

Unbroken

Chapters 6–11

by Laura Hillenbrand

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: attrition, cajole, crucible, distraught, myopic, onslaught, plaintive, prowess, solace, torpor

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 · Preface and Chapters 1–5 · Louie's wild boyhood in California

Section 2 · Chapters 6–11 · Louie joins the Army Air Forces

Section 3 · Chapters 12–17 · Lost at sea on a raft

Section 4 · Chapters 18–25 · Captured and held as a prisoner

Section 5 · Chapters 26–33 · Still a captive under the Bird

Section 6 · Chapters 34–39 and Epilogue · Coming home after the war

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 long war was decided by **attrition** more than by any single battle.

- A. sheer good luck
- B. a clever strategy
- C. a gradual wearing-down

2. She tried to **cajole** her little brother into sharing his candy.

- A. to trick or mislead
- B. to scold or pressure
- C. to coax or persuade gently

3. The first year of medical school was a true **crucible**.

- A. a severe, transforming trial
- B. a major milestone
- C. a proud achievement

4. The **distraught** mother searched everywhere for her missing child.

- A. fiercely determined
- B. deeply confused
- C. deeply upset

5. The optometrist confirmed that the young boy was **myopic**.

- A. color-blind
- B. nearsighted
- C. hard of hearing

6. The villagers fled before the invading army's **onslaught**.

- A. a steady advance
- B. a fierce attack
- C. a loud warning

7. The lost puppy let out a **plaintive** whine at the door.

- A. mournful and pleading
- B. harsh and angry
- C. low and grumbling

8. The young pianist's **prowess** amazed the entire audience.

- A. great skill
- B. bold confidence
- C. good fortune

9. After the funeral, she found **solace** in her old letters.

- A. fresh inspiration
- B. comfort in sorrow
- C. renewed determination

10. The summer heat left the whole town in a **torpor**.

- A. a sluggish, listless state
- B. a tense unease
- C. a deep sadness

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

curmudgeonly — grumpy, bad-tempered, and difficult to please

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	A
9	B
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 *“In one day of breathtaking violence, a new Japanese onslaught had begun.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “onslaught” most nearly suggests that the Japanese attacks were...

- A. cautious and probing
- B. brief and limited
- C. fierce and relentless

2 *“Flat-faced, rectangular, and brooding, the B-24 had looks only a myopic mother could love.”*

The author most likely includes the joke about a ‘myopic mother’ in order to...

- A. explain how the plane was built
- B. stress how ugly the bomber was
- C. praise the plane’s sleek design

3 *“The B-24’s wheels had no steering, so the pilot had to cajole the bomber along by feeding power to one side’s engines, then the other.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that steering the B-24 on the ground...

- A. took patient, coaxing effort
- B. was quick and effortless
- C. was done with a steering wheel

4 *“The COs soon learned of the squadron’s prowess; angry farmers came calling after the 372nd’s hundred-pound bombs flattened an outhouse and one unfortunate cow.”*

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward the squadron’s bombing?

- A. dismay at the crew’s failures
- B. wry admiration for its skill
- C. indifference to the results

5 *“Training was a crucible, and it transformed Phil’s crew.”*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. show training as a transforming trial
- B. describe a piece of lab equipment
- C. present training as easy routine

6 *“The surprise of the attrition rate is that only a fraction of the ill-fated planes were lost in combat.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that, over the war, the squadron’s strength was...

- A. destroyed in a single battle
- B. left largely untouched
- C. worn down by steady losses

7 *“Pilot Joe Deasy recalled a distraught airman who came to him with a question: If a crewman went mad during a mission, would the crew shoot him?”*

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

- A. He was calmly seeking advice
- B. He was joking with the pilot
- C. He was gripped by fear of cracking up

8 *“He lifted one arm toward Louie, a plaintive expression on his face.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Brooks was...

- A. silently pleading for help
- B. calmly giving an order
- C. angrily blaming Louie

9 *“Back on Hawaii, he sank into a cold torpor. He was irritable and withdrawn.”*

In context, the word “torpor” emphasizes Louie’s...

- A. numb, listless withdrawal
- B. restless energy
- C. cheerful calm

10 *“His only other solace was running, slogging through the sand around the Kahuku runway.”*

According to the passage, running gave Louie...

- A. a way to avoid his duties
- B. comfort from his grief
- C. a shot at Olympic glory

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	The joke turns on the literal sense: only a truly nearsighted ('myopic') mother could miss how ugly the plane was.
3	A	
4	B	The tone is wryly admiring -- their bombing skill is shown by flattening an outhouse and a cow.
5	A	Literally a vessel for melting metal; here figurative for a harsh, transforming trial.
6	C	
7	C	
8	A	Event comprehension. Brooks's 'plaintive' face becomes the image Louie later tries to forget.
9	A	
10	B	Event comprehension. Louie's grief is for Harry Brooks and the crew lost on the raid.

Teacher Context: Chapters 6–11

Louie enlists, trains as a bombardier on B-24 Liberators, and is stationed in Hawaii flying combat and search missions across the Pacific. The section ends with Part Two, just before the crash that strands him at sea.