

The One and Only Ivan

"free ruby" – "silverback" (vignettes 110–153)

by Katherine Applegate

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: blanket, cradle, graceful, grumble, nudge, protester, sag, shadowy, shudder, slice

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. The fog rolled in to **blanket** the whole town.

- A. lightly dust
- B. completely cover
- C. quickly chill

2. The tired baby bird settled into a **cradle** of soft grass.

- A. a loose, messy heap
- B. a wide, open patch
- C. a snug resting spot

3. The dancer gave a slow, **graceful** bow to the crowd.

- A. quick and playful
- B. smooth and beautiful
- C. deep and formal

4. We heard the distant storm **grumble** beyond the hills.

- A. shake the ground hard
- B. complain in a low voice
- C. make a low, rumbling sound

5. She gave her brother a quick **nudge** to wake him up.

- A. small wave
- B. quiet whisper
- C. gentle push

6. The **protester** marched with a crowd through the busy streets.

- A. a person who objects in public
- B. a person who reports the news
- C. a person who entertains a crowd

7. The heavy books made the old shelf **sag** in the middle.

- A. droop downward
- B. wobble a bit
- C. crack apart

8. We tiptoed through the **shadowy** basement with only one flashlight.

- A. dark and dim
- B. cramped and narrow
- C. cold and damp

9. A **shudder** ran through the whole crowd as the lights suddenly went out.

- A. a burst of movement
- B. a quick tremble of fear
- C. a quiet murmur

10. The bright headlights **slice** through the thick fog.

- A. cut sharply
- B. shine faintly
- C. spread widely

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

put under — sedate with anesthesia

coming to — waking up after being knocked out

canines — sharp pointed teeth

entwine — twist closely together

troop — group of gorillas that live together

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	B
4	C
5	C
6	A
7	A
8	A
9	B
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 “Every day there are more protesters, and cameras with bright lights. Sometimes the people carrying signs shout, ‘Free Ruby! Free Ruby!’”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘protesters’ most nearly means...

- A. people speaking out against something
- B. fans cheering for a performer
- C. reporters filming a news story

2 “But even as I say these words, I remember with a shudder the last box I was in.”

From Ivan’s ‘shudder,’ it can reasonably be inferred that the memory of the last box...

- A. comforts him
- B. confuses him
- C. frightens him

3 “I gaze at the huge, shadowy box, and suddenly I understand how Ruby feels. I don’t want to go into that box. The last time I was in a box, my sister died.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘shadowy’ most nearly means...

- A. huge and heavy
- B. dark and dim
- C. old and worn

4 “The full moon falls on his sagging shoulders. He seems smaller somehow.”

In the passage, Mack with the ‘sagging’ shoulders is characterized as...

- A. proud and confident
- B. sad and worn out
- C. angry and restless

5 “The sun slices through the thick ceiling of trees and the breeze tastes like fruit.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘slices’ most nearly means...

- A. flickers weakly
- B. cuts sharply
- C. glows gently

6 “The box is moving. I am in the grumbling belly of some great beast.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the ‘grumbling’ Ivan hears really comes from...

- A. his own empty stomach
- B. people complaining nearby
- C. the truck carrying his box

7 “They’re graceful the way Stella was, moving just enough, only as much as they need.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘graceful’ most nearly means...

- A. moving in a stiff, careful way
- B. moving quickly and boldly
- C. moving smoothly and easily

8 “But when I climb into that leafy cradle, it’s like floating on treetop mist.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Ivan finds his ‘leafy cradle’...

- A. cozy and comfortable
- B. scary and unsteady
- C. weak and embarrassing

9 “She strokes Ruby, nudges her. She makes soft noises.”

In the passage, the one who strokes and ‘nudges’ Ruby is characterized as...

- A. gentle and caring
- B. playful and teasing
- C. pushy and impatient

10 “The lamps that light the zoo pathways blink on, blanketing the world with yellow light.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘blanketing’ most nearly means...

- A. covering the area with light
- B. lighting only a few spots
- C. making the air feel warmer

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	B	
4	B	'Sagging' is literal posture; the item asks students to read the drooping shoulders — and 'he seems smaller somehow' — as signs of Mack's low spirits.
5	B	
6	C	'Grumbling' is used in its sound sense — a low rumble. The 'great beast' is the truck moving Ivan's box; the grumbling is its engine, not anyone complaining.
7	C	
8	A	
9	A	
10	A	

Teacher Context: “free ruby” – “silverback” (vignettes 110–153)

Growing public protests and an official inspection force a change: Ruby and Ivan are removed from the mall and relocated to a zoo, where each begins a new life among their own kind. Section runs to the end of the novel.