

A Storm of Swords

by George R. R. Martin

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: breech, bronze, dais, envoy, feint, herald (2), however (2), joust, mêlée, mistrust, sullen (2), treason, usurp, vengeance, with a vengeance, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	C
10	A
11	C
12	B
13	B
14	A
15	C
16	A
17	C
18	B
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. The hunter cleaned the **breech** after firing several rounds at the target.
 - A. tip of an arrow
 - B. edge of a blade
 - C. back of a firearm
2. She approached the impressive **bronze** doors.
 - A. made of a high-quality wood
 - B. notably large and appearing heavy
 - C. made of a type of high-quality metal
3. A bomb was planted under the **dais**.
 - A. park bench
 - B. raised platform
 - C. large truck
4. Iran's top **envoy** to the United Nations nuclear agency dismissed the accusation.
 - A. scientist
 - B. representative
 - C. translator
5. He **feinted** left and then charged from the right.
 - A. faked
 - B. attacked strongly
 - C. moved sideways
6. The goldfinch **heralds** spring when it begins to show a little yellow.
 - A. signals (that something is about to end)
 - B. demonstrates happiness with something
 - C. signals (that something will soon happen)
7. The king's **herald** announced it this morning.
 - A. lawyer
 - B. announcer
 - C. advisor
8. 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
9. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
10. I saw the **jousting** show in Las Vegas.
 - A. mounted combat competition
 - B. telling of jokes in rhyme
 - C. magic and slight-of-hand
11. She was caught up in the resulting **melee**.
 - A. arrest
 - B. report
 - C. mob

12. Years of broken promises taught the team to mistrust anything he said.
- A. not remember
 - B. not trust
 - C. not question
13. A **sullen** crowd watched the execution.
- A. excited
 - B. unhappy
 - C. celebrating
14. The **sullen** heat hung over the city, making everyone irritable.
- A. gloomy and oppressive
 - B. bright and cheerful
 - C. soft and gentle
15. Benedict Arnold was not captured after he committed **treason**.
- A. committing acts of sabotage
 - B. war crimes against civilians
 - C. betrayal of one's own country
16. The lawsuit claims that the President is **usurping** constitutional powers of Congress.
- A. wrongfully seizing
 - B. legally exercising
 - C. publicly defending
17. Her evolutionary benefit theory of **vengeance** is supported by studies showing that a person's desire for revenge increases when others see their mistreatment.
- A. fairness
 - B. status
 - C. revenge
18. She threw herself into work with a **vengeance**.
- A. with reluctance
 - B. with intensity
 - C. with careful thought
19. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 Beneath her roughspun brown **breeches** were calves like cords of wood, and the long muscles of her arms stretched and tightened with each stroke of the oars.
A. views
B. names
C. pants
- 2 I understood what I was doing and knew it was **treasonous**.
A. impossible to find
B. good or beneficial
C. involving betrayal
- 3 You promised him **vengeance** as well.
A. something that stands out
B. something made from parts
C. the act of taking revenge
- 4 Winter is coming, warned the Stark words, and truly it had come for them with a **vengeance**.
A. available cash
B. with intensity
C. very important
- 5 You saw them walk the center aisle with every eye upon them and take their seats at the table just below the **dais** where the king and queen were seated.
A. dramatic change
B. raised platform
C. in disagreement
- 6 The **Usurper** took them down and hid them away.
A. one who seizes or takes control without authority
B. people who control, prevent, or make less intense
C. someone who shows excessive flattery or affection
- 7 They **heralded** the approach of old Ser Tristimun's sea watch, and the sea watch was death to smugglers when Aerys Targaryen sat the Iron Throne.
A. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
B. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drank, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
C. signaled (that something would happen)
- 8 Sansa ate no more than a bite of hers, as the **heralds** were summoning the first of the seven singers.
A. things that hold other things together, or wrap or cover or tie something
B. people who announce important news -- especially a king's representatives
C. international boundaries or wilderness areas at the edge of settled areas
- 9 I won a tourney **melee** at thirteen, when I was yet a squire.
A. result or predictable value
B. the highest-ranking manager
C. disorganized mass of people
- 10 Spare all those who **yield** and hold them captive.
A. produce or give
B. stop (something from happening)
C. think deeply or carefully about
- 11 Catelyn could tell that her son was furious, but he **yielded** with as much courtesy as he could summon.
A. with rises and falls in pitch
B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
C. embarrassed or self-conscious

- 12 Tyrion tried to speak of other things, but he met a wall of **sullen** courtesy as icy and unyielding as the Wall he'd once walked in the north.
- A. exactness or accuracy
 - B. unhappy and withdrawn
 - C. not easily identified
- 13 Was it Mormont she was angry with, or this city with its **sullen** heat, its stinks and sweats and crumbling bricks?
- A. unpleasant
 - B. sticks out
 - C. translates
- 14 Some years later, when Lord Farman of Faircastle grew truculent, Lord Tywin sent an **envoy** bearing a lute instead of a letter.
- A. someone who approves or supports
 - B. representative sent on a mission
 - C. one who precedes another in time
- 15 She could not understand why Ser Jorah **mistrusted** the old man so.
- A. fruit cooked with sugar (like jam)
 - B. didn't trust or have confidence in
 - C. past-tense of the verb *lead*
- 16 "Five days of **jousting** were planned," she said.
- A. competing in a contest to knock each other off horses with blunted lances OR competing in any kind of contest
 - B. "spiritual renewing" a person in a Christian ceremony OR initiating or purifying by a challenging experience
 - C. turning in the opposite position -- such as upside down, inside out, or (of two things) switching their position
- 17 No one had thought to bring a stool, **however**, and Tyrion stood a foot and a half shorter than his bride.
- 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 Mace Tyrell had been Joffrey's good-father, **however** briefly, and the Red Viper was well, a snake.
- 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
- 19 Feints.
- A. any distracting or deceptive maneuver; or the act of making the maneuver
 - B. (noun) text that is marked as important OR (verb) marks important text
 - C. connects or fits together by being equivalent, proportionate, or matched
- 20 As Ser Addam marched him through the towering **bronze** doors and down the long carpet, he felt the eyes upon him.
- A. examine in detail to better understand
 - B. appropriate in size, amount, or degree
 - C. made of a type of high-quality metal

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	breech	Used 45 times in this book.
2	C	treason	Used 36 times in this book.
3	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	Used 15 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	B	with a vengeance (<i>as in: with a vengeance</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	B	dais	Used 30 times in this book.
6	A	usurp	Used 29 times in this book.
7	C	herald (<i>as in: heralds the coming of...</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	herald (<i>as in: announced by herald & trumpet</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
9	C	mêlée	Used 10 times in this book.
10	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
11	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	B	sullen (<i>as in: a sullen mood</i>)	Used 20 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	sullen (<i>as in: sullen heat</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
14	B	envoy	Used 17 times in this book.
15	B	mistrust	Used 6 times in this book.
16	A	joust	Used 13 times in this book.
17	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
19	A	feint	Used 8 times in this book.
20	C	bronze (<i>as in: bronze won't corrode in salt water</i>)	Used 61 times in this book.