

Hole in My Life

by Jack Gantos

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

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: ambivalent, caustic, conspiracy, contrast, exodus, fluctuate, fraud, furlough, illustrate, incarcerate, loathe, mediocre, motivation, nurture, omen, parole, peril, probation, psychotic, remorse



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She is **ambivalent** about attending college.
 - A. especially happy
 - B. with mixed feelings
 - C. especially worried
2. Be careful. The chemical is **caustic**.
 - A. dangerously cold
 - B. very sticky
 - C. corrosive or damaging
3. She is inclined to believe **conspiracy** theories.
 - A. unproven
 - B. scientific
 - C. secret plot
4. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
5. There was a large **exodus** of Jews from Arab countries to Israel in the mid-20th century.
 - A. departure
 - B. visitation
 - C. expelling
6. The stock market **fluctuates**.
 - A. frustrates people
 - B. alternately increases and decreases
 - C. rises in the long run
7. The company was shut down after investigators uncovered a massive **tax fraud** scheme.
 - A. deception to get something illegally
 - B. foolish
 - C. unsuccessful
8. The company **furloughed** employees on the third shift.
 - A. fired
 - B. gave raises to
 - C. ordered not do come to work
9. The example **illustrates** the belief.
 - A. disproves
 - B. proves
 - C. makes clear
10. By then, it cost California about \$50,000 a year to **incarcerate** a prisoner in a state prison.
 - A. reimburse victims from
 - B. put on trial
 - C. imprison
11. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
 - A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
12. The restaurant received **mediocre** reviews, so we chose another place.
 - A. truly excellent
 - B. clearly terrible
 - C. only average

13. I can describe her actions but not her motivation.
- A. history
 - B. reason
 - C. future
14. She loved and nurtured the dog from the time it was a puppy with its eyes closed.
- A. visited
 - B. took pictures of
 - C. raised
15. The appearance of Halley's comet in 1066, was seen by many as an omen that the Norman Conquest would be successful.
- A. a scientific explanation
 - B. the cause (of an important event)
 - C. a sign (of what would happen)
16. 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
17. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
18. She didn't adjust to college freedoms and now must pass academic probation or be expelled in the Fall.
- A. period of supervision
 - B. honors recognition
 - C. scholarship offer
19. During the episode, he became psychotic and could not tell what was real.
- A. angry without reason
 - B. detached from reality
 - C. unusually anxious
20. I expressed my remorse at having let them down.
- A. frustration
 - B. worry
 - C. regret

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 *Ironically, in spite of all the fear and **remorse** and self-loathing, being locked up in prison is where I fully realized I had to change my life for the better, and in one significant way I did.*
 - A. two successive lines of poetry; usually rhymed
 - B. the main building (or buildings) of government
 - C. deep regret for doing something that was wrong
- 2 *Ironically, in spite of all the fear and remorse and self-**loathing**, being locked up in prison is where I fully realized I had to change my life for the better, and in one significant way I did.*
 - A. changing through evolution
 - B. stopping a battle or fight
 - C. disgust or intense dislike
- 3 *My grades had always been **mediocre**, and given that I had never finished eleventh grade, the private schools in San Juan wouldn't accept me as a senior.*
 - A. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 - B. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
 - C. average or a bit below average in quality
- 4 *The first and most obvious was my daily entry section, which I filled with a wild stream of thoughts in a conscious effort to capture my honest feelings, true **motivations**, and crazed activities of each day.*
 - A. things taken on or adopted
 - B. reason for doing something
 - C. sound quality or its study
- 5 *I just didn't have the confidence and determination to sit still and **nurture** them properly.*
 - A. begin fighting again
 - B. recognize difference
 - C. help develop or grow
- 6 *Earlier in their prison lives they had spent some time **incarcerated** where we were now going to school.*
 - A. not learned, discovered, or decided
 - B. blended three or more musical notes
 - C. put in prison, or otherwise confine
- 7 *Their lives are ruined, but they have volunteered to speak with you all today about the **perils** of a criminal life.*
 - A. allowed
 - B. dangers
 - C. attacks
- 8 *At that moment he picked up a Yellow Pages from the stage and, to **illustrate** what the bullies did to him and his anger problem, ripped the book clean in half, tossing the two pieces over his shoulders.*
 - A. work or operate
 - B. think carefully
 - C. help make clear
- 9 *I sat at the bar and read A Moveable Feast and cried with a kind of jealous disappointment because that beautiful time in history had passed me by and the **contrast** between the lush enchantment of Europe and my welfare-motel life was suddenly very sad indeed.*
 - A. come to terms with
 - B. block or interfere
 - C. notable difference
- 10 *But then I remembered the chair at Hemingway's house had been lodged in a manchineel tree and must have been coated with a little bit of the tree's **caustic** sap.*
 - A. easily set on fire
 - B. untied or released
 - C. damaging

