

Grendel

by John Gardner

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 via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on 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: credulous, cunning, democracy, however (2), impersonal, imply, indifferent, nevertheless, novel, ominous, peasant, petulant, pyre, relevant, scorn, senile, torment, trifle, vanquish



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	A
8	A
9	B
10	A
11	A
12	C
13	B
14	B
15	C
16	A
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. She is so **credulous** she believes everything she reads.
 - A. very skeptical
 - B. easily fooled
 - C. deeply thoughtful
2. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
3. Canada has a parliamentary **democracy**.
 - A. government by the people
 - B. government by one ruler
 - C. government by the wealthy
4. 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
5. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
6. Hospitals can be **impersonal** places, despite the caring staff.
 - A. difficult to truly understand
 - B. lacking warmth or personal connection
 - C. highly efficient and organized
7. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
8. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
 - A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger
9. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
10. It is a **novel** idea and just might work.
 - A. original
 - B. important
 - C. valuable
11. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
 - A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving

12. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
 - B. young person
 - C. poor farmer
13. The **petulant** child threw his toys whenever he didn't get his way.
- A. cheerful
 - B. cranky
 - C. hungry
14. In 1829 India banned the Hindu custom of a widow's suicide on her husband's funeral **pyre**.
- A. coffin
 - B. fire
 - C. gravestone
15. It is easier to learn things that seem relevant to your life.
- A. understandable
 - B. repeated
 - C. important
16. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
17. About 10% of Americans between the ages of 65 and 75 suffer from **senility**.
- A. loneliness most days of the week
 - B. a poor sense of smell
 - C. mental weakness caused by old age
18. Bullies made his school days a constant **torment** he could not escape.
- A. severe suffering
 - B. great enjoyment
 - C. simple confusion
19. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
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 They throw up a mound for the funeral **pyre**, for whatever arms or legs or heads my haste has left behind.
 - A. a particular understanding or explanation
 - B. a pile of wood or other burnable material
 - C. meticulousness (care about small details)
- 2 So his name **implies**.
 - A. suggests (says indirectly)
 - B. is attractive or desirable
 - C. struggles or disagreements
- 3 "Nevertheless," I whispered crossly—but I couldn't go on, too conscious all at once of my whispering, my eternal posturing, always transforming the world with words—changing nothing.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 4 And yet in its refusal, it passes toward **novel** order as a primary requisite for important experience.
 - A. new and original
 - B. important and valuable
 - C. traditional (having withstood the test of time)
- 5 This jug is an absolute **democracy** of atoms.
 - A. a system of government in which citizens have power with equal votes
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 6 The laws of nature are large average effects which reign **impersonally**.
 - A. in a manner that surpasses others in status, ability, or possession of a notable characteristic
 - B. not influenced by personal feelings -- often indicating a lack of warmth of personal connection
 - C. in a manner like a "rogue" (someone who doesn't behave like others; often dangerous or immoral)
- 7 Meaningless, **however**.
 - A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using "though", "in spite of that", "in contrast", "nevertheless", etc.
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 8 The easy and absolute certainty that whatever the danger, **however** terrible the odds, you'll stand firm, behave with the dignity of a hero, yea, even to the grave!
 - 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. regardless of how
- 9 Flattering me into **tormenting** them because he ... loved viciousness.
 - A. causing great suffering (in)
 - B. is most powerful, important, or noticeable
 - C. providing evidence that proves or supports
- 10 In some way that I couldn't explain, I knew that his scorn of my childish **credulity** was right.
 - A. relating to properties of sound or hearing
 - B. gullibility (the trait of being too willing to believe)
 - C. something accepted as true (without proof)
- 11 Though I **scorned** them, sometimes hated them, there had been something between myself and men when we could fight.
 - A. disrespected
 - B. mirrored back (an image)
 - C. quoted (to make a point)

- 12 *The Shaper talked of how God had **vanquished** their enemies and filled up their houses with precious treasure, how they were the richest, most powerful people on earth, how here and here alone in all the world men were free and heroes were brave and virgins were virgins.*
- A. completely defeated
 - B. excessively excited
 - C. nervous or confused
- 13 *He got a **cunning** look, as if getting ready to offer a deal—the look men have when they fight with men instead of poor stupid animals.*
- A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 - B. clever and deceptive
 - C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 14 *"Go ahead, scoff," he said, **petulant**.*
- A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 - B. unreasonably annoyed or upset
 - C. not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention
- 15 *...he said angrily (unaware of the irony that he, a prince, had a right to anger, and the old man, a **peasant**, did not).*
- A. relating to an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
 - B. someone who walks slowly without definite direction OR someone who writes or talks without definite direction (changing subjects or rambling rather than in a purposeful direct way)
 - C. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: a person of low income, education, and social standing
- 16 *Not just a **trifle** evil. Monstrously evil.*
- A. leave a place, job or position previously occupied
 - B. someone (or something) taking the place of another
 - C. little (in amount)
- 17 *Apart from Him, there can be no **relevant** novelty.*
- A. having the ability to change for different situations
 - B. not concerned with what others might think of oneself
 - C. relating in a meaningful way to the issue in question
- 18 *I've been telling you the old fool's gone **senile**.*
- A. relating to a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen
 - B. in the dark (figuratively) due to a lack of knowledge, advantages, or moral understanding
 - C. mental weakness caused by old age; or describing a medical condition as caused by old age
- 19 *He and his company went on, their weapons clinking, chain-mail jangling, solemn and **ominous** as drums.*
- A. threatening or suggestive of bad things to come
 - B. huge
 - C. comforting
- 20 *They watch with mindless, **indifferent** eyes,*
- A. unconcerned and uninterested
 - B. likely to change
 - C. able to be found

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	pyre	Used 5 times in this book.
2	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
4	A	novel (<i>as in: a novel situation</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
5	A	democracy	Used 4 times in this book.
6	B	impersonal	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	A	torment	Used 6 times in this book.
10	B	credulous	Used 2 times in this book.
11	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
12	A	vanquish	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
14	B	petulant	Used 2 times in this book.
15	C	peasant	Used 7 times in this book.
16	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
17	C	relevant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	C	senile	Used 2 times in this book.
19	A	ominous	Used 4 times in this book.
20	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.