

Tuck Everlasting

Prologue and Chapters 1–9

by Natalie Babbitt

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: comprehend, disheartened, exasperated, jaunty, melancholy, oppressive, penetrate, perversely, tranquil, vanity

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 · Prologue and Chapters 1–9 · The wood and the Foster cottage

Section 2 · Chapters 10–17 · At the Tuck family's home

Section 3 · Chapters 18–25 and Epilogue · The man in the yellow suit

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. It took me a while to **comprehend** the new math rules.

- A. understand fully
- B. explain clearly
- C. memorize quickly

2. After failing the test again, he felt completely **disheartened**.

- A. embarrassed
- B. exhausted
- C. discouraged

3. She sighed, **exasperated**, when the computer froze again.

- A. deeply confused
- B. very annoyed
- C. truly worried

4. He set his hat at a **jaunty** angle and strolled off whistling.

- A. lively and cheerful
- B. odd and crooked
- C. careless and sloppy

5. A **melancholy** tune drifted from the old piano upstairs.

- A. sad and gloomy
- B. old and familiar
- C. soft and soothing

6. By noon the **oppressive** heat had emptied the streets.

- A. dry and dusty
- B. damp and sticky
- C. heavy and hard to bear

7. The sharp needle could **penetrate** even the thick leather.

- A. bend around
- B. pass through
- C. stick onto

8. Though everyone advised against it, she **perversely** chose the hardest path.

- A. in a cheerful way
- B. in a fearful way
- C. in a contrary way

9. We spent a **tranquil** afternoon reading on the porch.

- A. calm and peaceful
- B. warm and sunny
- C. long and boring

10. Her **vanity** made her change outfits five times before the party.

- A. fear of being late
- B. pride in her looks
- C. wish to fit in

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Ferris wheel — a giant wheel with seats that carries riders slowly around; here, the year moving through the seasons is compared to a turning Ferris wheel

dog days — the hottest, slowest-feeling days of summer

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	A
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 *"It widened and seemed to pause, suggesting tranquil bovine picnics: slow chewing and thoughtful contemplation of the infinite."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "tranquil" most nearly suggests that the cows are...

- A. noisy and crowded
- B. restless and hurried
- C. calm and unhurried

2 *"And all at once the sun was uncomfortably hot, the dust oppressive, and the meager grass along its edges somewhat ragged and forlorn."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the dust on the road...

- A. looks dirty and ugly
- B. smells sour and stale
- C. feels heavy and hard to bear

3 *"He was still asleep, and the melancholy creases that folded his daytime face were smoothed and slack."*

Which statement about Tuck's daytime face is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. It usually looks deeply sad.
- B. It usually looks angry.
- C. It usually looks worried.

4 *"... she cried, exasperated, and then added quickly ..."*

According to the passage, Winnie answers her mother's call with...

- A. eager delight
- B. sharp irritation
- C. quiet sadness

5 *"His long chin faded off into a thin, apologetic beard, but his suit was a jaunty yellow that seemed to glow a little in the fading light."*

In context, the word "jaunty" emphasizes the suit's...

- A. worn, shabby look
- B. plain, dull color
- C. lively, showy air

6 *"And when she remembered the toad, she felt even more disheartened."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Winnie feels disheartened mainly because she...

- A. fears she'll seem a coward
- B. wants the toad as a pet
- C. misses talking to the toad

7 *"Discovering him, seeing his surprise, and presented at once with choices, Winnie's mind perversely went blank."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "perversely" suggests that Winnie's mind went blank...

- A. just as she had hoped
- B. opposite of what she needed
- C. because she felt sleepy

8 *"For her part, Winnie, now that the running was over, began to comprehend what was happening, and with the comprehension her throat closed and her mouth went dry as paper."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Winnie grows afraid because she...

- A. grasps she's been kidnapped
- B. forgets where they are going
- C. thinks the Tucks are joking

9 *"... the shade from its brim was so welcome that Winnie put vanity aside and dozed gratefully in Miles's strong arms ..."*

According to the passage, Winnie 'put vanity aside' when she...

- A. stops minding how she looks
- B. stops trusting her rescuers
- C. stops feeling the heat

10 *"The late sun's brilliance could penetrate only in scattered glimmers ..."*

Which statement about the pine forest is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. It is bright and open.
- B. Little sunlight gets through it.
- C. It has lost all its trees.

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	A	
4	B	Here 'cried' means called out sharply, not wept.
5	C	
6	A	Character comprehension. Winnie earlier feared the toad would 'think she was a coward'; that shame is what lowers her.
7	B	
8	A	Event comprehension. 'What was happening' is her kidnapping; fully grasping it is what frightens her.
9	A	The big hat gave Winnie a 'clownish appearance'; putting vanity aside means she stops minding how silly she looks.
10	B	

Teacher Context: Prologue and Chapters 1–9

The prologue ties together three strands at Treegap. Winnie Foster, stifled by life behind her family's fence, slips into their wood and finds Jesse Tuck drinking from a hidden spring; the Tucks panic and carry her off, while the man in the yellow suit watches from the trees. The section breaks before the family reaches home, grouping the setup and the kidnapping into one stretch.