

Before I Fall

by Lauren Oliver

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: alcove, coincidence, collide, déjà vu, distort, ebb, flaunt, hamstrung, hysteria, irony, jut, melodrama, paranoid, recede, rife, serene, sober, sober up, vertigo, waver



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We shared an intimate dinner in one of the restaurant's **alcoves**.
 - A. outdoor patios
 - B. spacious rooms
 - C. recessed or secluded spaces
2. It was a fortunate **coincidence** that we ran into each other at Starbucks.
 - A. unlikely event
 - B. plan
 - C. likely event
3. If the two cars **collide** at high speed, the damage will be severe.
 - A. crash
 - B. wait
 - C. split
4. Some scientists believe that **déjà vu** is caused by a glitch in the brain's memory processing, while others think it may be related to past life experiences.
 - A. a strange inability to remember things that should be remembered
 - B. the strange feeling of having lived the current moment before
 - C. an unexplainable fear of a person or object
5. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
6. After the incident, support for the policy **ebbed**.
 - A. increased
 - B. disappeared
 - C. declined
7. She **flaunts** her wealth.
 - A. shows off
 - B. hides
 - C. enjoys
8. She is **hamstrung** by a lack of resources at the school.
 - A. left unaffected
 - B. given more power
 - C. made ineffective
9. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of **hysteria**.
 - A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
10. **Ironically**, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
 - A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
11. She tripped on a thick tree root that **jutted out** across the muddy path.
 - A. washed away
 - B. curled up
 - C. stuck out

12. The scene became **melodrama**, with tears, shouting, and a sudden confession.
- A. exaggerated drama
 - B. quiet comedy
 - C. factual reporting
13. He grew **paranoid** that his coworkers were secretly plotting against him.
- A. deeply grateful to friends
 - B. overly suspicious of others
 - C. completely unaware of trouble
14. The pain is beginning to **recede**.
- A. get worse
 - B. return again
 - C. diminish (decrease)
15. The area is **rife** with mosquitoes.
- A. completely lacking
 - B. moderately filled
 - C. excessively filled
16. She remained **serene** even when he was yelling at her.
- A. unmoved
 - B. calm
 - C. aggressive
17. I'm worried about her. I seldom see her **sober** and without a hangover.
- A. in a serious mood
 - B. not under the influence of alcohol
 - C. not sad or crying
18. Talk to me after you **sober up**.
- A. become less angry
 - B. become less drunk
 - C. become less tired
19. She suffers **vertigo** from an inner ear infection.
- A. pain
 - B. congestion
 - C. dizziness
20. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady

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 His smile doesn't **waver**.

A. portray or create in a particular way OR interpret, translate, or extract from
B. to release from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
C. to move back and forth (shake or quiver)

or:

to change, be unsure, or weak

- 2 Plus I hate my English teacher, Mrs. Harbor. ... Even though she's probably only in her fifties, I'm pretty sure she's losing it. That's how it started with my grandmother: ... When my grandmother was still alive we would visit her, and even though I was no more than six, I remember thinking: I hope I die young. There's a definition of **irony** for you, Mrs. Harbor. Or maybe foreshadowing?

A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
B. when what happened was very different than what might have been expected
C. someone who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often with the implication that the person is unrealistic

- 3 He's talking to Phoebe **Rifer** and they're laughing about something.

A. completely lacking
B. moderately filled
C. excessively filled

- 4 For a moment my stomach clenches, thinking she's making fun of me, but it's a **coincidence**.

A. a situation where things happened at the same time by chance even though it was unlikely
B. a person who studies DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
C. baseball: a pitch thrown with little spin (so that it moves in an unpredictable manner)

- 5 "I feel like I'm having **déjà vu**," Elody says.

A. not high blood pressure; or pressure that is clinically low (systolic pressure less than 90 or diastolic pressure less than 60)
B. the strange feeling of having lived the current moment before; or referring to something as similar to what has happened before
C. easily makes profit OR (from Greek mythology) referring to the story of everything turning to gold when touched by King Midas

- 6 I feel myself **nodding** and her face **recedes**.

