

Alas, Babylon

by Pat Frank

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

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: accord (2), anesthesia, apprehensive, coherent, dwindle, hypnotize, jargon, nucleus, obsolete, provisional, prudent, radiation, ration, reconnaissance, revise, scarcity, tact, taut, transistor radio



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She dresses in **accordance** with the latest fashions.
 - A. opposition
 - B. keeping
 - C. ignorance
2. His lawyers demand he be **accorded** the status of a captured soldier rather than a spy.
 - A. given
 - B. denied
 - C. told about
3. The doctor used **anesthesia** so she would not feel pain during the procedure.
 - A. a sharp instrument
 - B. pain-numbing medicine
 - C. a written diagnosis
4. She is **apprehensive** about finals.
 - A. talkative
 - B. worried
 - C. unconcerned
5. Her argument is **coherent**.
 - A. unreasonable
 - B. fragmented
 - C. sensible and clear
6. As winter continued, the family's supply of firewood began to **dwindle**.
 - A. suddenly improve
 - B. remain unchanged
 - C. gradually decrease
7. The police want to **hypnotize** me to see if it will help me remember what she looked like.
 - A. give a memory drug to
 - B. put into a trance
 - C. visit the crime scene with
8. The legal **jargon** in the contract was so complex that the client had to hire a lawyer to interpret it.
 - A. special vocabulary
 - B. complex ideas
 - C. underlying philosophy
9. The small reading group became the **nucleus** of a schoolwide book club.
 - A. ending
 - B. critics
 - C. center
10. That old phone is **obsolete**.
 - A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken
11. Not all **provisional** ballots will be counted.
 - A. not final
 - B. fully valid
 - C. already checked
12. Courage is dangerous without **prudence**.
 - A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support

13. Geiger counters detect **radiation** released by unstable atoms.
- A. magnetic forces
 - B. atomic particles
 - C. loud sound bursts
14. During the Second World War, products such as food and gasoline were **rationed** in the United States, so more resources could be devoted to the war effort.
- A. restricted in the amount each person could have
 - B. set at a high price only the military could afford
 - C. imported in small amounts from many countries
15. Satellite **reconnaissance** indicates they are building a nuclear facility.
- A. delivery of supplies
 - B. construction project
 - C. scouting for information
16. Do you think the writer should revise the underlined sentence?
- A. remove
 - B. highlight
 - C. improve
17. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
18. She means well, but she lacks **tact**.
- A. a plan
 - B. sensitivity
 - C. ability
19. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy
20. Sony's **transistor** radio became a global success after its 1957 launch.
- A. early television model
 - B. compact tape recorder
 - C. small portable radio

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 She glanced up, **apprehensively**, through the kitchen window.
 - A. in a manner that does not change
 - B. worried over possible misfortune
 - C. in a manner that deserves praise
- 2 But on this morning, it seemed to Randy that she had **dwindled** a bit.
 - A. disagreed
 - B. separated
 - C. decreased
- 3 He telephoned Golden Dew Dairy and **revised** his delivery order drastically upward.
 - A. adapted
 - B. delayed
 - C. changed
- 4 I think we lost some time ago, because the last five Sputniks have been **reconnaissance** satellites.
 - A. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
 - B. aka natural right -- a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. the act of exploring or information produced by such exploration -- especially for military purposes
- 5 Her mouth, usually agile and humorous, was drawn into a **taut**, colorless line.
 - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;
or: subjected to great tension
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 6 Randy tried to be at once **tactful** and truthful.
 - A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - B. to say or handle things in a way that makes others feel good about them
 - C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 7 All he heard was a distant and **incoherent** babble.
 - A. related to the change of a light wave (or other wave) when it passes an opaque edge or narrow opening
 - B. related to a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - C. not sensible or clear; or describing parts as not fitting together in a consistent or pleasing manner
- 8 Randy guessed that these prisoners were being transported, by truck, to their work area, when the **nuclear** attack came.
 - A. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - B. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - C. relating to the central or most important part of something
- 9 He had forgotten the implacable law of **scarcity**.
 - A. an expert in the branch of geology that studies rocks
 - B. someone who exposes wrongdoing within an organization
 - C. shortage (having an amount that is less than desired)
- 10 No **anesthesia**.
 - A. the state or degree of having the ability to change for different situations
 - B. loss of bodily sensation -- especially created intentionally to control pain
 - C. a common name for tetanus, a serious infection that makes the jaw clamp shut
- 11 A few optimistic storekeepers had **prudently** boarded windows, split by blast on The Day or broken by looters afterwards, against water and wind.
 - A. with good sense and caution
 - B. in a strongly biased manner
 - C. in a manner that challenges
- 12 You're absorbing **radiation** from the jewelry Porky traded for the whiskey.
 - A. a central open space in a building
 - B. particles emitted by nuclear decay
 - C. something quoted (to make a point)

- 13 *These officers will act in accordance with their best judgment, under the proclamation of martial law.*
- A. the quality of being continuous
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with
 - C. doubt (that something is true)
- 14 *But now that he was married, he thought it only right that he and Lib have a room to themselves and the privacy accorded a married couple.*
- A. given (special treatment)
 - B. found, sought, or researched
 - C. not judged in a negative way
- 15 *I'm not up on Air Force codes and jargon.*
- A. specialized vocabulary
 - B. mirror back (an image)
 - C. create dramatic change
- 16 *The rules of Clausewitz, Mahan, all of them were obsolete as the Code Duello.*
- A. no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - B. surprise -- often so much so that one doesn't know what to say or do
 - C. an appropriate size, amount, or degree in relation to something else
- 17 *I'm going to try to form a provisional company.*
- A. temporary; or in effect while awaiting approval or a more permanent solution
 - B. the state or degree of having the ability to change for different situations
 - C. the quality of behaving in an instinctive, uninhibited, and unplanned manner
- 18 *"If you can learn hypnotism," she suggested, "you might use it as anesthesia."*
- A. a doctrine emphasizing a person's capacity for self-realization through reason rather than through religion and the supernatural
 - B. a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility
 - C. a 20th century movement of artists and writers who used impossible or unlikely images to represent unconscious thoughts and dreams
- 19 *Randy had carefully rationed salt since he was shocked, in July, to discover how few pounds were left.*
- A. restricted the amount used of something
 - B. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - C. not controlled, prevented, or made less intense
- 20 *Randy thought, it must be the transistor radio, started up again, but at the same time he knew this was impossible because he long ago had thrown away the dead batteries.*
- A. a change; or a changed version
 - B. confidential or secret meeting
 - C. a type of small portable radio

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	apprehensive	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
2	C	dwindle	Used 8 times in this book.
3	C	revise	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	C	reconnaissance	Used 5 times in this book.
5	B	taut	Used 5 times in this book.
6	B	tact	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	C	coherent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
8	C	nucleus	Used 15 times in this book.
9	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
10	B	anesthesia	Used 3 times in this book.
11	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
12	B	radiation (<i>as in: nuclear radiation</i>)	Used 30 times in this book.
13	B	accord (<i>as in: according to, or in accord with</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	accord (<i>as in: accord her the respect deserved</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	A	jargon	Used 3 times in this book.
16	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	A	provisional	Used 3 times in this book.
18	B	hypnotize (<i>as in: hypnotized to try to remember</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
19	A	ration	Used 13 times in this book.
20	C	transistor radio	Used 3 times in this book.