

Growing Up

by Russell Baker

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: approach (2), canvass, carnal, coherent, communism, confide, cunning, enable, illustrate, irony (2), latent, luscious, maxim, pauper, perpetual, preside, scorn, spontaneous



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
2. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
3. Volunteers will **canvass** the neighborhood to gather support for the candidate.
 - A. go door-to-door in
 - B. set up a stage in
 - C. report news from
4. The novel treats his attraction as **carnal** rather than romantic.
 - A. careful and polite
 - B. physical or sexual
 - C. legal or official
5. Her argument is **coherent**.
 - A. unreasonable
 - B. fragmented
 - C. sensible and clear
6. Marx's writings on **communism** inspired revolutions across many countries in the 1900s.
 - A. free market trade
 - B. collective ownership
 - C. religious reform
7. She **confided** in her parents.
 - A. trusted
 - B. didn't trust
 - C. was proud
8. The worst mix -- **greedy, cunning, and without morals**.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
9. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
10. The example **illustrates** the belief.
 - A. disproves
 - B. proves
 - C. makes clear
11. **Ironically**, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
 - A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
12. Her voice was dripping with **irony** as she said, "You look beautiful."
 - A. sincerity
 - B. sarcasm
 - C. kindness

13. A **latent** HPV infection reactivated when her immune system weakened with age.
- A. severe
 - B. inactive
 - C. common
14. The singer's **luscious** voice made even simple songs sound deeply emotional.
- A. harshly grating
 - B. barely audible
 - C. richly appealing
15. Her actions conflict with the **maxim** that we don't negotiate with terrorists.
- A. goal
 - B. saying
 - C. observation
16. It is a story about a prince who changes places with a **pauper**.
- A. palace visitor
 - B. poor person
 - C. wealthy person
17. He has a **perpetual** fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
18. The student body president **presides** over student council meetings.
- A. regularly attends
 - B. officially leads
 - C. casually observes
19. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
20. The group broke into **spontaneous** laughter.
- A. quiet and polite
 - B. sudden and unplanned
 - C. loud and bothersome

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 On others she **presided** over family dinners cooked on Sunday afternoons for children who were now gray with age.
 - A. interacted, interested, or attracted
 - B. chaired; or headed; or was in charge
 - C. made strips of hair lighter in color
- 2 Many parents who were hardly more than **paupers** still believed their sons could do it.
 - A. things that don't change
 - B. people who are very poor
 - C. rejections or criticisms
- 3 My mother reached into her bottomless supply of **maxims** and told Doris, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."
 - A. members of Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - B. short sayings that express general truths or principles
 - C. harmful software that spreads from computer to computer
- 4 With all her love for me, however, she never forgave my mother, and my mother returned the **scorn** measure for measure.
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific
- 5 When my cousin Catherine's hand touched a red-hot wood stove, my grandmother seized her arm and with fingertips light as feathers stroked the blistering skin while murmuring an **incoherent** incantation in a trancelike monotone.
 - A. related to the change of a light wave (or other wave) when it passes an opaque edge or narrow opening
 - B. related to a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - C. not sensible or clear; or describing parts as not fitting together in a consistent or pleasing manner
- 6 Uncle Irvey focused the talk on Audrey, a dimpled blond infant ten months old with a **perpetual** smile.
 - A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 7 It **enabled** her to contribute to the budget for Wakeman Avenue, and that was good for her self-respect, but there was no longer any deceiving herself about becoming independent.
 - A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 8 Aunt Pat headed out to **canvass** the neighbors.
 - A. get the opinions (of people) by asking specific questions; or solicit votes
 - B. surgically interrupt nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
 - C. to investigate; or an investigation; or an instrument used for investigation
- 9 She **confided** to me that Uncle Hal had promised to help us set up "a home of our own" after his lumber deal went through.
 - A. placed trust (in someone) by talking about private things
 - B. viewed in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
 - C. made a decision or voiced an opinion by formal group vote
- 10 Rising from the table, Uncle Hal yanked his belt off to **illustrate**.
 - A. work or operate
 - B. think carefully
 - C. help make clear

- 11 *Unlike the movies, talk was free, and a great river of talk flowed through the house, rising at suppertime, and cresting as my bedtime **approached** before subsiding into a murmur that trickled along past midnight, when all but Uncle Charlie had drifted off to bed, leaving him alone to reheat the pot, roll another cigarette, and settle down with his book.*
- A. got near
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 12 *While I bullied him with subtle psychological torments, my mother took the direct **approach** and bullied him without finesse.*
- A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. technique (way of doing something)
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 13 ***Communists** were "crackpots" and "bomb throwers."*
- A. subatomic particles with negative charge that are found in all atoms and that act as the primary carrier of electricity
 - B. people who support an economic system that abolishes private ownership of property with the goal of a classless society
 - C. people who suffer from psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 14 *That Christmas morning she roused us early, "to see what Santa Claus brought," she said with just the right tone of **irony** to indicate we were all old enough to know who Santa Claus was.*
- A. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - B. saying one thing, while meaning something else
 - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 15 *Maybe, watching me lead Mimi up to the porch at Mary-dell Road that Sunday, she caught a glimpse of life repeating itself as an **ironic** joke and dreaded what was to come.*
- A. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. a mental disorder characterized by alternating episodes of major depression and abnormally elevated mood
- 16 *I threw my arms around her **spontaneously** and kissed her.*
- A. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
 - B. happening in a natural manner without planning or external force
 - C. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
- 17 *My suffering was increased by my certainty that no tomato would ever let her **luscious** bosom heave against my chest.*
- A. able to change
 - B. very important
 - C. very desirable
- 18 *My appetite for her was not **carnal** but pure.*
- A. related to the change of a light wave (or other wave) when it passes an opaque edge or narrow opening
 - B. sexual, or related to the body or physical desire (in contrast to spiritual desires or higher ideals)
 - C. related to a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
- 19 *I was too **cunning** for that.*
- A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 - B. good at achieving goals through cleverness and deception
 - C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 20 *Certainly, this is a strange new era loaded with immense **latent** possibilities.*
- A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. potentially existing but not presently evident or active
 - C. the characteristic of tending to think back about things

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	preside	Used 6 times in this book.
2	B	pauper	Used 3 times in this book.
3	B	maxim	Used 3 times in this book.
4	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
5	C	coherent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
6	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
7	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
8	A	canvass (<i>as in: canvass the crowd</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
9	A	confide	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
10	C	illustrate (<i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
11	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
12	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	communism	Used 7 times in this book.
14	B	irony (<i>as in: verbal irony</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	B	spontaneous	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	C	luscious	Used 3 times in this book.
18	B	carnal	Used 3 times in this book.
19	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
20	B	latent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.