

Cutting for Stone

by Abraham Verghese

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: atrium (2), biopsy, cadaver, context, convey (2), conviction, expedient, hepatitis, hubris, inflammation, invoke, meticulous, obstetrician, peasant, perpetual, phenomenon, probation, specimen



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We are meeting in the **atrium** at five.
 - A. a measure of east/west (relative to the Prime Meridian) on the earth -- calculated by using imaginary vertical circles on the surface of the earth that pass through the north and south poles and at right angles to the equator
 - B. someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much; or someone who persists in an activity even though it has negative consequences; or someone who loves a thing mentioned
 - C. a large public room leading to other rooms
2. The right **atrium** and right ventricle are often referred to as the *right heart*.
 - A. the use of seemingly believable, but invalid arguments that display ingenuity in reasoning
 - B. chamber at the top of the heart
 - C. part of a poem or song that has other such parts--each part consisting of a fixed number of lines
3. We were relieved that the biopsy showed the polyp was benign.
 - A. skin allergy test
 - B. blood pressure check
 - C. tissue sample test
4. Both Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo studied **cadavers** to advance their understanding of the human form.
 - A. unclothed models
 - B. famous sculptures
 - C. corpses
5. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
 - A. express
 - B. accept
 - C. understand
6. We hired a carriage to **convey** us to the city.
 - A. give service of
 - B. explain
 - C. transport
7. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
8. Borrowing chairs from next door was a useful **expedient** until the new ones arrived.
 - A. careful warning
 - B. practical solution
 - C. lasting tradition
9. The clinic offered vaccines to protect travelers from **hepatitis**.
 - A. skin injury
 - B. liver disease
 - C. broken bone
10. Her **hubris** led to the collapse of the company.
 - A. excessive confidence
 - B. tendency to fight
 - C. excessive ambition
11. The doctor said the redness around the cut was caused by **inflammation**.
 - A. tissue swelling
 - B. broken bone
 - C. steady heartbeat

12. In the midst of the storm, the sailors began to invoke the ancient sea gods, hoping for their protection and a safe journey home.
- A. sail towards
 - B. call upon
 - C. ignore completely
13. She is **meticulous** in her bookkeeping and at the end of the year she can tell the IRS where every dollar was spent.
- A. quick
 - B. careful
 - C. impressive
14. She wants an **obstetrician** who is not inclined toward caesarean operations.
- A. a doctor for childbirth
 - B. a doctor for heart care
 - C. a doctor for skin issues
15. She quoted him **out of context**.
- A. in a misleading manner
 - B. in a convincing manner
 - C. in a respectful manner
16. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
 - B. young person
 - C. poor farmer
17. He has a **perpetual** fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
18. The **phenomenon** was first noticed by Marie Curie.
- A. thing of interest
 - B. thing that is growing
 - C. thing that is hidden
19. She didn't adjust to college freedoms and now must pass academic probation or be expelled in the Fall.
- A. period of supervision
 - B. honors recognition
 - C. scholarship offer
20. The collection includes **specimens** from all over the world.
- A. insects
 - B. examples
 - C. shells

