Where the Crawdads Sing

Chapters 22-31

by Delia Owens

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: audacious, broach, feral, melancholy, minutiae, onus, pretense, roiling, ruse, trite

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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

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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 · Prologue and Chapters 1-11 · Kya's childhood in the marsh

Section 2 · Chapters 12-21 · Kya alone, watching for the fishing boy

Section 3 · Chapters 22-31 · Kya at nineteen on the beach

Section 4 · Chapters 32-45 · The investigation into Chase's death

Section 5 · Chapters 46-57 · Kya's life as a published author

Bold = this section. *Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.*

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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The reporter asked the senator an **audacious** question.

A. long and rambling
B. bold and daring
C. vague and confusing

2. She waited for the right moment to **broach** the topic of money with her parents.

A. to research in detail
B. to settle and resolve
C. to bring up for discussion

3. The **feral** cat hissed and bolted under the porch.

A. wild and untamed
B. old and sickly
C. lost and frightened

4. A **melancholy** mood settled over her as the rain fell.

A. restless worry
B. gentle sadness
C. bitter anger

5. She kept notes on the **minutiae** of every recipe.

A. tiny, precise details
B. rough, quick summaries
C. broad, general ideas

6. The **onus** of cleaning up fell on the youngest worker.

A. the duty or burden
B. the blame or fault
C. the cost or expense

7. His friendly manner was only a **pretense**.

A. a passing mood
B. a false show
C. a nervous habit

8. The **roiling** river spun the small raft in circles.

A. deep and murky
B. cold and gray
C. rough and churning

9. The thief used a **ruse** to slip past the guards.

A. a show of force
B. a stroke of luck
C. a deceptive trick

10. The poem's **trite** imagery bored the judges.

A. stale and unoriginal
B. dark and gloomy
C. vague and confusing

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

cathedral — a large, grand church; here, a metaphor for the vast, awe-inspiring structure of the DNA molecule

wide berth — a wide space kept clear; (to give a wide berth) to stay well away from someone or something

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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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 *"Exquisite minutiae beyond any guidebook or knowledge of the esteemed ecology group. The smallest specifics on which a species spins. The essence."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "minutiae" most nearly suggests that Kya noticed…

A. showy, obvious features
B. broad, general patterns
C. tiny, precise details

2 *"He said nothing trite like I'll wear it forever, till the day I die."*

It can reasonably be inferred that "I'll wear it forever, till the day I die" is offered as an example of…

A. a clever, original phrase
B. a sincere, heartfelt vow
C. a worn-out, predictable line

3 *"He hadn't planned on feeling anything for this strange and feral barefoot girl, but watching her swirl across the sand, birds at her fingertips, he was intrigued by her self-reliance as well as her beauty."*

In the passage, the "feral barefoot girl" is characterized as…

A. wild and animal-like
B. graceful and refined
C. shy and fragile

4 *"By relying on pretense and false signals, they manage to grab a copulation here or there."*

According to the text, the weaker males manage to mate by…

A. defeating the strongest rivals
B. holding the best territories
C. relying on deception and false shows

5 *"Nature is audacious enough to ensure that the males who send out dishonest signals or go from one female to the next almost always end up alone."*

The author most likely calls Nature "audacious" in order to…

A. show it is gentle and cautious
B. cast it as boldly daring and just
C. portray it as cruel and unfair

6 *"Each time left her wanting, but she didn't have the faintest notion how to broach such a subject."*

According to the passage, Kya stayed silent about her dissatisfaction because she…

A. had no idea how to bring it up
B. assumed it would fix itself
C. was no longer troubled by it

7 *"Why should the injured, the still bleeding, bear the onus of forgiveness?"*

The passage most strongly suggests that Kya resents being expected to carry the…

A. burden of forgiving Tate
B. guilt of driving him away
C. shame of still wanting him

8 *"It seemed to Kya that when Chase played these melancholy tunes was when he most had a soul."*

Which choice best describes the mood of the "melancholy tunes" Chase plays?

A. harsh and angry
B. gently sad and wistful
C. calm and untroubled

9 *"Roiling water pushed toward her, rising under the bow and yanking the boat starboard."*

In context, the word "roiling" emphasizes the water's…

A. violent, churning motion
B. steady, building swell
C. calm, glassy surface

10 *"His fancy ski boat was the same as the pumped-up neck and outsized antlers of a buck deer in rut: appendages to ward off other males and attract one female after another. Yet she had fallen for the same ruse as Ma …"*

It can reasonably be inferred that Kya now sees Chase's fancy boat and charm as…

A. proof he truly loved her
B. a trick to lure many girls
C. gifts meant for her alone

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	A	
4	C	
5	B	
6	A	
7	A	Character comprehension. Tate is the one who abandoned Kya, so the obligation to forgive unfairly falls on the person he wronged.
8	B	
9	A	
10	B	Character comprehension. Across the section Chase courts Kya while seeing other women and ends up marrying Pearl; the showy boat is display, like a buck's antlers, not real devotion.

Teacher Context: Chapters 22-31

Part Two opens in 1965 with Kya at nineteen, lonely after Tate failed to return. She is drawn into a relationship with Chase Andrews, the village's handsome former quarterback, while chapters set in 1969 follow Sheriff Jackson and his deputy investigating Chase's death. The break groups the early Part Two chapters in which Kya's involvement with Chase develops.

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