

Hatchet

by Gary Paulsen

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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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: assets, assume (2), corrosive, exult, focus (2), impact, incessant, indicate, literally, massive, motivate, oblivious, positive, precise, rectify, turbulent, ultimate, unwitting



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She's kind, beautiful and athletic, but her quick mind is her rarest **asset**.
 - A. characteristic
 - B. weakness
 - C. positive trait
2. The detective had no concrete evidence, but he began to **assume** the suspect was hiding something based on his evasive answers.
 - A. wonder if
 - B. believe
 - C. prove
3. She thinks the aliens can **assume** human form.
 - A. take on
 - B. sense
 - C. believe
4. Magnesium slows the **corrosive** effects of salt water on the iron.
 - A. wetting
 - B. strengthening
 - C. causing damage
5. They **exulted** in the victory.
 - A. finally rested
 - B. felt extreme happiness
 - C. sang
6. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
7. The satellite **focuses** the signal into a narrow beam.
 - A. spreads
 - B. concentrates
 - C. pulses
8. She was killed instantly upon **impact**.
 - A. midnight
 - B. collision
 - C. the heart attack
9. Night and day we live with the **incessant** noise of the city.
 - A. loud
 - B. continuous
 - C. pleasant
10. She did not **indicate** which candidate she supports.
 - A. hide or disguise
 - B. decide
 - C. express or show
11. It's dirty money--**literally** and figuratively.
 - A. openly
 - B. actually
 - C. completely

12. The markets panicked as massive losses piled up during the financial crisis.
- A. unexpected
 - B. sudden
 - C. very large
13. She is motivated by a sincere desire to help others.
- A. driven
 - B. slowed
 - C. stopped
14. She's a happy girl--oblivious to most of the unhappiness around her.
- A. unaware of
 - B. concerned with
 - C. adding to
15. I appreciate your positive attitude.
- A. patient
 - B. open-minded
 - C. optimistic
16. The detective is talking to all the witnesses to try to determine the precise sequence of events.
- A. important
 - B. first
 - C. exact
17. We are working to rectify the accounts and send refunds to everyone who was overbilled.
- A. calculate
 - B. understand
 - C. correct
18. The plane jerked as it went through some turbulence.
- A. irregular wind
 - B. acceleration
 - C. climb in altitude
19. When everything was included, the ultimate cost was just over \$200.
- A. estimated
 - B. preliminary
 - C. final
20. She was an unwitting accomplice in the crime.
- A. unkind
 - B. unintentional
 - C. unimportant

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 the dashboard in front of him Brian saw dials, switches, meters, knobs, levers, cranks, lights, handles that were wiggling and flickering, all **indicating** nothing that he understood and the pilot seemed the same way.*
 - A. hiding
 - B. deciding
 - C. showing
- 2 *He was sitting in a bushplane roaring seven thousand feet above the northern wilderness with a pilot who had suffered a **massive** heart attack and who was either dead or in something close to a coma. He was alone.*
 - A. very scary
 - B. very sudden
 - C. very large in effect
- 3 *The plane lurched again, hit more **turbulence**, and Brian felt the nose drop.*
 - A. rough wind
 - B. flying birds
 - C. speed
- 4 *It did not dive, but the nose went down slightly and the down-angle increased the speed, and he knew that at this angle, this slight angle down, he would **ultimately** fly into the trees.*
 - A. quickly
 - B. accidentally
 - C. finally
- 5 *And just before it hit he should pull back on the wheel and slow the plane down to reduce the **impact**.*
 - A. danger
 - B. crash
 - C. angle
- 6 *Those were all the things he had, but he also had himself. Perpich used to drum that into them, "You are your most valuable **asset**. Don't forget that. You are the best thing you have."*
 - A. characteristic
 - B. source of error
 - C. thing of value
- 7 *When the pilot pushed the rudder pedal the plane had jerked to the side and **assumed** a new course.*
 - A. taken on
 - B. believed
 - C. lost
- 8 *There was no pain there so he **assumed** that had taken care of itself.*
 - A. hoped
 - B. believed
 - C. knew
- 9 *And the next thought was there as well, that they might never find him, but that was panic and he fought it down and tried to stay **positive**.*
 - A. patient
 - B. thoughtful
 - C. optimistic
- 10 *I have to get **motivated**, he thought, remembering Perpich.*
 - A. wanting to do something
 - B. smarter in action
 - C. more thoughtful

- 11 *One of the pilots had used a watch crystal as a magnifying glass to **focus** the sun and start a fire so they didn't have to eat the lizards raw.*
- A. clearly see
 - B. concentrate
 - C. uncover
- 12 *He shook his head, tried to **focus** his thoughts.*
- A. concentrate
 - B. enjoy
 - C. spread
- 13 *Then he turned and stood still, with the sun at his back, and studied the water again. It was, he saw after a moment, **literally** packed with life. Small fish swam everywhere...*
- A. secretly
 - B. actually
 - C. surprisingly
- 14 *He held the fish against the sky ... and felt his throat tighten, swell, and fill with pride at what he had done. He had done good. The bow had given him this way and he **exulted** in it, in the bow, in the arrow, in the fish, in the hatchet, in the sky.*
- A. felt extreme tiredness
 - B. felt extreme happiness
 - C. felt extreme hunger
- 15 *In the city if he made a mistake usually there was a way to **rectify** it, make it all right.*
- A. understand
 - B. avoid
 - C. fix
- 16 *...the skunk had snapped its rear end up, curved the tail over, and sprayed Brian with a direct shot.... The **corrosive** spray that hit his face seared into his lungs and eyes, blinding him.*
- A. fine mist
 - B. dripping wet
 - C. harmful chemical
- 17 *The flames cut the cool damp morning, crackled and did much to bring his spirits up, not to mention chasing away the **incessant** mosquitoes.*
- A. large
 - B. constant
 - C. occasional
- 18 *...he had fallen asleep sitting against his shelter wall, **oblivious** even to the mosquitoes,*
- A. unaware of
 - B. attractive
 - C. invisible
- 19 *There was garlic in it and some other spices and the smells came up to him and made him think of home, his mother cooking, the rich smells of the kitchen, and at that **precise** instant, with his mind full of home and the smell from the food filling him, the plane appeared.*
- A. important
 - B. early
 - C. exact
- 20 *The pilot who landed so suddenly in the lake was a fur buyer mapping Cree trapping camps for future buying runs, drawn by Brian when he **unwittingly** turned on the emergency transmitter and left it going.*
- A. cleverly
 - B. accidentally
 - C. finally

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	indicate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	C	massive	Used 5 times in this book.
3	A	turbulent	Used 2 times in this book.
4	C	ultimate	High-utility academic word
5	B	impact (<i>as in: at the moment of impact</i>)	Used about 15 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	C	assets (<i>as in: it's one of her best assets</i>)	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	A	assume (<i>as in: She assumed a false identity</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	assume (<i>as in: I assume it's true</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	C	positive (<i>as in: a positive attitude</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
10	A	motivate	Used 4 times in this book.
11	B	focus (<i>as with technical usage</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	literally (<i>as in: literally--not figuratively</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
14	B	exult	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	C	rectify (<i>as in: rectify the error</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
16	C	corrosive	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
17	B	incessant	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	A	oblivious	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	C	precise (<i>as in: about noon; 12:03 to be precise</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	B	unwitting	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
