

Cold Sassy Tree

by Olive Ann Burns

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: abide (2), amble, arbor, blasphemy, chord, congregation, defile, dumfounded, fluster, hypocrite, indignant, lament, obliged, pi, recollect, rein, retort, sacrilege, suffrage



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. He couldn't **abide** their religious intolerance.
 - A. put up with
 - B. criticize
 - C. understand
2. The song is called "Abide With Me."
 - A. tolerate
 - B. live
 - C. grow
3. I often see them **amble** along the beach at sunset.
 - A. jog
 - B. power walk
 - C. walk leisurely
4. We are building an **arbor** in the back yard.
 - A. framework for plants
 - B. stone fire pit
 - C. raised flower bed
5. 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
6. The guitarist strummed a complex **chord**, its rich harmony filling the room.
 - A. three or more notes that blend harmoniously
 - B. a single, sustained musical tone
 - C. a repeated rhythmic pattern
7. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
 - A. people who agree
 - B. people who worship together
 - C. people who meet periodically
8. Vandals **defiled** the ancient temple by spray-painting the walls.
 - A. carefully restored
 - B. secretly explored
 - C. spoiled the purity of
9. She was too **dumbfounded** to answer.
 - A. surprised
 - B. unintelligent
 - C. polite
10. The unexpected question **flustered** her during the interview.
 - A. caused a state of humor and delight
 - B. caused a state of nervous confusion
 - C. caused a state of angry resentment
11. She may be a **hypocrite**, but at least she knows the difference between right and wrong.
 - A. ethical hero
 - B. harsh critic
 - C. moral pretender

12. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
- A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
13. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
- A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about
14. I'd be **obliged** if you could help me lift this.
- A. surprised
 - B. grateful
 - C. paying
15. The value of **pi** is needed to calculate any circle's area.
- A. a triangle's height
 - B. a square's diagonal
 - C. the circle ratio
16. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
17. She is committed to **reining** in excessive government infringement of personal freedom.
- A. exposing
 - B. restraining
 - C. discovering
18. She **retorted**, "Takes one to know one."
- A. quickly replied
 - B. insulted back
 - C. joyfully laughed
19. Many people considered it **sacrilege** to joke loudly inside the sacred temple.
- A. respect for old customs
 - B. fear of religious rules
 - C. disrespect for the sacred
20. Susan B. Anthony fought for women's political rights, especially **suffrage**.
- A. the right to vote
 - B. the right to own property
 - C. freedom of expression

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 A touring Shakespeare company had let Loma try out after their performance in Cold Sassy's brush **arbor** and then asked her to join the troupe.
 - A. a framework that supports climbing plants; or a shady rest area made by such a framework or by trees and shrubs
 - B. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 2 After the Georgia legislature declared a prohibition against alcoholic beverages in 1907, Papa quit making or drinking beer — he believed in being **law-abiding** — and the churches started using fruit nectars instead of wine.
 - A. law-obeying
 - B. well suited
 - C. a last name
- 3 Her hands went straying around the keyboard, found "Abide With Me," and played a few lines, real quiet.
 - A. draw
 - B. live
 - C. quit
- 4 Not a man in town thought it mattered a hoot about women voting, and only two ladies went to the first women's **suffrage** meeting Miss Love set up.
 - A. right to vote
 - B. use of reason
 - C. determination
- 5 When Mr. Beach offered to carry me home in his buggy, I said, "Thank you, sir, I'd sure be much **obliged**."
 - A. differed; or changed
 - B. grateful or indebted
 - C. began fighting again
- 6 It's not easy for a pretty lady with her chin in the air to look **flustered**, but Miss Love did.
 - A. excessively excited
 - B. nervous or confused
 - C. place firmly within
- 7 "'Ask and it shall be given,' the Bible says. But it ain't so." I felt **blasphemous** even to think it, much less say it out loud.
 - A. disrespectful of something considered sacred
 - B. exceedingly important, serious, or dangerous
 - C. the state or degree of agreeing or approving
- 8 She would be thinking that when you've married somebody else's husband, if you play on her **pi-ana** it ought to be a contrite hymn that starts, "Lord, my sins be as scarlet" or "Too shamed to lift my head, Lord, too stained to hope for Heaven."
 - A. radically new and experimental; or people who practice radically new and experimental ideas -- especially in the arts
 - B. drugs that causes temporary loss of bodily sensations in a limited region of the body while maintaining consciousness
 - C. mathematics: an important constant representing the circumference of any circle divided by its diameter (about 3.14)

- 9 *All of a sudden Miss Love hopped up like she'd sat on a pin, plopped herself down on the piano stool, and went to playing chords.*
A. a combination of three or more notes that blend harmoniously when sounded together; or figuratively to express harmonious blending or clashing
B. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
C. items characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open -- such as a door or musical instrument with that characteristic
- 10 *And Mr. Blakeslee said maybe Will and the boys should go campin' for a few days first. Mama looked dumfounded.*
A. bewildered (confused and surprised)
B. pointed to differences between; or compared to show differences
C. separated OR emotionally uninvolved (separated from emotions)
- 11 *Ever since she passed, it's been like Mania's lost holt of the reins.*
A. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
B. means of control (figuratively referencing the straps used to control a horse)
C. injures the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 12 *We both laughed, ambling on towards the house.*
A. telling (a story)
B. causing suffering
C. walking leisurely
- 13 *God was indignant as all get-out.*
A. angered or annoyed at something unjust or wrong
B. surprised as something unexpected
C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 14 *God retorted.*
A. quickly replied
B. said indirectly
C. greatly annoyed
- 15 *Defiled cain't be the right word for you, Love.*
A. caused great mental or physical suffering
B. consented reluctantly; or suffered defeat
C. spoiled the beauty or purity of something
- 16 *"I have bought the mansion of a love, but not possess'd it" was his lament.*
A. gradually add or remove
B. make or cause to become
C. expressed grief or regret
- 17 *But I like being part of a congregation.*
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
- 18 *"But I like being part of a congregation. I miss the people, Rucker."
"All them dang hypocrites?"
"My mother always said never expect church members to be perfect."*
A. acts or processes of stopped something from happening
B. bands of inelastic tissue connecting a muscle to bone
C. people who violate moral standards they claim to hold
- 19 *Don't talk sacrilege.*
A. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
B. the process or result of learning, discovering, or deciding
C. disrespect of something others consider important -- especially something sacred
- 20 *Please recollect the funeral I gave Miss Mattie Lou.*
A. disagree
B. subtract
C. remember -- especially experiences from long ago

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	arbor (<i>as in: shaded arbor</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
2	A	abide (<i>as in: abide by her decision</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	B	abide (<i>as in: abide in the forest</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	suffrage	Used 4 times in this book.
5	B	obliged (<i>as in: I'm much obliged for your kindness</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
6	B	fluster	Used 4 times in this book.
7	A	blasphemy	Used 3 times in this book.
8	C	pi	Used 8 times in this book.
9	A	chord (<i>as in: piano chord</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
10	A	dumfounded	Used 5 times in this book.
11	B	rein (<i>as in: to rein in their activities</i>)	Used 13 times in this book.
12	C	amble	Used 4 times in this book.
13	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	A	retort (<i>as in: quick retort</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
15	C	defile	Used 4 times in this book.
16	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
18	C	hypocrite	Used 5 times in this book.
19	C	sacrilege	Used 5 times in this book.
20	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.