

The Outsiders

Chapters 9–12

by S. E. Hinton

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: acquitted, conformity, crumpled, delirious, detached, gallant, grimacing, hoodlum, stupor, vacuum

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. The jury **acquitted** her after hearing all the evidence.

- A. cleared of the charges
- B. ordered to stand trial
- C. fined for the offense

2. Teenagers often value **conformity** more than they admit.

- A. respect for those in charge
- B. loyalty to close friends
- C. going along with the group

3. Struck by the fever, she **crumpled** to the floor.

- A. collapsed limply
- B. lowered herself slowly
- C. dropped to her knees

4. By midnight her fever was so high that she became **delirious**.

- A. confused from a high fever
- B. weak and short of breath
- C. drowsy and very tired

5. During the bad news, she felt strangely **detached**.

- A. deeply shaken and upset
- B. emotionally removed and numb
- C. nervous and on edge

6. The **gallant** knight stepped forward to defend the village.

- A. clever and quick-witted
- B. calm and cautious
- C. bravely noble and chivalrous

7. He kept **grimacing** as the dentist drilled his tooth.

- A. fighting back tears
- B. twisting the face in pain
- C. holding perfectly still

8. Everyone in the neighborhood knew him as a **hoodlum**.

- A. a young troublemaker or thug
- B. a foolish show-off
- C. a lonely drifter

9. After the long night shift, he drove home in a **stupor**.

- A. a calm, relaxed mood
- B. a dazed, barely-aware state
- C. a great rush or hurry

10. Locked in his room all summer, he lived in a **vacuum**.

- A. a state of total focus
- B. a comfortable daily routine
- C. a cut-off, isolated state

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

heater — slang for pistol

gold — figuratively, the innocence, freshness, and goodness of youth that the Frost poem says cannot last; Johnny urges Ponyboy to “stay gold” by holding on to these qualities

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	B
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 “We had stood there, clenching our teeth and grimacing, with sweat pouring down our faces and the smell of burning flesh making us sick, each refusing to holler, until Tim happened to stroll by.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “grimacing” most nearly suggests that the boys’ faces were...

- A. grinning with bravado
- B. twisted in pain
- C. tightened in concentration

2 “Soda fought for fun, Steve for hatred, Darry for pride, and Two-Bit for conformity.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Two-Bit fights mainly because...

- A. he holds a grudge against the Socs
- B. others around him are doing it
- C. he enjoys the thrill of it

3 “Numerous bruises along my back and on my face were throbbing, but I felt detached from the pain, as if it wasn’t really me feeling it.”

The detail that Ponyboy felt “detached from the pain” primarily functions to...

- A. show how dazed and removed he felt
- B. hint that he was unharmed
- C. stress how badly he was hurt

4 “Dally had taken the car and I started the long walk home in a stupor.”

In the passage, Ponyboy is characterized as...

- A. too dazed to think clearly
- B. quietly relieved it was over
- C. tense and on guard

5 “He was jerked half around by the impact of the bullets, then slowly crumpled with a look of grim triumph on his face.”

In context, the word “crumpled” emphasizes...

- A. how quickly he tried to flee
- B. how fiercely he fought back
- C. how limply his body folded and fell

6 “Two friends of mine had died that night: one a hero, the other a hoodlum.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the friend Ponyboy calls “a hoodlum” is...

- A. Dally, the one who turned to crime
- B. Tim Shepard, the rival gang’s leader
- C. Johnny, who died saving children

7 “Today’s Tuesday, and you’ve been asleep and delirious since Saturday night.”

According to the passage, while Ponyboy was “delirious” he had...

- A. been confused and out of his senses
- B. been resting comfortably in bed
- C. been awake and alert for days

8 “I’d never get past the part where the Southern gentlemen go riding into sure death because they are gallant.”

The author most likely calls the doomed Southern gentlemen “gallant” in order to...

- A. contrast them with real soldiers
- B. link their noble courage to Johnny’s
- C. mock their pointless bravery

9 “Then he said I was acquitted and the whole case was closed.”

Which statement about the hearing is best supported by the passage?

- A. Ponyboy confessed to the killing.
- B. The judge ordered a new trial.
- C. The court cleared Ponyboy of blame.

10 “You’re living in a vacuum, Pony, and you’re going to have to cut it out.”

Which choice best describes Darry’s attitude when he says Pony is “living in a vacuum”?

- A. proud of Pony’s quiet focus
- B. amused by Pony’s daydreaming
- C. worried that Pony has shut out life

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	A	The sense here is figurative -- emotionally removed, not physically separated.
4	A	
5	C	
6	A	Character comprehension. The 'hoodlum' is Dally; Johnny is the 'hero' of the contrast.
7	A	
8	B	Theme comprehension. Ties to Johnny's 'stay gold' -- he 'died gallant,' the noble self-sacrifice the word names.
9	C	
10	C	Character comprehension. Figurative use -- Pony has cut himself off from life, not the science sense.

Teacher Context: Chapters 9–12

The greasers face the Socs in the planned rumble, and its consequences ripple through the gang. Ponyboy struggles to come to terms with loss and with his own future. Section runs to the end of the novel.