

Chains

by Laurie Halse Anderson

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: beseech, breech, commotion, conspirator, impudent, insolent, melancholy, parliament, parole, perish, pestilence, ponder, prevailing, repugnant, resolution, salve, scarcity, sentry, treason, tyranny



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
 - A. asking
 - B. demanding
 - C. instructing
2. The hunter cleaned the **breech** after firing several rounds at the target.
 - A. tip of an arrow
 - B. edge of a blade
 - C. back of a firearm
3. Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
 - A. disturbance
 - B. outburst of laughter
 - C. accident
4. She was labeled a **conspirator** after leaked documents revealed her involvement in the plan.
 - A. observer of a public event
 - B. member of a secret plot
 - C. critic of a literary work
5. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
 - A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet
6. The **insolent** waiter rolled his eyes when the customer asked for more water.
 - A. boldly disrespectful
 - B. kindly helpful
 - C. shyly quiet
7. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring.
 - A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
8. The Sheik of Kuwait was admired for voluntarily creating a **parliament** to share power with him.
 - A. religious gathering
 - B. legislative assembly
 - C. private fortress
9. She was imprisoned for life without the possibility of **parole**.
 - A. appeal to a higher court
 - B. early release from prison
 - C. transfer to a new prison
10. We can work together or **perish** separately.
 - A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
11. The plague was a terrible **pestilence** that killed millions of people.
 - A. widespread disease
 - B. antibiotic-resistant bacteria
 - C. famine-causing drought
12. We **pondered** our fate.
 - A. thought about
 - B. feared for
 - C. actively changed

13. At that time, the prevailing belief was that trans fats were healthier than butter.
- A. mistaken
 - B. most common
 - C. less common
14. His repugnant behavior at the party made everyone want to go home early.
- A. warmly welcomed
 - B. highly amusing
 - C. deeply offensive
15. Congress passed a resolution supporting the country's right to defend itself.
- A. statement of opinion
 - B. budget allocation
 - C. law
16. The salve also acts as a moisturizer.
- A. humidity
 - B. cream
 - C. nutrient
17. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
18. The sentry challenged anyone who tried to enter the camp after dark.
- A. kitchen helper
 - B. watchful guard
 - C. village healer
19. Benedict Arnold was not captured after he committed treason.
- A. committing acts of sabotage
 - B. war crimes against civilians
 - C. betrayal of one's own country
20. Pure democracy (without protection of minority rights) can become tyranny of the majority.
- A. a situation in which a difficult choice must be made between imperfect alternatives
 - B. a form of government where some people control others in a harsh, unfair manner
 - C. a form of government that is fair because decisions are made by majority vote

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 CAN I THEN BUT PRAY OTHERS MAY NEVER FEEL TYRANNIC SWAY?**
 - A. able to be translated
 - B. harsh and unjust rule
 - C. not easily identified
- 2 *He wore a red silk waistcoat under a snuff-colored coat with silver buttons, a starched linen shirt, and black breeches.*
 - A. views
 - B. names
 - C. pants
- 3 **Insolence** *will not be tolerated, not one bit.*
 - A. rude, disrespectful behavior or action
 - B. thing that affects a result or outcome
 - C. job, reservation, booking, or activity
- 4 "**Such impudence** is disturbing," Lockton said.
 - A. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 5 *Have you written to Parliament?*
 - A. a place where conditions are kept as they were to protect wildlife
 - B. legislative assembly that passes laws (existing in some countries)
 - C. someone who believes that all knowledge is derived from experience
- 6 **Friday, June 7, 1776 BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN US BY CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE COLONY OF NEW-YORK OF THE 7th DAY OF JUNE,**
 - A. a decision made by formal vote
 - B. periods of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
 - C. speaks with someone about something for the first time
- 7 *I thought he was on a **parole**, that he had to stay in New York.*
 - A. "spiritually renew" (a person) in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 - B. conditional early release from imprisonment in which a person is required to comply with special conditions
 - C. treat something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
- 8 *When the tray was loaded so heavily I could **scarce** lift it, Madam preceded me down the hall and waited by the closed door to the library.*
 - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 9 *All of the American leaders have committed **treason** against the King.*
 - A. easily set on fire
 - B. untied or released
 - C. an act of betrayal
- 10 *I curtsied and left the room, **pondering** how I could pass this news along to Curzon.*
 - A. thinking deeply or carefully about
 - B. finding, searching, or researching
 - C. learning, discovering, or deciding

