

A Thousand Splendid Suns

by Khaled Hosseini

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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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: adjacent, agitate, brandish, communism, conviction, curt, demonstrate (2), earnest, faction, jihad, mêlée, mullah, parched, progressive (2), refugee, resignation (2), scorn



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The kitchen has an island that is **adjacent** to the family room.
A. opposite
B. near
C. matching
2. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
A. calm and thoughtful
B. gloomy (sad)
C. emotionally disturbed
3. She **brandished** the gun in his direction.
A. fired
B. waved aggressively
C. pointed to the floor
4. Marx's writings on **communism** inspired revolutions across many countries in the 1900s.
A. free market trade
B. collective ownership
C. religious reform
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. I tried asking open-ended questions, but all I could get were curt replies.
A. angry
B. selfish
C. short
7. The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
A. protested
B. shown
C. encouraged
8. The students **demonstrated** against limitations on free speech.
A. signed petitions
B. spoke eloquently
C. protested
9. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his earnestness.
A. frivolous attitude
B. seriousness
C. falseness
10. She's part of the far-right **faction** of the Republican Party.
A. sub-group (that is made up of 10% or less of a larger group)
B. enthusiastic sub-group
C. sub-group
11. They urged a **jihad** against Jews and crusaders.
A. propaganda
B. holy war
C. economic boycott

12. She was caught up in the resulting **melee**.
A. arrest
B. report
C. mob
13. He is a **mullah** from Iran.
A. religious teacher
B. tribal leader
C. business person
14. Cactus is about all that will grow in this **parched** soil.
A. dried out
B. sandy
C. rocky
15. She has a **progressive** paralysis.
A. treatable
B. gradually increasing
C. sudden onset
16. She has a politically **progressive** reputation.
A. favoring established ideas already proven to work
B. favoring liberal political change or ideas
C. favoring experimentation in different states
17. She was a Tutsi **refugee** from Rwanda.
A. someone who fled their homeland
B. someone who suffered
C. someone who immigrated
18. She said that if I don't **resign**, I will be fired.
A. do better
B. quit
C. renew an agreement
19. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
A. putting a stop
B. resistant
C. with acceptance
20. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
A. disrespects
B. encourages
C. trains

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 American president Richard Nixon had **resigned** over a scandal.*
 - A. gained popularity
 - B. given up a position or job
 - C. been given a job
- 2 *And so Laila has **resigned** herself to moving on.*
 - A. excited (through positive thinking)
 - B. quit a job or position to allow
 - C. accepted something undesired as unavoidable
- 3 *Women **brandished** platters of sweets.*
 - A. selected (on a computer screen)
 - B. waved or exhibited aggressively
 - C. took up or received into heaven
- 4 *And here she was now, over those boulders and **parched** hills, with a home of her own, a husband of her own, heading toward one final, cherished province: Motherhood.*
 - A. dried out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight; or very thirsty
 - B. not with energy redirected from a negative impulse to a positive one
 - C. convinced (someone) that an idea previously believed was not correct
- 5 *On April 17, 1978, the year Mariam turned nineteen, a man named Mir Akbar Khyber was found murdered. Two days later, there was a large **demonstration** in Kabul. ... Rasheed said that Mir Akbar Khyber had been a prominent communist, and that his supporters were blaming the murder on President Daoud Khan's government.*
 - A. showing how something works
 - B. public trial
 - C. public protest
- 6 *He showed her his hammers, **demonstrated** how the sandpaper wheel worked, his voice ringing high and proud-*
 - A. protested
 - B. showed
 - C. supported
- 7 *These **communists**, what is it that they believe?*
 - A. subatomic particles with negative charge that are found in all atoms and that act as the primary carrier of electricity
 - B. people who support an economic system that abolishes private ownership of property with the goal of a classless society
 - C. people who suffer from psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 8 *It wasn't easy tolerating him talking this way to her, to bear his **scorn**, his ridicule, his insults, his walking past her like she was nothing but a house cat.*
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific
- 9 *And everyone in Afghanistan would be happy too, she said, once the **antiproggressives**, the backward bandits, were defeated.*
 - A. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - B. opposing people who favor liberal political change or ideas
 - C. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
- 10 *By "out there," he didn't mean Kabul, which had always been relatively liberal and **progressive**.*
 - A. able to change to fit a different situation
 - B. favoring liberal political change or ideas
 - C. the state or degree of being bad or harmful

- 11 "People who've been injured because of war," Giti said **earnestly**, oblivious to Hasina's toying.
- A. in a self-aware manner
 - B. sincerely or seriously
 - C. finally; or in the end
- 12 Laila remembered Mammy telling Babi once that she had married a man who had no **convictions**.
- A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 13 When he was **agitated**, which happened frequently, the slurring got worse.
- A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 - B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - C. not calm; or stirred up (often emotionally)
- 14 An Islamic Jihad Council, formed in Peshawar by several of the Mujahideen **factions**, would oversee things for two months, led by Sibghatullah Mojadidi.
- A. sympathies
 - B. main roads
 - C. sub-groups
- 15 Later that evening, Laila thought of how the **melee** had toppled over, with men falling on top of one another, amid yelps and cries and shouts and flying punches, and, in the middle of it, a grimacing Tariq, his hair disheveled, his leg come undone, trying to crawl out.
- A. result or predictable value
 - B. the highest-ranking manager
 - C. disorganized mass of people
- 16 Did you fight **jihad**?
- A. popular art movement of late 19th century French painters who used dabs of color to give an impression of their subject rather than a photographic-like depiction
 - B. a holy war waged by Muslims against infidels
 - C. the process of replacing what was used up OR the process of restoring to a previous condition OR (more rarely) materials that replaced what was used up
- 17 Already burdened with nearly two million Afghan **refugees**, Pakistan had closed its borders to Afghans in January of that year.
- A. people who fled their homeland
 - B. understandings or explanations
 - C. quiet voices; or a quiet voice
- 18 Beneath the burqa, the doctor shook her head **curtly**.
- A. in a manner that makes uncomfortable (weighs heavily on the senses or spirit)
 - B. in a manner that is the most exciting or important part of a series of events
 - C. in a manner that uses few words or is abrupt and perhaps discourteous or rude
- 19 She remembered something **Mullah** Faizullah used to say about hunger when Ramadan started: Even the snakebitten man finds sleep, but not the hungry.
- A. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
 - B. lacking experience or sophistication
 - C. a basic type of ecological community
- 20 ...a plane appears from the corner of the screen. It crashes into the **adjacent** tower, exploding into a fireball that dwarfs any ball of fire that Laila has ever seen.
- A. matching
 - B. nearby
 - C. tall

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
2	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	B	brandish	Used 5 times in this book.
4	A	parched	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
5	C	demonstrate (<i>as in: demonstrate to protest</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	demonstrate (<i>as in: It demonstrates my point.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	communism	Used 25 times in this book.
8	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
9	B	progressive (<i>as in: progressive ideas</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	B	progressive (<i>as in: progressive decline</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	B	earnest	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
12	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
13	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
14	C	faction	Used 12 times in this book.
15	C	mêlée	Used 4 times in this book.
16	B	jihad	Used 14 times in this book.
17	A	refugee	Used 9 times in this book.
18	C	curt	Used 6 times in this book.
19	A	mullah	Used 70 times in this book.
20	B	adjacent	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.