

A Thousand Acres

by Jane Smiley

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: bushel, conciliatory, confide, consolidate, conviction, cultivate, demeanor, exasperated, goad, habitual, inquisitive, monopoly, mortgage, remorse, revoke, senile, simultaneous, transparent, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	B
8	C
9	B
10	B
11	B
12	C
13	B
14	C
15	B
16	C
17	C
18	A
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. We had **bushels** of fun.
 - A. measured in hours
 - B. shared by everyone
 - C. a large amount
2. She sent a **conciliatory** note after the argument, hoping they could talk calmly.
 - A. meant to restore peace
 - B. meant to assign blame
 - C. meant to delay action
3. She **confided** in her parents.
 - A. trusted
 - B. didn't trust
 - C. was proud
4. The company plans to **consolidate** its three offices into one.
 - A. combine
 - B. separate
 - C. abandon
5. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
6. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
7. Despite her nervousness, her professional **demeanor** never wavered.
 - A. words
 - B. manner
 - C. work
8. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - A. very active
 - B. endearing (lovable)
 - C. greatly annoying
9. She tried to **goad** the candidate into saying something extreme.
 - A. poke with a stick
 - B. provoke
 - C. prevent
10. She **habitually** works through lunch.
 - A. in a manner intended to attract notice and impress others
 - B. regularly
 - C. with satisfaction or contentment (unworried and satisfied)
11. Her **inquisitive** nature led her to explore every corner of the old library.
 - A. nervous
 - B. curious
 - C. forgetful

12. Critics warned that the tech giant's **monopoly** over online search could limit innovation and competition.
- A. minor stake
 - B. shared market
 - C. complete control
13. The site has a **mortgage** payment calculator that calculates the loan payment based on the interest rate and length of the loan.
- A. unsecured loan
 - B. real estate loan
 - C. credit card loan
14. I expressed my remorse at having let them down.
- A. frustration
 - B. worry
 - C. regret
15. The court decided to **revoke** his driver's license after the third offense.
- A. newly issue
 - B. officially cancel
 - C. renew for years
16. About 10% of Americans between the ages of 65 and 75 suffer from **senility**.
- A. loneliness most days of the week
 - B. a poor sense of smell
 - C. mental weakness caused by old age
17. The store provides shoppers with a **simultaneous** art/music experience.
- A. consecutive
 - B. alternating
 - C. at the same time
18. It was a **transparent** lie.
- A. obvious
 - B. clever
 - C. vicious
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 *There'd been no fiddling with that, which went to Ty's uncle, and amounted to about four hundred acres, no mortgage.*
 - A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - B. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
 - C. enter another's property without right or permission
- 2 *Most magically, tile produced prosperity—more **bushels** per acre of a better crop, year after year, wet or dry.*
 - A. scales where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - B. fellow workers -- especially in a respected profession such as teaching, medicine, or law
 - C. a large amount

or:

a unit of measure used for dry goods (filling an 8 gallon container)
- 3 *The Depression, for our family, was a time of careful **consolidation** of holdings through hard work, good luck, smart farming.*
 - A. strengthening and securing
 - B. something accepted as true (without proof)
 - C. relating to properties of sound or hearing
- 4 *It's very old, I'm used to it, and most of the time, I'm better at **cultivating** inner peace.*
 - A. considering (the affect on a result or outcome)
 - B. developing
 - C. writing or exchanging written letters or emails
- 5 *I paused at the kitchen door and watched the **unyielding** back of his head for a few seconds.*
 - A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - B. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
 - C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 6 *A little insurance for the **yield**, and the pleasure of driving that shiny red piece of machinery along the fencerow next to Cabot Street Road.*
 - A. production
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 7 *After you've **confided** long enough in someone, he or she assumes the antagonism you might have just been trying out.*
 - A. placed trust (in someone) by talking about private things
 - B. viewed in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
 - C. made a decision or voiced an opinion by formal group vote
- 8 *THE MONOPOLY GAME ENDED with the news that Caroline and Frank had gotten married in a civil ceremony in Des Moines.*
 - A. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
 - B. in the manner of someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much
 - C. complete control over a product, service, or resource -- usually by a single person, company, or group
- 9 *Rose said, "Aren't you having a good time, Ty?" in a sugary and deeply sarcastic voice, and Ty, taking her seriously, began, "Well, not really—" and the mere fact that he couldn't read her tone of voice was the last straw for me, and I said, "My God!" with evident **exasperation**.*
 - A. relative amount
 - B. in disagreement
 - C. great annoyance

