

A Bend in the River

by V. S. Naipaul

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 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. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: abject, contempt, contract (2), delicacy (2), domestic, external, however (2), indifferent, irony (2), maxim, parody, patron, prosper, refugee, squatter, suburban



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	B
15	B
16	B
17	C
18	A
19	A
20	C

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She grew up in **abject** poverty; though she didn't know it.
 - A. beneficial
 - B. extreme
 - C. moderate
2. He was **impolite**. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
3. A lot of people get into trouble by signing **contracts** they don't understand.
 - A. written agreement with much small print
 - B. written agreements that is enforceable by law
 - C. written agreements with terms that are not specified
4. The cold made the aluminum rod **contract** more than the steel rod.
 - A. shorten
 - B. stick
 - C. stretch
5. They serve bird nest soup and other Chinese **delicacies**.
 - A. traditional dishes
 - B. folk medicines
 - C. prized foods
6. If you act like a bull in a china shop, the negotiations will fail. **Delicacy** is required.
 - A. sensitivity and tact
 - B. teamwork
 - C. thoughtful strategy
7. We share the **domestic** chores.
 - A. household
 - B. everyday
 - C. work-related
8. **External** pressure from competitors forced the company to lower its prices.
 - A. located inside
 - B. coming from outside
 - C. happening before
9. I hope to take the ACT just once. **However**, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and
10. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
11. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
 - A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger

12. Ironically, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
- A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
13. Her voice was dripping with irony as she said, "You look beautiful."
- A. sincerity
 - B. sarcasm
 - C. kindness
14. Her actions conflict with the maxim that we don't negotiate with terrorists.
- A. goal
 - B. saying
 - C. observation
15. It's the funniest **parody** on YouTube.
- A. skit using understatement
 - B. exaggeration of somebody's style
 - C. jokes by a comedian
16. A wealthy **patron** donated millions to fund young artists in the city.
- A. critic
 - B. supporter
 - C. neighbor
17. She is **prospering** in business.
- A. struggling
 - B. starting
 - C. doing well
18. She was a Tutsi **refugee** from Rwanda.
- A. someone who fled their homeland
 - B. someone who suffered
 - C. someone who immigrated
19. In a few jurisdictions, **squatters** can gain legal title to property if they meet a series of requirements for a long enough period of time.
- A. illegal tenants
 - B. thieves
 - C. needy people
20. They open restaurants in nice **suburban** areas.
- A. located in the center of the city
 - B. located far from any city
 - C. located outside the edge of a city

Vocabulary in Context

A Bend in the River

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 Most of the people who left our coast went to Arabian homes as **domestic** servants.
 - A. household (relating to a home)
 - B. small quantity or indication
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 2 I remembered the look of **contempt** and irritation Indar had given me.
 - A. frustration at being treated unfairly
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. prejudice or unfair treatment
- 3 I took the brazier to the landing of the **external** staircase at the back of the house, squatted and fanned.
 - A. certain
 - B. outside
 - C. various
- 4 But more unnerving than anything else was the ruined **suburb** near the rapids.
 - A. formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
 - B. officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
 - C. a residential area located near the outer edge of a city where it isn't as crowded
- 5 Like me, they were migrants from the east and **refugees** from their own community.
 - A. people who fled their homeland
 - B. understandings or explanations
 - C. quiet voices; or a quiet voice
- 6 **Squatters** had taken over the downstairs part, cooking on fire stones in the verandah and throwing out their rubbish onto the courtyards and grounds.
 - A. people who live in an unoccupied place without the legal right
 - B. results or the processes of learning, discovering, or deciding
 - C. chemicals that trigger behaviors in others of the same species
- 7 Metty had taken to calling me **patron**, and in the presence of a third person, could make it sound ironical.
 - A. someone who speaks in an ambiguous manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - B. someone who supports an organization or a person
 - C. someone with delusions of grandeur (the belief that they are much more important than they are)
- 8 I envied him that **indifference**; and I thought, after I left him that day, that his Africa, of bush and river, was different from mine.
 - A. without interest
 - B. risky investment
 - C. chaotic disorder
- 9 The sun was bright and hot, and I studied the **contracting** shadows of trees and market stalls and buildings around the square.
 - A. getting shorter or smaller
 - B. stopping a battle or fight
 - C. changing through evolution
- 10 All our **contracts** are oral, but we deliver what we promise.
 - A. moves out of an interacting position; or stops
 - B. agreements
 - C. moves to a worse or less prestigious situation
- 11 Now, so quickly, they had become **abject**.
 - A. outside
 - B. extreme
 - C. certain

- 12 Yet there was something **ironical** about the whole thing. The action which had drawn that softness from Ferdinand was the simple gesture of a man from the coast whose family had lived close, too close, to their servants, once their slaves, descendants of people snatched from this part of Africa. Ferdinand would have been outraged if he knew.
- A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. capable of being better understood through detailed examination
- 13 "The President is coming this afternoon. Wouldn't you like to see him?" ... I was careful to take all **irony** out of [my voice]. I said, "I would like to, citizen. But I have to go."
- A. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - B. saying one thing while meaning the opposite
 - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 14 I saw a **delicacy** in him that I had never seen on the coast. His manners were like a form of consideration; and however small the occasion, his manners never failed.
- A. sensitivity and tact
 - B. basic rule or belief
 - C. the act of forgiving
- 15 He bought his newspaper in one shop, read it with morning coffee in a tiny café that also offered old watercolour paintings for sale; took a turn in the park; shopped for **delicacies** in the various food shops.
- A. soft leather shoes traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - B. soccer: unopposed kicks from the corner of the goal line
 - C. rare and expensive types of foods
- 16 His manners were like a form of consideration; and **however** small the occasion, his manners never failed.
- A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
 - B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
 - C. regardless of how
- 17 If it was Ferdinand, **however**, this wasn't the best way for me to meet him.
- A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless*, etc.
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 18 The point of the message may be lost in the **parody**.
- A. to gradually destroy or change the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
 - B. a humorous, exaggerated imitation of somebody's style
- or:
- a very poor imitation of somebody's style
 - C. a beam, bracket, or other structure supported only on one side; or to support something in that manner
- 19 Portraits, **maxims**, occasional statues of the African madonna —they continued all the way to the hotel.
- A. members of Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - B. short sayings that express general truths or principles
 - C. harmful software that spreads from computer to computer
- 20 There was an officer—his name was **Prosper**: I knew him.
- A. restore
 - B. examine
 - C. do well

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	domestic (<i>as in: domestic happiness</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
3	B	external	Used 13 times in this book.
4	C	suburban	Used 8 times in this book.
5	A	refugee	Used 8 times in this book.
6	A	squatter	Used 10 times in this book.
7	B	patron (<i>as in: a patron of the arts</i>)	Used 11 times in this book.
8	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
9	A	contract (<i>as in: the metal contracted in the cold</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	contract (<i>as in: legal contract</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
11	B	abject	Used 3 times in this book.
12	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	irony (<i>as in: verbal irony</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	delicacy (<i>as in: discuss with delicacy</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	C	delicacy (<i>as in: eat the delicacy</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	parody	Used 3 times in this book.
19	B	maxim	Used 4 times in this book.
20	C	prosper	Used 15 times in this book.