

Ferris Beach

by Jill McCorkle

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: antidote, auburn, ballad, conjure, distort, elaborate (2), garish, interstate, negate, nonetheless, obituary, preparatory, primarily, sheer (2), simulate, sparse, speculate, tact



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

- Laughter can be a good **antidote** for stress.
 - poison
 - cure
 - toxin
- He admired the horse's sleek **auburn** coat as it ran across the field.
 - reddish-brown
 - pure white
 - jet black
- The old **ballad** told the tragic tale of two lovers separated by war.
 - traditional short story
 - dramatic performance on stage
 - song that tells a story
- The song **conjures** memories of good times.
 - brings to mind
 - is about
 - drives away
- The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - reflected
 - improved
 - altered
- As we talked, she **elaborated** on her idea.
 - responded to criticism
 - changed thinking
 - added details
- Their culture has **elaborate** wedding ceremonies.
 - generous
 - exciting
 - detailed
- The **garish** neon lights of the casino were visible from miles away.
 - tastelessly showy
 - hard to see
 - cheerfully tasteful
- We'll make good time once we're on the **interstate**.
 - train
 - plane
 - freeway
- The increased government spending was **negated** by decreased private spending.
 - boosted
 - ignored
 - offset
- The class was hard. It was **nonetheless** my favorite.
 - despite that
 - because of that
 - for that reason
- The **obituary** did not include a cause of death.
 - newspaper report
 - police report
 - biography

13. She took a **preparatory** class before the difficult entrance exam.
- A. helping prepare
 - B. making easier
 - C. causing trouble
14. The second paragraph is **primarily** concerned with showing how the colleges are different.
- A. barely
 - B. mainly
 - C. secretly
15. She likes **sheer** silk stockings.
- A. shiny and looking expensive
 - B. so thin and delicate as to be transparent
 - C. matching the wearer's flesh in color
16. It was a demonstration of **sheer** stupidity.
- A. mixed
 - B. misguided
 - C. complete
17. Our police are tested in conditions that **simulate** gunfire exchange with criminals in the presence of innocent bystanders.
- A. imitate
 - B. train
 - C. defend against
18. The desert had **sparse** vegetation, with only a few hardy plants scattered about.
- A. lush and thick
 - B. thinly scattered
 - C. neatly arranged
19. We were **speculating** as to whether a president would have to resign after that kind of scandal.
- A. hoping
 - B. thoughtfully guessing
 - C. demonstrating concern
20. She means well, but she lacks **tact**.
- A. a plan
 - B. sensitivity
 - C. ability

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 *And how could God keep it all sorted, all these direct lines, these prayers that were shot up to him like bullets, crisscrossing, ricocheting, contradicting, **negating**.*
 - A. emphasizing (drawing attention to something)
 - B. a non-doctor assisting a women in childbirth
 - C. to contradict, offset, or render meaningless
- 2 *we spent a lot of time concocting **elaborate** plans that we never had the nerve to carry out.*
 - A. without gender classification
 - B. overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. detailed or complex
- 3 *He had gotten some clothes, some money, but didn't **elaborate**.*
 - A. genetic change through evolution
 - B. interact again or interest again
 - C. tell more details
- 4 *Misty could quote every single word of "The **Ballad** of Bonnie and Clyde," and it seemed the tune stayed in my head for weeks after.*
 - A. related to the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy
 - B. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
 - C. a song (or poem) that tells a story or expresses strong feelings -- typically slow in tempo
- 5 *She was that misplaced woman who attempted to maintain aristocracy in a **primarily** blue-collar town.*
 - A. really
 - B. mainly
 - C. wisely
- 6 *"I didn't mean to rile you up, Cleva," he whispered, and then waited for her smile—a weak one but a smile **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)
- 7 *For years he had cut the **obituaries** from several different newspapers.*
 - A. published death notices with short biographies
 - B. processes of controlling (how things turn out)
 - C. partial payments made at the time of purchases
- 8 *Soon the streetlights would come on and slowly the neighborhood would light up, Christmas trees and all the adornments that Mrs. Poole had called **sheer** tackiness.*
 - A. more religious; or having more enthusiastic support (for something)
 - B. more trustworthy with secrets and/or less conspicuous or obtrusive
 - C. pure or complete
- 9 *Angela was wearing a red dress, too, smocked at the top with a low neckline, long puffy sleeves, and folds of the thin **sheer** material that hung in different lengths about six inches above her knees.*
 - A. more trustworthy with secrets and/or less conspicuous or obtrusive
 - B. thin and delicate
 - C. someone who lies in a way that damages the reputation of another
- 10 *my hair looked **auburn** in certain lights.*
 - A. colored a moderate reddish-brown
 - B. painted white
 - C. challengeable
- 11 *My mother took great pride in the **distortion** of some of our windows; it meant they were the originals with all their impurities, the waves and tiny pinhead bubbles signs of imperfection.*
 - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. a general feeling of not being as good as others
 - C. to alter something in an unnatural or untrue way