- 10 In Pete's worst years, it never seemed to occur to her to scale back her behavior, to seek fewer disagreements, or to be more **conciliatory**.
 A. intended to end bad feelings or build trust
 B. the quality of being able to stop something
 C. able to change to fit a different situation
- 11 The feeling of shame that was still animating my flesh with **goad**ing particularity and self-consciousness—it would be enough for that to dissipate.
 A. suggesting indirectly
 B. provoking or prodding
 C. taking on or adopting
- 12 The impenetrable face of a hopeful girl, dressed in the unrevealing uniform of the time; her **demeanor** was sturdily virtuous.
 A. lacking experience or sophistication
 B. the manner in which a person behaves
 C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 13 So it was that Harold's accident and its aftermath got in everywhere, into the solidest relationships, the firmest beliefs, the strongest loyalties, the most deeply held **convictions** you had about the people you had known most of your life.
 A. not working or not operating
 B. a strong, firmly held belief
 C. calculates or judges too low
- 14 If you really think he's going to come around and have **remorse**, then give him some time to think about it.
 A. two successive lines of poetry; usually rhymed
 B. the main building (or buildings) of government
 C. deep regret for doing something that was wrong
- 15 They stated that my father had chosen to avail himself of the **revocation** clause in the preincorporation agreement, which stated that Rose's and my shares in the farm were revocable under certain conditions of "mismanagement or abuse."
 A. the act of again being in a working position; or the act of starting again
 B. to void, cancel, or take back -- especially to do so in an official manner
 C. a professional athlete who is free to sign a contract to play for any team
- 16 It was terrifying to think of myself so obvious, so **transparent**.
 A. obvious (despite attempts not to be)
 B. indicating approval or agreement
 C. the condition of being different
- 17 As hogs are far more **inquisitive** and destructive than dairy cattle, the plan was to install concrete partitions to about five feet, then wood frame walls above that.
 A. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
 B. interested in learning about things -- often asking many questions
 C. not having the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...
- 18 **Simultaneously**, we both realized that talking about my getting pregnant again was a dangerous enterprise.
 A. done while awake
 B. done with excess
 C. at the same time
- 19 Her **habitual** manner was one of amazement—that some right-minded Zebulon County person would actually let such a piece get away from the family, or else that some city person would actually pay what Dinah asked for it.
 A. able to change
 B. done regularly
 C. very important
- 20 I wanted him to feel remorse and know what he did and what he is, but when you see him around town and they talk about him, he's just **senile**.
 A. relating to a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen
 B. in the dark (figuratively) due to a lack of knowledge, advantages, or moral understanding
 C. mental weakness caused by old age; or describing a medical condition as caused by old age

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	mortgage	Used 7 times in this book.
2	C	bushel	Used 6 times in this book.
3	A	consolidate (<i>as in: a consolidated loan</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
4	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
5	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	confide	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
8	C	monopoly	High-utility academic word; used 15 times in this book.
9	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
10	A	conciliatory	Used 6 times in this book.
11	B	goad	Used 7 times in this book.
12	B	demeanor	Used 8 times in this book.
13	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 13 times in this book.
14	C	remorse	Used 11 times in this book.
15	B	revoke (<i>as in: revoked his privileges</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	transparent (<i>as in: transparent lie</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	inquisitive	Used 6 times in this book.
18	C	simultaneous	Used 11 times in this book.
19	B	habitual	Used 6 times in this book.
20	C	senile	Used 3 times in this book.