

A Hope in the Unseen

by Ron Suskind

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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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: abysmal, altercation, authenticity, conspicuous, context, demeanor, dilemma, discrete, diversity, eviction, indulge, narrative, paragon, parole, perspective, physics, providence, recollect, sumptuous, urban



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Their customer satisfaction rating is **abysmal**.
 - A. very bad
 - B. complicated
 - C. fantastic
2. We have video of the **altercation**.
 - A. fight
 - B. accident
 - C. theft
3. The museum tested the letter to prove its **authenticity**.
 - A. being expensive
 - B. being genuine
 - C. being colorful
4. She is the most **conspicuous** person on the President's cabinet, often appearing on television.
 - A. easy to notice
 - B. hard to trust
 - C. quick to argue
5. Despite her nervousness, her professional **demeanor** never wavered.
 - A. words
 - B. manner
 - C. work
6. Maya faced a **dilemma**: tell the truth and hurt her friend, or stay silent.
 - A. hard choice
 - B. simple task
 - C. lucky break
7. Scientists study cells as **discrete** units within the body.
 - A. merged together
 - B. loosely linked
 - C. individually separate
8. The team values **diversity** of thought and welcomes different perspectives.
 - A. variety of differences
 - B. agreement on principles
 - C. loyalty to tradition
9. I was served an **eviction** notice.
 - A. legal demand to pay
 - B. legal demand to appear
 - C. legal demand to move
10. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
11. It's an interesting **narrative** about her first year in college.
 - A. story
 - B. joke
 - C. theatrical play
12. She quoted him out of **context**.
 - A. in a misleading manner
 - B. in a convincing manner
 - C. in a respectful manner

13. She was considered a **paragon** of patience by all her coworkers.
- A. a clear failure
 - B. a perfect example
 - C. an average sample
14. She was imprisoned for life without the possibility of **parole**.
- A. appeal to a higher court
 - B. early release from prison
 - C. transfer to a new prison
15. 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
16. She became interested in **physics** after building a model rocket that launched using air pressure.
- A. study of living things
 - B. science of matter and energy
 - C. study of human cultures
17. By some stroke of **providence**, the rain stopped just as the wedding began.
- A. careful human planning
 - B. fortunate divine timing
 - C. stubborn bad luck
18. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
19. She wore a **sumptuous** gown made of the finest silk and adorned with sparkling jewels.
- A. flattering
 - B. magnificent
 - C. long
20. Urban neighborhoods often have more buses and sidewalks than rural areas.
- A. related to a city
 - B. related to farming
 - C. related to weather

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 Fortunately, his math class is the next doorway and he slips into the almost empty classroom, relieved to have avoided an **altercation**.
 - A. a noisy argument, confrontation, or fight
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. the time during which something continues
- 2 Cedric Jennings gazes at the silvery mesh intercom speaker above the blackboard in Advanced Physics.
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. the science of matter and energy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 3 If it goes two weeks, **eviction** proceedings commence and legal fees swiftly pile up.
 - A. opinion of what is good and bad about something
 - B. the majority denomination of Islam (almost 90%)
 - C. the process of forcing someone to leave a place
- 4 Among other things, it crowds out a vision that drove him all but crazy: the look on some MIT professor's face when he sees Cedric's **abysmal** score of 75 out of a possible 160 on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, or PSAT.
 - A. very bad
 - B. absolute
 - C. pleasing
- 5 He pauses from the **recollection** for a moment, sits up, pillow propped against the cinder blocks, and gathers himself.
 - A. battle
 - B. result
 - C. memory
- 6 But then it dawns on him that any prospect of **parole** might be changed by this work/release cancellation.
 - A. "spiritually renew" (a person) in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 - B. conditional early release from imprisonment in which a person is required to comply with special conditions
 - C. treat something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
- 7 He is now a popular member of Ballou's mainstream, sporting his tough guy/clown **demeanor** and a new nickname he recently came up with, "Blunt," slang for a marijuana cigar.
 - A. lacking experience or sophistication
 - B. the manner in which a person behaves
 - C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 8 The dance teacher applauds zestily as he finishes, and Phil, a blush appearing on his light skin, **indulges** a bow.
 - A. enjoys to excess
 - B. strongly desires
 - C. lies or misleads
- 9 But he can't relate it to anything; he sees only strange terms in a foreign **context**.
 - A. the setting or situation in which something occurs
 - B. the act of interacting or getting interested again
 - C. an image (seen on a mirror or other shiny surface)
- 10 In this crowd of assimilated, careerist black and Hispanic kids, it is he, Cedric-king of the Ballou nerds, bottom of the Southeast D.C. pecking order—who can claim a particular brand of racial **authenticity**.
 - A. not recognizable as different
 - B. quality of being real or true
 - C. not mirroring back (an image)

