

The One and Only Ivan

"the promise" – "a bad dream" (vignettes 48–73)

by Katherine Applegate

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: deliberately, frantic, mutter, pried, reliable, scornful, superior, swarmed, trudges, venture

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. She **deliberately** placed each cup on the shelf.

- A. in a quick, careless way
- B. in a careful, purposeful way
- C. in a shy, nervous way

2. The **frantic** driver honked and swerved through traffic.

- A. proud and confident
- B. wild with fear or worry
- C. tired and sleepy

3. When he is annoyed, he tends to **mutter** to himself.

- A. to speak in a low, unclear voice
- B. to speak quickly and clearly
- C. to speak in a proud, happy tone

4. The firefighter **pried** the jammed car door with a metal bar.

- A. banged loudly on
- B. leaned gently against
- C. forced open with effort

5. We were looking to buy a **reliable** car.

- A. able to be trusted
- B. brand new and modern
- C. large and roomy

6. She gave a **scornful** look at the messy homework.

- A. tired and bored
- B. confused and puzzled
- C. mocking and disrespectful

7. Everyone agreed the new library was **superior**.

- A. older than others
- B. better than others
- C. bigger than others

8. Fans **swarmed** the singer the moment she stepped outside.

- A. crowded around in a mass
- B. waved cheerfully at
- C. cheered loudly for

9. He **trudges** across the muddy field.

- A. walks slowly and heavily
- B. skips along lightly
- C. marches along stiffly

10. Not everyone is brave enough to **venture** alone at night.

- A. to wander about aimlessly
- B. to hurry safely back home
- C. to dare to go somewhere new

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

silverback — the adult male gorilla who leads the troop

do it justice — represent it as fully as it deserves

blackback — a young adult male gorilla, not yet a leader

artistic license — an artist's freedom to change the facts for effect

domain — territory one rules; Ivan's word for his cage

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	A
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 "Stella once teased me that elephants are superior because they feel more joy and more grief than apes."

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

- A. older and wiser
- B. larger and stronger
- C. better than others

2 "Bob heard from a rat, a reliable sort, that they tossed Stella's body into a garbage truck. It took five men and a forklift."

It can reasonably be inferred from Bob's calling the rat 'a reliable sort' that...

- A. the rat felt sorry for Stella
- B. the rat knew Stella well
- C. the sad story is most likely true

3 "I don't answer, so Bob licks my nose until I can't stand it any longer.
'I am the One and Only Ivan,' I mutter."

It can reasonably be inferred from the way Ivan mutters his answer that he...

- A. wants everyone to hear his name
- B. gives in to Bob only grudgingly
- C. is proud to claim his title at last

4 "Then I hear myself saying, 'Once upon a time there was a gorilla named Ivan.' And, slowly and deliberately, I try to remember."

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

- A. in a sleepy, dreamy way
- B. in a careful, purposeful way
- C. in a worried, fearful way

5 "Slowly, carefully, a young gorilla begins to venture farther and farther away from the safety of his mother's arms."

According to the passage, as he grows, a young gorilla slowly begins to...

- A. go exploring away from his mother
- B. start leading the whole troop
- C. race ahead of the older gorillas

6 "It was Mack who pried open that crate, Mack who bought me, and Mack who raised me like a human baby."

According to the passage, Mack got Ivan out of the crate by...

- A. forcing the lid open
- B. unlocking it with a key
- C. cutting it open with a saw

7 "I slept in human beds, sat in human chairs, listened while human words swarmed around me like angry bees."

It can reasonably be inferred that the words swarming around young Ivan made him feel...

- A. eager to learn to speak
- B. calm and right at home
- C. surrounded and overwhelmed

8 "Ruby trudges behind Mack, her head drooping. Endlessly they circle the ring."

In the passage, Ruby is characterized as...

- A. weary and worn down
- B. excited by her training
- C. eager to please Mack

9 "Stop! No! Ruby's frantic cries startle me."

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

- A. angry and stubborn
- B. full of wild panic
- C. weak and in pain

10 "Bob gives a scornful laugh. 'Crawled away is more like it.'"

In the passage, Bob is characterized as...

- A. mocking and disrespectful toward Mack
- B. afraid Mack will come back angry
- C. worried about Mack's injury

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	B	Ivan's low, grudging delivery shows he doesn't yet believe the title; the rest of the novel is him growing into it.
4	B	
5	A	
6	A	
7	C	
8	A	
9	B	
10	A	

Teacher Context: “the promise” – “a bad dream” (vignettes 48–73)

A dying Stella asks Ivan to promise that Ruby will have a better life, then dies; Ivan grieves and recalls his own capture from the wild and the family he lost. His resolve to keep the promise hardens. Break falls where Ivan first conceives a plan.