

Walk Two Moons

Chapters 28–36

by Sharon Creech

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: badgered, careening, coincidence, crotchety, nonchalantly, ogling, percolating, pious, somberly, surged

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 kids **badgered** their mom for ice cream all afternoon.

- A. begged just once or twice
- B. kept pestering and nagging
- C. teased in a playful way

2. The runaway cart came **careening** down the steep hill.

- A. rushing along out of control
- B. sliding straight and fast
- C. rolling and bouncing noisily

3. It was a strange **coincidence** that we wore the same shirt.

- A. a habit two people both share
- B. a chance event, not planned
- C. a sign that points to something

4. The **crotchety** old man muttered as we passed by.

- A. grumpy and easily annoyed
- B. absent-minded and forgetful
- C. shy and easily embarrassed

5. He **nonchalantly** tossed his keys on the table and sat down.

- A. in a tired, sluggish way
- B. in a proud, showy way
- C. in a calm, unconcerned way

6. The tourists stood **ogling** the towering skyscrapers.

- A. studying with sharp focus
- B. watching with suspicion
- C. staring openly in wonder

7. The coffee was **percolating** on the stove.

- A. burning at the bottom
- B. bubbling and brewing up
- C. boiling over the edge

8. He gave the visitors a **pious** smile and a small bow.

- A. showing polite, gentle kindness
- B. showing calm inner peace
- C. showing deep religious devotion

9. He **somberly** announced the news to the team.

- A. in a grave, gloomy way
- B. in a brisk, businesslike way
- C. in a proud, boastful way

10. Water **surged** through the broken dam.

- A. rushed out with great force
- B. splashed against the walls
- C. rose slowly in a swell

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

peculible — Mrs. Partridge's invented word for peculiar—strange or odd

lambs being led to the slaughter — helpless victims being taken, unaware, into danger or harm

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	A
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 "... but the thought of someone speeding, careening around curves—especially the snaking curves down into Lewiston, Idaho ..."

As it is used in the passage, the word 'careening' most nearly describes movement that is...

- A. wild, as if out of control
- B. swift and gliding smoothly
- C. fast but firmly in control

2 "... carved right into the rock, staring somberly down on us."

The passage most strongly suggests that the four giant carved faces look...

- A. grave and gloomy
- B. stern and watchful
- C. proud and triumphant

3 "I knew it was not a coincidence that her father was there."

It can reasonably be inferred that Phoebe's father came to the station because...

- A. the police had sent for him
- B. he arrived there by pure chance
- C. he wanted to confess something

4 "Christy wore a pious look, as if God Himself had just come down from heaven to sit on her desk."

In context, the word 'pious' emphasizes that Christy's expression is meant to look...

- A. calm and forgiving
- B. proud and superior
- C. full of religious devotion

5 "Alex was gazing nonchalantly at Mr. Birkway."

The passage most strongly suggests that, as the journal is read aloud, Alex feels...

- A. tense and embarrassed
- B. thrilled and eager
- C. calm and unconcerned

6 "... a huge jingbang spray of water surged out, climbing and climbing, and then more and more, until it looked like a whole river of water was shooting straight up into the air."

Which statement about Old Faithful's eruption is best supported by the passage?

- A. Water rose in a slow, steady swell.
- B. Water burst out with sudden force.
- C. Water sputtered out in faint spurts.

7 "Half of me was ogling the scenery."

According to the passage, as the mountain scenery rolls by, half of Sal is...

- A. staring at it in fascination
- B. glancing at it now and then
- C. studying it with mild interest

8 "In English class, everyone badgered Mr. Birkway to finish reading the journal entry that he had begun yesterday ..."

According to the passage, in English class the students treated Mr. Birkway by...

- A. quietly waiting for him
- B. pestering him on and on
- C. begging him just once

9 "The fifth was answered by a crotchety woman who said, 'I don't know any sergeants!'"

It can reasonably be inferred that the woman who answered the fifth call was...

- A. confused but polite
- B. cheerful and chatty
- C. cross and short-tempered

10 "... my skin tickled and my brain buzzed and my blood romped around as if it were percolating."

According to the passage, being near Ben makes Sal's blood feel as if it is...

- A. racing with hot anger
- B. bubbling and brewing up
- C. pounding with cold dread

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	A	Event comprehension. Sal's phrase 'not a coincidence' means the father did not arrive by chance — the sergeant summoned him.
4	C	The look is mockingly self-righteous, but 'pious' itself names the show of religious devotion.
5	C	
6	B	
7	A	
8	B	
9	C	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 28–36

The grandparents reach the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore, then press on toward Yellowstone as time runs short. In Phoebe's story, she and Sal follow clues about the missing Mrs. Winterbottom and the 'lunatic,' and long-held family secrets begin to surface. Grouped to carry the parallel investigations forward before the journey's final leg.