- 11 A REPORT **PREVAILS** HERE THAT A MOST VILE DEEP LAID PLOT WAS YESTERDAY DISCOVER'D AT NEW YORK, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASSERTAIN THE PERTICULAR FACTS
- learns, discovers, or decides in advance
 - is common
 - compensates for a loss; or pays a reward
- 12 As I *near*ed the gate, a **sen**try stepped out and blocked my way.
- social event or ceremony
 - someone who stands guard
 - a positively charged ion
- 13 **Conspirators** who plotted against the American cause had been arrested all over the city and in several close-by villages.
- People who are of lower rank or status
 - participants involved in a secret plot
 - things that affect a result or outcome
- 14 The reverend had so much **bese**eching to do for the royal family, I thought we'd be stuck in church for a week.
- asking or begging
 - telling (a story)
 - causing suffering
- 15 Could we slip away to sanctuary in the **comm**otion?
- noisy disturbance
 - circular movement
 - size or dimension
- 16 The healer woman put a *comf*rey **sal**ve on it to draw out the *pesti*lence.
- to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - a cream or liquid put onto skin to make it feel better or heal
- or:
- anything that eases pain or anxiety; or the act of doing such
- the act of hiding something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hiding the truth; or something that hides or deceives
- 17 The healer woman put a *comf*rey *sal*ve on it to draw out the **pesti**lence.
- widespread disease (usually severe); or any severely harmful or evil influence that is hard to get rid of
 - a South African whose first language is Afrikaans -- typically descendants of 17th century Dutch settlers
 - something that is not obvious, but noticeable by someone with adequate sensitivity and relevant knowledge
- 18 I find the buying and selling of children most **repugn**ant.
- related to
 - very large
 - disgusting
- 19 **MELANCHOLY HELD ME HOSTAGE**, and the bees built a hive of sadness in my soul.
- relating to the outside
 - a sad feeling or manner
 - about (but not exactly)
- 20 THE FIRE RAGED WITH INCONCEIVABLE VIOLENCE AND IN ITS DESTRUCTIVE PROGRESS SWEEPED AWAY ALL THE BUILDINGS BETWEEN BROAD STREET AND THE NORTH RIVER ... SEVERAL WOMEN AND CHILDREN **PERISHED** IN THE FIRE; THEIR SHRIEKS JOINED TO THE ROARING OF THE FLAMES, THE CRASH OF FALLING HOUSES, AND THE WIDESPREAD RUIN WHICH EVERYWHERE APPEARED, FORMED A SCENE OF HORROR GREAT BEYOND DESCRIPTION, AND WHICH WAS STILL HEIGHTENED BY THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT.
- examined in detail to better understand
 - died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - moved into position to work; or started

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	tyranny	Used 3 times in this book.
2	C	breech	Used 9 times in this book.
3	A	insolent	Used 10 times in this book.
4	B	impudent	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	parliament (<i>with a lowercase "p"</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
6	A	resolution (<i>as in: a United Nations resolution</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	B	parole (<i>as in: released on parole</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
8	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
9	C	treason	Used 5 times in this book.
10	A	ponder	Used 15 times in this book.
11	B	prevailing (<i>as in: prevailing attitude</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	B	sentry	Used 12 times in this book.
13	B	conspirator	Used 2 times in this book.
14	A	beseech	Used 9 times in this book.
15	A	commotion	Used 9 times in this book.
16	B	salve	Used 4 times in this book.
17	A	pestilence	Used 4 times in this book.
18	C	repugnant	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
19	B	melancholy	Used 5 times in this book.
20	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.