

Walk Two Moons

Chapters 1–9

by Sharon Creech

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: cadaver, diabolic, dignified, dismantled, divulge, gallantly, gnarled, lunatic, pandemonium, peculiar

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 • Chapters 1–9 • Sal's new home and Phoebe next door

Section 2 • Chapters 10–18 • The road trip reaches Wisconsin

Section 3 • Chapters 19–27 • Westward across the plains

Section 4 • Chapters 28–36 • The Black Hills and Mount Rushmore

Section 5 • Chapters 37–44 • The final days of the journey

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 medical students studied a **cadaver** in the laboratory.

- A. a rare disease
- B. a strange chemical
- C. a dead body

2. The villain laughed at his **diabolic** plan to ruin the town.

- A. clever and complicated
- B. extremely wicked
- C. risky and bold

3. The **dignified** judge entered the courtroom with calm, steady steps.

- A. serious and worthy of respect
- B. tired and bored
- C. stern and unfriendly

4. The workers **dismantled** the stage after the concert ended.

- A. carefully guarded
- B. took apart piece by piece
- C. swept and cleaned up

5. She refused to **divulge** where she had hidden the key.

- A. to write down
- B. to search around for
- C. to reveal or make known

6. He **gallantly** offered his coat to the shivering stranger.

- A. in a brave, courteous way
- B. in a calm, patient way
- C. in a cheerful, joking way

7. The old man's **gnarled** hands gripped the wooden cane.

- A. pale and thin
- B. twisted and knotted
- C. strong and steady

8. Everyone kept away from the raving **lunatic** on the street corner.

- A. an insane person
- B. an angry drunk
- C. a noisy beggar

9. When the fire alarm rang, **pandemonium** broke out in the hallway.

- A. a joyful celebration
- B. a heated argument
- C. wild noise and chaos

10. The old clock made a **peculiar** ticking sound at midnight.

- A. strange or unusual
- B. steady and even
- C. loud and forceful

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

roosting — settling or perching to rest, as birds do; here, figuratively, of houses

walloping — enormous; very large and forceful

moccasins — soft leather shoes; here, in the Native American proverb of the book's title

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	C
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 "... that face belonged to Phoebe Winterbottom, a girl who had a powerful imagination, who would become my friend, and who would have many peculiar things happen to her."

As it is used in the passage, the word "peculiar" most nearly suggests that the events in Phoebe's life are...

- A. strange and out of the ordinary
- B. meant only for her
- C. frequent and repeated

2 "... when a dignified black spider was investigating my desk, I cupped my hands around it, carried it to the open window, and set it outside on the ledge."

Which statement about how Sal treats the spider is best supported by the passage?

- A. she treats it as deserving courtesy
- B. she is startled to find it there
- C. she wants to be rid of it quickly

3 "A thick, gnarled cane with a handle carved in the shape of a cobra's head lay across her knees."

It can reasonably be inferred that the cane lying across Mrs. Partridge's knees is...

- A. light and easy to lift
- B. smooth and newly made
- C. knotted and twisted in shape

4 "You know what cadaver means?" ... "It means dead body."

The passage most strongly suggests that the name "Cadaver" unsettles Phoebe because it is...

- A. another word for a corpse
- B. shared with a stranger she fears
- C. similar to her own last name

5 "Excuse me," Gramps said gallantly."

It can reasonably be inferred that Gramps speaks to the stranded woman...

- A. with impatient irritation
- B. with old-fashioned courtesy
- C. with nervous hesitation

6 "... lay dismantled on the ground. Various other pieces of the woman's engine were scattered here and there."

According to the passage, by the time Gramps finished, the woman's engine was...

- A. running better than before
- B. taken apart into scattered pieces
- C. left completely untouched

7 "What was the diabolic thing that happened to Mr. Cadaver?" Gramps asked."

As it is used in the passage, the word "diabolic" most nearly suggests that what happened to Mr. Cadaver was...

- A. sudden and shocking
- B. strange and mysterious
- C. cruel and wicked

8 "... just as Phoebe was going to divulge the purely awful thing that had happened to Mr. Cadaver, her father came home from work ..."

Which statement about Phoebe is best supported by the passage?

- A. she had already told the secret
- B. she was about to reveal a secret
- C. she refused to discuss the secret

9 "She is convinced that any day one of them will burst into the house with a gun and turn out to be an escaped lunatic."

According to the passage, Phoebe's mother fears a stranger at the door could be...

- A. an insane and dangerous person
- B. a thief planning a robbery
- C. an angry neighbor seeking revenge

10 "It was complete pandemonium at the Finneys! ... There were footballs and basketballs lying all over the place ..."

It can reasonably be inferred that the Finney household is...

- A. calm and strictly run
- B. empty and silent
- C. noisy, wild, and disorderly

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	C	
4	A	Character comprehension.
5	B	
6	B	
7	C	
8	B	
9	A	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–9

Sal introduces herself: a year ago her father moved them from Bybanks, Kentucky to Euclid, Ohio after her mother left, and there she met her neighbor Phoebe Winterbottom. As her grandparents drive her west toward Idaho, Sal begins telling them Phoebe's story, including an anonymous message left on Phoebe's porch and a frightening young man Phoebe calls a 'lunatic.' Grouped to open the book and reach a natural pause before both the journey and Phoebe's mystery deepen.