

The Hunger Games

Part I: The Tributes (Chapters 1–9)

by Suzanne Collins

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: condone, cumulative, despicable, deterrent, grandeur, indifferent, mandatory, obliterated, synonymous, tribute

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 · Part I: The Tributes (Chapters 1–9) · Reaping day in District 12

Section 2 · Part II: The Games (Chapters 10–18) · The Games begin in the arena

Section 3 · Part III: The Victor (Chapters 19–27) · The final stretch of the Games

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 principal would never **condone** bullying of any kind.

- A. join in with
- B. fail to notice
- C. approve of or allow

2. Her **cumulative** score rose with every game she played.

- A. highest so far
- B. average per game
- C. added up over time

3. Stealing from a charity is a **despicable** act.

- A. deserving of contempt
- B. careless and foolish
- C. bold and risky

4. The loud alarm is a powerful **deterrent** to thieves.

- A. a warning of nearby danger
- B. a thing that discourages action
- C. a reminder of a rule

5. The palace was famous for the **grandeur** of its halls.

- A. great size and age
- B. impressive greatness
- C. quiet, peaceful calm

6. He gave an **indifferent** nod and kept walking.

- A. showing no interest or feeling
- B. showing mild annoyance
- C. showing quiet pride

7. Wearing a seatbelt is **mandatory** in our state.

- A. required by rule
- B. strongly advised
- C. widely practiced

8. The storm **obliterated** the tiny fishing village overnight.

- A. badly flooded
- B. cut off from help
- C. completely destroyed

9. To her, freedom and happiness are **synonymous**.

- A. often confused
- B. the same in meaning
- C. always in competition

10. The conquered people sent **tribute** to the empire each year.

- A. a forced payment to a ruler
- B. a request for protection
- C. a gift offered as thanks

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

a tribute — something given to show honor, or something a ruling power demands as a sign of submission; here, one of the two young people the Capitol forces each district to send to the Hunger Games

the Capitol — a capitol is a building where a government meets; here, the powerful city that rules Panem and controls the districts

dandelion — a common yellow wildflower; for Katniss, a reminder of food and hope

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	B
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 *"In theory, it's supposed to be electrified twenty-four hours a day as a deterrent to the predators that live in the woods ..."*

As it is used in the passage, the word 'deterrent' suggests that the fence is meant to...

- A. trap predators inside the district
- B. warn the miners of danger
- C. discourage predators from entering

2 *"So I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Katniss wears an 'indifferent mask' so that others will...

- A. think she is friendly and open
- B. see none of her true feelings
- C. fail to recognize her face

3 *"In fact, every year I have needed to do this. And the entries are cumulative. So now, at the age of sixteen, my name will be in the reaping twenty times."*

According to the passage, the reaping entries being cumulative means Katniss's name has...

- A. been counted only once this year
- B. added up year after year
- C. stayed the same since age twelve

4 *"Attendance is mandatory unless you are on death's door. This evening, officials will come around and check to see if this is the case."*

It can reasonably be inferred that, because attendance is mandatory, officials check homes that evening to...

- A. offer rides to those who are ill
- B. thank families for taking part
- C. catch anyone who skipped without cause

5 *"Then came the Dark Days, the uprising of the districts against the Capitol. Twelve were defeated, the thirteenth obliterated."*

The author most likely contrasts 'defeated' with 'obliterated' in order to...

- A. show District 13 was wiped out entirely
- B. suggest the districts had united
- C. hint District 13 surrendered

6 *"In punishment for the uprising, each of the twelve districts must provide one girl and one boy, called tributes, to participate."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the tributes take part because they...

- A. are forced to as a punishment
- B. hope to win lasting honor
- C. chose to enter the contest

7 *"But in District 12, where the word tribute is pretty much synonymous with the word corpse, volunteers are all but extinct."*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. honor District 12's brave tributes
- B. describe a District 12 funeral
- C. explain why no one in 12 volunteers

8 *"Which says we do not agree. We do not condone. All of this is wrong."*

Which choice best describes the crowd's attitude as they refuse to applaud?

- A. they will not approve of the Games
- B. they are too afraid to react
- C. they are cheering the new tribute

9 *"The cameras haven't lied about its grandeur. If anything, they have not quite captured the magnificence of the glistening buildings in a rainbow of hues that tower into the air ..."*

In the excerpt, the description of the Capitol mainly functions to...

- A. convey the Capitol's vast splendor
- B. expose the Capitol's hidden decay
- C. picture the districts' plain homes

10 *"How despicable we must seem to you," he says."*

Which choice best describes Katniss's attitude toward the Capitol that Cinna calls 'despicable'?

- A. she pities its lonely people
- B. she finds it deserving of contempt
- C. she admires its wealth and style

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	
3	B	
4	C	
5	A	
6	A	Event comprehension.
7	C	
8	A	Event comprehension.
9	A	
10	B	Character comprehension.

Teacher Context: Part I: The Tributes (Chapters 1–9)

On reaping day in the impoverished District 12, sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen volunteers to take her younger sister Prim's place as a tribute in the deadly Hunger Games. She and the other District 12 tribute, Peeta, travel to the Capitol, where they are styled, paraded before the crowds, and begin training. Section covers Part I and ends just before the Games begin.