A. examines in detail to better understand
B. protects something or keeps it as it is
C. moves away or diminishes (becomes less)

- 7 Words are **distorted** and music sounds the way it does at a carnival, like all the notes are off balance and just colliding with one another.

A. said (or make a sound) with the voice
B. genetically changed through evolution
C. altered in an unnatural or untrue way

- 8 Before I have to answer Lindsay makes a kind of hissing noise and **juts** her chin up, gesturing behind me.

A. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
C. to stick out; or a part that sticks out

- 9 Never mind the cramp **snaking** up my **hamstrings** and thighs: I've got amazing gossip to spread.

A. the main buildings of governments
B. closely connected groups of three
C. makes less effective or powerless

- 10 We **collide** so hard it takes me a second to recover my breath.
- A. crash together with violent impact; or come into conflict
 - B. think carefully and make a judgment about something again
 - C. to promise, guarantee, or indicate certainty of something
- 11 "If you got it, **flaunt it**," I say, making my voice soft and steady.
- A. show it off
 - B. well suited
 - C. restraining
- 12 For a moment I feel a hot flush of embarrassment, like nausea or **vertigo**.
- A. title for the head of a government body in some countries
 - B. an unborn child (or other unborn or unhatched vertebrate)
 - C. a dizzy sensation or a feeling that you are about to fall
- 13 I feel like I'm **sobering up** after drinking all night.
- A. a chronic autoimmune disease with inflammation of the joints
 - B. becoming less drunk (or getting completely past drunkenness)
 - C. the value of a home minus what is still owed on the mortgage
- 14 I've never been this **sober** around people this wasted, and I say a brief prayer that I'm not half as annoying as they are when I'm drunk.
- A. someone who proves superior or wins
 - B. not under the influence of alcohol
 - C. less visible or less understandable
- 15 Tara and I skirt around the dining room table—my mom would have a coronary from excitement, it must seat at least twelve—and out into a kind of **alcove**.
- A. a room leading to a larger or more important room
 - B. extensive plain without trees (associated with eastern Russia and Siberia)
 - C. a recessed or secluded space -- such as in a room or garden
- 16 "This, my friends, was an emergency," she said, and we all laughed because she was being **melodramatic** as usual.
- A. a story or behavior that is overly dramatic
 - B. temperature scale used in most of the world
 - C. devices that convert light into electricity
- 17 My headlights sweep over a crooked green street sign fifty feet ahead: **Serenity Place**.
- A. relative amount
 - B. untroubled calm
 - C. in disagreement
- 18 For one **paranoid** second I'm sure she's talking about me—that somehow she has just read my mind—but then her friends explode with laughter, and one of them says, "I know."
- A. the practice or tendency to be critical--especially in a non-helpful manner
 - B. with excessive fear
 - C. the quality of using extreme or violent actions to achieve a political goal
- 19 Her voice breaks a little, a note of **hysteria** creeping in.
- A. a state of excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - B. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - C. found a condition or substance to be present
- 20 Three faces blooming together like flowers on a single stem, names **ebbing** away from me, a single word: love.
- A. making uncomfortable (weighing heavily on the senses or spirit)
 - B. supporting a beam, bracket, or other structure on only one side
 - C. declining -- typically gradually as with the height of the tide

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
3	C	rife	Used 4 times in this book.
4	A	coincidence	Used 6 times in this book.
5	B	déjà vu	Used 7 times in this book.
6	C	recede	Used 4 times in this book.
7	C	distort	Used 2 times in this book.
8	C	jut	Used 3 times in this book.
9	C	hamstrung (<i>as in: hamstrung by excessive rules</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
10	A	collide	Used 10 times in this book.
11	A	flaunt	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	vertigo	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	sober up (<i>as in: I need to sober up.</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	sober (<i>as in: Talk to me when your sober.</i>)	Used 10 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
15	C	alcove	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	melodrama	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	serene	Used 3 times in this book.
18	B	paranoid (<i>used casually</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
19	A	hysteria	Used 5 times in this book.
20	C	ebb	Used 4 times in this book.