

The Most Dangerous Game

by Richard Connell

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: anguish, aristocrat, attributes, deplorable, harbors, intricate, lacerated, lofty, ooze, specimens

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.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

The Most Dangerous Game

by Richard Connell

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Her face showed the **anguish** of losing her closest friend.

- A. extreme pain or suffering
- B. boiling anger and rage
- C. nervous fear and worry

2. The **aristocrat** lived on a grand estate served by many attendants.

- A. a member of the nobility
- B. a respected scholar
- C. a wealthy merchant

3. A good leader has many admirable **attributes**.

- A. qualities or characteristics
- B. possessions or belongings
- C. duties or responsibilities

4. The company's **deplorable** treatment of its workers angered the public.

- A. puzzling and strange
- B. careless and disorganized
- C. shamefully bad; regrettable

5. He still **harbors** the hope that things will get better.

- A. speaks openly about
- B. proudly boasts about
- C. keeps or holds in the mind

6. The watchmaker fitted the **intricate** gears together with great care.

- A. worn and old
- B. complex and detailed
- C. shiny and polished

7. The sharp thorns **lacerated** his arms as he pushed through the bushes.

- A. bruised and darkened
- B. torn or deeply gashed
- C. grazed but unbroken

8. The **lofty** mountain peaks disappeared into the clouds.

- A. towering; very tall
- B. rocky and rugged
- C. cold and distant

9. His boots sank deep into the **ooze** at the swamp's edge.

- A. cold, still water
- B. tangled reeds and weeds
- C. soft, sticky mud

10. The museum displayed **specimens** of tropical butterflies from around the world.

- A. detailed written records
- B. individual examples of a kind
- C. colorful painted images

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Cossack — a member of a people from southern Russia and Ukraine, known for horsemanship and military skill

quarry — prey — the animal or person being hunted

chateau — a large, impressive house or castle, especially a French one

Providence — divine care — God guiding events

strike a tartar — meet an opponent too fierce to handle

at bay — cornered and forced to turn and fight

repast — a meal

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Most Dangerous Game

by Richard Connell

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

Vocabulary in Context

The Most Dangerous Game

by Richard Connell

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 "It came out of the darkness, a high, screaming sound, the sound of an animal in an extremity of anguish and terror."

As used in the passage, the word 'anguish' most nearly means...

- A. wild, uncontrolled anger
- B. sudden panic and confusion
- C. extreme pain and suffering

2 "Some wounded thing, by the evidence a large animal, had thrashed about in the underbrush; the jungle weeds were crushed down and the moss was lacerated; one patch of weeds was stained crimson."

According to the passage, the wounded animal's thrashing left the moss...

- A. crushed and flattened
- B. stained deep red
- C. torn and gashed

3 "But as he forged along he saw to his great astonishment that all the lights were in one enormous building — a lofty structure with pointed towers plunging upward into the gloom."

As used in the passage, the word 'lofty' most nearly means...

- A. towering; very tall
- B. blazing with light
- C. gloomy and shadowed

4 "He had high cheekbones, a sharp-cut nose, a spare, dark face, the face of a man used to giving orders, the face of an aristocrat."

In the excerpt, the man described is characterized as...

- A. proud and noble in bearing
- B. weathered and rough-mannered
- C. kindly and softhearted

5 "About the hall were the mounted heads of many animals — lions, tigers, elephants, moose, bears; larger or more perfect specimens Rainsford had never seen."

Which statement about the hall's 'specimens' is best supported by the passage?

- A. their owner has hunted widely and well
- B. their owner prefers small, common game
- C. their owner is new to hunting

6 "So I said: 'What are the attributes of an ideal quarry?' And the answer was of course: 'It must have courage, cunning, and, above all, it must be able to reason.'"

As used in the passage, the word 'attributes' most nearly means...

- A. hidden faults and weaknesses
- B. physical strength and speed
- C. qualities or characteristics

7 "I refuse to believe that so modern and civilized a young man as you seem to be harbors romantic ideas about the value of human life."

The speaker's word 'harbors' most nearly suggests that the young man...

- A. abandoned such ideas long ago
- B. holds such ideas privately
- C. openly preaches such ideas

8 "One foolish fellow tried it. The deplorable part of it was that Lazarus followed him. You can imagine my feelings, Mr. Rainsford. I loved Lazarus; he was the finest hound in my pack."

The man and the hound both died. The speaker's use of 'deplorable' shows that he regrets...

- A. failing to warn the man in time
- B. losing his prized hound, not the man
- C. the cruelty of the contest he runs

9 "He executed a series of intricate loops; he doubled on his trail again and again, recalling all the lore of the fox hunt, and all the dodges of the fox."

It can reasonably be inferred that the 'intricate' loops described were meant to...

- A. wear down the hunter pursuing him
- B. make his trail hard to follow
- C. guide him back toward the shore

10 "Then, as he stepped forward, his foot sank into the ooze. He tried to wrench it back, but the muck sucked viciously at his foot as if it were a giant leech."

It can reasonably be inferred that the 'ooze' described in the excerpt could...

- A. drag him down and trap him
- B. sweep him away in its current
- C. conceal a lurking swamp creature

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Most Dangerous Game

by Richard Connell

#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	The distractors restate what happened to the weeds in the excerpt; only 'torn and gashed' describes the moss.
3	A	
4	A	
5	A	
6	C	
7	B	
8	B	'The deplorable part' pins the general's regret to the hound alone; the man's death goes unmourned — the inverted values are the point.
9	B	
10	A	