- 11 *The white **exodus** was even more frantic now.*
- A. departure by a lot of people
 - B. small quantity or indication
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 12 *Plus, the lobby seemed a spiderweb of trapped **psychotic** poets and artists.*
- A. group of people responsible for determining if early release from prison is permitted and if so, what conditions should be required of the prisoner
 - B. related to psychosis or someone who suffers from a psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
 - 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
- 13 *We plead guilty to one charge of **conspiracy** to distribute and they drop the rest.*
- A. the best or most important
 - B. harsh and unfair treatment
 - C. a secret agreement or plot
- 14 *Besides, there's a good chance you'll just get five years' **probation**.*
- A. a period of testing
 - B. wrongly understands
 - C. wrong understanding
- 15 *I felt like a **fraud**.*
- A. the act of deceiving someone for personal gain; or a person or thing that is not what it pretends or appears to be
 - B. an English Protestant who in the 16th and 17th centuries who wanted simpler worship and strict, hard-working lives
 - C. intangible (non-touchable) property that is the result of creativity (such as patents or trademarks or copyrights)
- 16 *It means you can do anywhere from sixty days to six years, depending on your behavior and what the **parole board** thinks.*
- 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
- 17 *The slightest **fluctuation** in the weather outside my window, the smallest passing cloud, the changing position of the sun affected the mood of that room.*
- A. something that encourages something else to happen; or the process of something being encouraged
 - B. the process of alternately increasing and decreasing in quantity; or the amount of such a change
 - C. a law developed by governmental groups in contrast to common law (based on custom and precedent)
- 18 *I found myself crying, laughing, numb with depression, nervous and pacing, **ambivalent**, angry, and filled with self-loathing.*
- A. not straightforward
 - B. with mixed feelings
 - C. not done on purpose
- 19 *I never would have guessed that the visit from the prison alumni I laughed at in high school had been an **omen** of my future.*
- A. make someone want to do something
 - B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
 - C. sign of something about to happen
- 20 *Other guys would get **furloughs** and not return—but were eventually caught.*
- A. puts someone into a state of hypnosis (a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility)
 - B. agreements where the accused pleads guilty to lesser crimes in return for a lighter punishment or dropped charges
 - C. temporary releases from prison

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	remorse	Used 3 times in this book.
2	C	loathe	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	mediocre	Used 2 times in this book.
4	B	motivation	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
5	C	nurture	Used 2 times in this book.
6	C	incarcerate	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	peril	Used 2 times in this book.
8	C	illustrate (<i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word
10	C	caustic (<i>as in: a caustic chemical</i>)	
11	A	exodus	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	psychotic	Used 2 times in this book.
13	C	conspiracy	Used 7 times in this book.
14	A	probation	Used 5 times in this book.
15	A	fraud	Used 2 times in this book.
16	B	parole (<i>as in: released on parole</i>)	Used 14 times in this book.
17	B	fluctuate	High-utility academic word
18	B	ambivalent	High-utility academic word
19	C	omen	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	furlough	Used 2 times in this book.