Where the Crawdads Sing

Chapters 46-57

by Delia Owens

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: accolades, acquit, censure, iridescence, natal, prattle, prowess, quagmires, salacious, scorn

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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 young pianist earned **accolades** for her brilliant performance.

A. generous payments
B. praise and honors
C. new opportunities

2. The jury voted to **acquit** the defendant after hearing the evidence.

A. formally charge
B. release on bail
C. find not guilty

3. The board issued a formal **censure** of the manager's conduct.

A. statement of disapproval
B. review of the evidence
C. warning about the future

4. The **iridescence** of the soap bubble shimmered in the sunlight.

A. a clear, glassy shine
B. shifting rainbow colors
C. a steady inner glow

5. The salmon swam upstream to its **natal** river to spawn.

A. relating to one's birth
B. relating to migration
C. relating to feeding

6. She grew tired of her cousin's constant **prattle** at dinner.

A. trivial chatter
B. clever joking
C. loud complaining

7. The knight was famous for his **prowess** on the battlefield.

A. noble birth
B. great courage
C. outstanding skill

8. The lost hikers struggled across the treacherous **quagmires**.

A. steep, rocky slopes
B. dense, tangled woods
C. soft, boggy ground

9. The tabloid filled its pages with **salacious** gossip about the stars.

A. scandalous and indecent
B. vague and secondhand
C. wildly exaggerated

10. She treated the new student with **scorn** from the very first day.

A. cautious distrust
B. open contempt
C. quiet jealousy

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

nubbins — small, stunted, worn-down stubs or lumps

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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	C
8	C
9	A
10	B

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Vocabulary in Context

Where the Crawdads Sing

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Name _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____ **Score** _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 *"…ordinary light is shattered by microscopic prisms in the feathers of hummingbirds, creating the iridescence of its golden-red throat."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "iridescence" most nearly suggests that the hummingbird's throat…

A. lets light pass straight through
B. shifts in color as you move
C. glows a single steady color

2 *"…Scupper himself was taken aback by her scientific and artistic prowess."*

Which choice best describes Scupper's attitude toward Kya in this passage?

A. the contempt he always felt
B. pity for a poor outsider
C. respect for her great skill

3 *"It seemed that the village—not Kya—awaited judgment, and few felt the salacious joy they had expected at this juncture."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the townspeople had expected to…

A. relish her public disgrace
B. quietly forgive her
C. pity her suffering

4 *"Like a migrating tern who has flown ten thousand miles to her natal shore, her mind pounded with the longing and expectation of home …"*

The author compares Kya to a tern returning to "her natal shore" mainly to stress her bond with…

A. the place where she was born
B. a home she chose as an adult
C. a land she has never seen

5 *"…she barely heard Jodie's prattle. Wished he would be quiet and listen to the wilderness within him."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Kya regards Jodie's talk as…

A. a warning she must heed
B. trivial and not worth hearing
C. wise advice she should follow

6 *"Most people don't have to be acquitted of murder to be accepted."*

Which statement is best supported by Kya's reply in the excerpt?

A. She doubts the town accepts her
B. She forgives the town
C. She feels welcomed at last

7 *"She knew his favorite lagoons and paths through difficult quagmires; always following him at a safe distance."*

In context, the word "quagmires" emphasizes…

A. how calm the lagoons look
B. how far the paths stretch
C. how treacherous the ground is

8 *"…Kya was never completely healed from the scorn and suspicion surrounding her, a soft contentment, a near-happiness settled into her."*

As the word "scorn" conveys, the town's attitude toward Kya was mainly one of…

A. envy of her freedom
B. open contempt for her
C. worry for her safety

9 *"With no tears or censure, Kya whispered, "Good-bye, Ma."*

It can reasonably be inferred that, in saying good-bye "with no tears or censure," Kya…

A. has forgotten her completely
B. still resents being abandoned
C. no longer blames her mother

10 *"And though she was granted many accolades—including an honorary doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill …"*

According to the passage, the "accolades" Kya received included…

A. an honorary doctorate
B. a museum board seat
C. a national book prize

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	Character comprehension. Scupper had been prejudiced against Kya; her talent shames him out of it.
3	A	Event comprehension.
4	A	
5	B	
6	A	Event comprehension.
7	C	
8	B	
9	C	Character comprehension. Kya's mother abandoned the family; dropping 'censure' marks her forgiveness.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 46-57

The earlier timeline closes as Kya, now a recognized author, meets her editor, and the narrative settles into 1969-1970 for her murder trial. The jury weighs the circumstantial case against her, the verdict is delivered, and the novel follows Kya's remaining years and a final revelation. This section runs to the end of the novel.

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