B. completely in the power of
- C. fighting back against

2 “... the hunger had caused excruciating spasms in his empty, distended stomach.”

According to the passage, the hunger caused...

- A. dizziness and blurred vision
- B. a dull ache that soon faded
- C. sharp, agonizing cramps

3 “Sometimes it had seemed humorous to him. Sometimes it had seemed meaningful and important. Now it was ominous. It meant, he knew, that nothing could be changed.”

According to the passage, it now seemed ominous because it meant...

- A. that nothing could ever be changed
- B. that he was wrong to laugh at it
- C. that its meaning was still unclear

4 “It was still there, but the sky was less blue, the gentle motion of the boat slower, the water of the lake more murky and clouded.”

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

- A. dark and unclear
- B. deep and cold
- C. rough and choppy

5 “‘Water,’ the voice said in a parched, croaking whisper.”

It can reasonably be inferred from the ‘parched, croaking whisper’ that the speaker...

- A. is too frightened to speak clearly
- B. has gone a long time without water
- C. is trying not to be overheard

6 “He sat in his dwelling alone, watching through the window ... ordinary lives free of anguish because he had been selected ... to bear their burden.”

According to the passage, others’ lives are free of anguish because he...

- A. watched over them from his dwelling
- B. was chosen to carry their suffering
- C. taught them to manage their pain

7 “But now Jonas had experienced real sadness. He had felt grief. He knew that there was no quick comfort for emotions like those.”

It can reasonably be inferred that before feeling grief, Jonas...

- A. had felt only mild forms of sadness
- B. had often felt this same emotion
- C. had hidden his sadness from others

8 “For a fleeting instant he thought he would like nothing better than to ride peacefully along the river path, laughing and talking with his gentle female friend.”

In context, the word ‘fleeting’ emphasizes...

- A. how peaceful the ride would be
- B. how strong his friendship was
- C. how briefly the wish lasted

9 “He smiled as he watched the newchild plant one small foot carefully before the other, grinning with glee at his own steps as he tried them out.”

In the passage, the newchild, ‘grinning with glee,’ is characterized as...

- A. openly delighted with himself
- B. eager to impress the adults
- C. nervous about each wobbly step

10 “She insisted that I continue, that I not spare her. She said it was her duty.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, in asking not to be spared, she...

- A. doubted the speaker’s honesty
- B. wanted her lessons made easier
- C. was prepared to endure suffering

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	
3	A	'It' refers to the community's familiar saying 'back and back and back'; the question stands on the excerpt alone.
4	A	
5	B	
6	B	
7	A	
8	C	
9	A	
10	C	'She' is Rosemary, the Receiver-in-training before Jonas; the question stands on the excerpt alone.

Teacher Context: Chapters 14–18

The transmitted memories deepen to include pain, loss, warfare, and love, and Jonas begins to question release and the true cost of the Community's comfort. He learns of Rosemary, the previous Receiver-in-training whose failure devastated the Community. Grouped as the darkening middle of the training.