

Wuthering Heights

Chapters 27–34

by Emily Bronte

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: benign, condescend, conflagration, dereliction, filial, importunity, laconic, magnanimity, mortification, obdurate

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](https://www.verbalworkout.com).*



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

Wuthering Heights

Chapters 27–34

by Emily Bronte

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Her grandmother greeted them with a **benign** expression.

- A. curious and alert
- B. gentle and kindly
- C. tired and distant

2. The haughty lord would not **condescend** to keep company with his servants.

- A. take notice of them
- B. stoop to their level
- C. grow used to them

3. The entire district was lost to a single **conflagration**.

- A. a violent storm
- B. a sudden flood
- C. a huge fire

4. The guard's **dereliction** let the prisoners slip away unnoticed.

- A. error in judgment
- B. moment of panic
- C. neglect of duty

5. He felt a deep **filial** devotion all his life.

- A. of a child to a parent
- B. of a soldier to a cause
- C. of a servant to a master

6. She finally gave in to the child's **importunity** for a new toy.

- A. sudden tantrum
- B. quiet sulking
- C. persistent pleading

7. The new manager was **laconic** in every meeting.

- A. sparing with words
- B. quick to anger
- C. eager to please

8. The victorious general treated his defeated enemy with surprising **magnanimity**.

- A. caution and suspicion
- B. generosity of spirit
- C. formal politeness

9. To her **mortification**, she tripped on stage before the whole school.

- A. shame and humiliation
- B. anger and frustration
- C. surprise and confusion

10. Despite all our pleading, he remained **obdurate**.

- A. stubborn and unyielding
- B. nervous and uneasy
- C. gloomy and withdrawn

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

sexton — a church officer who maintains the building and grounds and digs graves

kirk — a church (in Northern/Scottish dialect)

compulsion — force rather than desire; Heathcliff must make himself perform even the smallest ordinary acts—"I have to remind myself to breathe—almost to remind my heart to beat!"

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Wuthering Heights

Chapters 27–34

by Emily Bronte

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

Vocabulary in Context

Wuthering Heights

Chapters 27–34

by Emily Bronte

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “Her magnanimity provoked his tears: he wept wildly, kissing her supporting hands, and yet could not summon courage to speak out.”

As it is used in the passage, ‘magnanimity’ most nearly refers to Catherine’s...

- A. generosity toward someone weaker
- B. bravery in the face of danger
- C. scorn for his cowardice

2 “We’ll respect Catherine’s filial scruples.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Catherine’s ‘filial scruples’ concern...

- A. her duty to her father
- B. her duty to her cousin Linton
- C. her duty to the servant Nelly

3 “... Linton clung to his cousin, and implored her to accompany him, with a frantic importunity that admitted no denial.”

Linton’s ‘frantic importunity’ primarily functions in the passage to...

- A. convey pressure she cannot refuse
- B. express Linton’s affection for her
- C. show Linton calmly persuading her

4 “I seated myself in a chair, and rocked to and fro, passing harsh judgment on my many derelictions of duty ...”

Which choice best describes Nelly’s attitude toward her own conduct?

- A. mild regret she quickly dismisses
- B. harsh self-blame for failing her duty
- C. defensive pride in her choices

5 “... in spite of her pride, she was forced to condescend to our company, more and more.”

In context, the word ‘condescend’ emphasizes that Catherine...

- A. gladly seeks out their company
- B. stoops to keep company with them
- C. talks down to them rudely

6 “... he laboured under a severe sense of mortification and wrath, which it was no easy task to suppress.”

In the passage, Hareton is characterized as...

- A. indifferent to Catherine’s scorn
- B. openly proud of his learning
- C. burning with shame he fights to hide

7 “... cried Catherine, sucking her damaged lip, and watching the conflagration with indignant eyes.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. the two are merely quarreling loudly
- B. Catherine is stirring dying embers
- C. Hareton’s books are burning on the fire

8 “Catherine, by instinct, must have divined it was obdurate perversity, and not dislike, that prompted this dogged conduct ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that Hareton rebuffs Catherine because of...

- A. a genuine hatred of her
- B. stubborn pride, not real dislike
- C. indifference to her friendship

9 “... only fonder of continued solitude, and perhaps still more laconic in company.”

According to the passage, in his later years Heathcliff grows...

- A. more rambling and digressive
- B. more bitter in his remarks
- C. more sparing with his words

10 “I lingered round them, under that benign sky: watched the moths fluttering among the heath and harebells, listened to the soft wind breathing through the grass, and wondered how any one could ever imagine unquiet slumbers for the sleepers in that quiet earth.”

Which choice best describes how the closing ‘benign sky’ functions in the novel as a whole?

- A. it closes the stormy tale in calm
- B. it masks grief beneath false calm
- C. it hints at turmoil still ahead

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Wuthering Heights

Chapters 27–34
by Emily Bronte

#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	A	
4	B	
5	B	Tests the older sense – to lower oneself – not the modern sense of speaking patronizingly.
6	C	Character comprehension.
7	C	Event comprehension. The blaze is Hareton burning his own books after Catherine mocked his reading.
8	B	
9	C	
10	A	Theme comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 27–34

Heathcliff lures Cathy and Nelly to the Heights and forces Cathy to marry the dying Linton; Edgar and then Linton die, leaving Cathy trapped under Heathcliff's control. Lockwood departs and later returns to hear how Cathy and Hareton grew close, how Heathcliff's hunger for revenge faded, and how he died longing for Catherine. Section runs to the end of the novel.