

After the First Death

by Robert Cormier

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: alliance, cease, chasm, contempt, deduce, divert, docile, elude, futile, hysteria, indifferent, languid, obscure, pathetic, persist, ponder, precedent, ravine, theme, vulnerable



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She understands the shifting **alliances** in the Middle East.
 - A. associations formed to support common interests
 - B. sets of competing interests amongst neighbors
 - C. borders between countries
2. The injunction requires that they **cease** all activity on the site.
 - A. stop
 - B. record
 - C. permit
3. We were stopped by an impassable **chasm**.
 - A. steep mountain
 - B. raging river
 - C. steep drop
4. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
5. She trusts only what she can measure or can **deduce** from measurement.
 - A. describe in detail
 - B. conclude by reasoning
 - C. find in a book
6. Officers **diverted** the parade traffic to side streets to avoid the protest.
 - A. halted
 - B. counted
 - C. rerouted
7. The sleddogs are **docile** and trainable.
 - A. easily led and managed
 - B. very strong and fast
 - C. smart and competitive
8. The quarterback **eluded** the linebackers.
 - A. overcame
 - B. ran into
 - C. avoided
9. Their attempt to fix the cracked screen with tape was **futile**.
 - A. simple
 - B. dangerous
 - C. pointless
10. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of **hysteria**.
 - A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
11. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
 - A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger
12. She greeted us with a **languid** wave of the hand.
 - A. quick and sharp
 - B. slow and relaxed
 - C. stiff and formal

13. Our view was obscured by the smoke.
- A. enhanced
 - B. blocked
 - C. made frightening
14. The shabby room struck her as extraordinarily pathetic.
- A. annoying
 - B. common
 - C. pitiful
15. We expect the conditions to persist into next year.
- A. grow worse
 - B. continue
 - C. go away
16. We pondered our fate.
- A. thought about
 - B. feared for
 - C. actively changed
17. Legal precedent set by the Supreme Court should be followed by all lower courts.
- A. a decision made at a prior time
 - B. a law passed by the legislature
 - C. an exception to a general rule
18. I was afraid that if we climbed into the ravine, we might be caught in a flood before we could get out.
- A. a hole so deep the bottom cannot be seen
 - B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
 - C. a large, fast-moving river
19. Do you choose the topic for your theme or is it assigned?
- A. book
 - B. essay
 - C. speech
20. The team's preferred style of defense is vulnerable to good outside shooters.
- A. designed to stop
 - B. easily hurt by
 - C. dependent upon

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 I have **deduced**, reflecting on the Bus, that this would be the best way to shuffle off this mortal coil.
 - A. not roughly calculated
 - B. concluded by reasoning
 - C. influenced or effected
- 2 It reminded me of old movies on television where someone is screaming hysterically and someone else slaps; the screamer and the **hysterics** die down.
 - A. a state of excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - B. settings or situations in which things occur
 - C. public commendations or statements of praise
- 3 The candy had been treated with a tranquilizer, a drug strong enough to render the children **docile** and passive within a few minutes.
 - A. easily led or managed -- perhaps submissive or well-behaved
 - B. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - C. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
- 4 We merely want to **divert** the bus from its course for a few minutes.
 - A. reinforce the importance
 - B. study about
 - C. change the direction
- 5 She looked across the **ravine** to the old pavilion building.
 - A. another battle with the same foe
 - B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
 - C. describing someone as antisocial
- 6 Because I knew a phone call would be useless, a **futile** gesture.
 - A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. effort that is pointless because it is unproductive or unsuccessful
- 7 They would also be able to watch the woods on both sides of the **chasm** for snipers.
 - A. long eventful journey
 - B. a nerve or brain cell
 - C. a large gap or divide
- 8 Most of the children were still in a land of half stupor, **languid**, like limp rags.
 - A. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - B. having little energy and moving slowly
 - C. without involvement of anything in between
- 9 As **abruptly** as the sound and movement began, so did it **cease**.
 - A. stop or discontinue
 - B. influence or effect
 - C. gain advantage from
- 10 I agree that we appear to be **vulnerable**.
 - A. having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. easily hurt or in need of help; or easily influenced or subject to temptation
 - C. suffering from too few red blood cells

or (less commonly): lacking vitality
- 11 This would set a **precedent** that could touch off mass hijackings, the way it's happened in other countries.
 - A. an example from a prior time -- typically used to justify similar occurrences at a later time (especially a judicial decision)
 - B. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
 - C. related to accepting someone's membership through a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test

- 12 *Home is a thousand **alliances** away.*
A. associations formed to support common interests
B. associations formed to support common interests
C. senses of isolation due to competing interests
- 13 *She caught her breath, **pondering** a new thought:*
A. thinking deeply or carefully
B. finding, searching, or researching
C. learning, discovering, or deciding
- 14 *He had seduced her with his **pathetic** tale of wandering through the camps as a child and had somehow enlisted her sympathy.*
A. unable to get closer to
B. not sensible or careful
C. pitiful (arousing pity)
- 15 *Someone had written a **theme** paper on the topic: in school.*
A. aka analyst -- psychiatrist
B. an essay written by a student
C. something taken on or adopted
- 16 *The snow **obscured** the footpaths,*
A. emphasized (called attention to something)
B. made less visible
C. not fit for service to humans or home life
- 17 *His eyes were half closed as he sprawled in the seat, pretending **indifference**.*
A. lack of interest
B. risky investment
C. chaotic disorder
- 18 *She had been his first target and had **eluded** him.*
A. not taken on or adopted
B. requested or challenged
C. avoided (got away from)
- 19 *He felt **contempt** for the boy.*
A. frustration at being treated unfairly
B. lack of respect
C. prejudice or unfair treatment
- 20 *But she had to **persist**.*
A. disagree
B. continue -- often despite difficulty
C. subtract

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	deduce	Used 4 times in this book.
2	A	hysteria	Used 6 times in this book.
3	A	docile	Used 7 times in this book.
4	C	divert (<i>as in: divert the traffic or funds</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
5	B	ravine	Used 8 times in this book.
6	C	futile	Used 7 times in this book.
7	C	chasm	Used 7 times in this book.
8	B	languid	Used 4 times in this book.
9	A	cease	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
10	B	vulnerable	Used 8 times in this book.
11	A	precedent (<i>as in: sets a precedent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	A	alliance	Used 7 times in this book.
13	A	ponder	Used 17 times in this book.
14	C	pathetic (<i>as in: Her pathetic look saddened us.</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
15	B	theme (<i>as in: wrote a 2-page theme on my summer</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
16	B	obscure (<i>as in: it obscured my view</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
17	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
18	C	elude (<i>as in: she eluded the police</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
19	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
20	B	persist	Used 6 times in this book.