

Unbroken

Chapters 34–39 and Epilogue

by Laura Hillenbrand

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: at large, caustic, exacerbated, furtive, inexorably, languished, ostracism, pervasive, succumbed, trepidation

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 34–39 and Epilogue

by Laura Hillenbrand

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Police warned that the suspect was still **at large**.

- A. armed and dangerous
- B. still free and uncaught
- C. badly wounded

2. Her **caustic** remarks left everyone at the table stunned.

- A. crude and vulgar
- B. long and rambling
- C. bitter and cutting

3. Skipping meals all week **exacerbated** her constant headaches.

- A. made much worse
- B. drew attention to
- C. helped to explain

4. He cast a **furtive** glance toward the locked drawer.

- A. quick and nervous
- B. secretive and sly
- C. warm and friendly

5. The glacier crept **inexorably** toward the valley below.

- A. in a loud, sudden way
- B. in a slow, careful way
- C. in an unstoppable way

6. For years he **languished** in a job that offered no hope.

- A. grew weak and suffered
- B. drifted along aimlessly
- C. worked hard and rose

7. Fear of **ostracism** kept her from speaking out against the group.

- A. harsh punishment
- B. being shunned by a group
- C. public embarrassment

8. A **pervasive** sense of unease settled over the office.

- A. brief and passing
- B. faint and slight
- C. present everywhere

9. After a long fight, the patient finally **succumbed** to the disease.

- A. gave in to or died from
- B. was exposed to
- C. grew used to

10. She opened the exam results with **trepidation**.

- A. nervous dread
- B. eager curiosity
- C. deep sadness

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Unbroken

Chapters 34–39 and Epilogue

by Laura Hillenbrand

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

Vocabulary in Context
Unbroken
Chapters 34–39 and Epilogue
by Laura Hillenbrand

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 *“The Bird was still at large.”*

As it is used in the passage, the phrase ‘at large’ most nearly suggests that...

- A. Watanabe was an unusually imposing man
- B. Watanabe was acting on a grand scale
- C. Watanabe had not yet been captured

6 *“Months passed, and Kano languished in prison, frightened and humiliated.”*

In the passage, Kano is characterized as...

- A. wrongly jailed and worn down in prison
- B. a prisoner quickly cleared and freed
- C. a guilty officer brought to justice

2 *“A flask became his constant companion, making furtive appearances in parking lots and corridors outside speaking halls.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that the flask’s ‘furtive appearances’ show that Louie was...

- A. hiding his drinking from others
- B. drinking openly and without shame
- C. drinking only at formal events

7 *“Slowly, inexorably, he’d gone from drinking because he wanted it to drinking because he needed it.”*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. show he could quit whenever he chose
- B. present his drinking as harmless
- C. chart his unstoppable slide into need

3 *“Their dignity had been obliterated, replaced with a pervasive sense of shame and worthlessness.”*

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Shame faded soon after they came home
- B. Shame touched every part of their lives
- C. Shame troubled the men only in public

8 *“With trepidation, he had resolved to go to Sugamo to stand before these men.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that, in going to Sugamo, Louie felt...

- A. eager confidence about the meeting
- B. an anxious resolve to take revenge
- C. deep dread, unsure his peace would hold

4 *“And they had the caustic knowledge that no one had come between them and tragedy.”*

The author most likely describes the men’s knowledge as ‘caustic’ in order to...

- A. stress how bitterly it gnawed at them
- B. show how unsure they were of the facts
- C. suggest they had begun to forget it

9 *“Cynthia, as gorgeous and headstrong as ever, had succumbed to cancer in 2001 ...”*

According to the passage, what happened to Cynthia in 2001?

- A. She recovered from cancer
- B. She died of cancer
- C. She was first diagnosed with cancer

5 *“A doctor confirmed that he had disastrously exacerbated his war injury.”*

According to the passage, the doctor confirmed that the two-mile run had...

- A. badly worsened Louie’s old war injury
- B. left his old injury unchanged
- C. completely healed his old injury

10 *“... the families balked, fearing ostracism.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that the guards’ families stayed away because they...

- A. had been barred by the memorial council
- B. feared being shunned by their community
- C. thought no memorial was needed at all

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Unbroken

Chapters 34–39 and Epilogue
by Laura Hillenbrand

#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	'At large' is an idiom for a wanted person who is still free; the literal words do not compose to that sense.
2	A	
3	B	
4	A	'Caustic' literally names a corrosive acid; here it is figurative, for knowledge that burns and embitters.
5	A	
6	A	Character comprehension. Rejecting the 'guilty officer' choice requires knowing Kano was innocent and jailed by mistake.
7	C	
8	C	Character comprehension. The 'revenge' choice is wrong because Louie has forgiven by now and comes to answer a question, not to avenge; seeing that requires the section's account of his change.
9	B	Here 'succumbed to' means died from, not merely gave in or yielded.
10	B	Event comprehension. The 'barred by the council' choice misreads the events; the council in fact sought the families' participation.

Teacher Context: Chapters 34–39 and Epilogue

With the war over and Louie home, he is celebrated as a hero but is haunted by trauma and nightmares of the Bird, sliding into anger and drinking before a turning point leads to his recovery. The Epilogue follows him into later life. Section runs to the end of the book.