

Brian's Winter

by Gary Paulsen

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: accustom, adversary, dismal, establish, estimate, fleeting, hygiene, intricate, lethargic, migrate, physics, plausible, principle, ratio, ration, scrupulous, scrutiny, sufficient, supple, vary



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- Actors and politicians are **accustomed** to less privacy than the rest of us.
 - used to
 - happy with
 - paid for
- Their **adversaries** outsmarted them.
 - sub-groups
 - replacements
 - opponents
- When she graduated from college the job market was **dismal**.
 - especially good
 - promising but unusual
 - terrible or depressing
- Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
 - avoid
 - create
 - increase
- Can you **estimate** the cost of the renovation?
 - officially approve
 - roughly calculate
 - publicly announce
- Youth is **fleeting**.
 - short-lived
 - reckless
 - troubled
- The company inspects **hygiene** at food-processing plants.
 - practices promoting sanitary conditions
 - the act of keeping people or things separate -- especially people due to discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, or religion
 - microorganisms (living creatures so small it takes a microscope to see them) that can both cause disease and be beneficial.
- The law in that area is **intricate**. I suggest you talk with a lawyer.
 - outdated
 - predictable
 - complicated
- Large lunches make me feel **lethargic** in the afternoon.
 - sluggish
 - upset
 - energetic
- Many Germans migrated to South America in the mid-19th century
 - flew toward
 - flew away
 - moved
- She became interested in **physics** after building a model rocket that launched using air pressure.
 - study of living things
 - science of matter and energy
 - study of human cultures

12. Her theory was neat, **plausible**, and wrong.
- A. reasonable
 - B. praiseworthy
 - C. foolish
13. One guiding **principle** is that everyone should be treated fairly.
- A. rule or belief
 - B. complaint
 - C. answer or result
14. A relatively low **ratio** of the length of the index finger to the ring finger correlates with increased risk of prostate cancer in men.
- A. size in inches
 - B. relative measurement
 - C. metric measurement
15. 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
16. Lenders trust her as a **scrupulous** property inspector.
- A. fast and cheap
 - B. honest and careful
 - C. loud and rude
17. The new policy faced **scrutiny** from independent reviewers.
- A. strong support
 - B. quick approval
 - C. careful examination
18. Is there **sufficient** cause for a search warrant?
- A. adequate (enough)
 - B. clear or obvious
 - C. dangerous
19. She is as **supple** as a gymnast.
- A. hard working
 - B. energetic
 - C. moves and bends easily
20. McDonald's menu options **vary** by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known

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 *And there was a **physics** to it, a basic fact, almost a law: For a wolf to live, something else had to die.*
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. the science of matter and energy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 2 *But in reality, the bear was not his primary **adversary**.*
 - A. disorder
 - B. reporter
 - C. opponent
- 3 *He knew some things **migrated** but he wasn't sure which things or if even rabbits came out—maybe they stayed inside brushpiles or caves all winter and slept.*
 - A. selected (on a computer screen)
 - B. learned, discovered, or decided
 - C. moved from one place to another
- 4 *He had stopped to study them and he had thought then that it was a beautiful collection of **intricately** carved points, all laid out on red velvet, and he did not then or later think of what they really were: tools for hunting.*
 - A. without concern for what others might think of oneself
 - B. done in a manner that changes for different situations
 - C. complicated -- having many complexly arranged elements
- 5 *It was unusual for him to go there without getting several good shots and though he still often missed he had worked out a **ratio** of five to one: He seemed to get one rabbit for about every five shots on rabbits.*
 - A. wrong understanding
 - B. relative quantities
 - C. act of hiring again
- 6 *A kind of **lethargy** came over him and he just wanted to sit in the sun and try to forget the last week.*
 - A. lack of energy; or (often in historic literature) a state of sleep
 - B. not appropriate or not properly related in size, amount, or degree
 - C. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
- 7 *He set the shaft aside and went back to the fire rock—he was already thinking of it as the arrow stone—and **scrutinized** it once more.*
 - A. mirrored back (an image)
 - B. quoted (to make a point)
 - C. looked at very carefully
- 8 *Wonderful—I've got a roommate with a terminal **hygiene** problem ...*
 - A. practices promoting the prevention of illness and maintenance of health -- such as cleanliness or promoting sanitary conditions
 - B. the ability to put someone into a state of hypnosis (a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility)
 - C. adherents to the theological system of John Calvin and his followers emphasizing omnipotence of God and salvation by grace alone
- 9 *Inside of four days a routine was **established**.*
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. created
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 10 *If he used the same **principle** as with the arrows*
 - A. fundamental concept
 - B. the act of forgiving
 - C. narrow water passage

