

Big Nate – In a Class by Himself

by Lincoln Pierce

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: amnesia, assortment, baffle, caricature, diversion, dynamic, expel, forgery, gullible, highlight, insolent, Jurassic, limerick, obnoxious, opera, phase, Picasso, portfolio, Sherlock Holmes, sprain



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. **Amnesia** is much more common in the movies than it is in life.
 - A. a minor gunshot wound
 - B. loss of memory
 - C. love at first sight
2. An **assortment** of students gathered after school—some studying, others just chatting.
 - A. small group
 - B. variety
 - C. large group
3. Doctors are **baffled** by her symptoms.
 - A. confused
 - B. concerned
 - C. interested
4. The movie portrayed the villain as a **caricature**, lacking depth and complexity.
 - A. complex human being
 - B. silly clown
 - C. exaggerated representation
5. The shoplifter had an accomplice who created a **diversion**.
 - A. plan
 - B. distraction
 - C. police record
6. She is a **dynamic** candidate.
 - A. careful and quiet
 - B. polite and reserved
 - C. energetic and enthusiastic
7. If her behavior does not improve, she could face **expulsion** from school.
 - A. having to repeat a grade
 - B. serious punishment
 - C. being forcing to leave
8. Experts proved the painting was a **clever forgery**, not the real masterpiece.
 - A. original work of art
 - B. early rough draft
 - C. fake passed off as real
9. She was **gullible** and in love with the wrong man.
 - A. too confused
 - B. too focused
 - C. too trusting
10. It was the **highlight** of our vacation.
 - A. brightest day
 - B. best part
 - C. scariest moment
11. The **insolent** waiter rolled his eyes when the customer asked for more water.
 - A. boldly disrespectful
 - B. kindly helpful
 - C. shyly quiet

12. The scientist meticulously pieced together the Jurassic fossils, unveiling a stunning glimpse into ancient life.
- A. from the age of early life
 - B. from the age of the dinosaurs
 - C. from the age of flowering plants
13. Brett recited a humorous limerick about a man from Nantucket.
- A. a long joke whose punchline plays on words
 - B. a song lending that requires a good voice
 - C. a 5-line poem with a rhyme scheme of aabba
14. Don't be **obnoxious**.
- A. nervous or worried
 - B. rude or unpleasant
 - C. ridiculous or foolish
15. We're going to the **opera** this evening.
- A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
16. We finished the first **phase** of the project.
- A. pretending to have moral standards while not living up to them
 - B. a stage during the development of something
 - C. someone responsible for a wrongdoing -- especially a criminal
17. **Picasso** is best-known for work he did in the cubist style.
- A. Russian composer
 - B. Spanish painter
 - C. Italian architect
18. We're adding it to our **portfolio** to show prospective clients.
- A. collection of investments
 - B. list of awards
 - C. examples of creative work
19. **Sherlock Holmes** is known for solving mysteries using logic and careful observation.
- A. fictional London detective
 - B. fictional pirate of the seas
 - C. fictional alien superhero
20. The doctor said it was a mild **sprain** and didn't require a cast—just rest and ice.
- A. minor skin scratch
 - B. broken bone
 - C. twisted joint injury

