

Dear John

by Nicholas Sparks

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: accentuate, adapt, altercation, approach (2), console, demonstrate (2), direct (2), evaluate, however (2), imply, insurgent, intersperse, nonetheless, omit, optimistic, passage



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	B
11	A
12	A
13	C
14	A
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	C
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. The dark frame helped **accentuate** the bright colors in the painting.
 - A. emphasize
 - B. hide
 - C. weaken
2. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - A. copied
 - B. read
 - C. changed
3. We have video of the **altercation**.
 - A. fight
 - B. accident
 - C. theft
4. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
5. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
6. "You'll be alright," she said in a **consoling** voice.
 - A. confident
 - B. energetic
 - C. comforting
7. The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
 - A. protested
 - B. shown
 - C. encouraged
8. The students **demonstrated** against limitations on free speech.
 - A. signed petitions
 - B. spoke eloquently
 - C. protested
9. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
10. The judge **directed** the jury to ignore the question.
 - A. asked
 - B. ordered
 - C. understood
11. I'm **evaluating** job options.
 - A. considering
 - B. creating
 - C. avoiding

12. 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
13. However safe we make it, there will always be risk.
- A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
14. She implied that she would vote with us.
- A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
15. The insurgents fought against the government.
- A. members of an irregular armed force that fight a stronger force by sabotage and harassment
 - B. members of an army fighting outside of their home country
 - C. soldiers who fight for a country that is not their own in order to earn pay
16. In the garden, she decided to intersperse the roses with a variety of wildflowers to create a vibrant and colorful display.
- A. mix
 - B. replace
 - C. substitute
17. The class was hard. It was nonetheless my favorite.
- A. despite that
 - B. because of that
 - C. for that reason
18. She omitted a few details to place herself in a more favorable light.
- A. made up
 - B. exaggerated
 - C. left out
19. 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
20. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.
- A. article
 - B. short part of a longer work
 - C. route to get somewhere

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 fact that I was in peril frightened him, so I started **omitting** the scary stuff.*
 - A. telling someone about something
 - B. commending or praising publicly
 - C. to exclude or neglect something
- 2 *The blonde proved me right. She took one glimpse at my surfboard and the beer in my hand and ignored me with a roll of her eyes. The brunette, **however**, surprised me.*
 - A. though (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 3 *Tim's on a leave of absence, and whenever he's in the hospital, they let me take **however** much time I need.*
 - A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
 - B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
 - C. whatever amount of
- 4 *Unsure, I opted for Dad's **approach** and said nothing.*
 - A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. technique (way of doing something)
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 5 *The bedroom door was halfway closed, light spilled down the hallway, and I debated whether to **approach** or stay in the living room.*
 - A. get near
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 6 *Passion is passion. It's the excitement between the tedious spaces, and it doesn't matter where it's **directed**.*
 - A. helped make clear
 - B. focused
 - C. thought carefully
- 7 *I think I already knew what she was getting at, but for whatever reason, I wanted her to say it **directly**.*
 - A. in a straightforward manner (clearly without any ambiguity)
 - B. in an extremely negative manner -- often implying extreme hopelessness, misery, shame, or desperation
 - C. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
- 8 *She leaned back slightly, as if **evaluating** my expression.*
 - A. thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - B. returning to an undesirable previous condition
 - C. moving back and forth; or being unsure or weak
- 9 *Not loud, but a laugh **nonetheless**.*
 - A. in spite of that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 10 *I marveled that despite what happened, she had managed to hold on to her **optimistic** view of the world.*
 - A. expecting the best; or focusing on the good part of things
 - B. in a manner of accepting something as true (without proof)
 - C. relating separately to the people or things just mentioned
- 11 *Even with all the **implied** uncertainty, I found the realization comforting.*
 - A. suggested (said indirectly)
 - B. not wanting to do something
 - C. was attractive or desirable
- 12 *Because of the **altercation**, I knew I was no longer welcome at the beach house; I also didn't want to see Randy or Susan or any of the others, which made it impossible to contact Savannah.*
 - A. argument, confrontation, or fight
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. the time during which something continues

- 13 *She was wearing one of those scrappy tank tops that **accentuated** her tan, and all I could think was that she was the sexiest woman I'd ever seen.*
- A. emphasized or drew attention to
 - B. selected (on a computer screen)
 - C. learned, discovered, or decided
- 14 *Game shows, soap operas, infomercials, and talk shows were **interspersed** with commercials from ambulance-chasing lawyers.*
- A. to place something at irregular intervals in something else; or to mix two things irregularly
 - B. light-emitting diode -- a semiconductor device that emits light when current flows through it
 - C. doors divided in such a fashion that the bottom half may remain shut while the top half opens
- 15 *Gone were long **passages** in which she described the way she envisioned our life together, passages that in the past had always filled me with anticipation.*
- A. circular movements around something
 - B. short parts of longer written works
 - C. creates, starts, or sets in a place
- 16 *Things were tense in the capitals of our NATO allies; on the news, there were **demonstrations** from the citizens and forceful proclamations from their leaders that the United States was about to make a terrible mistake.*
- A. People who are of lower rank or status
 - B. things that affect a result or outcome
 - C. public protests
- 17 *"All you have to do is grab near the hoof and tug while you tap the back of his leg here," she said, **demonstrating**.*
- A. drawing
 - B. showing (how something is done)
 - C. trading
- 18 *We were there to keep some semblance of order—which basically meant killing **insurgents** who were trying to kill us or other civilians—*
- A. members of an irregular armed force that fight a stronger force by sabotage and harassment
 - B. the science related to DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
 - C. streaks of light in the sky caused by small space rocks burning up in Earth's atmosphere
- 19 *I can't tell you how many kids we have here who never **adapt** at all, no matter how long we work with them.*
- A. to spread one-sided information to influence opinions
 - B. alter the regular state of an otherwise stable system
 - C. change to fit a different situation; or make suitable
- 20 *We just ended up **consoling** each other.*
- A. confident
 - B. energetic
 - C. comforting (emotionally)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	omit	High-utility academic word
2	A	however (as in: However, complications may...)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
3	C	however (as in: However much she tried...)	3 meanings in this book.
4	B	approach (as in: use the best approach)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	approach (as in: approached the city)	Used 20 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	direct (as in: direct a question; or direct a film)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	direct (as in: gave a direct answer)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	evaluate	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
9	A	nonetheless	Used 4 times in this book.
10	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	A	altercation	High-utility academic word
13	A	accentuate	Used 2 times in this book.
14	A	intersperse	Used 2 times in this book.
15	B	passage (as in: In lines 1–9 of the passage...)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
16	C	demonstrate (as in: demonstrate to protest)	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	demonstrate (as in: It demonstrates my point.)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	insurgent	Used 3 times in this book.
19	C	adapt (as in: adapted to the new rules)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
20	C	console (as in: console her grief)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.