

The Glass Castle

Parts 4–5

by Jeannette Walls

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: arraigned, called his bluff, caprice, compulsion, destitute, facade, muckraking, nonchalant, recriminations, turbulence

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 · Parts 1–2 · A childhood in the desert

Section 2 · Part 3 · The family moves to Welch

Section 3 · Parts 4–5 · Jeannette's new life in New York

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 suspect was **arraigned** the morning after his arrest.

- A. found guilty of a crime
- B. questioned by the police
- C. formally charged in court

2. Sure he was lying about having other offers, she **called his bluff**.

- A. pretended to believe him
- B. ignored his empty boasting
- C. challenged him to prove it

3. On a **caprice**, she dyed her hair bright green overnight.

- A. a reckless dare
- B. an impulsive whim
- C. a flash of anger

4. She felt a strange **compulsion** to check the lock again and again.

- A. an irresistible urge
- B. a passing curiosity
- C. a nagging worry

5. Years of bad luck left the once-wealthy man completely **destitute**.

- A. extremely poor
- B. deeply in debt
- C. completely worn out

6. She kept up a calm **facade** throughout the tense meeting.

- A. a false outward show
- B. a brave effort
- C. a polite manner

7. Her **muckraking** articles made powerful politicians very nervous.

- A. twisting the simple facts
- B. exposing hidden corruption
- C. stirring up needless panic

8. He stayed **nonchalant** even as the other contestants grew nervous.

- A. coldly polite
- B. calmly unconcerned
- C. quietly confident

9. After the loss, the **recriminations** between teammates went on for days.

- A. mutual accusations and blame
- B. heated debates about strategy
- C. feelings of shared regret

10. The plane shook as it hit a patch of **turbulence** over the mountains.

- A. sudden, freezing cold
- B. thick, blinding fog
- C. violent, chaotic motion

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

squatter — a person who occupies an empty or abandoned building or land without legal right or payment.

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	A
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 “The owner, publisher, and editor in chief was Mike Armstrong. He saw himself as a muckraking gadfly and had mortgaged his brownstone five times to keep The Phoenix going.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “muckraking” most nearly suggests that Mike...

- A. covered routine local events
- B. reported on books and the arts
- C. dug up and exposed wrongdoing

2 “At times like that, her cheerful facade would crack, and she’d start crying and confess to Lori that life in the streets could be hard, just really hard.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Mom’s cheerful manner...

- A. was an act to amuse Lori
- B. hid the pain she truly felt
- C. showed she was genuinely happy

3 “Mom could work. And she was not destitute. She had her collection of antique Indian jewelry, which she kept in a self-storage locker.”

According to the passage, what shows that Mom was not “destitute”?

- A. she owned valuable antique jewelry
- B. she had a steady paying job
- C. she had money saved in the bank

4 “He lifted the lids and stared at the folded clothes. His face took on that wounded expression he got whenever the world called his bluff.”

In the passage, Dad is characterized as...

- A. practical about his hard life
- B. calm and grateful for the gifts
- C. proud, with a fragile bravado

5 “Had all those years, as well as Mom and Dad’s time on the street—not to mention their current life in an abandoned tenement—been a caprice inflicted on us by Mom?”

As it is used in the passage, “caprice” most nearly suggests the family’s hardship was...

- A. a sacrifice made for Mom’s beliefs
- B. the result of Mom’s arbitrary whim
- C. an accident no one could prevent

6 “She was arraigned a few days later. Mom and Dad and Lori and Brian and I were all there.”

It can reasonably be inferred that to be “arraigned” is to be...

- A. formally charged before a court
- B. released without any charge
- C. found guilty after a trial

7 “But Mom acted like her normal self—nonchalant in the face of adversity. As we sat waiting on the courtroom benches, she hummed tunelessly and sketched the other spectators.”

In the passage, Mom is characterized as...

- A. intently focused on the case
- B. barely holding back her grief
- C. untroubled by the grim situation

8 “I went ice-skating less often, and when my skates were stolen, I never replaced them. My compulsion to be always on the move began to fade.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the narrator’s “compulsion” to keep moving was...

- A. an urge she could not easily control
- B. a hobby she took up for fun
- C. a habit her work demanded

9 “He shook his head and said, ‘You know, it’s really not that hard to put food on the table if that’s what you decide to do.’
‘Now, no recriminations,’ Lori told him.”

Lori most likely says “no recriminations” in order to...

- A. stop Brian from blaming their parents
- B. thank Brian for his hard work
- C. agree the meal was easy to make

10 “A wind picked up, rattling the windows, and the candle flames suddenly shifted, dancing along the border between turbulence and order.”

Which choice best describes how the excerpt functions in the text as a whole?

- A. warns of a literal coming storm
- B. recalls Dad’s chaos-theory worldview
- C. shows the family losing control

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	Muckraking traces to Progressive–Era reporters who exposed corruption and scandal.
2	B	
3	A	
4	C	Character comprehension. The idiom is figurative -- the gift exposed the pretense behind Dad's pride.
5	B	Event comprehension. The narrator only wonders this on learning Mom held land worth a million dollars.
6	A	Event comprehension. An arraignment is the formal charging, not a verdict -- here bail is argued, guilt is not yet decided.
7	C	
8	A	
9	A	Character comprehension. Brian's remark is a dig at their parents' refusal to provide for the family.
10	B	Theme comprehension. The closing image pairs turbulence with order, echoing the chaos theory Dad studied.

Teacher Context: Parts 4–5

The children make their way to New York City one by one and build independent adult lives, while the parents eventually follow and end up homeless by choice. The memoir closes years later at a family Thanksgiving that reflects on Rex's legacy. Covers Parts 4 and 5; section runs to the end of the memoir.