

Unbroken

Chapters 18–25

by Laura Hillenbrand

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: allusion, clandestine, dehumanized, ignominious, imperious, impunity, incongruities, pretext, tenuous, ubiquitous

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. His speech made an **allusion** to a famous old poem.

- A. a pointed objection
- B. an indirect reference
- C. a respectful tribute

2. The rebels held **clandestine** meetings after dark.

- A. done in secret
- B. hastily arranged
- C. fiercely debated

3. Years of cruel treatment had **dehumanized** the captives.

- A. stripped of dignity
- B. weakened by hunger
- C. driven to rebellion

4. After the scandal, the senator made an **ignominious** exit from politics.

- A. bitter and angry
- B. shameful and disgraceful
- C. sudden and abrupt

5. The new manager gave orders in an **imperious** tone.

- A. cold and formal
- B. rushed and nervous
- C. arrogant and commanding

6. The dictator's soldiers looted the village with **impunity**.

- A. great brutality
- B. reckless haste
- C. freedom from punishment

7. The judges noted several **incongruities** in the witness's story.

- A. things that don't fit
- B. gaps in memory
- C. moments of doubt

8. She used a headache as a **pretext** to leave the party early.

- A. a clever plan
- B. a polite gesture
- C. a false excuse

9. The climber's grip on the ledge was **tenuous** at best.

- A. weak and unsteady
- B. tense and forced
- C. cold and stiff

10. Cell phones have become **ubiquitous** in modern life.

- A. highly advanced
- B. found everywhere
- C. easily broken

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

benjo — (Japanese) a toilet or latrine

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	C
7	A
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 “The pretext for many of the outbursts was miscommunication.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘pretext’ most nearly suggests that miscommunication was...

- A. a problem the guards tried to fix
- B. the true cause of the violence
- C. a false excuse for the beatings

2 “... to be deprived of it is to be dehumanized, to be cleaved from, and cast below, mankind.”

The passage most strongly suggests that to be ‘dehumanized’ is to...

- A. be worn down by hunger and disease
- B. be cut off from one’s family
- C. be robbed of dignity and humanity

3 “... provides women for its soldiers, an allusion to the thousands of Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, and Filipino women whom the Japanese military had kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery.”

The author most likely calls the officer’s remark an ‘allusion’ in order to...

- A. show he was unaware of the abuses
- B. show he named the abuses only indirectly
- C. show he openly confessed the crimes

4 “Foodborne parasites and pathogens made diarrhea almost ubiquitous.”

Which statement about the camp’s diarrhea is best supported by the passage?

- A. It struck only a few weak men.
- B. It affected nearly everyone there.
- C. It came mainly from the cold.

5 “In a secret place inside his cell, Harris stored the tools of his clandestine translating trade.”

According to the passage, Harris’s ‘clandestine’ translating work was...

- A. kept hidden from the guards
- B. shared with every prisoner
- C. done openly in the camp yard

6 “The island was nothing more than a sandy spit, connected to shore by a tenuous thread of bamboo slats.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. stress how flimsy the link to shore was
- B. describe the island’s natural beauty
- C. show the island was well fortified

7 “The only incongruities on this striking corporal were his hands—huge, brutish, animal things that one man would liken to paws.”

How does the description of the corporal’s ‘incongruities’ function in the passage?

- A. It marks him as harmless and comical.
- B. It shows he was an ordinary guard.
- C. It hints at cruelty behind his polish.

8 “He walked with his chin high and his chest puffed, his gestures exaggerated and imperious.”

In the passage, the corporal is characterized as...

- A. arrogant and domineering
- B. nervous and eager to please
- C. calm and indifferent

9 “In the fall of 1943, for unknown reasons, Watanabe was transferred to the military’s most ignominious station for NCOs, a POW camp.”

It can reasonably be inferred that guarding a POW camp was regarded as...

- A. a deeply shameful assignment
- B. a prestigious promotion
- C. a dangerous combat post

10 “In consequence, the Bird flaunted his impunity and virtually ran the camp.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the Bird could flaunt his ‘impunity’ because...

- A. the prisoners were too weak to resist
- B. his superiors let him go unpunished
- C. he outranked the other guards

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	Theme comprehension. The section argues that losing dignity can kill as surely as hunger or thirst.
3	B	
4	B	
5	A	
6	A	
7	C	Character comprehension. The clashing hands foreshadow the corporal's later cruelty.
8	A	
9	A	
10	B	Character comprehension. Though only a corporal, the Bird was untouchable because his cruelty served the commander.

Teacher Context: Chapters 18–25

Captured, Louie is held on Kwajalein and then moved through secret interrogation and POW camps near Tokyo, where he endures starvation, beatings, and the cruelty of a guard the prisoners call the Bird. Because Part Four is by far the longest part of the book, it is split into two sections; this one ends at Chapter 26 to keep each section's reading load manageable.