

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Chapters 7–12

by C. S. Lewis

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: bares, betray, claim, curious, grim, noble, proceeded, rightful, solemn, thaw

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 1–6 · Four children sent to the Professor's house

Section 2 · Chapters 7–12 · The children alone in the snowy woods

Section 3 · Chapters 13–17 · Edmund and the Witch travel on

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. The dog bares its teeth whenever a stranger comes near the gate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. uncovers and showsB. snaps shut quicklyC. grinds together hard <p>2. The spy chose to betray his own country for money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. leave quietly without warningB. turn against one's own sideC. argue openly with leaders <p>3. Two neighbors each made a claim to the strip of land between their yards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a stated right to somethingB. an offer to buy somethingC. a complaint about something <p>4. A curious smell drifted from the empty kitchen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. strange and oddB. warm and familiarC. strong and sharp <p>5. The grim gray walls of the prison rose above the road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. harsh and forbiddingB. cold and dampC. old and crumbling | <p>6. The old oak stood alone on the hill, tall and noble.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. strong and healthyB. wild and untrimmedC. grand and dignified <p>7. After the rain stopped, we proceeded to pack up camp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. agreed to help withB. went on to do nextC. took a long time doing <p>8. The court returned the stolen painting to its rightful owner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. being honest and fairB. caring the most about itC. having a lawful claim <p>9. The room grew solemn as the flag was raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. tense and uneasyB. serious and respectfulC. quiet and sleepy <p>10. After a week of ice, the thaw left the streets wet and muddy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a steady rainB. a spring floodC. a spell of melting |
|---|--|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Emperor-beyond-the-Sea — Aslan's father and the highest authority over Narnia; never seen in the story

Stone Table — ancient stone slab tied to Narnia's oldest, most solemn law

Jinn — legendary spirits, neither human nor animal; part of the Witch's ancestry

win his spurs — prove himself in battle and earn the status of a knight

Wolf's-Bane — the 'bane' of a thing is what destroys it, so the name, *Wolf's-Bane* means the wolf's destroyer

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	B
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 “And now a very curious thing happened. None of the children knew who Aslan was any more than you do; but the moment the Beaver had spoken these words everyone felt quite different.”

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

- A. eager to learn more
- B. strange and remarkable
- C. quick and unexpected

2 “She’d like us to believe it,” said Mr. Beaver, “and it’s on that that she bases her claim to be Queen.”

It can reasonably be inferred from the Witch’s ‘claim to be Queen’ that...

- A. her right to rule was won in war
- B. her right to rule is disputed
- C. her right to rule was inherited

3 “Don’t you understand?” said Mr. Beaver. “He’s gone to her, to the White Witch. He has betrayed us all.”

According to the passage, what has the one who went to the Witch done to his own side?

- A. pleaded for their safety
- B. spied on her for them
- C. handed them to the enemy

4 “She was jolly nice to me, anyway, much nicer than they are. I expect she is the rightful Queen really. ... At least, that was the excuse he made in his own mind for what he was doing.”

It can reasonably be inferred that in calling her the ‘rightful’ Queen, he is...

- A. reporting what others say
- B. repeating her own promise
- C. excusing his own choice

5 “But in spite of the scribbles on it the face of the great stone beast still looked so terrible, and sad, and noble, staring up in the moonlight, that Edmund didn’t really get any fun out of jeering at it.”

In the passage, the face of the great stone beast is characterized as...

- A. grand and dignified
- B. shabby and neglected
- C. gentle and welcoming

6 “A slow cruel smile came over the Witch’s face. ‘Is this all your news?’ she asked. ‘No, your Majesty,’ said Edmund, and proceeded to tell her all he had heard before leaving the Beavers’ house.”

In the passage, Edmund is characterized as someone who is...

- A. willing to tell her all he knew
- B. eager to defend his family
- C. afraid to answer her at all

7 “Some of the pictures of Father Christmas in our world make him look only funny and jolly. ... He was so big, and so glad, and so real, that they all became quite still. They felt very glad, but also solemn.”

According to the passage, along with gladness the children felt...

- A. a deep seriousness
- B. a nervous excitement
- C. a growing sadness

8 “This is no thaw,” said the dwarf, suddenly stopping. “This is Spring. What are we to do? Your winter has been destroyed, I tell you! This is Aslan’s doing.”

It can reasonably be inferred that by saying ‘This is no thaw,’ the dwarf means...

- A. the snow has stopped melting
- B. the cold has grown worse
- C. the winter will not return

9 “In the very middle of this open hilltop was the Stone Table. It was a great grim slab of gray stone supported on four upright stones. It looked very old; and it was cut all over with strange lines and figures that might be the letters of an unknown language.”

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

- A. worn and crumbling
- B. harsh and forbidding
- C. plain and unfinished

10 “He was tugging and pulling and the Wolf seemed neither alive nor dead, and its bared teeth knocked against his forehead, and everything was blood and heat and hair.”

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

- A. uncovered and showing
- B. clenched tightly shut
- C. stripped of all flesh

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	Students almost always meet 'curious' as 'eager to know.' Here it works the other way round — it describes the thing being noticed, not the person noticing.
2	B	
3	C	
4	C	
5	A	Here 'noble' describes grandeur of bearing, not high birth — a distinction worth naming, since students meet the birth sense in most historical reading.
6	A	
7	A	Students often hear 'solemn' as 'sad.' Lewis rules that out inside the sentence itself — the children are 'very glad, but also solemn' — so the word here means grave and hushed, not sorrowful.
8	C	
9	B	
10	A	The familiar 'bare' meaning 'empty' misleads here. 'Bared teeth' uses the verb sense — drawn back and exposed — which is worth naming aloud, since the two senses share a spelling.

Teacher Context: Chapters 7–12

The Beavers reveal the prophecy and Aslan's return, and Edmund slips away to the Witch. The other three journey toward the Stone Table as the thaw sets in, meet Aslan, and Peter fights his first battle. The break falls before the Deep Magic chapters, where the Witch's claim on Edmund turns the story.