

Hollow City

by Ransom Riggs

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: adrenaline, debris, docile, exasperated, extricate, hobbled, however (2), imply, inter (2), menagerie, obstruct, optimistic, pacify, recede, refugee, taut, twinge, writhe



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	A
10	A
11	A
12	A
13	B
14	A
15	A
16	C
17	A
18	B
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 was still shaking from the **adrenaline** rush that came with the fright.
 - A. calming hormone
 - B. muscle protein
 - C. fight-or-flight hormone
2. Crews spent hours clearing **debris** from the highway after the crash.
 - A. intact structures
 - B. valuable items
 - C. scattered wreckage
3. The sleddogs are **docile** and trainable.
 - A. easily led and managed
 - B. very strong and fast
 - C. smart and competitive
4. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - A. very active
 - B. endearing (lovable)
 - C. greatly annoying
5. Firefighters worked carefully to **extricate** the driver from the wrecked car.
 - A. hide from being seen
 - B. free from being trapped
 - C. blame for the crash
6. She **hobbled** onto the court, determined to help her team win.
 - A. walked with difficulty
 - B. walked quickly
 - C. showed enthusiasm
7. 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
8. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
9. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
10. The **interment** took place beneath the old oak tree.
 - A. burial
 - B. visiting
 - C. singing
11. The company's **inter-departmental** communication needs to be improved to ensure all teams are aligned with the overall strategy.
 - A. between
 - B. global
 - C. secret

12. The eccentric millionaire kept a sprawling menagerie at his country estate.
- A. collection of animals
 - B. row of empty cages
 - C. patch of garden plants
13. Fallen branches obstruct the hiking trail after last night's heavy storm.
- A. clean and clear
 - B. block or hinder
 - C. widen or expand
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. My apology did not pacify her.
- A. calm
 - B. make sense to
 - C. interest
16. The pain is beginning to recede.
- A. get worse
 - B. return again
 - C. diminish (decrease)
17. She was a Tutsi refugee from Rwanda.
- A. someone who fled their homeland
 - B. someone who suffered
 - C. someone who immigrated
18. The clothesline was taut between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy
19. Sometimes I get a twinge in my knee that makes me think I may be getting arthritis.
- A. sudden, short-lived heat
 - B. sudden, short-lived pain
 - C. sudden, short-lived numbness
20. She writhed on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
- A. cried and whimpered
 - B. yelled loudly
 - C. twisted and turned

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 A strand of **taut** brown rope extended up from the water and disappeared into the fog.
 - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;
or: subjected to great tension
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 2 And then he ran off and left us to hide in that house like **refugees** while he galavanted around America, playing hero!
 - A. people who fled their homeland
 - B. understandings or explanations
 - C. quiet voices; or a quiet voice
- 3 I **sighed, exasperated**.
 - A. said indirectly
 - B. came or arrived
 - C. greatly annoyed
- 4 Then Miss Peregrine, apparently impatient to **pacify** Claire, took one edge of the book's cover in her beak and opened it to a seemingly random chapter.
 - A. calm someone who is angry; or establish peace
 - B. indicating criticism or disagreement, or "no"
 - C. move to a worse or less prestigious situation
- 5 I felt a **twinge** of jealousy, then guilt for being jealous of a sick friend.
 - A. control in advance (how something will turn out)
 - B. a sudden, short-lived feeling of pain or emotion
 - C. cheerful and lively music, or to play such music
- 6 If not for the **adrenaline** flooding my system, the pain would've been totally debilitating.
 - A. declaration of invalidity; or cancelation
 - B. the branch of geology that studies rocks
 - C. "fight or flight" stimulating hormone
- 7 On the back of the photo a message was printed: ONLY ACCESS TO MENAGERIE: CLIMB INSIDE!
 - A. a collection of wild or unusual animals kept for exhibition; or more generally, a diverse or strange mixture of people or things
 - B. someone who emphasizes a person's capacity for self-realization through reason rather than through religion and the supernatural
 - C. an inhabitant of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq; or their language
- 8 I should've been overjoyed, but I hardly felt anything, just a spreading numbness as the trembling pain of the Feeling **receded**.
 - A. genetically changed through evolution
 - B. not encouraged or emotionally aroused
 - C. move away or diminished (became less)
- 9 She lingered on for only a few weeks after she arrived, then was **interred** here.
 - A. buried
 - B. excessively excited
 - C. nervous or confused
- 10 Your medium of **inter-loop** travel is when-1940?
 - A. between
 - B. constraining in some way -- such as tying up, requiring, or obligating
 - C. the profession of assisting women in childbirth without being a doctor
- 11 The wights are convinced we peculiar children are **docile and weak**.
 - A. easily led or managed -- perhaps submissive or well-behaved
 - B. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - C. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight

- 12 *Coming to earth in a knotted pile, we **extricated** ourselves from its tangles in what could've been a lost Three Stooges bit; several times I thought I was free, only to try standing and fall flat on my face again with a cartoonish whump!*
- A. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - B. freed or removed from constraint or difficulty
 - C. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
- 13 *"I'll make you another offer," said Bekhir, pulling himself to his feet using the window bars, his **hobbled** silhouette outlined against the dark glass.*
- A. walked with difficulty (due to injury or physical impediment)
- or:
- hindered (made the action or progress of something difficult)
 - B. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
 - C. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drank, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
- 14 *Even Olive, eternally **optimistic** Olive, shook her head at that.*
- A. expecting the best; or focusing on the good part of things
 - B. in a manner of accepting something as true (without proof)
 - C. relating separately to the people or things just mentioned
- 15 *The altar was buried under a midden of **debris**.*
- A. the act of treating or preparing food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. passages food and drink follow between the back of mouths and the stomachs
 - C. pieces of something that has been destroyed; or trash that is lying around
- 16 *"Look here, boy," she said, "if you **imply** that my sister's life is worthless again, I will clobber you."*
- A. suggest (say indirectly)
 - B. struggle or disagreement
 - C. include consideration of
- 17 *Emma could never resist a touch of glitter, **however** small.*
- 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
- 18 *On this map, **however**, India was called Malabar, and the island, which I knew to be Sri Lanka, was overlaid with slinky script that read Land of Serendip.*
- 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)
- 19 *Bronwyn used her strength to pull open the door, and it came straight off, hinges flying— but the hallway it let onto was completely **obstructed** by ice.*
- A. gained advantage from
 - B. blocked or interfered
 - C. recognized difference
- 20 *One of the women stared blankly at the ceiling, while the other **writhed** under her sheets, moaning softly, in the grip of some nightmare.*
- A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
 - C. moved in a twisting or contorted motion

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	taut	Used 5 times in this book.
2	A	refugee	Used 7 times in this book.
3	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
4	A	pacify	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	twinge	Used 6 times in this book.
6	C	adrenaline	Used 6 times in this book.
7	A	menagerie	Used 17 times in this book.
8	C	recede	Used 5 times in this book.
9	A	inter (<i>as in: inter at the cemetery</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	A	inter (<i>as in: inter-city</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	A	docile	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	extricate	Used 2 times in this book.
13	A	hobbled (<i>as in: she hobbled up the hill</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
14	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
15	C	debris	Used 7 times in this book.
16	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
18	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	obstruct	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	writhe	Used 5 times in this book.