

Call It Sleep

by Henry Roth

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

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: anguish, apprehensive, beguile, brusque, cull, curt, diffident, engrossed, furtive, incredulous, inert, interpose, ominous, peasant, peevish, scrutiny, taut, vehement, wrath, writhe



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	B
4	B
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	C
11	B
12	C
13	A
14	C
15	B
16	C
17	B
18	B
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. Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - A. extreme solitude
 - B. extreme distress
 - C. extreme depression
2. She is **apprehensive** about finals.
 - A. talkative
 - B. worried
 - C. unconcerned
3. She was wined, dined, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
 - A. forced
 - B. tricked
 - C. encouraged
4. I am trying to develop a less **brusque** manner.
 - A. sensitive
 - B. unfriendly
 - C. reckless
5. She has to **cull** the sick members of the herd.
 - A. medicate quickly
 - B. select to remove
 - C. count accurately
6. I tried asking open-ended questions, but all I could get were **curt** replies.
 - A. angry
 - B. selfish
 - C. short
7. She is so **diffident**; I can't imagine her as president of the organization.
 - A. young
 - B. unassertive
 - C. argumentative
8. She was so **engrossed** in a conversation that she didn't see me.
 - A. interested
 - B. bored
 - C. angry
9. Later she said she was just trying to figure out whose phone it was, but she looked around **furtively** before she began reading my text messages.
 - A. nervously
 - B. eagerly
 - C. with curiosity
10. At first, she was **incredulous**--thinking the report was in error.
 - A. worried
 - B. confused
 - C. without belief
11. She considers our political system **inert** and calls for violent revolution as the path to change.
 - A. corrupt
 - B. unmoving
 - C. energetic

12. They have **interposed** themselves on the side of our enemy.
- A. been seen
 - B. hidden
 - C. inserted
13. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
14. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
 - B. young person
 - C. poor farmer
15. After a frustrating day, she was **peevish** and snapped at everyone who spoke to her.
- A. very tired
 - B. easily annoyed
 - C. very demanding
16. The new policy faced **scrutiny** from independent reviewers.
- A. strong support
 - B. quick approval
 - C. careful examination
17. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy
18. The politician's **vehement** speech stirred up strong emotions in the crowd.
- A. calm and composed
 - B. forceful or intense
 - C. highly convincing
19. She fears the **wrath** of God.
- A. angry punishment
 - B. power
 - C. unpredictable moods
20. She **writhed** on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
- A. cried and whimpered
 - B. yelled loudly
 - C. twisted and turned

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 "Well then let me explain," he said **curtly**.
 - A. in a manner that makes uncomfortable (weighs heavily on the senses or spirit)
 - B. in a manner that is the most exciting or important part of a series of events
 - C. in a manner that uses few words or is abrupt and perhaps discourteous or rude
- 2 His head jerked **brusquely** toward the child.
 - A. in a manner that thoughtfully judges what is good and bad about something
 - B. abruptly (suddenly and quickly -- without taking the time to be friendly)
 - C. in a manner that is in line with the floor, horizon, or another flat base
- 3 The harsh voice, the **wrathful** glare, the hand flung toward the child frightened him.
 - A. full of extreme anger
 - B. not easily identified
 - C. able to be translated
- 4 He looked up **apprehensively** at his father.
 - A. in a manner that does not change
 - B. worried over possible misfortune
 - C. in a manner that deserves praise
- 5 The eyes of both were fastened on him, regarding him with a curious and amused **scrutiny** of men beholding for the first time some astonishing freak.
 - A. the best or most important
 - B. a secret agreement or plot
 - C. careful look or inspection
- 6 It's for **peasants**," to make his father laugh, to make his father answer, "/ think I do.
 - A. organisms in the early stages of growth prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting; in humans organisms during the first eight weeks of development (prior to the fetal stage)
 - B. members of an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
 - C. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: people of low income, education, and social standing -- especially those who raise crops or livestock
- 7 "Yea," **diffidently**.
 - A. following as a result of something
 - B. with hesitancy and unassertiveness
 - C. indiscriminately (non-selectively)
- 8 She lifted the coal scuttle, shook some coal **vehemently** into the stove.
 - A. the manner in which things have generally been done in the past
 - B. marked by extreme intensity -- especially emotion such as anger
 - C. in a manner that shows a lack of integrity and money motivation
- 9 He shook his finger at David **ominously**.
 - A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
 - B. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
 - C. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
- 10 "Perhaps he had better not eat," **interposed** his mother.
 - A. (verb) drew pictures to accompany OR (adjective) accompanied by pictures
 - B. not justified or explained as an understandable reaction to another action
 - C. to insert between other elements; or to interrupt or stop action by others
- 11 Then his features grew **taut** when his eyes fixed on Yussie.
 - 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

