

To Kill a Mockingbird

Chapters 22–31

by Harper Lee

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: appeal, humility, hypocrites, inevitable, lament, likened, prejudiced, silhouetted, spasm, tribute

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 1–7 · The Finch children and the Radley place

Section 2 · Chapters 8–11 · An unusual winter comes to Maycomb

Section 3 · Chapters 12–15 · Calpurnia's church and Aunt Alexandra's arrival

Section 4 · Chapters 16–21 · The trial of Tom Robinson begins

Section 5 · Chapters 22–31 · Maycomb in the months after the trial

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 lawyer filed an **appeal** after the guilty verdict.
 - A. a higher court's review of a case
 - B. a personal plea for sympathy
 - C. a public protest of the ruling
2. She accepted the award with genuine **humility**.
 - A. a modest view of oneself
 - B. quiet patience with others
 - C. deep gratitude to others
3. He called the town leaders a pack of **hypocrites**.
 - A. people who brag about their money
 - B. people who complain about everything
 - C. people who don't practice what they preach
4. With such dark clouds, rain seemed **inevitable**.
 - A. difficult to predict
 - B. certain to happen
 - C. likely to be delayed
5. The old song was a **lament** for those lost at sea.
 - A. a gentle, soothing lullaby
 - B. a proud marching song
 - C. a sorrowful cry or song
6. The teacher **likened** the human heart to a pump.
 - A. compared to something similar
 - B. connected to something else
 - C. preferred to something else
7. My grandfather was **prejudiced** and would not sit near them.
 - A. unfriendly toward everyone
 - B. unfairly biased against a group
 - C. easily frightened by others
8. The castle stood **silhouetted** against the evening sky.
 - A. outlined against bright light
 - B. hidden in deep shadow
 - C. glowing with bright light
9. A **spasm** gripped the runner's calf near the finish line.
 - A. a slow, spreading numbness
 - B. a dull, lasting ache
 - C. a sudden muscle twitch
10. The concert was a **tribute** to the late singer.
 - A. a gift given in secret
 - B. an act showing respect
 - C. a public protest against someone

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

go to the chair — be executed in the electric chair

miscarriages of justice — cases where the legal system fails

Let the dead bury the dead — a biblical saying meaning leave the past alone and do not stir up what is finished

like shootin' a mockingbird — harming something innocent and harmless

stand in his shoes — imagine being in his situation

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	C
10	B

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 “If he loses his appeal,” I asked one evening, “what’ll happen to him?”
“He’ll go to the chair,” said Atticus, “unless the Governor commutes his sentence.”

As used in the passage, the word “appeal” most nearly means...

- A. a public protest of the ruling
- B. a higher court’s review of the case
- C. a personal plea to the Governor

2 “That jury took a few hours. An inevitable verdict, maybe, but usually it takes ‘em just a few minutes.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “inevitable” most nearly suggests that...

- A. the verdict was certain from the start
- B. the jury reached it too hastily
- C. the verdict shocked the town

3 “‘Hypocrites, Mrs. Perkins, born hypocrites,’ Mrs. Merriweather was saying. ... ‘At least we don’t have the deceit to say to ‘em yes you’re as good as we are but stay away from us.’”

As used in the passage, the word “hypocrites” most nearly means people who...

- A. preach one thing but do another
- B. change their minds too easily
- C. hold openly hateful views

4 “Whether Maycomb knows it or not, we’re paying the highest tribute we can pay a man. We trust him to do right. It’s that simple.”

Which choice best describes the speaker’s attitude toward the man?

- A. reluctant obligation
- B. deep trust and respect
- C. sympathy for his burden

5 “... the handful of people with enough humility to think, when they look at a Negro, there but for the Lord’s kindness am I.”

The author most likely includes the words “there but for the Lord’s kindness am I” in order to...

- A. criticize the town’s cruelty
- B. describe a religious practice
- C. give an example of such modesty

6 “He likened Tom’s death to the senseless slaughter of songbirds by hunters and children ...”

As used in the passage, the word “likened” most nearly means...

- A. mistook one for another
- B. compared one thing to another
- C. preferred one over another

7 “Over here we don’t believe in persecuting anybody. Persecution comes from people who are prejudiced.”

According to the passage, persecution comes from people who...

- A. judge others by unfair bias
- B. disobey their government
- C. refuse to practice a religion

8 “High above us in the darkness a solitary mocker poured out his repertoire ... to the sad lament of Poor Will, Poor Will, Poor Will.”

As used in the passage, the word “lament” most nearly means a...

- A. harsh, angry screech
- B. cheerful, ringing call
- C. mournful, sorrowful cry

9 “A strange small spasm shook him, as if he heard fingernails scrape slate, but as I gazed at him in wonder the tension slowly drained from his face.”

The spasm that shakes the man characterizes him as...

- A. calm and untroubled
- B. bold and menacing
- C. tense and easily startled

10 “Winter, and his children shivered at the front gate, silhouetted against a blazing house.”

As used in the passage, the word “silhouetted” most nearly means...

- A. outlined against bright light
- B. scattered by the wind
- C. hidden in deep shadow

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	"Appeal" here is the narrow legal sense -- a formal request that a higher court re-examine the trial -- not the everyday sense of a plea or an attraction.
2	A	
3	A	The section's irony: Mrs. Merriweather brands distant Northerners hypocrites while, in the same breath, scorning the Black neighbors around her -- she is the very thing the word names.
4	B	
5	C	
6	B	
7	A	Miss Gates denounces prejudice against Jews in the very classroom where her own bias toward Maycomb's Black citizens goes unexamined -- the section's sharpest irony.
8	C	
9	C	This is Boo Radley in Scout's first close look at him; the involuntary spasm marks the shy, fragile man behind the town's monster-myth.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 22–31

The town settles back while Bob Ewell nurses his grudge; Tom's fate, Aunt Alexandra's missionary circle, and the children's Halloween pageant lead to Ewell's attack and Boo Radley's emergence. Section runs to the end of the novel.