

A Christmas Memory

by Truman Capote

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

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: accumulate, burnish, chastise, conspiracy, deceive, deprive, devise, gaudy, glower, goad, humiliate, moreover, nevertheless, opera, persist, quiver, simultaneous, squander, stationery, suffuse



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	C
5	C
6	B
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	B
11	B
12	B
13	B
14	A
15	B
16	A
17	C
18	B
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. DNA damage **accumulates** with age.
 - A. rapidly disappears
 - B. stays unchanged
 - C. gradually increases
2. He spent hours trying to **burnish** the old brass lamp until it gleamed.
 - A. wear out
 - B. shine up
 - C. throw out
3. She **chastised** him for his insensitive remarks.
 - A. avoided
 - B. fired
 - C. criticized
4. She is inclined to believe **conspiracy** theories.
 - A. unproven
 - B. scientific
 - C. secret plot
5. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
6. The court ruling **deprived** him of custody of his children.
 - A. granted
 - B. stripped
 - C. delayed
7. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
8. The actor wore a **gaudy** jacket covered with bright sequins and gold trim.
 - A. tastelessly showy
 - B. plain and modest
 - C. old and worn
9. She **glowered** at the ref, but she held her tongue.
 - A. winked happily
 - B. stared angrily
 - C. smiled briefly
10. She tried to **goad** the candidate into saying something extreme.
 - A. poke with a stick
 - B. provoke
 - C. prevent
11. She's convinced PE class was invented to **humiliate** innocent kids.
 - A. strengthen
 - B. extremely embarrass
 - C. teach hard lessons
12. Many graduates have high college debt. **Moreover**, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
 - A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that

13. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
14. We're going to the **opera** this evening.
- A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
15. We expect the conditions to **persist** into next year.
- A. grow worse
 - B. continue
 - C. go away
16. Her hands began to **quiver** as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
 - B. tightly grip
 - C. quickly move
17. The store provides shoppers with a **simultaneous** art/music experience.
- A. consecutive
 - B. alternating
 - C. at the same time
18. She did not want to **squander** the chance to study with a great coach.
- A. share
 - B. waste
 - C. improve
19. She has beautiful **stationery** for writing notes.
- A. paper and envelopes
 - B. handwriting
 - C. choice of words
20. Her cheeks were **suffused** with color as she blushed with embarrassment.
- A. drained
 - B. hot
 - C. filled

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 *Our backs hurt from gathering them: how hard they were to find (the main crop having been shaken off the trees and sold by the orchard's owners, who are not us) among the concealing leaves, the frosted, **deceiving** grass.*
 - A. influencing opinion
 - B. continuing to exist
 - C. lying or misleading
- 2 *Queenie begs to taste, and now and again my friend sneaks her a mite, though insisting we **deprive** ourselves.*
 - A. of the Netherlands or its people
 - B. to take away or keep from having
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 3 *But one way and another we do each year **accumulate** Christmas savings, a Fruitcake Fund.*
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. consume or destroy completely
 - C. collect or gradually increase
- 4 *Besides, a person my age shouldn't **squander** their eyes.*
 - A. trade
 - B. waste
 - C. adapt
- 5 *Silently, wallowing in the pleasures of **conspiracy**, we take the bead purse from its secret place and spill its contents on the scrap quilt.*
 - A. the best or most important
 - B. harsh and unfair treatment
 - C. a secret agreement or plot
- 6 *No, he **glowers** at us through Satan-tilted eyes and demands to know: "What you want with Haha?"*
 - A. makes possible
 - B. stares angrily
 - C. leaps or jumps
- 7 *Nevertheless, he retreats into the shadowed cafe and seconds later appears carrying a bottle of daisy-yellow unlabeled liquor.*
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 8 *Eggbeaters whirl, spoons spin round in bowls of butter and sugar, vanilla sweetens the air, ginger spices it; melting, nose-tingling odors saturate the kitchen, **suffuse** the house, drift out to the world on puffs of chimney smoke.*
 - A. hire again or occupy again
 - B. learn, discover, or decide
 - C. to spread or flood through
- 9 *Also, the scrapbooks we keep of thank-you's on White House **stationery**, time-to-time communications from California and Borneo, the knife grinder's penny post cards, make us feel connected to eventful worlds beyond the kitchen with its view of a sky that stops.*
 - A. paper and envelopes for writing letters
 - B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
 - C. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
- 10 *But by and by we begin to sing, the two of us singing different songs **simultaneously**.*
 - A. done while awake
 - B. done with excess
 - C. at the same time

- 11 **humiliation!**
 A. a sexually transmitted disease that, if treated early, can be completely cured with antibiotics
 B. extremely embarrass (decrease dignity, self-respect, or pride -- especially in front of others)
 C. "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
- 12 *My friend gazes at her shoes, her chin **quivers**, she lifts her skirt and blows her nose and runs to her room.*
 A. to shake or tremble slightly
 B. not working or not operating
 C. calculates or judges too low
- 13 *Frozen rime lusters the grass; the sun, round as an orange and orange as hot-weather moons, balances on the horizon, **burnishes** the silvered winter woods.*
 A. keeps people and goods from reaching a location
 B. polishes and makes shiny; or improves something
 C. makes sure something happens faster than normal
- 14 *A mile more: of chastising thorns, burrs and briars that catch at our clothes; of rusty pine needles brilliant with gaudy fungus and molted feathers.*
 A. attractive or desirable
 B. predicting or revealing
 C. scolding or criticizing
- 15 *A mile more: of chastising thorns, burrs and briars that catch at our clothes; of rusty pine needles brilliant with **gaudy** fungus and molted feathers.*
 A. tastelessly showy
 B. not demonstrating
 C. able to challenge
- 16 *But we have the strength of triumphant huntsmen; that and the tree's virile, icy perfume revive us, **goad** us on.*
 A. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 B. to provoke or annoy someone into doing something--often something unwise
- or:
 to prod an animal to move, or the stick used to do so
 C. the act of hiding something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hiding the truth; or something that hides or deceives
- 17 *The mill owner's wife **persists**.*
 A. disagrees
 B. continues
 C. subtracts
- 18 *A trunk in the attic contains: a shoebox of ermine tails (off the **opera** cape of a curious lady who once rented a room in the house), coils of frazzled tinsel gone gold with age, one silver star, a brief rope of dilapidated, undoubtedly dangerous candylike light bulbs.*
 A. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
 B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
- 19 *I make sketches and my friend cuts them out: lots of cats, fish too (because they're easy to draw), some apples, some watermelons, a few winged angels **devised** from saved-up sheets of Hershey bar tin foil.*
 A. not provided with investment funds
 B. came up with (invented or created)
 C. stopped (something from happening)
- 20 *And it is very beautiful; though not as beautiful as the one she made me, which is blue and scattered with gold and green Good Conduct stars; **moreover**, my name is painted on it, "Buddy."*
 A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 B. in addition to what has just been said
 C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	deceive	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	deprive	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	C	accumulate	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	B	squander	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	C	conspiracy	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	B	glower	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
8	C	suffuse	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	A	stationery	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	C	simultaneous	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	B	humiliate	Used about 19 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	quiver	Used about 16 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	B	burnish	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	C	chastise	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	gaudy	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	goad	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	persist	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	A	opera	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word
20	B	moreover	High-utility academic word