

Ulysses

Episodes 7–9 (Aeolus, Lestrygonians, Scylla and Charybdis)

by James Joyce

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: assiduous, avarice, dialectic, innuendo, mawkish, oratory, ponderous, surfeit, urbane, volitional

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 · Episodes 1–3 (Telemachus, Nestor, Proteus) · Stephen Dedalus on a Dublin morning

Section 2 · Episodes 4–6 (Calypso, Lotus Eaters, Hades) · Leopold Bloom begins his day

Section 3 · Episodes 7–9 (Aeolus, Lestrygonians, Scylla and Charybdis) · The newspaper office at midday

Section 4 · Episodes 10–12 (Wandering Rocks, Sirens, Cyclops) · Across Dublin in the afternoon

Section 5 · Episodes 13–15 (Nausicaa, Oxen of the Sun, Circe) · Evening on the Dublin shore

Section 6 · Episodes 16–18 (Eumaeus, Ithaca, Penelope) · Bloom and Stephen, late at night

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 **assiduous** clerk checked every figure twice before filing.

- A. cheerful and friendly
- B. nervous and unsure
- C. diligent and careful

2. His **avarice** drove him to hoard every coin he earned.

- A. extreme greed for wealth
- B. deep fear of poverty
- C. a careful habit of saving

3. Through careful **dialectic**, the two philosophers tested each claim.

- A. memorizing famous quotations
- B. speaking in local slang
- C. reasoning through debate

4. Her **innuendo** about his sudden wealth made everyone glance at him.

- A. an indirect suggestion
- B. a detailed explanation
- C. an open compliment

5. The **mawkish** love song made him roll his eyes.

- A. old-fashioned and dull
- B. loud and energetic
- C. overly sentimental

6. The senator's **oratory** held the crowd spellbound.

- A. eloquent public speaking
- B. dramatic stage acting
- C. persuasive written argument

7. The judge spoke in a **ponderous**, unhurried voice.

- A. deep and commanding
- B. heavy and dull
- C. warm and soothing

8. After a **surfeit** of holiday food, the guests grew sleepy.

- A. a tempting variety
- B. an excessive amount
- C. a sufficient amount

9. The **urbane** diplomat moved easily through the crowded reception.

- A. polished and courteous
- B. cheerful and talkative
- C. wealthy and powerful

10. She made a **volitional** effort to change her habits.

- A. sudden and impulsive
- B. deliberate and intentional
- C. half-hearted and weak

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

comfit — an old-fashioned sweet made by coating a nut, seed, or piece of dried fruit with hard suga

consubstantial — of the same substance or essential being; a Christian theological term for the Son's sharing the Father's divine nature, which Stephen applies to the father-and-son identities in his theory of *Hamlet*

ANSWER KEY

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

Vocabulary in Context

Ulysses

Episodes 7–9 (Aeolus, Lestrygonians, Scylla and Charybdis)

by James Joyce

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “The idea, Mr Bloom said, is the house of keys. You know, councillor, the Manx parliament. Innuendo of home rule. Tourists, you know, from the isle of Man. Catches the eye, you see.”

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

- A. subtly hints at Home Rule
- B. ridicules the Manx parliament
- C. openly demands Home Rule

2 “There’s a ponderous pundit MacHugh Who wears goggles of ebony hue.”

In the passage, Professor MacHugh is characterized as...

- A. stern and easily angered
- B. heavy and laborious in manner
- C. vain about his odd spectacles

3 “The finest display of oratory I ever heard was a speech made by John F Taylor at the college historical society.”

It can reasonably be inferred that what the speaker admired in Taylor was his...

- A. mastery of legal argument
- B. grasp of Irish history
- C. skill at eloquent public speaking

4 “Softly she gave me in my mouth the seedcake warm and chewed. Mawkish pulp her mouth had mumbled sweetsour of her spittle.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, for the speaker, the moment’s mawkish sweetness is...

- A. treasured despite being cloying
- B. proof of his lasting disgust
- C. a sign the cake had spoiled

5 “Urbane, to comfort them, the quaker librarian purred.”

In the passage, the quaker librarian is characterized as...

- A. smoothly polished and courteous
- B. anxiously eager to please
- C. stiffly cold and remote

6 “A man of genius makes no mistakes. His errors are volitional and are the portals of discovery.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, for a man of genius, his “errors” are...

- A. lucky accidents he stumbles upon
- B. deliberate steps toward discovery
- C. lapses he later works to hide

7 “Portals of discovery opened to let in the quaker librarian, softcreekfooted, bald, eared and assiduous.”

Which statement about the librarian is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. He attends to his work diligently.
- B. He moves loudly and abruptly.
- C. He resents the intrusion.

8 “Dialectic, Stephen answered: and from his mother how to bring thoughts into the world.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “dialectic” most nearly means...

- A. a local way of speaking
- B. reasoning through argued debate
- C. grand speech before a crowd

9 “His life was rich. His art, more than the art of feudalism as Walt Whitman called it, is the art of surfeit.”

The phrase “the art of surfeit” primarily functions to...

- A. fault his art as gaudy and crude
- B. tie his art to humble origins
- C. cast his art as lavish and overabundant

10 “... to an avarice of the emotions. He means that the love so given to one near in blood is covetously withheld from some stranger who, it may be, hungers for it.”

Aquinas calls incest “an avarice of the emotions” chiefly in order to...

- A. condemn a literal lust for gold
- B. praise devotion to one’s family
- C. frame hoarded love as a kind of greed

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	C	
4	A	Character comprehension. The seedcake is Bloom's cherished memory of Molly on Howth, so the cloying image reads as tender rather than repellent.
5	A	
6	B	
7	A	
8	B	
9	C	
10	C	Aquinas applies the word figuratively here -- love hoarded for one's kin and withheld from a stranger who hungers for it.

Teacher Context: Episodes 7–9 (Aeolus, Lestrygonians, Scylla and Charybdis)

Episodes 7–9 cover the midday hours: the bustle of the newspaper office, Bloom's uneasy search for lunch, and Stephen holding forth on Shakespeare at the National Library. The middle part continues. Grouped as the midday of Bloom and Stephen; the section breaks before the afternoon's city-wide episode.