

Wonder

Part 1

by R. J. Palacio

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: anomaly, aversion, contagious, deformed, lamb to the slaughter, mortality, obnoxious, petrified, precept, sarcastic

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 · Part 1 · August introduces himself and his family

Section 2 · Parts 2–3 · Via tells her side of the story

Section 3 · Part 4 · Jack tells his side of the friendship

Section 4 · Parts 5–6 · Justin and August return to the story

Section 5 · Parts 7–8 · Miranda and the story's final part

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. Snow in July is a strange **anomaly** in our town.
 - A. an unusual thing
 - B. a passing storm
 - C. a yearly tradition
2. Slimy, wriggling worms fill her with **aversion**.
 - A. a strong dislike
 - B. a mild amusement
 - C. a deep fascination
3. Her laughter was so **contagious** that soon everyone was giggling.
 - A. cheerful and warm
 - B. easily spread to others
 - C. loud and forceful
4. The fender was **deformed** after the minor car accident.
 - A. bent out of normal shape
 - B. freshly repainted
 - C. scratched and dusty
5. He walked into the tough interview like a **lamb to the slaughter**.
 - A. a tourist lost in a new city
 - B. a champion sure of an easy win
 - C. a victim heading blindly into danger
6. The funeral made her think about **mortality** for the first time.
 - A. the meaning of a happy life
 - B. the fact that everyone dies
 - C. the fear of growing old
7. The **obnoxious** customer shouted at every waiter in the room.
 - A. very annoying
 - B. deeply confused
 - C. highly impatient
8. She stood **petrified** at the edge of the high diving board.
 - A. lost in careful thought
 - B. filled with sudden anger
 - C. too frightened to move
9. Our coach repeats one **precept**: always respect your teammates.
 - A. a kind reminder
 - B. a strict command
 - C. a guiding rule
10. He gave a **sarcastic** reply that made the whole class laugh.
 - A. clever and playful
 - B. mocking and not sincere
 - C. long and detailed

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

what “ordinary” means to August — being unremarkable, unstared-at, and simply another kid; what he most wants and believes he is

August’s tortoise comparison — his harsh image of his own face and the way he eats as slow, awkward, and prehistoric-looking

ANSWER KEY

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

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 “Since I’ve never been to a real school before, I am pretty much totally and completely petrified.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “petrified” most nearly suggests that August is...

- A. excited to start school
- B. mildly nervous but curious
- C. so afraid he can barely move

2 “They told Mom and Dad I had a cleft palate and some other stuff going on. They called it ‘small anomalies.’”

According to the passage, the “small anomalies” the doctors named were...

- A. minor illnesses he outgrew
- B. ways his face differed from normal
- C. tests run before his birth

3 “I don’t think he’s going to want to be in the school play, Charlotte,” said Julian sarcastically.”

It can reasonably be inferred that by speaking sarcastically, Julian is...

- A. politely agreeing with Charlotte
- B. genuinely concerned for August
- C. mocking the idea, not being sincere

4 “Julian, you’re being so obnoxious!” said Charlotte, which made Julian laugh.”

Which statement about Julian is best supported by the passage?

- A. He is being shy and quiet.
- B. He is trying to be helpful.
- C. He is behaving in an unpleasant way.

5 “Like a lamb to the slaughter”: Something that you say about someone who goes somewhere calmly, not knowing that something unpleasant is going to happen to them.”

It can reasonably be inferred that “a lamb to the slaughter” matched Dad’s fear that August would...

- A. be safe and looked after there
- B. face danger he couldn’t see coming
- C. enjoy school once he settled in

6 “Darth Sidious’s face gets burned by Sith lightning and becomes totally deformed.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Julian brought up Darth Sidious to...

- A. explain the movie’s plot
- B. insult August’s appearance
- C. share a favorite character

7 “Basically, a precept is anything that helps guide us when making decisions about really important things.”

According to the text, a precept is best described as...

- A. a rule that guides important choices
- B. a punishment for breaking rules
- C. a school subject to study

8 “... like I had some germ they could catch, like my face was contagious.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the students avoided August because they...

- A. feared his looks might rub off
- B. thought he had a real illness
- C. were angry at something he did

9 “They are more important than what we say or what we look like. The things we do outlast our mortality.”

In context, the word “mortality” emphasizes that...

- A. everyone eventually dies
- B. our words matter most
- C. heroes are never forgotten

10 “It’s an ‘aversion,’ which is a word I just learned in Mr. Browne’s class. I have an aversion to having my picture taken.”

According to the passage, August’s “aversion” to having his picture taken is...

- A. a strong dislike of it
- B. a special talent for it
- C. a sudden new hobby

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	
3	C	
4	C	
5	B	Event comprehension. The phrase is Dad's, from the family's drive home worrying about school.
6	B	Character comprehension. Julian's reference to the deformed villain is a veiled insult about August's face.
7	A	
8	A	Theme comprehension. The 'real illness' choice is a trap: August is not sick, and the students fear his difference.
9	A	Here 'mortality' means the fact that we all die; August's point is that our deeds outlast us.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Part 1

Ten-year-old August Pullman, who has a severe facial difference, narrates his home life and his nerves about starting fifth grade at Beecher Prep after years of homeschooling. He meets future classmates on a school tour and endures the daily stares, with the part ending around Halloween. Part One stands as its own section because it is the book's longest part and establishes August's voice.