

Wonder

Parts 7–8

by R. J. Palacio

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: commencement, cusp, euphoric, exemplary, impart, infamous, pathetic, revelation, ruminating, seismic

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 whole family came to watch her **commencement**.

- A. welcome assembly
- B. graduation ceremony
- C. awards banquet

2. The young inventor was on the **cusp** of a major breakthrough.

- A. the point just before
- B. the high point
- C. the main cause

3. The fans were **euphoric** when the final goal was scored.

- A. extremely happy
- B. deeply surprised
- C. greatly relieved

4. The soldier earned a medal for his **exemplary** service.

- A. long and demanding
- B. outstanding and admirable
- C. loyal but quiet

5. Great teachers **impart** far more than just facts.

- A. expect; demand
- B. memorize; recall
- C. pass on; teach

6. Their team is **infamous** among the other schools in the league.

- A. known for great skill
- B. known for being friendly
- C. known for a bad reputation

7. The lost puppy gave a **pathetic** whimper in the rain.

- A. pitiful and sad
- B. soft and gentle
- C. weak and annoying

8. The detective's **revelation** changed how everyone saw the case.

- A. a careful plan
- B. a surprising fact
- C. a clever guess

9. She sat by the window, **ruminating** on the choice she had to make.

- A. thinking deeply
- B. worrying anxiously
- C. daydreaming idly

10. The new invention caused a **seismic** change in how people communicate.

- A. sudden and confusing
- B. strange and unexpected
- C. huge and dramatic

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

true greatness — Beecher's idea that greatness comes not from strength alone, but from using one's strength to encourage and uplift others

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

a wonder — a person or thing so extraordinary that it inspires admiration and awe; the title suggests something remarkable about August

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	A
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 “How pathetic that I felt safer in someone else’s house than in my own, right?”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘pathetic’ most nearly suggests that Miranda finds her situation...

- A. sad and pitiful
- B. strange but harmless
- C. unfair and annoying

2 “It was that crazy backstage theater mayhem where sweaty actors stand euphoric while people come worship them for a few seconds.”

According to the passage, the actors standing backstage after the show feel...

- A. nervous and uneasy
- B. thrilled and overjoyed
- C. tired and relieved

3 “A monumental shift. A seismic shift. Maybe even a cosmic shift.”

In context, the word ‘seismic’ emphasizes that the shift at school was...

- A. huge and dramatic
- B. confusing and unclear
- C. slow and gradual

4 “... to me this was a major revelation, and he was acting like it was no big deal.”

The passage most strongly suggests that learning the truth about the helmet is a ‘revelation’ to August because he...

- A. had been told the helmet was thrown out
- B. never knew his dad had thrown it out
- C. had thrown the helmet out himself

5 “... I am charged with writing two commencement addresses: one for the fifth- and sixth-grade graduation ceremony today, and one for the seventh- and eighth-grade ceremony that will take place tomorrow.”

According to the passage, the commencement addresses are speeches that mark students...

- A. finishing a stage of school
- B. beginning their first year
- C. winning academic awards

6 “Because you’re at the cusp, kids. You’re at the edge between childhood and everything that comes after.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘cusp’ most nearly means a...

- A. place of safety
- B. moment of celebration
- C. point of transition

7 “Children, what I want to impart to you today is an understanding of the value of that simple thing called kindness.”

According to the passage, what Mr. Tushman wants to ‘impart’ to his students is to...

- A. pass on an understanding of kindness
- B. question how kind students are
- C. demand that students act kindly

8 “I know I’m kind of infamous for my ... um ... verbosity ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that, by calling himself ‘infamous,’ Mr. Tushman is...

- A. apologizing for a mistake
- B. joking about a bad reputation
- C. bragging about a great talent

9 “... to honor students who have been notable or exemplary in certain areas throughout the school year.”

According to the passage, the Beecher medal honors students who have been...

- A. struggling but improving
- B. friendly and well-liked
- C. outstanding models for others

10 “... themes I touched on earlier, themes I’ve been ruminating upon all year long.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Mr. Tushman has been ‘ruminating’ on these themes by...

- A. talking about them often
- B. writing them down quickly
- C. thinking them over deeply

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	Here 'pathetic' means genuinely pitiable, not the casual 'lame' students often expect.
2	B	
3	A	
4	B	Event comprehension.
5	A	'Commencement' literally names a beginning, yet here it means a graduation.
6	C	
7	A	
8	B	Character comprehension. 'Infamous' means famous for something bad, not simply very famous.
9	C	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Parts 7–8

Miranda, Via's longtime friend, narrates her perspective on the play and her bond with the Pullman family, then the final part returns to August for the close of the school year. Section runs to the end of the novel.