

Gifted Hands

by Ben Carson

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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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: affluent, cadaver, cardiac, controversy, deteriorate, elated, emulate, enable, evaluate, factor, hypothermia, intuition, neurology, optimistic, pediatric, persist, positive (2), prejudice, technique



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Although she doesn't earn much money, she was raised in an **affluent** household.
 - A. wealthy
 - B. poor
 - C. middle-class
2. Both Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo studied **cadavers** to advance their understanding of the human form.
 - A. unclothed models
 - B. famous sculptures
 - C. corpses
3. She suffers from **cardiac** disease.
 - A. kidney
 - B. liver
 - C. heart
4. She withdrew from nomination due to the **controversy** surrounding her taxes.
 - A. quiet meeting
 - B. minor question
 - C. public dispute
5. Shortly after the invasion, the security for most Iraqi people **deteriorated**.
 - A. became a top priority
 - B. became worse
 - C. improved
6. The **elated** winner couldn't stop smiling.
 - A. extremely happy
 - B. newly created
 - C. exhausted or tired
7. The young artist tried to **emulate** the style of her favorite painter without directly copying it.
 - A. imitate
 - B. criticize
 - C. eliminate
8. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
9. I'm **evaluating** job options.
 - A. considering
 - B. creating
 - C. avoiding
10. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
 - A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
11. After hours in the icy water, she showed signs of **hypothermia**.
 - A. dangerously low body heat
 - B. severe hunger
 - C. temporary blindness

12. Intuitively, I knew not to trust her.
- A. logically
 - B. instinctively
 - C. conclusively
13. She suffers from a neurological disorder.
- A. cardiovascular system
 - B. respiratory system
 - C. nervous system
14. 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
15. The clinic has a separate pediatric wing designed just for infants and toddlers.
- A. for child patients
 - B. for elderly patients
 - C. for emergency cases
16. We expect the conditions to persist into next year.
- A. grow worse
 - B. continue
 - C. go away
17. I'm positive our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
18. Volunteering had a positive impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
19. Seeing the defendant wear prison clothes may prejudice the jury against the defendant.
- A. create a sympathetic belief in
 - B. create a serious attitude in
 - C. create an unfair belief in
20. One technique I use for dealing with anger is to wait ten seconds before responding.
- A. way of doing something
 - B. habit
 - C. solution to anger

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 *Getting glasses was the first **positive** thing to start me on my climb upward from the bottom of the class.*
 - A. good
 - B. not representative
 - C. impossible to find
- 2 *Despite the fact that John and I believed what we told Beth's parents, we couldn't be **positive** that Beth would wake up or that she wouldn't, finally, just slip away.*
 - A. outside
 - B. various
 - C. certain
- 3 *Curtis and I encountered **prejudice**, and we could have gotten caught up in it, especially in those days—the early 1960s.*
 - A. fear, or anticipate with worry (commonly only seen in the forms "apprehensive" and "apprehension," but seen in this form in classic literature)
 - B. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - C. bias that prevents objective consideration -- especially an unreasonable belief that is unfair to members of a race, religion, or other group
- 4 *Mother started to read the Bible, often sounding out the words, sometimes still not understanding; but she **persisted**.*
 - A. disagreed
 - B. continued
 - C. stuck out
- 5 *He was one of the people I wanted to **emulate**.*
 - A. imitate (copy or match)
 - B. gradually add or remove
 - C. feel sadness and regret
- 6 *To interview any students, Candy and I had to visit places in the more **affluent** communities like Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe.*
 - A. people who are, or the condition of being, wealthy
 - B. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
 - C. the trait of being difficult to meet and talk with
- 7 *Using this **technique**, doctors could save a lot of time and energy instead of poking around inside the skull.*
 - A. way of doing something
 - B. not easily set on fire
 - C. surrounding conditions
- 8 *'Chen realizing that my hands were steady and that I could **intuitively** see the effect my hands had on the brain, I knew I had found my calling.*
 - A. with suffering in a bad situation for a long time
 - B. known instinctively rather than through reasoning
 - C. in a manner that is sensitive to others' feelings
- 9 *I was **elated** when I received word that I'd been accepted into the neurosurgery program at Johns Hopkins.*
 - A. had a feeling of happiness and excitement
 - B. caused great mental or physical suffering
 - C. consented reluctantly; or suffered defeat
- 10 *One of the chief residents in **cardiac** surgery was Black, Levi Watkins, and I was one of two Black interns in general surgery, the other being Martin Goines, who had also gone to Yale.*
 - A. not attractive or desirable
 - B. orbiting Earth once per day
 - C. of or relating to the heart

- 11 I benefited from all their little tricks, and they aided me in developing my skills as a **neurosurgeon**.
- A. someone who provides evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - B. someone who takes advantage of unplanned circumstances -- possibly unethically
 - C. the branch of medicine that deals with the nervous system (including the brain)
- 12 This at least told them that the cause of her epilepsy wasn't owing to electrical misfiring in her brain but a progressive **deterioration**.
- A. not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. worsening; or the amount of worsening
 - C. adjusts a lens to make an image clear
- 13 They had gone through such a roller coaster of worry, faith, despair, **optimism**, hope, and grief in the 11 months of little Jennifer's life.
- A. a tendency to expect and see the best in all things
 - B. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
 - C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 14 After we **evaluated** Denise, controversy broke out here at Hopkins over whether to do a hemispherectomy.
- A. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - B. began speaking with someone about something
 - C. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
- 15 After we evaluated Denise, **controversy** broke out here at Hopkins over whether to do a hemispherectomy.
- A. psychiatrist
 - B. satisfaction
 - C. disagreement
- 16 Because of a number of significant **factors** involved, it was a miracle for Craig to get admitted.
- A. People who are of lower rank or status
 - B. things that affect a result or outcome
 - C. theories on the origin of the universe
- 17 Doctor Mark Rogers, Director of **Pediatric Intensive Care** at Hopkins, coordinated the massive undertaking.
- A. related to the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of infants and children
 - B. someone who believes in doing things the way they have generally been done in the past
 - C. psychoanalysis: that part of the unconscious mind with primitive, instinctual desires
- 18 It was an eerie experience, starting the surgery, because their bodies were so cold it was like working on a **cadaver**.
- A. the process of thinking carefully and making a judgment about something
 - B. the act of finding fault and telling others; or a description of faults
 - C. the dead body of a human being -- especially one used for medical study
- 19 After **hypothermic** arrest it took 20 minutes to separate all of the vascular tissue, which meant we had used at least three times as much time as we had planned.
- A. relating to body temperature that is dangerously low
 - B. the quality of being able to get closer to something
 - C. the state or degree of being optimistic or agreeable
- 20 Her quick thinking **enabled** an emergency team to resuscitate him, but no one knew how long he had been without breathing.
- A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	C	prejudice	Used 10 times in this book.
4	B	persist	Used 7 times in this book.
5	A	emulate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	A	affluent	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	technique	Used 8 times in this book.
8	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
9	A	elated	Used 6 times in this book.
10	C	cardiac	Used 4 times in this book.
11	C	neurology	Used 49 times in this book.
12	B	deteriorate	Used 6 times in this book.
13	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
14	A	evaluate	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
15	C	controversy	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
17	A	pediatric	Used 28 times in this book.
18	C	cadaver	Used 3 times in this book.
19	A	hypothermia	Used 3 times in this book.
20	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.