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 How easily Matron probed the gap between ambition and **expediency**.
 - A. the act of again being in a working position; or the act of starting again
 - B. convenient, speedy, or practical; or an action that is speedy or practical
 - C. someone who creates or spreads one-sided information to influence opinions
- 2 To work for him, for his patients, to be his skilled assistant, was sufficient ambition, and it was an ambition without **hubris**, and God willing, it was something she could reasonably do.
 - A. excessive pride, arrogance, or confidence
 - B. ability to accept as true (without proof)
 - C. characterized by having multiple purposes
- 3 He summoned the **probationer**, a young, nervous Eritrean girl.
 - A. a person being tried out as a new employee who does not have all the privileges of a regular employee
 - B. an employee of a firm that serves as an intermediary between an issuer of new securities and the investing public
 - C. someone who issue commands or orders -- especially someone who rules a country and maintains power through force
- 4 What other **obstetricians** perhaps dreaded, she relished.
 - A. physicians who specialize in childbirth
 - B. ways of seeing or thinking about things
 - C. things accepted as true (without proof)
- 5 "Hema, if you want pretty, dissect **cadavers**," he once told her.
 - A. groups of government representatives that have the power to create laws
 - B. organizations, each of which is comprised of firms in a single industry
 - C. dead bodies of human beings -- especially in reference to medical study
- 6 While Hemlatha **meticulously** resected uterus or repaired a bladder tear, Stone, who could not carry a tune, nevertheless whistled "God Save the Queen," which riled Hema.
 - A. in a manner that is not sensible and careful
 - B. in a manner treating details with great care
 - C. in a manner that is capable of being noticed
- 7 She **invoked** Lord Shiva's name, held her breath, and cut above each clamp, bracing herself for something terrible.
 - A. condemned
 - B. called upon
 - C. cursed
- 8 Little Abhi Ghoshe was a month old when his father died of **hepatitis**.
 - A. obtaining pleasure from receiving punishment
 - B. disease that causes inflammation of the liver
 - C. expectation that things will turn out badly
- 9 To his **perpetual** shame, he and Almaz had been intimate twice over the years, both times when he was drunk.
 - A. having the characteristics of a monk (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 10 Or was there, as he suspected, a mild, endemic **inflammation** along the passage that carried urine out?
 - A. swelling and redness
 - B. basic rule or belief
 - C. the act of forgiving

- 11 The **peasant** Florino became Don Florino when he crossed the Suez.
A. relating to an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
B. someone who walks slowly without definite direction OR someone who writes or talks without definite direction (changing subjects or rambling rather than in a purposeful direct way)
C. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: a person of low income, education, and social standing -- especially one who raises crops or livestock
- 12 Men like him became stubborn with opposition, because their **convictions** were all they had.
A. not working or not operating
B. a strong, firmly held belief
C. calculates or judges too low
- 13 "I imagine he'll write for his books and **specimens** once he is settled," Matron said.
A. males, females, or various trans categories
B. examples regarded as typical of their class
C. jobs, reservations, bookings, or activities
- 14 We would have further "explored the **phenomenon**," as Ghosh put it, but he had to return to the hospital.
A. something that exists or happened -- often of special interest
B. something that was once small, but is getting very large
C. something important that is hard to see or sense
- 15 Her face hovered over me, and for one second I thought she was going to kiss me, which would have been very strange in the **context** of our exchange.
A. the setting or situation in which something occurs
B. the act of interacting or getting interested again
C. an image (seen on a mirror or other shiny surface)
- 16 Deepak put a purse-string suture around the right **atrium**, the upper chamber of the heart that received blood from the vena cava.
A. the ability to take on or adopt
B. chamber at the top of the heart
C. calculating or judging too high
- 17 The revolving doors led to a glass-walled **atrium**, the ceiling extending up at least three stories and accommodating a real tree.
A. an argument or a hostile situation
B. something quoted (to make a point)
C. large public room containing plants
- 18 Early that morning I had to do a simple breast lump excision, and if the **biopsy** was positive, then a mastectomy and auxiliary node dissection.
A. someone who believes in Hinduism (the third most common religion--which has many gods and is associated with India)
B. something that causes a reaction--especially anger or violence OR the act of causing an angry or violent reaction
C. removal and examination of tissues or liquids from the living body to determine the existence or cause of a disease
- 19 There was not a bit of good news they could **convey**.
A. communicate or express
B. create dramatic change
C. mirror back (an image)
- 20 I squeezed his fingers, a Morse code to **convey** what was in my heart.
A. collision
B. translate
C. transport

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	expedient	Used 10 times in this book.
2	A	hubris	Used 7 times in this book.
3	A	probation	Used 86 times in this book.
4	A	obstetrician	Used 21 times in this book.
5	C	cadaver	Used 13 times in this book.
6	B	meticulous	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
7	B	invoke	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
8	B	hepatitis	Used 19 times in this book.
9	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 33 times in this book.
10	A	inflammation	Used 4 times in this book.
11	C	peasant	Used 9 times in this book.
12	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
13	B	specimen	Used 9 times in this book.
14	A	phenomenon	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
15	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	B	atrium (<i>as in: right atrium of the heart</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	atrium (<i>as in: atrium of the building</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
18	C	biopsy	Used 7 times in this book.
19	A	convey (<i>as in: convey her thoughts</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	C	convey (<i>as in: convey her safely to</i>)	2 meanings in this book.