

Wuthering Heights

Chapters 10–17

by Emily Bronte

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abyss, acquiesced, avarice, comprehend, compunction, ignominious, inveterate, paroxysm, sanguine, tumult

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 · Chapters 1–9 · Lockwood's arrival at Wuthering Heights

Section 2 · Chapters 10–17 · Heathcliff returns to the moors

Section 3 · Chapters 18–26 · A new generation at the Grange

Section 4 · Chapters 27–34 · A visit to Wuthering Heights

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. One wrong step would send him plunging into the **abyss**.

- A. a tangle of branches
- B. a deep, bottomless pit
- C. a shallow stream

2. After a long debate, he finally **acquiesced** to the new plan.

- A. gave in eagerly and gladly
- B. gave in only after winning changes
- C. gave in reluctantly

3. Driven by **avarice**, he never felt he had enough.

- A. a craving for power
- B. a thirst for fame
- C. extreme greed for wealth

4. The single word "freedom" seemed to **comprehend** all that the soldiers had fought for.

- A. to make full sense of
- B. to stand in place of
- C. to sum up or include entirely

5. She lied without the slightest **compunction**.

- A. a flicker of hesitation
- B. a pang of guilt
- C. a hint of fear

6. The general's **ignominious** retreat was remembered for generations.

- A. shameful and disgraceful
- B. sudden and unexpected
- C. costly and bloody

7. My grandfather is an **inveterate** collector of old maps.

- A. wealthy and well-known
- B. habitual and long-established
- C. skilled and discerning

8. A **paroxysm** of rage seized him when he heard the news.

- A. a sudden, violent fit
- B. a faint stirring of unease
- C. a lasting mood of gloom

9. She stayed **sanguine** about her chances even after the setback.

- A. cheerfully optimistic
- B. quietly thoughtful
- C. calm and unworried

10. The crowd erupted into **tumult** when the gates finally opened.

- A. noisy, confused commotion
- B. nervous murmuring
- C. wild celebration

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

wearying — growing weary with longing; (an older, regional sense of yearning)

ANSWER KEY

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

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 "... avarice is growing with him a besetting sin."

As it is used in the passage, the word "avarice" most nearly suggests that Heathcliff is increasingly driven by...

- A. a hunger for wealth
- B. a craving for power
- C. a thirst for revenge

2 "... Catherine wishing to keep up your acquaintance, I acquiesced – foolishly."

It can reasonably be inferred that Edgar permitted the acquaintance because he...

- A. had grown to respect him
- B. was afraid to refuse
- C. reluctantly gave in for her sake

3 "Three minutes' delay will render it involuntary and ignominious."

Which statement about Heathcliff's threatened removal is best supported by the passage?

- A. It would be swift and quiet.
- B. It would be physically risky.
- C. It would be deeply humiliating.

4 "Mr. Linton stood looking at her in sudden compunction and fear."

In the passage, Mr. Linton is characterized as suddenly feeling...

- A. guilt over his part in her state
- B. irritation at her dramatics
- C. alarm at a strange new illness

5 "... my late anguish was swallowed in a paroxysm of despair."

The passage most strongly suggests that Catherine's remembered grief was...

- A. a vague, lingering sadness
- B. a sudden, violent fit of despair
- C. a brief flicker of regret

6 "I wish I were out of doors! I wish I were a girl again, half savage and hardy, and free; and laughing at injuries, not maddening under them! Why am I so changed? why does my blood rush into a hell of tumult at a few words?"

Which choice best describes the speaker's state of mind in the passage?

- A. cool indifference
- B. peaceful longing for home
- C. violent inner turmoil

7 "... flattering his too sanguine hopes with the illusion that her mind would settle back to its right balance ..."

The narrator most likely calls Edgar's hopes "too sanguine" in order to...

- A. convey his deep despair
- B. stress his unfounded optimism
- C. show Catherine's real recovery

8 "Two words would comprehend my future – DEATH and HELL: existence, after losing her, would be hell."

As it is used in the passage, "comprehend" most nearly means...

- A. to sum up entirely
- B. to make sense of
- C. to change the course of

9 "Be with me always – take any form – drive me mad! only DO not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot find you!"

The word "abyss" primarily functions in the passage to convey...

- A. the danger of a real, deep chasm
- B. the unbearable void of losing her
- C. his dread of divine punishment

10 "... reduced to a state of complete dependence on his father's inveterate enemy ..."

According to the passage, Heathcliff's hostility toward the boy's father is...

- A. long-standing and unchanging
- B. playful and exaggerated
- C. newly formed and mild

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	Character comprehension.
3	C	
4	A	Event comprehension. His remorse follows the quarrel in which he forced Catherine to choose between him and Heathcliff.
5	B	
6	C	
7	B	
8	A	Here 'comprehend' carries its older sense 'to sum up or encompass,' not the familiar 'understand' — the trap distractor.
9	B	Event comprehension. Heathcliff speaks this over Catherine after her death.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–17

Heathcliff comes back wealthy and bent on revenge, courting Isabella Linton to wound Edgar and Catherine. Catherine, torn between the two men, falls ill, gives birth, and dies, and Isabella escapes Heathcliff's cruelty and flees south. This section spans the original Volume One/Two break but ends at Chapter 17, closing the first generation's story just before the narrative jumps twelve years.