

Walk Two Moons

Chapters 10–18

by Sharon Creech

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: agenda, cantankerous, flinch, gullible, haunting, invisible, malevolent, ornery, primitive, skeptical

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. She pushed her own **agenda** instead of listening to the team.

- A. personal goals and concerns
- B. an opinion about the plan
- C. a schedule of daily tasks

2. The **cantankerous** customer snapped at everyone in line.

- A. loud and boastful
- B. nervous and impatient
- C. bad-tempered and grumpy

3. He didn't **flinch** when the needle pricked his arm.

- A. to wince or draw back
- B. to look away quickly
- C. to cry out loudly

4. The **gullible** boy paid ten dollars for a "magic" rock.

- A. easily tricked or fooled
- B. careless with money
- C. eager to please others

5. The **haunting** tune followed me long after the concert ended.

- A. cheerful and lively
- B. soft and soothing
- C. hard to forget

6. The quiet new student felt **invisible** as classmates passed without a glance.

- A. shy and uncertain
- B. unnoticed and overlooked
- C. unwelcome and disliked

7. The villain gave a **malevolent** grin as he plotted his revenge.

- A. sly and secretive
- B. proud and boastful
- C. spiteful and cruel

8. The **ornery** mule refused to move another step.

- A. frightened and skittish
- B. stubborn and bad-tempered
- C. tired and worn out

9. The campers built a **primitive** shelter out of branches and leaves.

- A. crude and simple
- B. cozy and welcoming
- C. large and roomy

10. I was **skeptical** when he claimed he had met a real ghost.

- A. amazed and curious
- B. doubting and unconvinced
- C. worried and afraid

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Huzza — an old-fashioned shout of joy or triumph, like 'hurrah'

moccasins — soft leather shoes traditionally worn by Native Americans; here central to the book's title—proverb about understanding others

manna — an unexpected, much-needed gift or blessing (alluding to the food God provided in the Bible)

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	C
8	B
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 “My father once said I was as gullible as a fish. I thought he said edible. I thought he meant I was tasty.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘gullible’ most nearly suggests that Sal is...

- A. easily fooled or tricked
- B. quick to take offense
- C. eager to please others

2 “My mother had not liked the term Native Americans. She thought it sounded primitive and stiff.”

According to the passage, Sal’s mother avoided the term because it struck her as...

- A. loud and boastful
- B. cold and impersonal
- C. crude and underdeveloped

3 “His hands and shirt were greasy, but when he hugged me, I didn’t flinch.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Sal’s not flinching at her father’s hug is significant because...

- A. she had been recoiling from all touch
- B. she was usually afraid of her father
- C. she disliked his greasy hands

4 “Everybody is just walking along concerned with his own problems, his own life, his own worries. And we’re all expecting other people to tune into our own agenda.”

It can reasonably be inferred that having ‘your own agenda’ means a person is mainly...

- A. eager to help other people
- B. organized about daily tasks
- C. focused on personal concerns

5 “Your grandmother was the wildest, most untamed, most ornery and beautiful creature ever to grace this earth.”

Which statement about Gram is best supported by the passage?

- A. She was lively and high-spirited
- B. She was bold and adventurous
- C. She was stubborn and ill-tempered

6 “Christy and Megan ... were whispering over on the other side of the room and casting malevolent looks in Mary Lou’s direction.”

In context, the word ‘malevolent’ emphasizes that the girls’ looks toward Mary Lou were...

- A. curious and admiring
- B. spiteful and hostile
- C. nervous and uneasy

7 “Maybe Mr. Birkway helped her chop up her husband and bury him and maybe they were getting worried and decided to disguise the spot with a rhododendron bush. I must have looked skeptical.”

According to the passage, Sal’s skeptical expression shows that she...

- A. doubted Phoebe’s theory
- B. was amused by it
- C. was frightened by it

8 “I guess this cantankerous woman is getting out of here,” Gramps said. I think fear had made us all a little cantankerous.”

Which statement is best supported by Gramps calling Gram ‘cantankerous’?

- A. She was weak and frightened
- B. She was irritable and hard to please
- C. She was calm and cooperative

9 “She put her hand to her mouth and stared out the window. She was invisible to Prudence and Phoebe, though. They did not notice.”

The passage most strongly suggests that calling Mrs. Winterbottom ‘invisible’ means she was...

- A. unnoticed by her own family
- B. impossible to see
- C. hiding from the room

10 “We have to leave because your mother is haunting me day and night. She’s in the fields, the air, the barn, the walls, the trees.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the mother ‘haunting’ the father means that...

- A. her ghost roams the farm
- B. her memory fills every place
- C. she has secretly come back

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	A	Character comprehension. Sal has been flinching from all touch; not flinching at her father's hug signals trust in him.
4	C	Distractor 'organized about daily tasks' is the literal sense of agenda; the passage uses the figurative sense of private concerns.
5	C	The word 'ornery' supplies the support; the other options fit 'wild' and 'untamed' but miss the bad-tempered sense.
6	B	
7	A	
8	B	
9	A	
10	B	Event comprehension. The mother is alive in Idaho, so 'haunting' is figurative; students must recall that she left, not died, to reject the literal-ghost option.

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–18

The grandparents drive through Wisconsin while Sal continues Phoebe's story: more mysterious messages arrive, and Phoebe grows convinced her neighbor Mrs. Cadaver is dangerous. Sal weaves in her own memories of her mother, and a roadside stop turns alarming when Gram is bitten by a water snake. Grouped to keep the deepening of both stories together before Phoebe's family is upended.