

I Am the Cheese

by Robert Cormier

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: adversary, antiseptic, anxiety, assimilate, debris, deception, irrevocable, nonchalant, personnel, probe, raucous, reminisce, superficial, sustain, tentative, testify, testimony, vulnerable, wary, waver



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	B
8	B
9	A
10	A
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	C
15	A
16	A
17	B
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. Their **adversaries** outsmarted them.
 - A. sub-groups
 - B. replacements
 - C. opponents
2. The nurse always wipes the skin with an **antiseptic** swab before administering a shot.
 - A. a substance used to clean wounds because it makes the pain go away
 - B. a pain killer
 - C. a substance used to clean wounds because it prevents infection by killing harmful bacteria
3. It is a vicious cycle in which worry leads to decreased spending and decreased spending leads to increased **anxiety**.
 - A. happiness
 - B. worry
 - C. saving
4. The immigrants worked hard to **assimilate** the customs of their new homeland.
 - A. absorb and adopt
 - B. openly reject
 - C. secretly mock
5. Crews spent hours clearing **debris** from the highway after the crash.
 - A. intact structures
 - B. valuable items
 - C. scattered wreckage
6. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
 - A. kindness
 - B. trickery
 - C. praise
7. If you agree to the terms, you give them irrevocable permission to share your comments with others on their site.
 - A. easy to reverse later
 - B. unable to be undone
 - C. needing court approval
8. How could she be so **nonchalant** about making him suffer?
 - A. dishonest
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
9. Hospital **personnel** practiced the emergency drill before the storm arrived.
 - A. staff members
 - B. medical supplies
 - C. building repairs
10. The committee will **probe** the cause of the failure.
 - A. investigate
 - B. make better
 - C. make worse
11. The flock of seagulls made a **raucous** noise as they fought over scraps of food.
 - A. loud and disturbing
 - B. the quality of being without boundaries or limits
 - C. the state of being aware of one's mental activity

12. The reunion gave everyone a chance to reminisce and reconnect.
- A. plan future trips
 - B. recall fond memories
 - C. debate old arguments
13. Her thinking was superficial.
- A. deep
 - B. shallow
 - C. creative
14. The donation will sustain our efforts to help the homeless.
- A. disrupt
 - B. finalize
 - C. support
15. She took a tentative step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
 - B. brave
 - C. confident
16. She testified that he struck her.
- A. said
 - B. hid
 - C. lied
17. Before your testimony, they will have you solemnly swear to tell *the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*.
- A. job interview
 - B. statements at a trial
 - C. confession
18. The team's preferred style of defense is vulnerable to good outside shooters.
- A. designed to stop
 - B. easily hurt by
 - C. dependent upon
19. She looked wary as she reached out to pet her friend's new dog.
- A. determined
 - B. distrustful
 - C. excited
20. We will never waver in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady

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 *Realize that the tension and the headache are **anxiety** reactions.*
 - A. basic rule or belief
 - B. nervousness or worry
 - C. narrow water passage
- 2 *And my father sang **raucously** and joyously: Heigh-ho, the merry-o, The farmer in the dell.*
 - A. loud and disturbing; or disorderly and boisterous
 - B. with suffering in a bad situation for a long time
 - C. in a manner that is dark, dingy, or inconspicuous
- 3 *I don't like to walk that way because I feel **vulnerable**.*
 - A. having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. easily hurt or in need of help; or easily influenced or subject to temptation
 - C. suffering from too few red blood cells

or (less commonly): lacking vitality
- 4 *He was **wary** again, on guard, distrustful.*
 - A. able to be taken on as one's own
 - B. nervous or distrustful
 - C. indicating approval or agreement
- 5 *He sometimes wondered what had happened to transform his mother from the laughing, tender woman to whom the scent of lilac clung into the pale and subdued and **antiseptic** woman who seldom left the house, who lurked behind window curtains.*
 - A. a point on a curve where the concavity changes to convexity or vice versa

or more generally: a time of significant change (a turning point)

