

Unbroken

Chapters 26–33

by Laura Hillenbrand

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: cessation, emaciated, equanimity, fastidious, harangue, insidious, languor, obsequiousness, provenance, razed

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

Unbroken

Chapters 26–33

by Laura Hillenbrand

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Both sides agreed to a **cessation** of the long dispute.

- A. a stopping or ending
- B. a careful review
- C. a public record

2. The rescued dog was **emaciated** after weeks alone in the woods.

- A. filthy and matted
- B. extremely thin and weak
- C. wild and frightened

3. She faced the harsh criticism with **equanimity**.

- A. calm composure
- B. stubborn pride
- C. careful attention

4. He is so **fastidious** that he straightens every picture on the wall.

- A. anxious and restless
- B. proud and showy
- C. very neat and precise

5. The coach launched into a **harangue** about our sloppy practice.

- A. a winding story
- B. a scolding rant
- C. a detailed lecture

6. The con artist had an **insidious** plan to trick the elderly couple.

- A. sly and cunning
- B. harsh and violent
- C. bold and reckless

7. A **languor** settled over the porch on the hot summer afternoon.

- A. restless tension
- B. dreamy weariness
- C. quiet gloom

8. The new waiter's **obsequiousness** made the customers uncomfortable.

- A. showy self-importance
- B. nervous clumsiness
- C. fawning desire to please

9. The museum could not verify the painting's **provenance**.

- A. origin and history
- B. market value
- C. artistic style

10. The old factory was **razed** after standing empty for years.

- A. sold to developers
- B. fully restored
- C. leveled to the ground

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

wafted — drifted gently and lightly through the air

rictus — a fixed, twisted grimace; a gaping or clenched expression on the face

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Unbroken

Chapters 26–33

by Laura Hillenbrand

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

Vocabulary in Context

Unbroken

Chapters 26–33

by Laura Hillenbrand

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “While the Bird had badgered him, he had awaited his fate with equanimity.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘equanimity’ most nearly suggests that Louie awaited his fate with...

- A. calm composure
- B. mounting dread
- C. open defiance

2 “... perhaps the most insidious feat was pulled off by Louie’s friend Ken Marvin ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that the ‘insidious’ feat Marvin pulled off worked by...

- A. subtle, covert trickery
- B. open, violent revolt
- C. loud public protest

3 “All his life, Louie had been fastidious about cleanliness, so much so that in college he had kept Listerine in his car’s glove compartment ...”

Which detail best supports the idea that Louie was ‘fastidious’ about cleanliness?

- A. setting a national mile record
- B. defying the Bird’s beatings
- C. rinsing his mouth with Listerine

4 “... delivered his standard harangue: ‘You must be sober! You must be sincere! You must work for earnest! You must obey! I have spoken.’”

In the excerpt, the Bird’s ‘standard harangue’ primarily functions to...

- A. calmly explain camp rules
- B. offer sincere encouragement
- C. bark domineering demands

5 “His face wore the same soft languor that Louie had seen on the face of the Quack after he beat Harris at Ofuna.”

In the passage, the Bird’s expression as he walks away characterizes him as...

- A. trembling with fresh rage
- B. eerily, dreamily becalmed
- C. coldly businesslike

6 “In the midst of the running, celebrating men, Louie stood on wavering legs, emaciated, sick, and dripping wet.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Louie’s ‘emaciated’ condition was the result of...

- A. prolonged starvation
- B. the cold river water
- C. a single day’s labor

7 “At Naoetsu, most of the guards stayed in camp, their haughtiness replaced by gushing obsequiousness.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the guards’ sudden ‘obsequiousness’ was driven by...

- A. genuine respect for the POWs
- B. orders to mock the prisoners
- C. fear of Allied retribution

8 “... the small voice that Wade had heard on the radio in the guardroom that day had been that of Emperor Hirohito, announcing the cessation of hostilities.”

According to the passage, the ‘cessation of hostilities’ Hirohito announced was the...

- A. pause for cease-fire talks
- B. end of the fighting
- C. start of a new offensive

9 “But after the first city there was another, then another, city after city razed, the survivors drifting about like specters, picking through the rubble.”

The author most likely describes ‘city after city razed’ in order to...

- A. stress the total devastation
- B. note minor, scattered damage
- C. praise the cities’ rebuilding

10 “It was an American flag with a remarkable provenance.”

By noting the flag’s ‘remarkable provenance,’ the author signals that the flag has...

- A. an unknown maker
- B. a notable history of origin
- C. little monetary worth

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Unbroken
Chapters 26–33
by Laura Hillenbrand

#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	Here 'insidious' carries the sly, cunning sense, not the more common 'gradually harmful' sense.
3	C	
4	C	
5	B	
6	A	Event comprehension.
7	C	Event comprehension.
8	B	
9	A	
10	B	Point out that 'provenance' is the term for the documented origin and ownership history of art, antiques, and artifacts.

Teacher Context: Chapters 26–33

The Bird's brutality escalates, Louie is transferred to a labor camp at Naoetsu, and the prisoners are worked nearly to death even as American bombers begin to appear overhead and the war turns against Japan. This is the second half of the split Part Four and runs to the end of that part.