

Wonder

Parts 5–6

by R. J. Palacio

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: artifact, immaculate, lottery, manic, monologue, sentence (punishment), syndrome, taciturn, through the grapevine, understudy

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. The **artifact** sat in a glass case at the front of the room.

- A. a human-made object
- B. a fossil shell
- C. a natural crystal

2. The hotel room was **immaculate** when we arrived.

- A. large and brightly lit
- B. perfectly clean and tidy
- C. newly built and modern

3. She bought a **lottery** ticket every Friday for years.

- A. a music concert
- B. a sports contest
- C. a game of chance

4. The puppy was **manic** the moment we opened the door.

- A. nervous and jumpy
- B. curious and alert
- C. wildly energetic

5. The actor performed a **monologue** in the second act.

- A. a one-person speech
- B. a group dance number
- C. a quick scene change

6. The judge gave the thief a harsh **sentence**.

- A. a court punishment
- B. a formal warning
- C. a final verdict

7. Doctors studied the rare **syndrome** for many years.

- A. a group of symptoms
- B. a deadly virus
- C. a new medicine

8. The new student stayed **taciturn** all through lunch.

- A. tired and distracted
- B. quiet and reserved
- C. nervous and restless

9. I heard **through the grapevine** that the school might close early.

- A. on the evening news
- B. by way of rumor
- C. in an official letter

10. The **understudy** waited backstage during opening night.

- A. the costume designer
- B. the stage director
- C. a backup actor

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

zydeco — a lively, accordion-driven dance music of the Black Creole people of Louisiana

ANSWER KEY

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

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 *“olivia’s told me about his ‘syndrome.’ has even described what he looks like.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “syndrome” most nearly means...

- A. a sickness that soon goes away
- B. a single injury from a fall
- C. a set of conditions occurring together

2 *“i sit down on the rolling chair by her desk. her room is immaculate.”*

According to the passage, Olivia’s room is...

- A. small and cramped
- B. spotlessly clean and tidy
- C. brightly decorated

3 *“mr. davenport, the drama teacher, is already manic about the whole thing.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Mr. Davenport is...

- A. annoyed with the student actors
- B. frantically energetic about the play
- C. unsure the play will be ready

4 *“i heard through the grapevine that he’d been planning on doing the elephant man but changed it to our town at the last minute, and that change took a week off of our rehearsal schedule.”*

According to the passage, Justin learned about the change of plays through...

- A. the printed rehearsal schedule
- B. an official notice from the school
- C. casual rumor passed person to person

5 *“lots of lines to remember. long monologues where it’s just me talking.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that the monologues are hard for Justin because...

- A. he must speak alone for long stretches
- B. he shares the stage with many actors
- C. the lines use old-fashioned English

6 *“what did that little kid ever do to deserve his sentence?”*

The passage most strongly suggests that Justin uses “sentence” to describe August’s condition as...

- A. a harsh fate he did nothing to earn
- B. a string of words hard to say
- C. a punishment for his own misdeeds

7 *“so doesn’t that make the universe a giant lottery, then? you purchase a ticket when you’re born. and it’s all just random whether you get a good ticket or a bad ticket. it’s all just luck.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that calling the universe a “lottery” means that...

- A. luck alone decides your life
- B. hard work earns a good life
- C. winners take home big prizes

8 *“And instead of the kids taking our parents around to look at everybody else’s artifact, we had to stand by our tables while all the parents wandered around the room and came over to us one by one.”*

According to the passage, the “artifacts” at the science fair were...

- A. ancient relics from a museum
- B. photos the parents had taken
- C. objects the students had made

9 *“But what is with you lately, Via? You’re moody and taciturn and secretive....”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “taciturn” most nearly means...

- A. saying very little
- B. keeping secrets
- C. in a gloomy mood

10 *“Why do they call her an understudy?” I asked.”*

According to the passage, Via could step in as Emily because an understudy is someone who...

- A. helps choose the cast
- B. learns a role to fill in for an actor
- C. directs the play from backstage

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	
3	B	
4	C	
5	A	
6	A	Character comprehension. The everyday 'group of words' sense of 'sentence' also appears in this section, so some students may default to it.
7	A	
8	C	
9	A	The two distractors echo the other words in Mom's list ('moody,' 'secretive'); only 'taciturn' means saying little.
10	B	Event comprehension. Via, the understudy, replaced a sick Miranda as Emily on opening night.

Teacher Context: Parts 5–6

Justin, Via's new boyfriend, narrates an outsider's view of the Pullman family and the school play, then narration returns to August for the fifth-grade nature retreat. The two parts are paired to keep Justin's short part with August's returning voice and to balance section length.