

Walk Two Moons

Chapters 37–44

by Sharon Creech

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: bountiful, despairing, dissuade, grief-stricken, grotesquely, infinitely, quizzical, rash, scour, weaning

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 autumn harvest was **bountiful** that year.
 - A. early and sweet
 - B. ripe and ready
 - C. large and plentiful
2. After losing every game, the team grew **despairing**.
 - A. having lost all hope
 - B. feeling tired and weary
 - C. feeling cross and grumpy
3. My coach tried to **dissuade** me from skipping practice.
 - A. talk out of an action
 - B. scold for a mistake
 - C. warn about a danger
4. The **grief-stricken** family wept at the funeral.
 - A. worn out and weary
 - B. tense and uneasy
 - C. filled with deep sorrow
5. The old tree's branches were **grotesquely** twisted and gnarled.
 - A. in a bright, colorful way
 - B. in an ugly, distorted way
 - C. in a faint, blurry way
6. The night sky seemed **infinitely** wide and deep.
 - A. suddenly; all at once
 - B. endlessly; without limit
 - C. faintly; barely at all
7. She gave me a **quizzical** look when I mentioned the surprise.
 - A. puzzled and curious
 - B. stern and serious
 - C. calm and cheerful
8. Don't make a **rash** decision you might regret.
 - A. bold and confident
 - B. hasty and reckless
 - C. selfish and unkind
9. We had to **scour** the whole house to find the lost keys.
 - A. tidy up neatly
 - B. scrub and clean
 - C. search thoroughly
10. The farmer was **weaning** the calves from their mothers.
 - A. ending their need for the mother
 - B. marking them for the fair
 - C. leading them to fresh grass

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

grandiful — Mrs. Partridge's invented blend of 'grand' and 'wonderful'; marvelous, delightful

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	B
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 “Now, Dad, don’t do anything too rash—”

As it is used in the passage, ‘rash’ most nearly describes an action that is...

- A. hasty and reckless
- B. cowardly and fearful
- C. cruel and spiteful

2 “Outside, the leaves were falling to the ground, and I was infinitely sad, sad down to my bones.”

In context, the word ‘infinitely’ emphasizes that Sal’s sadness is...

- A. quiet and easily hidden
- B. sudden but short-lived
- C. limitless, beyond measure

3 “Your momma sent us a postcard from Coeur d’Alene, and on it was a bountiful blue lake.”

According to the passage, the lake pictured on the postcard is...

- A. large and abundant
- B. calm and shallow
- C. cold and stormy

4 “As she stood there in the middle of the sidewalk, with her head tilted up at us, and that quizzical look on her face, she looked like a mischievous child.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Mrs. Partridge’s quizzical look shows she is...

- A. bored and uninterested
- B. nervous and afraid
- C. puzzled and playfully amused

5 “Gramps insisted on being with her while she underwent tests, though an intern had tried to dissuade him.”

According to the passage, what had the intern tried to do?

- A. order more tests for Gram
- B. talk Gramps out of staying
- C. help Gramps find her room

6 “It’s not terrible, my mother said. “It’s normal. She’s weaning them from her.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Sal’s mother sees Moody Blue’s behavior as...

- A. a sign the mother has turned cruel
- B. a natural step toward independence
- C. a mistake that should be corrected

7 “Most of the huge rubber tires were punctured and grotesquely twisted on their axles.”

According to the passage, the bus’s tires were not only punctured but also...

- A. spinning loosely in the wind
- B. stripped clean off the bus
- C. twisted into ugly, unnatural shapes

8 “I had wanted to scour every inch of the bus, looking for something—anything—that might be familiar.”

According to the passage, Sal had wanted to do what to the bus?

- A. take photos of it
- B. search it thoroughly
- C. scrub it clean

9 “Nine hours after that bus rolled over, as all those stretchers were being carried up the hill, and everyone despairing—there was her hand coming up out of the window and everyone was shouting because there it was, a moving hand.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, until the hand moved, the rescuers believed...

- A. no one had survived the crash
- B. more help was on the way
- C. the bus could not be reached

10 “He was too grief stricken, and he was trying to spare me.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Sal’s father stayed behind because he was...

- A. crushed by overwhelming sorrow
- B. annoyed by the long trip
- C. afraid of driving so far

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	Students often know only the skin-irritation sense; here it means hasty or reckless.
2	C	
3	A	
4	C	
5	B	
6	B	Theme comprehension. Moody Blue weaning her pups mirrors Sal's mother teaching her to live independently.
7	C	
8	B	Scour can mean to scrub; here, with 'looking for something familiar,' it means to search thoroughly.
9	A	Event comprehension. The rescuers had given up hope until Mrs. Cadaver's hand appeared — the lone survivor.
10	A	Event comprehension. The father stayed home from the Idaho trip, too overcome by the mother's death to go.

Teacher Context: Chapters 37–44

With only days left, Sal races to finish both the road trip and Phoebe's story. Phoebe's mother returns with a surprising revelation, and Sal completes the journey to Idaho, where she confronts the truth about her own mother. The threads of grief, the porch messages, and the title's meaning come together. Section runs to the end of the novel.