

Freak the Mighty

by Rodman Philbrick

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: alias, analyze, avarice, combustion, demeanor, deprive, devise, direct, divulge, expel, facilitate, fidget, gene, illiterate, intrusion, molecule, parole, testify, trajectory, vanquish



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- For security, Winston Churchill usually traveled using the **alias**, Colonel Warden.
 - alternative name
 - bodyguard
 - advice of
- The coach studied the film to **analyze** the defensive breakdown.
 - avoid
 - examine
 - cause
- She was doomed to an empty life motivated by **avarice**.
 - selfishness
 - greed
 - laziness
- Unlike electric cars, gasoline-powered cars have an internal combustion engine that burns gasoline.
 - fuel burning
 - low-tech
 - high-tech
- Despite her nervousness, her professional **demeanor** never wavered.
 - words
 - manner
 - work
- The court ruling **deprived** him of custody of his children.
 - granted
 - stripped
 - delayed
- This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - consider
 - create
 - save
- She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - straightforward
 - considerate
 - humble
- She would not **divulge** it to anyone.
 - take
 - serve
 - reveal
- If her behavior does not improve, she could face **expulsion** from school.
 - having to repeat a grade
 - serious punishment
 - being forcing to leave
- She argues that the stimulus **facilitated** an economic recovery.
 - ruled out
 - made easier
 - complicated
- She **fidged** like a child caught in a lie.
 - moved restlessly
 - was embarrassed
 - cried

13. Half the **genes** come from the father and half from the mother.
- A. advice
 - B. second cousins
 - C. DNA segments
14. The country is working to reduce the rate of **illiteracy**.
- A. lacking of health care
 - B. living in poverty
 - C. inability to read and write
15. They are a proud people and resent foreign **intrusion** into their local affairs.
- A. watching as a show
 - B. showing off superior abilities
 - C. unwelcome involvement
16. A water **molecule** is made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.
- A. tiny chemical unit
 - B. large living cell
 - C. kind of heavy metal
17. She was imprisoned for life without the possibility of **parole**.
- A. appeal to a higher court
 - B. early release from prison
 - C. transfer to a new prison
18. She **testified** that he struck her.
- A. said
 - B. hid
 - C. lied
19. The rocket's **trajectory** carried it safely into orbit around the moon.
- A. speed at launch
 - B. path through space
 - C. weight at takeoff
20. You need to **vanquish** those negative thoughts and think about good things.
- A. completely defeat
 - B. gently ease
 - C. gently persuade

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 **unvanquished** truth, is how Freak would say it, and for a long time it was him who did the talking.
 - A. not completely defeated
 - B. unrecognized difference
 - C. did in a particular way
- 2 Grim would be, I suppose, a sobriquet for your grandfather, based on his **demeanor**.
 - A. lacking experience or sophistication
 - B. the manner in which a person behaves
 - C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 3 There's no lock, but Gram has this thing about waiting until I say come in, she makes a big deal about not **intruding**.
 - A. giving an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - B. keeping people and goods from reaching a location
 - C. interrupting or involving oneself without welcome
- 4 **Expel** the object!
 - A. collision
 - B. translate
 - C. force out
- 5 Anyhow, big mistake, we stop and wait for Tony D., **alias** the bad-news Blade.
 - A. alternative name
 - B. risky investment
 - C. chaotic disorder
- 6 That's copper powder **combusting** with oxygen!
 - A. the act of burning

or metaphorically:

a state of violent disturbance and excitement

 - B. changing one's mind back and forth between conflicting ideas OR swaying back and forth
 - C. removing or suppressing something considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable
- 7 Their **trajectory** is converging.
 - A. something that encourages something else to happen; or the process of something being encouraged
 - B. the path followed by an object moving through space

or:

the path of any sequence of events

 - C. a colonnade (series of regularly spaced columns) surrounding a building or enclosing a courtyard
- 8 Freak keeps saying stuff like, "That's the Castle of **Avarice**," and, "Yonder lies the Bloated Moat," and when we go under trees he'll say, "Proceed with caution," or, "All clear," depending on how low the branches come down.
 - A. arousing or inspiring again
 - B. excessive desire for wealth
 - C. pessimism or unpleasantness
- 9 So I spit in my hand, just a little drop, but Freak says it doesn't matter how much, a single **molecule** would work, because it's the principle of the thing.
 - A. the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 10 Now swear on your heart that the data you are about to receive will be **divulged** to no one.
 - A. emphasized (called attention to something)
 - B. not vaccinated (to protect from a disease)
 - C. made known (secret or private information)

- 11 *They've taken my measurements, analyzed my blood and metabolic rates.*
A. moved into position to work; or started
B. examined in detail to better understand
C. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
- 12 *"I devised a special retrieval device," Freak says.*
A. not provided with investment funds
B. came up with (invented or created)
C. stopped (something from happening)
- 13 *He's up there on my shoulders and he's getting fidgety, squirming around.*
A. restless and finding it hard to sit still
B. perceive something that is hard to detect
C. characterized by having multiple purposes
- 14 *I'm going to make that very clear to the parole board, and to his lawyer.*
A. related to psychosis or someone who suffers from a psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
B. group of people responsible for determining if early release from prison is permitted and if so, what conditions should be required of the prisoner
C. inability to think clearly; or an instance of not thinking clearly; or describing parts as not fitting together in a consistent or pleasing manner
- 15 *You know how many Christmas Eves I've been deprived of my own blood kin?*
A. of the Netherlands or its people
B. lacking things most people enjoy
C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 16 *I learned how to preach the word to a lot of illiterate convicts, but they were no more ignorant than a lot of other folk.*
A. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things seem incongruous together
C. unable to read or write (not literate)
- or:
- uninformed in a particular field or general subject area
- 17 *Freak, well, the Fair Gwen just about threw a fit when she got him home, because of him disobeying a direct order and sneaking away to rescue me, but after a while she calms down and all she does is just look at him and shake her head.*
A. clear, straightforward, or to the point
B. the state or degree of being very large
C. meticulousness (care for small details)
- 18 *"Dr. Spivak says my unique status as a marvel of genetic aberration makes me an object of intense curiosity," he says in that lofty way of his.*
A. something exclusive to (someone or some group) -- such as an activity or place
B. a rough substance that can be rubbed against something else to polish or clean
C. related to DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
- 19 *A son doesn't have to testify against his father.*
A. provide evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
B. to encourage growth or excitement, or to cause something to happen
C. to show something -- such as to demonstrate, express, or represent
- 20 *Standard procedure to facilitate breathing.*
A. bounce back
B. make easier
C. windy storm

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	vanquish	Used 4 times in this book.
2	B	demeanor	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	intrusion	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	C	expel	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	alias	Used 2 times in this book.
6	A	combustion	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	B	trajectory	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	B	avarice	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
9	A	molecule	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	C	divulge	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	B	analyze	High-utility academic word
12	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word
13	A	fidget	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	parole (<i>as in: released on parole</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
15	B	deprive	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	C	illiterate	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word
18	C	gene (<i>as in: the gene impacts eye color</i>)	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	A	testify	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	facilitate	High-utility academic word