 - B. part of the brain responsible for hormone levels which influence such things as appetite, digestion, sexuality, circulation, emotions, and sleep
 - C. a substance that prevents infection by killing harmful micro-organisms; or (as an adjective) describing something very clean and free of germs
- 6 *It was only later, in the eighth grade, when he knew **irrevocably** that he wanted to be a writer, that he realized he had stored up all his observations, all his emotions, for that purpose.*
 - A. separately in the specified order
 - B. in a manner that cannot be undone
 - C. in the manner of an investigation
- 7 *For instance, a Tuesday afternoon was a serious challenge because there were few shoppers around and it was easy for store **personnel** to spot any suspicious actions.*
 - A. employees
 - B. the state or degree of being able to be taken on as one's own
 - C. not trustworthy with secrets, and/or conspicuous or obtrusive
- 8 *"Don't rush, act **nonchalant**," Amy cautioned.*
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. calm and unconcerned
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 9 *I was in a panic because I'm not built for subterfuge and **deception**.*
 - A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
 - B. the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
 - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 10 *The quarries dried up after a while but the Italians remained and became **assimilated** into the town and the state.*
 - A. took in, transformed, or fit in
 - B. selected (on a computer screen)
 - C. took up or received into heaven

- 11 Roscoe Campbell, owner and editor of the *Telegrapher*, encouraged Adam's father to go beyond the **superficial** aspects of stories, to find the meanings below the surfaces, to root out what might be hidden or not apparent to the casual reader.
- comprehensive (thorough)
 - relating to a surface rather than to anything deep or penetrating
 - deep and creative
- 12 —*religion, in fact, had always sustained her through bad periods, particularly after her father died.*
- learned, discovered, or decided
 - selected (on a computer screen)
 - supported
- 13 The first people to give **testimony** were criminals themselves, members of the organizations and syndicates who, for one reason or another, decided to turn against their own kind.
- an atom that has acquired an electrical charge by the loss or gain of an electron
 - oral evidence in a trial
 - an organ attached to the wall of the uterus to nourish the fetus during pregnancy
- 14 His huge figure **wavers** in the wetness of my tears, as if he is somehow underwater.
- is most powerful, important, or noticeable
 - won't answer questions; or blocks progress
 - moving back and forth
- 15 He remembered asking his father, **tentatively**, afraid that he was invading his privacy, how much it had hurt him to start life over, to give up his old life, his career, his friends.
- in an unsure or hesitant manner
 - in a manner that is not sincere
 - in comparison to something else
- 16 He keeps **probing** for more information and I tell him there isn't any more, that I've held nothing back.
- searching (investigating)
 - concentrating
 - bouncing back
- 17 Weren't the people Dad **testified** against sent to jail?
- provided oral evidence
 - showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - suffered through (or put up with) something difficult or unpleasant
- 18 His mother **waded** through this **debris** of other years, clearing a path to a box tied with old rope, about four feet square, in the corner.
- the act of treating or preparing food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - passages food and drink follow between the back of mouths and the stomachs
 - pieces of something that has been destroyed; or trash that is lying around
- 19 It reminded Adam of an old movie he'd seen on television—*It Happened One Night*, with Clark Gable and some actress, Claudette Somebody—and his father and mother remembered the movie, too, and it was good talking and joking and **reminiscing**, and then settling down.
- thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - to talk or think fondly about past experiences
 - returning to an undesirable previous condition
- 20 The following advisories are advanced for priority study: Advisory \$/: Modification of Agency Basic Procedures to eliminate Policy 979 which does not currently allow termination procedures by Department i-R. Advisory \$2: Discontinue suspension of Personnel \$2222 and grant full reinstatement on following basis: While it is fact that Witness \$599-6 had been located by **Adversaries**, it has not been established that Personnel \$2222 allowed termination of Witness \$599-6 and affiliate (spouse) by Adversaries.
- loyalties
 - made holy
 - opponents

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	anxiety	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	A	raucous	Used 4 times in this book.
3	B	vulnerable	Used 4 times in this book.
4	B	wary	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
5	C	antiseptic	Used 2 times in this book.
6	B	irrevocable	Used 3 times in this book.
7	A	personnel	Used 7 times in this book.
8	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
9	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
10	A	assimilate	High-utility academic word
11	B	superficial	High-utility academic word
12	C	sustain (<i>as in: sustained by her faith</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
13	B	testimony	Used 8 times in this book.
14	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
15	A	tentative (<i>as in: said it tentatively</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	A	probe	Used 5 times in this book.
17	A	testify	Used 7 times in this book.
18	C	debris	Used 3 times in this book.
19	B	reminisce	High-utility academic word
20	C	adversary	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.