

Charlotte's Web

by E. B. White

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: accompany, approximate, ascend, commotion, cunning, delectable, desolate, detest, enable, gullible, however, languish, listless, loathe, monotonous, phenomenon, salutation, scruples, sundry, therefore



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Will you **accompany** her to the party?
 - A. follow
 - B. precede
 - C. go with
2. The circumference of the earth is **approximately** 24,900 miles at the equator.
 - A. exactly
 - B. commonly mistaken as
 - C. about
3. He watched the hot-air balloon **ascend** slowly into the clear morning sky.
 - A. move upward
 - B. drift downward
 - C. spin in place
4. Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
 - A. disturbance
 - B. outburst of laughter
 - C. accident
5. The worst mix -- **greedy, cunning,** and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
6. The bakery filled the window with **delectable** pastries and cakes.
 - A. expensive
 - B. ordinary
 - C. delicious
7. She felt **desolate** when her boyfriend died in a car accident.
 - A. confused
 - B. miserable
 - C. emotional
8. I **detest** broccoli.
 - A. love
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
9. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
10. She was **gullible** and in love with the wrong man.
 - A. too confused
 - B. too focused
 - C. too trusting
11. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and

12. The bill may **languish** in committee for months without a vote.
- A. move forward quickly
 - B. win strong support
 - C. remain neglected
13. She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
- A. unenergetic
 - B. frustrated
 - C. lonely
14. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
- A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
15. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, **monotonous** roads.
- A. dark
 - B. narrow
 - C. boring
16. The **phenomenon** was first noticed by Marie Curie.
- A. thing of interest
 - B. thing that is growing
 - C. thing that is hidden
17. Her warm smile and friendly **salutation** set the tone for the entire meeting.
- A. greeting
 - B. introduction
 - C. smile
18. Her **scruples** were not so strong as to withstand her friend's arguments.
- A. principles that discourage certain kinds of action
 - B. known facts
 - C. firmness of purpose
19. Power in the city is divided amongst the mayor, city council, and **sundry** city commissions.
- A. skillful
 - B. various
 - C. elected
20. We reduced locations where mosquito eggs can mature and therefore reduced the number of mosquitoes.
- A. in addition
 - B. in spite of that
 - C. for that reason

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 The cocker spaniel heard the **commotion** and he ran out from the barn to join the chase.
 - A. noisy disturbance
 - B. running
 - C. laughter
- 2 The tunnel was an example of his skill and **cunning**.
 - A. digging
 - B. cleverness
 - C. foolishness
- 3 The tunnel **enabled** him to get from the barn to his hiding place under the pig trough without coming out into the open.
 - A. gave rights
 - B. allowed (made it possible for)
 - C. gave support
- 4 "Approximately-oximately thirty days, all told," answered the goose.
 - A. exactly
 - B. more than
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 5 "Salutations!" said the voice.
 - A. a greeting -- such as "Hi" or "Hello"
 - B. a warning -- such as "Look out!"
 - C. a polite way of asking someone to move
- 6 He could hardly believe what he was seeing, and although he **detested** flies, he was sorry for this one.
 - A. liked to eat
 - B. laughed at
 - C. disliked intensely
- 7 The rat had no morals, no conscience, no **scruples**, no consideration, no decency, no milk of rodent kindness, no compunctions, no higher feeling, no friendliness, no anything.
 - A. ethical or moral principles that discourage certain kinds of action
 - B. moves again into position to work; or starts again
 - C. prepares food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
- 8 The sheep **loathed** them.
 - A. took (power or responsibility)
 - B. developed or changed gradually
 - C. detested or intensely disliked
- 9 ...the web is not easily broken. **However**, a web gets torn every day by the insects that kick around in it,
 - A. in spite of that
 - B. in addition
 - C. in whatever way
- 10 In a forest looking for beechnuts and truffles and **delectable** roots, pushing leaves aside with my wonderful strong nose, searching and sniffing along the ground, smelling, smelling, smelling ...
 - A. small relative to its importance ("good things come in small packages")
 - B. hard-to-find
 - C. extremely tasty (tasting good)
- 11 "I was just thinking," said the spider, "that people are very **gullible**."
 - A. not taking things seriously enough
 - B. like a type of bird
 - C. easily tricked because of being too trusting
- 12 Zuckerman thinks Wilbur is an unusual pig, and **therefore** he won't want to kill him and eat him.
 - A. for example
 - B. in addition to what was just said
 - C. for that reason

- 13 *They sang the song of summer's ending, a sad, monotonous song.*
A. increasingly more frightening and/or dangerous
B. interesting and/or stimulating
C. lacking in variety and/or boring
- 14 *She ascended slowly and returned to Wilbur's pen.*
A. moved upward
B. moved downward
C. moved in a circle
- 15 *She looked rather swollen and she seemed listless.*
A. lacking energy and normal enthusiasm
B. lacking a reason for doing something
C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 16 "What does 'languishing' mean?"
A. dirtying the beauty or purity of something
B. criticizing or making seem less important
C. suffering in a bad situation for a long time
- 17 *Many of you will recall that never-to-be-forgotten day last summer when the writing appeared mysteriously on the spider's web in Mr. Zuckerman's barn, calling the attention of all and sundry to the fact that this pig was completely out of the ordinary.*
A. certain
B. various
C. outside
- 18 *This miracle has never been fully explained, although learned men have visited the Zuckerman pigpen to study and observe the phenomenon.*
A. something considered extraordinary
B. something thought to be impossible
C. something that makes people happy
- 19 *Hearing this, [that Charlotte was about to die] Wilbur threw himself down in an agony of pain and sorrow. Great sobs racked his body. He heaved and grunted with desolation.*
A. terrible pain
B. extreme sadness and thoughts of loneliness
C. loud sobs
- 20 *She cannot accompany us home, because of her condition.*
A. beat (arrive faster)
B. perform together
C. travel along with

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	commotion	Used 2 times in this book.
2	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	B	enable	High-utility academic word
4	C	approximate	High-utility academic word
5	A	salutation	Used 7 times in this book.
6	C	detest	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	scruples	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
8	C	loathe	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
10	C	delectable	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
11	C	gullible	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	therefore	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
13	C	monotonous	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	ascend (<i>as in: ascend the mountain</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	listless	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	C	languish	Used 3 times in this book.
17	B	sundry	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
18	A	phenomenon	High-utility academic word
19	B	desolate (<i>as in: felt desolate</i>)	High-utility academic word
20	C	accompany (<i>as in: accompany on the journey</i>)	High-utility academic word