

The Outsiders

Chapters 5–8

by S. E. Hinton

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: bewilderment, delinquent, doggedly, eluded, hardened, hue, imploringly, indignant, quivering, wistfully

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 1–4 · Ponyboy and the greasers

Section 2 · Chapters 5–8 · Hiding out in Windrixville

Section 3 · Chapters 9–12 · The night of the rumble

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. He looked around in **bewilderment** when the lights suddenly went out.

- A. growing impatience
- B. total confusion
- C. quiet amusement

2. The police treated the boy like a **delinquent** the moment they saw him.

- A. clumsy fool
- B. young lawbreaker
- C. lonely runaway

3. She worked **doggedly** on the puzzle until it was finished.

- A. with stubborn persistence
- B. with careless haste
- C. with cheerful ease

4. The clever riddle **eluded** me for hours.

- A. kept escaping
- B. kept frustrating
- C. kept amusing

5. Years of hardship had left the old soldier **hardened**.

- A. wise and patient
- B. calm and gentle
- C. tough and unfeeling

6. At sunrise the clouds glowed with a golden **hue**.

- A. color or tint
- B. warmth or heat
- C. shape or outline

7. The puppy stared **imploringly** at the table, hoping for scraps.

- A. in a curious, eager way
- B. in a pleading way
- C. in a sleepy, bored way

8. She was **indignant** when the referee blamed her for the foul.

- A. nervous and worried
- B. embarrassed and ashamed
- C. angry at unfair acts

9. Her hands were **quivering** as she opened the surprising letter.

- A. swelling slowly
- B. sweating heavily
- C. trembling slightly

10. She gazed **wistfully** at old photos from her childhood.

- A. with wishful longing
- B. with sharp suspicion
- C. with quick impatience

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

had taken the long way around — reached an understanding by a longer, harder, roundabout route rather than directly

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	C
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 looked at Johnny imploringly.”

As it is used in the passage, “imploringly” most nearly suggests Ponyboy looked at Johnny...

- A. in desperate pleading
- B. in open amusement
- C. with cold anger

2 “Nature’s first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leafs a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the poem’s “hardest hue to hold” names...

- A. a mood too sad to keep
- B. a shape too faint to draw
- C. a golden color that soon fades

3 “I was trying to find the meaning the poet had in mind, but it eluded me.”

According to the passage, when Ponyboy tries to find the meaning the poet had in mind, it...

- A. comes to him right away
- B. keeps slipping out of his grasp
- C. bores him from the start

4 “Johnny was so indignant he nearly squeaked.”

Which choice best describes Johnny’s reaction when Dally claims he is “starved”?

- A. offended at an unfair claim
- B. anxious for Dally’s health
- C. amused at a clever joke

5 “Gee,” Johnny said wistfully, “it sure will be good to get into a car again.”

Which choice best describes Johnny’s tone as he talks about getting into a car again?

- A. gentle, wishful longing
- B. smug certainty
- C. blunt irritation

6 “My parents,” Johnny repeated doggedly, “did they ask about me?”

In the passage, Johnny’s repeated question about his parents characterizes him as...

- A. playful and teasing
- B. quick to drop the matter
- C. stubbornly unwilling to let go

7 “But he stared at the dashboard with such hurt bewilderment that I could have bawled.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Johnny’s “hurt bewilderment” reflects...

- A. open anger at Dally’s bluntness
- B. confused pain at his parents’ silence
- C. cool acceptance of the bad news

8 “... you get hardened in jail. I don’t want that to happen to you.”

The author most likely includes Dally’s warning that jail leaves you “hardened” in order to...

- A. show he enjoyed jail
- B. show his concern for Johnny
- C. show he resents Johnny

9 “On the front page of the second section was the headline: JUVENILE DELINQUENTS TURN HEROES.”

The headline “JUVENILE DELINQUENTS TURN HEROES” primarily functions to...

- A. report an ordinary local crime
- B. warn that the boys are dangerous
- C. overturn the label the boys carry

10 “He drew a quivering breath. I don’t want to die now. It ain’t long enough. Sixteen years ain’t long enough.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Johnny’s “quivering breath” reflects...

- A. fear and emotion as he faces dying
- B. excitement about the rumble
- C. a chill from the cold room

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	"Hue" means a color or shade; the poem's fleeting gold is the hue that cannot be held.
3	B	Worth distinguishing 'elude' (to escape or evade) from the similar-sounding 'allude.'
4	A	
5	A	
6	C	
7	B	Event comprehension.
8	B	Character comprehension. Dally's softness here is rare for him and quietly shows he cares.
9	C	Theme comprehension.
10	A	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 5–8

Ponyboy and Johnny hide in an abandoned country church near Windrixville, cut and dye their hair, and wait. A fire at the church forces a dramatic rescue and lands the boys in the hospital. Section ends before the rumble, keeping its buildup as the opening of the final section.