- 11 *It was cold and low and gray and raining, a **dismal** rain much like the one that had lasted so long earlier in the fall, and he kindled the fire with dry wood he'd set aside the night before when he'd seen the clouds moving in.*
- irrelevant or unimportant
 - important or significant
 - depressing or gloomy
- 12 *He had stretched the wolfkilled doe as far as he could, trying to **ration** it and eat smaller amounts, but he'd have to hunt within four or five days.*
- a fixed share of something, especially scarce goods like food or fuel; or to limit and distribute something in fixed shares
 - to corrupt or seduce from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessive drinking, casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
 - remove or suppress anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable OR a person who does such suppression
- 13 *He now took twenty steps and saw seven, all at **varying** ranges, none close enough to shoot, all standing out like sore thumbs because they were brown against the white snow.*
- gaining advantage from
 - differing; or changing
 - taking on as one's own
- 14 *He had one **fleeting** image of a wall of brown hair with the feathers of the arrow sticking out of the middle and he went down.*
- lasting a short time
 - sensible and careful
 - not demonstrative of
- 15 *The hide was still wet from being on the moose, hadn't had time to dry, but the fire and heat in the shelter worked fast and within a few days it had dried **sufficiently** to work.*
- adequately (in a manner that provides enough -- often without being more than is needed)
 - done in a rude or unfriendly manner because of using too few words or moving too quickly
 - in a manner that relates to questions that cannot be answered with the scientific method
- 16 *He had the hide loose where it counted, in the armpits and elbows and the hood, but much of the rest of it was only half **supple**, stiff enough so that he felt as if he were wearing a coat of armor and still stiff though he worked on it for hours when at last the storm ended.*
- clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate -- sometimes to indicate a difference that is excellent
 - using passive (sometimes subtle) resistance in interpersonal or occupational situations while avoiding direct confrontation
 - soft and pliable (easily bent)
- 17 *Brian couldn't **estimate** temperature but he thought it must be near zero, but quiet—the wind had stopped completely—and his clothes kept him as warm as if he'd been in the shelter.*
- add fuel or stir a fire to make it burn hotter; or make feelings stronger
 - a rough calculation or guess of a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - propose a seemingly reasonable, but unproven, idea based upon known facts
- 18 *Back in the hood the air was kept from moving and his face grew warmer and the fact that his head was warm seemed to warm his whole body and once he became **accustomed** to the cold he could look around and appreciate the world around him.*
- used to (adapted to something, so it seems normal)
 - the ability to be taken up or received into heaven
 - the state or character of being good or beneficial
- 19 *He thought it must be a good distance—the sounds were faint—and he would probably find some **plausible** reason for the sound.*
- apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - in a manner that takes on or adopts
 - full of strong desire for something
- 20 *The Smallhorn family were **scrupulously** polite and because they had lived in the bush and didn't have television, they knew nothing of Brian's disaster.*
- in a manner that does not change
 - ethically; or carefully diligent
 - in a manner that deserves praise

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	physics	Used 2 times in this book.
2	C	adversary	High-utility academic word
3	C	migrate	Used 2 times in this book.
4	C	intricate	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	B	ratio	Used 2 times in this book.
6	A	lethargic	High-utility academic word
7	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word
8	A	hygiene	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word
10	A	principle	High-utility academic word
11	C	dismal	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	ration	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	vary	High-utility academic word
14	A	fleeting	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	sufficient	High-utility academic word
16	C	supple	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	estimate	High-utility academic word
18	A	accustom	Used 2 times in this book.
19	A	plausible	High-utility academic word
20	B	scrupulous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
