

Clay

by David Almond

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 via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on 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: accommodate, banal, beguile, blasphemy, compensate, congregation, deceive, engrossed, hypnotize, incantation, nevertheless, nucleus, optimistic, penance, penitent, ponder, resolve, subtle, swagger, ungainly



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. They had to **accommodate** various interests to get a majority.
 - A. adjust to
 - B. force
 - C. understand
2. The story was **banal**, but it had beautiful cinematography.
 - A. brutal
 - B. uninteresting
 - C. complicated
3. She was wined, dined, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
 - A. forced
 - B. tricked
 - C. encouraged
4. Even in the 21st century, high school teachers in the country are still occasionally imprisoned and/or lashed for **blasphemy**.
 - A. disrespect of something considered sacred
 - B. a dispute where there is strong disagreement
 - C. a serious logical error
5. They sued for **compensation** for her injury in the accident.
 - A. payment
 - B. a sense of closure
 - C. punishment
6. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
 - A. people who agree
 - B. people who worship together
 - C. people who meet periodically
7. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
8. She was so **engrossed** in a conversation that she didn't see me.
 - A. interested
 - B. bored
 - C. angry
9. The police want to **hypnotize** me to see if it will help me remember what she looked like.
 - A. give a memory drug to
 - B. put into a trance
 - C. visit the crime scene with
10. Harry Potter said the incantation, "*expecto patronum*" as he focuses on a happy memory to summon protection from dark magic.
 - A. common saying
 - B. magic words
 - C. foreign phrase
11. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition

12. The small reading group became the **nucleus** of a schoolwide book club.
- A. ending
 - B. critics
 - C. center
13. She keeps telling me her chances of dying in a car accident are 1 in 150, but I keep telling her that's too **optimistic** if she drives after drinking.
- A. hopeful
 - B. gloomy
 - C. simplistic
14. As **penance** for lying, she apologized and spent the afternoon helping her sister.
- A. act of making amends
 - B. plan for gaining praise
 - C. way of blaming others
15. After breaking the window, the **penitent** boy apologized to his neighbor.
- A. proud of one's actions
 - B. confused about the rules
 - C. feeling regret for wrongdoing
16. We **pondered** our fate.
- A. thought about
 - B. feared for
 - C. actively changed
17. I **resolved** to never drink again.
- A. was forced
 - B. was encouraged
 - C. firmly decided
18. She likes dramatic statements, but he prefers to be **subtle**.
- A. quiet and action-oriented
 - B. understated so as not to draw excess attention
 - C. a careful listener
19. The cowboy **swaggered** into the saloon with his holster unstrapped.
- A. limped with difficulty
 - B. walked confidently
 - C. snuck
20. The **ungainly** teenager tripped over his own feet at the dance.
- A. graceful and elegant
 - B. awkward and clumsy
 - C. shy and quiet

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 We were **swaggering** along like always, laughing and joking like always.
 - A. giving an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - B. walking and behaving in a highly confident manner
 - C. expressing regret for having done something wrong
- 2 He did **hypnotism** tricks in the bars in Cullercoats and Whitley Bay.
 - A. a doctrine emphasizing a person's capacity for self-realization through reason rather than through religion and the supernatural
 - B. the act of putting someone into a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility
 - C. a 20th century movement of artists and writers who used impossible or unlikely images to represent unconscious thoughts and dreams
- 3 This is both theft and **blasphemy**.
 - A. disrespectful of something considered sacred
 - B. found a condition or substance to be present
 - C. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
- 4 I **paused and pondered**.
 - A. thought deeply or carefully
 - B. was overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. not limited or without boundaries
- 5 I thought for an instant of the bitter **beguiling** taste of the cigarettes.
 - A. moving out of an interacting position; or stopping
 - B. enchanting or deceptive
 - C. exercising privileges to which one is not entitled
- 6 Say five Hail Marys and one Our Father and **resolve** that you will be good.
 - A. influence or effect
 - B. gain advantage from
 - C. definitely decide
- 7 I **knelt** at the altar rail and said my **penance**.
 - A. prayer to make up for wrong-doing
 - B. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - C. the act of hiding something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hiding the truth; or something that hides or deceives
- 8 I think an artist is simply human, a human with an astounding skill, a skill that may indeed be God-given, but **nevertheless** ...human.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 9 We'll be able to create living creatures with chemicals and electricity and **nuclear** power.
 - A. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - B. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - C. coming from the center of an atom where protons & neutrons reside
- 10 He told the **congregation** to go in peace,
 - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. people who worship together in the same building
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 11 I spent that night awake, making plasticine creatures, breathing prayers and **incantations** and commands on them while the moon shone down at me.
 - A. surgical interruptions of nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
 - B. recitations of words or sounds believed to have a magical effect
 - C. the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy

- 12 *And we become **engrossed** in it, and sometimes I forget myself and where I am, and I forget how crazy this would seem if someone else from Felling stumbled into the quarry tonight.*
- A. with all attention focused
 - B. gradually added or removed
 - C. limited or with boundaries
- 13 *And we ourselves become somehow not ourselves, but we turn **subtler**, weirder, less attached to our bodies, less attached to our names.*
- A. smaller in amount
 - B. more understated (less obvious as individuals)
 - C. one who tolerates
- 14 *The battle for **compensation** lasted years, as these things always do.*
- A. payment to someone (to make up for a loss or inconvenience they suffered)
 - B. thought
 - C. loyalty
- 15 *I try to tell myself that I've been fooled, I've been **deceived**, I've been hypnotized, I've been ..."Davie?" says Mam.*
- A. told (a story)
 - B. began fighting
 - C. lied or misled
- 16 *"I," says Prat, "am an **optimist**."*
- A. someone who expects the best; or who focuses on the good part of things
 - B. someone who expects the worst; or who focuses on the bad part of things
 - C. someone who joins with others in a public protest or display of support
- 17 *He is cold, but he moves his arm to **accommodate** me, like he's half-holding me.*
- A. adjust for
 - B. give an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - C. mark important text; or the text that is marked
- 18 *Other **penitents** are waiting outside.*
- A. processes of controlling (how things turn out)
 - B. shortages (amounts that are less than desired)
 - C. people expressing sorrow for having done wrong
- 19 *And so I told him the **banal** old stuff and he blessed me and dismissed me.*
- A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - B. uninteresting due to a lack of anything original or unusual
 - C. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
- 20 *He was **ungainly** and twisted.*
- A. lacking appropriate weight compared to height
 - B. lacking grace in movement or appearance; or difficult to handle or manage
 - C. lacking adult height or maturity

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	swagger	Used 2 times in this book.
2	B	hypnotize (<i>as in: hypnotized to try to remember</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	A	blasphemy	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	A	ponder	Used 7 times in this book.
5	B	beguile	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
6	C	resolve (<i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	A	penance	Used 2 times in this book.
8	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	nucleus	Used 2 times in this book.
10	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
11	B	incantation	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	engrossed (<i>as in: engrossed in the book</i>)	High-utility academic word
13	B	subtle (<i>as in: a subtle shade of blue</i>)	High-utility academic word
14	A	compensate (<i>as in: she is generously compensated</i>)	High-utility academic word
15	C	deceive	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	A	accommodate (<i>as in: moved to accommodate her</i>)	High-utility academic word
18	C	penitent	Used 2 times in this book.
19	B	banal	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
20	B	ungainly	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library