

# Dreaming in Cuban

by Christina Garcia

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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.

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#### 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:** abstract (2), adapt, ambiguous, arbitrary, coax, communism, disdain, divine, fastidious, haphazard, implicit, opulent, ornate, scorn, seduce, taunt, taut, tempered (2)



#### More Vocabulary Printables

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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

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## Vocabulary Preview

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. She struggles with **abstract** reasoning.
  - A. pressured
  - B. theoretical
  - C. concrete
2. The room is decorated with **abstract** art.
  - A. seemingly real (like a photograph)
  - B. colorful
  - C. not imitating objects of nature
3. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
  - A. copied
  - B. read
  - C. changed
4. Her **ambiguous** smile left him wondering whether she was amused or annoyed.
  - A. open to interpretation
  - B. easy to read clearly
  - C. obviously sarcastic
5. The rules felt **arbitrary**, changing from one day to the next without clear explanation.
  - A. impulsive
  - B. strict
  - C. cruel
6. The loss she felt when her husband died is **tempered** by the joy of her new grandchild.
  - A. contrasted
  - B. made less extreme
  - C. forgotten
7. Nobody wants to work with her because she is **bad-tempered**.
  - A. pessimistic and gloomy
  - B. easily angered or annoyed
  - C. stubbornly unyielding to the wishes of others
8. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
  - A. trick
  - B. gently persuade
  - C. drag forcefully
9. Marx's writings on **communism** inspired revolutions across many countries in the 1900s.
  - A. free market trade
  - B. collective ownership
  - C. religious reform
10. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
  - A. lack of respect
  - B. humility
  - C. intense anger
11. She claimed she could **divine** a person's future by reading tea leaves at the bottom of a cup.
  - A. predict supernaturally
  - B. imagine vividly
  - C. remember clearly

12. She was **fastidious** about keeping her desk perfectly organized.
- A. careless and disorganized
  - B. loud and outgoing
  - C. extremely attentive to detail
13. The files were stacked in a **haphazard** pile, with no order or labels.
- A. with careful planning
  - B. with strict rules
  - C. without clear order
14. I trust her **implicitly**.
- A. guardedly
  - B. with concern
  - C. without question
15. The **opulent** hotel lobby had marble floors, crystal lights, and velvet chairs.
- A. rich and luxurious
  - B. plain and practical
  - C. small and crowded
16. It was the most **ornate** building I've ever seen.
- A. ancient
  - B. boring
  - C. decorated
17. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
  - B. encourages
  - C. trains
18. **Seducing** her was easy.
- A. stealing money from
  - B. persuading to have sex
  - C. increasing confidence of
19. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
  - B. insulted
  - C. surrounded
20. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
  - B. tight
  - C. noisy

## 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 *But his handwriting, an **ornate** script he learned in another century, revealed his decay.*
  - A. able to be taken on as one's own
  - B. indicating approval or agreement
  - C. having lots of decorative detail
- 2 *Lourdes is pleased with her uniform's **implicit** authority, with the severity of her unadorned face and blunt, round nose.*
  - A. not able to be translated
  - B. not tending to find fault
  - C. without question or doubt
- 3 *She notices the way his fingers are twisted above the first joints, stiffened **haphazardly** like branches.*
  - A. in a strongly biased manner
  - B. in a manner that challenges
  - C. without pattern or planning
- 4 *Her father had been a **fastidious** man, impeccable, close-shaven, with razor-sharp creases pressed into his trousers.*
  - A. a person who works from within to destroy an established order; or relating to such destructive efforts
  - B. not relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
  - C. excessively concerned with cleanliness or matters of taste
- 5 *Celia wanted to tell Jorge how his mother and his sister, Ofelia, **scorned** her, how they ate together in the evenings without inviting her.*
  - A. disrespected or rejected
  - B. mirrored back (an image)
  - C. quoted (to make a point)
- 6 *Jorge **coaxed** me to try a guayabita del pinar, a local drink, and I surprised myself by finishing four.*
  - A. did not vote OR did not drink alcohol OR (more rarely) did not do something else
  - B. tried to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuaded
  - C. thought of something as true or likely, even though it was not known with certainty
- 7 *I cried when I saw him bandaged in white, his arms **taut** in midair like a sea gull.*
  - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
  - B. pulled or drawn tight;  
or: subjected to great tension
  - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 8 *Outside, the spring rains resume **ill-temperedly**.*
  - A. in a manner that is clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
  - B. in a nasty (unkind) manner
  - C. in a manner that relates to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
- 9 *There's a sadness in her expression **tempered** by hope.*
  - A. not demonstrating
  - B. made less extreme
  - C. not finding fault
- 10 *Lourdes **abhors** ambiguity.*
  - A. lack of clarity -- unclear because there could be two or more interpretations
  - B. a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
  - C. a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen
- 11 *"So the woman of the house is a fighter?" the tall soldier **taunted**.*
  - A. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
  - B. intentionally angered, challenged, or upset
  - C. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to

