

Walk Two Moons

Chapters 19–27

by Sharon Creech

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: besieging, cavorted, frenzy, hobbled, impulse, malingering, mournful, plummeted, sullen, treacherous

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. Reporters were **besieging** the actor with questions outside the theater.

- A. calmly interviewing
- B. crowding and pressing around
- C. gently teasing

2. The puppies **cavorted** across the yard in the warm sun.

- A. wandered slowly and lazily
- B. trotted in a straight line
- C. leaped about playfully

3. The crowd was in a **frenzy** as the band took the stage.

- A. a state of total confusion
- B. a state of wild excitement
- C. a state of nervous tension

4. After the long hike, she **hobbled** up the front steps.

- A. walked stiffly and unsteadily
- B. crept quietly
- C. marched proudly

5. His **impulse** was to grab the last seat on the bus.

- A. a careful plan
- B. a sudden urge
- C. an old habit

6. My cousin tends to **malinger** whenever there is hard work to do.

- A. pretend to be sick to avoid work
- B. rush through tasks to finish fast
- C. complain loudly about doing chores

7. The **mournful** music made everyone in the room fall silent.

- A. full of grief or sorrow
- B. strange and unfamiliar
- C. soft and gentle

8. The kite **plummeted** to the ground when the wind died.

- A. drifted slowly downward
- B. tumbled over and over
- C. fell straight down fast

9. He stayed **sullen** all afternoon after losing the game.

- A. gloomy and bad-tempered
- B. tired and worn out
- C. nervous and jumpy

10. The icy mountain trail was **treacherous** after the storm.

- A. narrow and poorly marked
- B. long and tiring to climb
- C. dangerous and unpredictable

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

fish in the air — a figurative image for chasing something impossible to catch; here, hoping for what cannot happen

birds of sadness — a figurative image (from a proverb) for sad or troubling thoughts you cannot prevent but can refuse to dwell on

Pandora's box — an allusion to the Greek myth: a source that, once opened, releases many troubles (along with hope)

ANSWER KEY

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

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 “I studied Mr. Birkway as he leaped and cavorted about the classroom.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘cavorted’ most nearly suggests that Mr. Birkway...

- A. moved in a lively, playful way
- B. moved slowly and wearily
- C. moved in a stiff, formal way

2 “If he was a murderer, he certainly was a lively one. I had always pictured murderers as being mopey and sullen.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Sal had pictured murderers as people who are...

- A. gloomy and bad-tempered
- B. polite and pleasant
- C. cheerful and energetic

3 “We can’t malingering.” “We can’t what?” Phoebe said. “Malingering. Here. Look it up.” ... She looked up malingering and read the definition: “To pretend to be ill in order to escape duty or work.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Phoebe’s father uses the word ‘malingering’ because he thinks she is...

- A. upset about her missing mother
- B. too sick to leave her bed
- C. faking illness to avoid school

4 “Prudence was in a frenzy. “Where is my white blouse? Phoebe, have you seen—? I could have sworn —!” She pulled things out of her closet and flung them on the bed.”

Which detail best shows that Prudence was in a frenzy?

- A. she calmly searched one drawer
- B. she folded her blouse neatly
- C. she flung clothes onto the bed

5 “You can stand right on the edge of the gorges and see down, down into the most treacherous ravines, lined with sharp, rough outcroppings.”

Which detail best supports the idea that the ravines are treacherous?

- A. they are lined with sharp rocks
- B. you can see down into them
- C. you can stand at their edge

6 “My mother screamed just once, one long, mournful wail, and then it was quiet.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the mother’s wail expressed...

- A. sudden physical relief
- B. deep grief and sorrow
- C. anger at the doctor

7 “I hobbled into my mother’s room and crawled up on the bed beside her.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Sal ‘hobbled’ because she...

- A. was in a great hurry
- B. had badly injured her leg
- C. was carrying something heavy

8 “I picked up a flat stone and sailed it across the gorge where it hit the far wall and plummeted down, down, careening off the jagged outcroppings.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘plummeted’ most nearly means that the stone...

- A. rolled along the ground
- B. floated gently downward
- C. dropped straight down fast

9 “I asked Phoebe if she wanted to spend the weekend at my house. I’m not sure why I did this. It was an impulse.”

According to the passage, Sal invited Phoebe for the weekend because she...

- A. acted on a sudden urge
- B. had planned it for days
- C. felt sorry for Phoebe

10 “... she was more interested in besieging her father with questions. ‘Any news? Did Mom come back? Did she call?’”

Which detail best shows that Phoebe was besieging her father?

- A. quietly waiting for news
- B. firing off rapid questions
- C. thanking him for his help

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	C	Event comprehension. Phoebe is upset about her mother, but 'malingering' names her father's charge that she is faking illness.
4	C	
5	A	
6	B	Event comprehension.
7	B	Event comprehension.
8	C	
9	A	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 19–27

As the trip pushes west across the plains and into the Badlands, Sal recounts the crisis in Phoebe's story: Mrs. Winterbottom disappears, leaving the household in disarray, and Phoebe's suspicions about Mrs. Cadaver harden. Sal and her father continue to grapple with their own loss back home. Grouped around this turning point in Phoebe's story.