12 *There was no silence here, but if he dared to listen, he could hear tappings and creakings, patterings and whispers, all **furtive**, all **malign**.*

A. taking pains to avoid being observed

or:

in a manner indicating nervousness (being cautious or appearing suspicious)

B. intended for an entire religion rather than for a selected group with distinct beliefs -- typically the Christian religion

C. involving an unwelcome intrusion -- possibly a physical attack into another's territory or involvement in personal matters

13 *That next corner would be haven or bay, and as he neared it, he burst into the **anguished** spring of a flagging quarry— —Where?*

A. not having begun speaking with someone about something

B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress (of body or mind)

C. entered another's property without right or permission

14 *He stared at her **incredulously**.*

A. in a manner that influences reason or general desire to do something

B. in a manner that intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone

C. with disbelief; or with difficulty accepting something so unexpected

15 *He glanced at David, reached for the newspaper on the table, became **engrossed**.*

A. with all attention focused

B. gradually added or removed

C. limited or with boundaries

16 *At bed-time, his mind seemed strangely calm, reposed without being resolved, **inert** after long discord.*

A. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)

B. unmoving, inactive, or unable to move

or:

slow, lethargic, or without interest

or (in chemistry/medicine):

chemically inactive (not having an effect)

C. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer

17 *With **writhing** lips, he reached his left hand behind his back, fumbled in the right rear pocket and drew out his black leather pocket-book.*

A. opposing (struggling against each other)

B. examining in detail to better understand

C. moving in a twisting or contorted motion

18 *Aunt Bertha continued **peevishly**.*

A. in a manner that is not clearly seen, expressed or understood

B. annoyed or easily annoyed -- especially by unimportant things

C. not in a manner intended to attract notice and impress others

19 ***Beguiled** by the mildness of noon, he had left the house wearing only his thin blue jersey.*

A. protected or kept something as it was

B. deceived through charm or enchantment

C. controlled (how something turned out)

20 *He **culled** them, sorted out what he would think when he got up there—he would allow them to blossom once he had climbed up the stairs.*

A. added as a design that is based on alphabetic letters; or the act of adding such a design to something

B. to select from among many -- sometimes what is desired; sometimes to eliminate that which is not wanted

C. expressed personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	curt	Used 11 times in this book.
2	B	brusque	Used 11 times in this book.
3	A	wrath	Used 11 times in this book.
4	B	apprehensive	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
5	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
6	C	peasant	Used 14 times in this book.
7	B	diffident	Used 4 times in this book.
8	B	vehement	Used 14 times in this book.
9	A	ominous	Used 16 times in this book.
10	C	interpose	Used 5 times in this book.
11	B	taut	Used 14 times in this book.
12	A	furtive	Used 13 times in this book.
13	B	anguish	Used 18 times in this book.
14	C	incredulous	Used 11 times in this book.
15	A	engrossed (<i>as in:</i> <i>engrossed in the book</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
16	B	inert	Used 5 times in this book.
17	C	writhe	Used 16 times in this book.
18	B	peevish	Used 5 times in this book.
19	B	beguile	Used 5 times in this book.
20	B	cull	Used 7 times in this book.