- 12 *I did try to seduce her.*  
A. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer  
B. to entice someone into having sex  
C. a legal order requiring witnesses to appear, or documents related to an appeal be provided
- 13 *It became clear to Lourdes shortly after she and Rufino moved to New York that he would never adapt.*  
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
- 14 *In the second week of January, Felicia visits a santero known for his grace and power in reading the divining shells.*  
A. used to predict or discover something supernaturally (as if by magic)  
B. feeling angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked  
C. accepting something undesired as unavoidable or the lesser of evils
- 15 *They stack up in her mind, soggily, arbitrarily, and she sorts through them like cherished belongings after a flood.*  
A. in a manner based on chance or impulse  
B. in a manner that is not easily noticed  
C. in a disrespectful or rejecting manner
- 16 *Pilar is like her grandmother, disdainful of rules, of religion, of everything meaningful.*  
A. lacking respect  
B. good or beneficial  
C. impossible to find
- 17 *I'm not religious but I get the feeling that it's the simplest rituals, the ones that are integrated with the earth and its seasons, that are the most profound. It makes more sense to me than the more abstract forms of worship.*  
A. the characteristic of being excessively unhappy and unsociable  
B. of a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance  
C. having been granted the right to keep a job as long as desired
- 18 *Abstract painting is more up my alley.*  
A. poor ability to make a decision  
B. non-traditional or non-standard  
C. not imitating objects of nature
- 19 *Lourdes wishes Ivanito were with her so she could point out the opulence—the nine-hole golf course, the landing dock for the seaplane, the Carrara marble floors.*  
A. luxury  
B. lowers moral standards  
C. not thinking carefully
- 20 *Who will repay us for our homes, for the lands the Communists stole from us?*  
A. subatomic particles with negative charge that are found in all atoms and that act as the primary carrier of electricity  
B. the political party that supports an economic system that abolishes private ownership of property  
C. people who suffer from psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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| #  | KEY | WORD                                                     | NOTE                                                   |
|----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | C   | ornate                                                   | High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book. |
| 2  | C   | implicit ( <i>as in: I trust her implicitly.</i> )       | High-utility academic word                             |
| 3  | C   | haphazard                                                | Used 4 times in this book.                             |
| 4  | C   | fastidious                                               | Used 2 times in this book.                             |
| 5  | A   | scorn                                                    | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book. |
| 6  | B   | coax ( <i>as in: coax her to join us</i> )               | Used 8 times in this book.                             |
| 7  | B   | taut                                                     | Used 5 times in this book.                             |
| 8  | B   | tempered ( <i>as in: short-tempered</i> )                | 2 meanings in this book.                               |
| 9  | B   | tempered ( <i>as in: bad news tempered by kindness</i> ) | 2 meanings in this book.                               |
| 10 | A   | ambiguous                                                | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book. |
| 11 | B   | taunt                                                    | Used 5 times in this book.                             |
| 12 | B   | seduce                                                   | Used 12 times in this book.                            |
| 13 | C   | adapt ( <i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i> )         | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book. |
| 14 | A   | divine ( <i>as in: divined from tea leaves</i> )         | Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 15 | A   | arbitrary                                                | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book. |
| 16 | A   | disdain                                                  | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book. |
| 17 | B   | abstract ( <i>as in: abstract thought</i> )              | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.   |
| 18 | C   | abstract ( <i>as in: abstract art</i> )                  | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.   |
| 19 | A   | opulent                                                  | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book. |
| 20 | B   | communism                                                | Used 9 times in this book.                             |