

A Child Called It

by Dave Pelzer

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

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: acknowledge, alienate, banish, charade, compassion, consequence, duration, estimate, fleeting, focus (2), hideous, marathon, morsel, motivation, paradox, perspective, positive (2), principal



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She **acknowledged** her mistake and apologized.
 - A. admitted
 - B. minimized
 - C. exaggerated
2. Her constant complaining started to **alienate** her coworkers, who found her difficult to be around.
 - A. make feel emotionally closer to
 - B. make feel angry or upset at
 - C. make feel emotionally separated from
3. I tried to **banish** the thought from my mind.
 - A. understand
 - B. collect
 - C. send away
4. Their participation in negotiations is a **charade** to buy time.
 - A. false display
 - B. stalling tactic
 - C. distraction
5. It is not enough to be **compassionate**. We must act. It is not enough to act. We must act with intelligence.
 - A. lucky
 - B. sympathetic
 - C. talented
6. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - A. result
 - B. unimportant part
 - C. important part
7. The **duration** of the flight from New York to London is about seven hours.
 - A. length of time
 - B. total cost
 - C. distance covered
8. Can you **estimate** the cost of the renovation?
 - A. officially approve
 - B. roughly calculate
 - C. publicly announce
9. Youth is **fleeting**.
 - A. short-lived
 - B. reckless
 - C. troubled
10. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
11. The discussion brought into focus an important difference of opinion.
 - A. hiding
 - B. conflict
 - C. view
12. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed

13. She finished her first **marathon** in just under four hours.
- A. 26-mile footrace
 - B. short sprint
 - C. swimming meet
14. She offered the hungry dog a small **morsel** of bread from her plate.
- A. small bit of food
 - B. large dinner plate
 - C. kitchen utensil
15. I can describe her actions but not her **motivation**.
- A. history
 - B. reason
 - C. future
16. Her life was a **paradox**: she was both incredibly private and a bestselling memoirist.
- A. something that seems self-contradictory
 - B. something that went as expected
 - C. something that is too short
17. Also, try to see it from her **perspective** before you make up your mind.
- A. timeframe
 - B. education level
 - C. way of looking at things
18. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
19. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
20. The **principal** reason for the delay was bad weather.
- A. final
 - B. main
 - C. stated

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *The nurse returns in a few minutes with Mr. Hansen the **principal**, and two of my teachers, Miss Woods and Mr. Ziegler.*
 - A. serving to help explain or demonstrate something
 - B. most important; or person that is most important
 - C. the state or degree of criticism or disagreement
- 2 *At school we were the best of friends; however, at home, we both knew I was not to be **acknowledged**.*
 - A. recognized
 - B. translated
 - C. subtracted
- 3 *She then revealed my **hideous** crime.*
 - A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. extremely ugly or offensive
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 4 *Except for the short **duration** of a fishing trip, things with Mother were touch and go, or smash and dash—she would smash me, and I would dash to the solitude of the basement/garage.*
 - A. the time during which something continues
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. meticulousness (care about small details)
- 5 *Each day when I ran to and from school, I tried to run faster, pounding each step as if I were a **marathon** runner.*
 - A. a footrace of about 26 miles
 - B. small quantity or indication
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 6 *Finally, Mother told me that I was no longer privileged enough to sleep upstairs, so I was **banished** downstairs to the garage.*
 - A. thought -- possibly aloud
 - B. was abundant or plentiful
 - C. expelled or gotten rid of
- 7 *For a **fleeting** moment I looked out the window.*
 - A. lasting a short time
 - B. sensible and careful
 - C. not demonstrative of
- 8 *The more I tried to **focus** on my options of what she might do to me, the more my inner strength drained away.*
 - A. concentrate
 - B. make one's home in; or live in; or stay (in a place)
 - C. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
- 9 *I strained to **focus** my eyes on Mother.*
 - A. software that stops unwanted software from spreading between computers and causing damage to data and software
 - B. a condition where the body cannot properly regulate blood sugar levels because it produces little or no insulin
 - C. adjust (to see clearly)
- 10 *I was fully aware that I could pay for my crime at any time, so I ate every **morsel** as if it were my last meal.*
 - A. tiny bit
 - B. a nerve or brain cell
 - C. long eventful journey
- 11 *This whole **charade** of living like a slave had come to an end.*
 - A. a situation in which people act as though something is true that is not
 - B. the act of finding fault and telling others; or a description of faults
 - C. the process of thinking carefully and making a judgment about something

- 12 *In the past, I had seen her treat animals with more **compassion** than she did me.*
A. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
B. feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 13 *And the **consequence** was no food.*
A. result
B. battle
C. memory
- 14 *She despised me as much as ever, but she began to **alienate** her friends, husband, brother and even her own mother.*
A. stop (something from happening)
B. fulfill one's highest potential
C. make feel emotionally separated
- 15 *I took **positive** control over my life.*
A. outside
B. various
C. absolute (used for emphasis)
- 16 *My blessings also mean having the opportunity to meet so many people who had a **positive** impact on my life.*
A. good or beneficial
B. not representative
C. impossible to find
- 17 *I learned the secret of internal **motivation**.*
A. a drug that calms or puts to sleep; or describing something as calming
B. the reason for doing something; or the level of desire to do something
C. a serious mental disorder in which people interpret reality abnormally
- 18 *Sources of information vary, but it is **estimated** that one in five children are physically, emotionally or sexually abused in our country.*
A. put into a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility (a state of hypnosis)
B. roughly calculated or guessed (based on incomplete information) a value, quantity, or extent of something
C. disappointed from losing false belief that something is better than it is; or the removal of such a belief
- 19 *I bring a **perspective** born in the brutal reality of child abuse and nurtured in hope for a better tomorrow.*
A. collection of star systems held together by gravity
B. resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
C. way of seeing and thinking about things
- 20 *It is perhaps a **paradox** that without the abuse of my past, I might not be what I am today.*
A. a surprising situation because parts of it seem to contradict each other
B. something exclusive to (someone or some group) -- such as an activity or place
C. a rough substance that can be rubbed against something else to polish or clean

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	principal	Used 13 times in this book.
2	A	acknowledge (<i>as in: acknowledge her or the truth</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
3	B	hideous	Used 4 times in this book.
4	A	duration	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	marathon (<i>as in: ran her first marathon</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
6	C	banish	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	fleeting	Used 2 times in this book.
8	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	C	focus (<i>as in: bring into focus; or out of focus</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	A	morsel	Used 4 times in this book.
11	A	charade	Used 4 times in this book.
12	B	compassion	Used 2 times in this book.
13	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
14	C	alienate	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	motivation	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
18	B	estimate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	C	perspective (<i>as in: Look at it from her perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	A	paradox	High-utility academic word