

In Cold Blood

by Truman Capote

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: anecdote, approach (2), approximate, attribute, conviction, defendant, dour, establish (2), hypothesis, lenient, moreover, motive, nevertheless, parole, pawn shop, pragmatic, subsequent, testify



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She is good at making a point in an interesting and memorable way with an **anecdote**.
 - A. short true story
 - B. long boring lecture
 - C. detailed research report
2. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
3. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
4. The circumference of the earth is **approximately** 24,900 miles at the equator.
 - A. exactly
 - B. commonly mistaken as
 - C. about
5. She described his physical **attributes**.
 - A. characteristics
 - B. strengths
 - C. weaknesses
6. She stood up in class with total conviction and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
7. The jury did not know the **defendant** had a long criminal history.
 - A. person who is on trial
 - B. person who is a witness
 - C. person filing a complaint
8. The **dour** guard frowned at every joke and ordered the students to be quiet.
 - A. grim and unfriendly
 - B. cheerful and playful
 - C. confused and lost
9. Which word choice would help to establish a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
10. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
11. He **hypothesized** the existence of Pluto before its discovery.
 - A. fantasized
 - B. theorized
 - C. disbelieved

12. Her parents were too **lenient**.
- A. authoritarian (overly strict)
 - B. concerned or worried
 - C. permissive (not strict)
13. Many graduates have high college debt. **Moreover**, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
- A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that
14. A desire for religious freedom was their **motive** for leaving England.
- A. excuse
 - B. technique
 - C. reason
15. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
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 **pawn shop** wanted to charge too much interest.
- A. a lender that does all business over the internet
 - B. a lender that holds personal property as collateral
 - C. a shop that sells household goods via monthly payments
18. Successful politicians are **pragmatists**. Compromise is built into the system.
- A. practical
 - B. personable
 - C. busy
19. The results of the initial investigation were unclear, but a **subsequent** investigation concluded that she used good judgment.
- A. thorough
 - B. official
 - C. following
20. She **testified** that he struck her.
- A. said
 - B. hid
 - C. lied

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 Dick's literalness, his **pragmatic** approach to every subject, was the primary reason Perry had been attracted to him, for it made Dick seem, compared to himself, so authentically tough, invulnerable, "totally masculine."
 - A. concerned with practical matters (as compared to concern with theory or beauty)
 - B. another battle with the same foe
 - C. describing someone as antisocial
- 2 Of course, Dick was very literal-minded, very— he had no understanding of music, poetry—and yet when you got right down to it, Dick's literalness, his **pragmatic approach** to every subject, was the primary reason Perry had been attracted to him, for it made Dick seem, compared to himself, so authentically tough, invulnerable, "totally masculine."
 - 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
- 3 Perhaps, having heard all she had, Bonnie welcomed their swift **approach**.
 - A. getting near
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 4 Dick had received his **parole** on the condition that he reside with his parents;
 - A. "spiritually renew" (a person) in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 - B. conditional early release from imprisonment
 - C. treat something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
- 5 The distance between Olathe, a suburb of Kansas City, and Holcomb, which might be called a suburb of Garden City, is **approximately** four hundred miles.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. cheerfully and friendly
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 6 Together, Kenyon and Nancy had made a paint-splattered attempt to deprive the basement room of its unremovable **dourness**, and neither was aware of failure.
 - A. very serious, stern, and unfriendly -- often in a gloomy or harsh way
 - B. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
 - C. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
- 7 Though dusk had **established** itself, Dick, doing a steady sixty miles an hour, was still driving without headlights, but then the road was straight, the country was as level as a lake, and other cars were seldom sighted.
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. settled
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 8 Having **established** premeditation of great degree, Green left the witness to the ministrations of the defense.
 - A. accepted someone's membership through a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. proven
- 9 The **anecdote** elevated Dick's opinion of Little Perry; he began to see more of him, and, like Willie-Jay, though for dissimilar reasons, gradually decided that Perry possessed unusual and valuable qualities.
 - A. a short story that is true -- often told for amusement or to make a point
 - B. a feeling of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
 - C. Hitler's fanatical and oppressive political party in World War II Germany

- 10 *It was smaller than the Kidwell's, and, moreover, he shared it with a wife, three active children, and a perpetually functioning television set.*
- despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - in addition to what has just been said
 - even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 11 *From there, after purchasing by check a diamond engagement ring and diamond wedding band, they drove to a pawnshop to dispose of these items.*
- a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies to protect against a disease
 - a shop that offers loans to individuals who use their personal property as collateral
 - the amount of money paid as earnings for each share of stock (usually paid quarterly)
- 12 *Nevertheless, there had been one or two meaningful developments.*
- in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - therefore (for that reason)
- 13 *Taken together, these discoveries forced Dewey to consider again the possibility of "plain robbery" as a motive.*
- small quantity or indication
 - the sacred writings of Islam
 - reason (for doing something)
- 14 *And yet this was at least a partially inaccurate impression, for now and again the prisoner glimpsed him as he paused to talk to other men, joke with them and laugh, and then he seemed carefree, jovial, generous: "The kind of person who might see the human side"—an important attribute, for the man was Roland H. Tate, Judge of the 32nd Judicial District, the jurist who would preside at the trial of the State of Kansas versus Smith and Hickock.*
- characteristic
 - dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - normal mood, personality, or inclination
- 15 *"I felt ill breath and light leaving me," he said, in a subsequent description of his sensations.*
- able to take on or adopt
 - the state of being awake
 - following something else
- 16 *In the weeks preceding that date the defense attorneys frequently consulted the defendants.*
- people legally accused of a crime
 - soft leather shoes traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - people of the majority denomination of Islam (almost 90%)
- 17 *Assuming an aggressive, sneering manner that seemed forced, for really he is a mild and lenient man, Smith asked the witness if he had a nickname.*
- the state of being unaware of one's mental activity
 - increasing reason or general desire to do something
 - less strict or more tolerant than might be expected
- 18 *The hypothesis of unconscious motivation explains why the murderers perceived innocuous and relatively unknown victims as provocative and thereby suitable targets for aggression.*
- the quality of appropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - a seemingly reasonable, but unproven, explanation
 - feels or expresses regret for having done something wrong
- 19 *Then, as though interested in their reaction, he looked down upon the prisoners, who stood before him handcuffed to guards; they stared back impassively until he resumed and read the seven counts that followed: three more convictions for Hickock, and four for Smith.*
- not working or not operating
 - a strong, firmly held belief
 - calculates or judges too low
- 20 *All I can hope is that some day we'll get a new trial, and Perry will testify and tell the truth.*
- provide oral evidence in court
 - to encourage growth or excitement, or to cause something to happen
 - to show something -- such as to demonstrate, express, or represent

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	pragmatic	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 10 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	B	parole (<i>as in: released on parole</i>)	Used 39 times in this book.
5	C	approximate	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
6	A	dour	Used 4 times in this book.
7	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	anecdote	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
10	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
11	B	pawn shop	Used 6 times in this book.
12	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 15 times in this book.
13	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 21 times in this book.
14	A	attribute (<i>as in: It is an attribute of...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	C	subsequent	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
16	A	defendant	Used 32 times in this book.
17	C	lenient	Used 3 times in this book.
18	B	hypothesis (<i>as in: a study to test her hypothesis</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 12 times in this book.
20	A	testify	Used 15 times in this book.