

The Hunger Games

Part II: The Games (Chapters 10–18)

by Suzanne Collins

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abate, abstain, despondency, gall, impotence, reprieve, repulsed, ruminate, surreal, wreath

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. By dawn the fever finally began to **abate**.

- A. to ease and lessen
- B. to come and go in waves
- C. to spread to others

2. At the party he decided to **abstain** from the rich cake.

- A. to make a fuss over
- B. to hold back from
- C. to complain about

3. After failing the test again, she sank into **despondency**.

- A. deep hopelessness
- B. bitter anger
- C. tense worry

4. She had the **gall** to cut in line and act annoyed.

- A. brazen nerve
- B. cheerful confidence
- C. reckless bravery

5. Stuck in traffic, he felt a growing sense of **impotence**.

- A. growing impatience
- B. dull boredom
- C. utter helplessness

6. The snow day gave the tired students a welcome **reprieve**.

- A. a fresh start
- B. a special reward
- C. a temporary relief

7. I was **repulsed** by the smell of the rotting garbage.

- A. filled with surprise
- B. filled with disgust
- C. filled with confusion

8. He would **ruminate** over a tough decision for days.

- A. to think over at length
- B. to read up on in detail
- C. to talk over with others

9. Walking through the foggy carnival felt oddly **surreal**.

- A. tense and uneasy
- B. gloomy and silent
- C. dreamlike and unreal

10. Vines slowly **wreathe** the old stone tower.

- A. to slowly crack apart
- B. to encircle or cover
- C. to climb down from

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Cornucopia — ordinarily, a horn-shaped container overflowing with food; here, the giant golden horn at the arena's center, surrounded by weapons and supplies

patronizing endearment — an affectionate name used in a superior or belittling way, as when Haymitch calls Katniss "sweetheart"

rendezvous — an agreed to place and time to meet

copse — a small group of trees

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	C
10	B

Vocabulary in Context
The Hunger Games
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 *“While I’ve been ruminating on the availability of trees, Peeta has been struggling with how to maintain his identity.”*

As it is used in the passage, ‘ruminating’ most nearly suggests that Katniss has been

- A. complaining about the missing trees
- B. searching the woods for trees
- C. mulling the question over in her mind

2 *“I stagger back, repulsed by the warm, sticky spray.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Katniss staggers back because she is

- A. sickened by the warm spray
- B. struck hard by the boy
- C. dodging a thrown knife

3 *“And Peeta had the gall to talk to me about disgrace?”*

Which choice best describes Katniss’s attitude toward Peeta in this moment?

- A. indignant at his shameless nerve
- B. frightened of his new allies
- C. heartbroken by his betrayal

4 *“It’s all I can do not to plunge my face into the water and gulp down as much as I can hold. But I have just enough sense left to abstain.”*

The author contrasts Katniss’s urge to gulp with her choice to abstain in order to

- A. show how exhausted she has become
- B. show her restraint despite desperation
- C. show her disgust at the dirty water

5 *“How long I scramble along dodging the fireballs I can’t say, but the attacks finally begin to abate.”*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. The Gamemakers call off the Games.
- B. The fireball assault gradually lets up.
- C. Katniss stamps out the last flames.

6 *“Darkness has given me a brief reprieve ...”*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to

- A. reveal her escape from the arena
- B. mark a brief pause in the danger
- C. show that her enemies have quit

7 *“So I walk off in the other direction, hoping my enemies still lie locked in the surreal world of tracker jacker venom.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that Katniss’s enemies are

- A. sleeping off their wounds
- B. hunting through the woods for her
- C. lost in bizarre hallucinations

8 *“But here, even more strongly than at home, I feel my impotence.”*

Which choice best describes Katniss’s state of mind as she stands over Rue’s body?

- A. raging yet powerless to act
- B. hopeful that rescue is near
- C. calm and resigned to her fate

9 *“Slowly, one stem at a time, I decorate her body in the flowers. Covering the ugly wound. Wreathing her face. Weaving her hair with bright colors.”*

As it is used in the passage, ‘Wreathing her face’ most nearly means

- A. ringing her face with flowers
- B. covering her face from view
- C. gently washing her face clean

10 *“Maybe Haymitch’s noticed my despondency and is trying to cheer me up a bit.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Katniss thinks the gift was sent because she

- A. is badly hurt and needs aid
- B. has run out of supplies
- C. has sunk into low spirits

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	A	Character comprehension. 'Gall' here is the figurative sense of brazen nerve, not the literal bile.
4	B	
5	B	
6	B	
7	C	
8	A	Event comprehension. 'Impotence' here is the general sense of utter powerlessness.
9	A	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Part II: The Games (Chapters 10–18)

The tributes are released into the arena and the Hunger Games begin in earnest. Katniss survives the opening bloodbath, evades the Career tributes, copes with fire, thirst, and trackers, and forms an unexpected alliance. Section covers Part II, ending before the Games' final stage.