- 12 I concentrated on the street noise as a means of escape; with my eyes closed I tried to measure the distance of the coming and going of the cars on the **interstate**.
- A. non-governmental organization (private, non-profit organization working for member goals at the international level)
 - B. the result of numerical division (if 8 divided by 4 = 2, then 8 can be described as the dividend, 4 as the divisor, and 2 as the quotient)
 - C. freeway, or highway that runs between states

or:

relating to the mutual relations between states -- especially of the United States

- 13 I said, *have I been poisoned that I need an **antidote**?*
- A. poison
 - B. cure
 - C. toxin
- 14 *The coat was beautiful, white **simulated-fur**,*
- A. imitation
 - B. not good at concentrating on one thing
 - C. adjusted a lens to make an image clear
- 15 *The image of myself in the white fake fur was ugly and **garish**; I was ugly and garish, and I was prepared to hear her say it.*
- A. tastelessly showy
 - B. able to challenge
 - C. complete or total
- 16 *He prefaced everything with "Nobody in Greensboro would do that," or wear that, or say that; he called Fulton "Gritville" and said he couldn't wait to go off to **prep school** the next year.*
- A. done to get ready for something that will happen later
 - B. injured muscles or tendons (despite calling it muscle)
 - C. the idea that anything that can go wrong will go wrong
- 17 *We had all laughed about it, **speculated** on who those mean boys were and then...*
- A. not having taken power or responsibility
 - B. wondered or guessed
 - C. compensated for a loss; or paid a reward
- 18 *In short, we all **tactfully** lied a few times during the opening of the gifts.*
- A. in a pessimistic or disagreeable manner
 - B. in a manner that makes others feel good
 - C. enthusiastically or with great interest
- 19 *Oliver was stretched out on the far end of the porch ... his fur **sparse** and gray with age.*
- A. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - B. not dense (thinning)
 - C. able to be learned, discovered, or decided
- 20 *Merle had once said that it might be good for him to be some place where no one had heard of his family, where the very mention of his name didn't **conjure** an image,*
- A. bring into existence
 - B. read, listen, or watch with eager interest
 - C. provide better understanding or make clear

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	negate	Used 2 times in this book.
2	C	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate design</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	elaborate (<i>as in: elaborate on your plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	ballad	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	primarily	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	A	nonetheless	Used 3 times in this book.
7	A	obituary	Used 3 times in this book.
8	C	sheer (<i>as in: sheer fun</i>)	4 meanings in this book.
9	B	sheer (<i>as in: a sheer blouse</i>)	4 meanings in this book.
10	A	auburn (<i>as in: auburn hair</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
11	C	distort	Used 3 times in this book.
12	C	interstate (<i>as in: interstate commerce</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
13	B	antidote	Used 2 times in this book.
14	A	simulate	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
15	A	garish	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	preparatory	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	speculate (<i>as in: don't know, but I'll speculate</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
18	B	tact	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	B	sparse	Used 7 times in this book.
20	A	conjure	Used 6 times in this book.
