

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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and definitions  
read aloud!

# Vocabulary:

## *The Man Who Broke the World*

1. **conjure (KON-jeer)** *verb*; As it is used in the play, *conjure* means “to make something happen or appear unexpectedly, by magic or as if by magic.” A magician might conjure a rabbit from a hat. Your mom might conjure up a delicious meal for you and your friends, even if there’s almost nothing in the fridge. (*Conjure* is often followed by *up*.)
2. **cynical (SIN-ih-kuhl)** *adjective*; Someone who is cynical has a negative view of humankind. A cynical person believes that humans are generally selfish and dishonest.
3. **dumbstruck (DUHM-strujk)** *adjective*; If you are dumbstruck, you are so shocked, surprised, or amazed that you are unable to speak.
4. **eradicate (ih-RAD-ih-keyt)** *verb*; To eradicate something is to put an end to it or completely destroy it. Thanks to vaccines, many deadly diseases have been eradicated.
5. **ethical (ETH-ih-kuhl)** *adjective*; Ethics (ETH-iks, always plural) is the study of our moral principles—like honesty and fairness—and how they guide our choices and behavior. In other words, ethics deals with ideas about right and wrong, good and bad.  
  
*Ethical* can mean “related to ethics.” Testing medicines and beauty products on animals raises ethical questions. *Ethical* can also mean “right and good.” An ethical person is honest and does what is fair, right, and good. Cheating on a test is not ethical behavior.
6. **inexplicable (in-ek-SPLIK-uh-buhl)** *adjective*; Something that is inexplicable cannot be explained or understood. For example, “The disappearance of our class goldfish, Mr. Scales, was inexplicable. Not a single clue was found.”
7. **profound (pruh-FOUND)** *adjective*; Something that is profound is deep in some way. A profound book requires deep thought and wisdom to understand. Profound sadness is intense and felt deeply.
8. **spherical (SFEER-ih-kuhl)** *adjective*; A sphere is an object shaped like a ball. *Spherical* means “shaped like a sphere.” Grapefruits, soccer balls, and bubbles are all spherical.

**9. will (wil)** *verb*; The word *will* has many meanings, but as it is used in the play, *will* has to do with wishing, choosing, or deciding for something to happen. You might have trouble willing yourself to get out of bed in the morning. You might have even *more* trouble willing your breakfast to appear on your plate—in other words, getting your breakfast to appear simply by wishing really hard that it would.

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**Directions:** In the space below and on the back of this page (if necessary), list any other words from the play or article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

# Vocabulary Practice

## *The Man Who Broke the World*

**Directions:** Answer each prompt below. Briefly explain your answer.

1. Which would need to be eradicated from under your kitchen sink: cleaning supplies or a colony of ants?

**Answer:**

**Why:**

3. Which of the following is spherical: a can of soup or a marble?

**Answer:**

**Why:**

2. Which is inexplicable: the love you feel for your pet or the solution to an algebra problem?

**Answer:**

**Why:**

4. If your friend believes people don't volunteer to help others, but rather to make themselves look better, is your friend cynical?

**Answer:**

**Why:**

**Directions:** Underline the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

5. Our soccer team managed to **conjure/eradicate** up a goal in the final minute and tie the game.

6. Is it **spherical/ethical** to film people and post the videos online without their permission?

7. I was so amazed by the size of the dinosaur skeleton that I stood there **dumbstruck/inexplicable** for several minutes.

8. Kara's wonderful speech had a **profound/cynical** effect on everyone in the audience.

9. I **willed/eradicated** my eyes to stay open, but they just wouldn't.