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 **specialize in caricatures** of teachers.
 - A. (noun) things that are lighter and draw attention -- such as areas of a painting OR (verb) making some things lighter -- such as areas of a painting
 - B. recommends or requires what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) gives medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
 - C. a representation that exaggerates or highlights certain aspects -- especially of a person for comic effect; or creating a drawing with such exaggeration
- 2 *There's also stuff I definitely WON'T achieve greatness in, like **opera**, synchronized swimming, and cat grooming.*
 - A. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
- 3 *Frankly, they're not very bright. Or maybe they're just really **gullible**.*
 - A. designed to be useful; or capable of working
 - B. the state of doing something unintentionally
 - C. easily tricked because of being too trusting
- 4 *Sisters don't have to be teenagers to be **obnoxious**, though.*
 - A. impossible to find
 - B. rude and unpleasant
 - C. good or beneficial
- 5 *I wrap my hand in bandages, then tell her I can't write because I **sprained** my wrist.*
 - A. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drunk, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
 - B. a structural form (rigid, web-like assembly of smaller, usually triangular members) that supports a roof, bridge or other structure
 - C. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 6 *I pretend to hit my head against the door on my way into the classroom, then act like I've got **amnesia**.*
 - A. gets closer to
 - B. loss of memory
 - C. small kitchens
- 7 *Or **expelled**.*
 - A. translated
 - B. subtracted
 - C. forced out
- 8 *Isn't **forgery**, like, a CRIME?*
 - A. any of the Scandinavian people who raided the coasts of Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries
 - B. a compound consisting of large molecules made up of a linked series of repeated smaller molecules
 - C. making a copy of something and saying it is the original
- 9 *Why is he acting all **Sherlock Holmes** on me?*
 - A. famous detective in make believe stories
 - B. iconic villain in the Star Wars stories
 - C. Adam Smith's classic book on free markets
- 10 *That means I'm **dynamic**, loyal, and chock-full of animal magnetism.*
 - A. able to be translated
 - B. exactness or accuracy
 - C. energetic (on the move; making changes)

- 11 The **highlight** of the year was when Mr. Galvin's dentures fell out during his lecture on earthquakes.
- something made from parts
 - best part
 - large artery of the heart
- 12 REASON FOR DETENTION: **Insolence**
- rude disrespect
 - thing that affects a result or outcome
 - job, reservation, booking, or activity
- 13 We have to write our own poems in a "poetry portfolio."
- the study of the origin of the universe
 - vaccination (to protect from a disease)
 - a collection of examples of creative work
- 14 LIMERICK by Nate Wright:
*I have feasted on all sorts of noodles,
 I have tried an assortment of strudels.
 Of the foods that I've eaten,
 Only one can't be beaten:
 An extra large bag of Cheez Doodles.*
- a period of time or a stage during the development of something
 - a measure of north/south (relative to the equator) on the earth
 - a humorous 5-line poem with a rhyme scheme of aabba
- 15 *I have feasted on all sorts of noodles, I have tried an assortment of strudels.*
- any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
 - a variety of a kind of a thing
 - an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
- 16 *He's like a junior Picasso!*
- largest of the Depression era relief measures that put millions to work
 - prolific and influential Spanish artist who lived in France (1881-1973)
 - relating to or characteristic of Greece or classical Greek civilization
- 17 "ANY kind of **diversion!**" I say. "Just distract Mr. Rosa for five or ten seconds. That's all the time I'll need."
- presentation or display
 - something to draw attention
 - question of general interest
- 18 *I look at him, still baffled.*
- completely confused
 - extremely concerned
 - very interested
- 19 *Mr. Galvin's been teaching at P.S. 38 since the Jurassic period.*
- Friedrich Engels -- socialist who with his better-known partner, Karl Marx, developed the theory of communism (1820-1895)
 - age of dinosaurs roughly 150-200 million years ago
 - Greek mythology: the first woman; she was presented with a container which when opened released all of humanity's evils
- 20 *There was even a photo of him from his "hair replacement system" phase.*
- a measure of north/south (relative to the equator) on the earth
 - a period of time during the development of someone or something
 - an optical device that produces an intense narrow beam of light

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	caricature	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
2	A	opera	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	C	gullible	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
4	B	obnoxious	Used 3 times in this book.
5	C	sprain	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	B	amnesia	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	C	expel	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	C	forgery	Used 2 times in this book.
9	A	Sherlock Holmes	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	C	dynamic (<i>as in: a dynamic personality</i>)	High-utility academic word
11	B	highlight (<i>as in: highlights of the year</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	insolent	Used 5 times in this book.
13	C	portfolio (<i>as in: showed her creative portfolio</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
14	C	limerick	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
15	B	assortment	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	Picasso (<i>as in: Pablo Picasso</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	diversion (<i>as in: a diversion to draw troops away</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
18	A	baffle (<i>as in: baffled her</i>)	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	Jurassic	
20	B	phase (<i>as in: a critical phase</i>)	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.