- 11 *There it is: Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.*
 A. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
 B. resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
 C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 12 *He has rarely felt so conspicuously black.*
 A. easily noticed -- typically attracting attention such as by being large, flashy, or unusual
 B. in a manner that explains or demonstrates an understanding of something in a particular way
 C. of mental activity of which one is not aware, but which can influence feelings and behavior
- 13 *After a moment, Vida attempts to wrestle Cedric's point about shared values and common ground back to the preordained narrative.*
 A. story
 B. snake
 C. skill
- 14 *All it takes to eat well at Cafe Paragon on Thayer Street, where the eavesdropping is superb, is \$10.*
 A. stop interacting; or stop having interest
 B. an ideal instance; or model of excellence
 C. treating thoughtlessly or without respect
- 15 *He's a trailblazing professor of education at the University of Illinois who often works at solving the dilemmas of educating the urban poor.*
 A. situations in which difficult choices must be made between imperfect alternatives
 B. people of the south Asian Muslim republic that is the fifth most populous country
 C. soccer: unopposed kicks awarded to a team due an infraction by the opposing team
- 16 *He's a trailblazing professor of education at the University of Illinois who often works at solving the dilemmas of educating the urban poor.*
 A. city
 B. real
 C. wise
- 17 *Donald excuses himself and moves to a central spot in the sumptuous living room to give a toast, holding out his crystal glass of white wine.*
 A. the state or degree of having the ability to change for different situations
 B. magnificent (impressively wonderful) -- often indicating something expensive
 C. the quality of behaving in an instinctive, uninhibited, and unplanned manner
- 18 *He looks across the room in this upper-level course and decides, then and there, that he'll sign up for discrete math-and stick with all the other classes.*
 A. not demonstrative of
 B. sincerity (realness)
 C. separate or distinct
- 19 *He needs to make his points and then back it all up with something other than his personal perspective or experiences.*
 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 *The first step is to agree that most people share the goal of true diversity, with many races competing freely and successfully.*
 A. the condition of variety
 B. classical music in which a theme is introduced and then extended and developed through some number of successive imitations
 C. the ability and tendency to determine what should be done and to start doing it without instruction; or to start something

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	altercation	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	B	physics	Used 21 times in this book.
3	C	eviction	Used 12 times in this book.
4	A	abysmal (<i>as in: an abysmal lecture</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
6	B	parole (<i>as in: released on parole</i>)	Used 13 times in this book.
7	B	demeanor	Used 8 times in this book.
8	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
9	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
10	B	authenticity	Used 5 times in this book.
11	B	providence (<i>as in: divine providence</i>)	Used 37 times in this book.
12	A	conspicuous	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
13	A	narrative (<i>as in: Narrative of the Life of...</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
14	B	paragon	Used 8 times in this book.
15	A	dilemma	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
16	A	urban	Used 25 times in this book.
17	B	sumptuous	Used 3 times in this book.
18	C	discrete	Used 5 times in this book.
19	C	perspective (<i>as in: Look at it from her perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
20	A	diversity	Used 17 times in this book.