

The One and Only Ivan

"hello" – "lucky" (vignettes 1–32)

by Katherine Applegate

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: accomplished, amid, canvas, clenched, dangle, habitat, maintain, murmur, pierce, precision

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 · "hello" – "lucky" (vignettes 1–32) · Ivan and the Big Top Mall

Section 2 · "arrival" – "worry" (vignettes 33–47) · A new arrival at the mall

Section 3 · "the promise" – "a bad dream" (vignettes 48–73) · Ivan makes a promise to Stella

Section 4 · "the story" – "check marks" (vignettes 74–109) · Ivan begins a secret project

Section 5 · "free ruby" – "silverback" (vignettes 110–153) · Protesters gather at the mall

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. Her older sister is an **accomplished** painter and dancer.
 - A. hard working
 - B. very famous
 - C. highly skilled
2. A single red rose grew **amid** the tall green weeds.
 - A. in the middle of
 - B. close beside
 - C. far underneath
3. She hung her finished **canvas** on the gallery wall.
 - A. a wooden picture frame
 - B. a surface an artist paints on
 - C. a bright printed poster
4. His fists **clenched** as his anger grew.
 - A. squeezed shut tightly
 - B. went cold and stiff
 - C. shook hard and fast
5. The child let her feet **dangle** off the tall chair.
 - A. to stretch out straight
 - B. to kick out quickly
 - C. to hang or swing loosely
6. Cutting down the forest destroys the **habitat** of many birds.
 - A. a large nest made of twigs
 - B. an animal's natural home
 - C. a bird's long yearly journey
7. It takes real effort to **maintain** a garden through the summer.
 - A. to keep up or in order
 - B. to plant for the first time
 - C. to water once each week
8. The old man liked to **murmur** to himself while he cooked.
 - A. to giggle softly
 - B. to speak in a low voice
 - C. to hum a soft tune
9. A sharp thorn can **pierce** the thin skin of a peach.
 - A. to slide across
 - B. to bounce off
 - C. to make a hole through
10. The surgeon worked with great **precision** during the operation.
 - A. exactness and care
 - B. strength and power
 - C. calm patience

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

silverback — the mature male gorilla who leads the troop

shackles — iron chains that bind a captive

parasites — freeloader; one that lives off another without giving back

slight — an insult; a small act of disrespect

make amends — make up for a wrong

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	C
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 "I live in a human habitat called the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade."

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

- A. a habit or daily routine
- B. a large group of animals
- C. the place where a creature lives

2 "At the Big Top Mall, a creaky-music carousel spins all day, and monkeys and parrots live amid the merchants."

According to the passage, the monkeys and parrots live...

- A. in a hall away from the stores
- B. right among the shops and sellers
- C. on a stage above the shops

3 "A silverback uses anger to maintain order and warn his troop of danger."

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

- A. to build something new
- B. to keep something as it is
- C. to demand something by force

4 "My neighbors here at the Big Top Mall know many tricks. They are an educated lot, more accomplished than I am."

In the passage, Ivan's neighbors are characterized as...

- A. talented and well-trained
- B. boastful and proud
- C. playful and full of pranks

5 "They have humans who dangle on ropes twining from the tops of tents."

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

- A. to hang loosely in the air
- B. to climb up quickly
- C. to balance carefully

6 "I never remember my dreams, although I sometimes awaken with my fists clenched and my heart hammering."

From the way Ivan wakes up, it can reasonably be inferred that his dreams are...

- A. pleasant but quickly forgotten
- B. happy ones about the jungle
- C. frightening or upsetting

7 "I don't remember much about my early life, but I do remember this: Whenever I got the chance, I would dip my fingers into cool mud and use my mother's back for a canvas."

It can reasonably be inferred that even as a baby, Ivan...

- A. was already making art
- B. was hunting for food in the mud
- C. was trying to cool himself off

8 "Elephant hide is thick as bark on an ancient tree, but a claw-stick can pierce it like a leaf."

According to the passage, a claw-stick can...

- A. knock an elephant off its feet
- B. poke a hole through thick hide
- C. scrape the bark off old trees

9 "She can pick up a single peanut with elegant precision, tickle a passing mouse, tap the shoulder of a dozing keeper."

In the passage, Stella's trunk is characterized as...

- A. gentle and exact
- B. strong and scary
- C. quick but clumsy

10 "'Hmm,' Mack murmurs, sounding unconvinced."

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

- A. hums a little tune
- B. laughs to himself
- C. says in a soft, low voice

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	Ivan calls the mall a 'human habitat' — an early taste of the book's ironic naming, like his insistence on 'domain' rather than 'cage'.
2	B	
3	B	
4	A	
5	A	
6	C	
7	A	
8	B	
9	A	
10	C	

Teacher Context: "hello" – "lucky" (vignettes 1–32)

Ivan, a gorilla who has spent years on display at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall, introduces himself, his glass domain, and his friends Stella the elephant and Bob the stray dog, and reveals his love of drawing. The janitor's daughter, Julia, encourages his art. Break groups the opening vignettes up to just before a new animal arrives.