

In the Time of the Butterflies

by Julia Alvarez

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: assume (2), asthma, benefactor, coax, communism, confide, decisive (2), desecrate, imply, interrogate, irony (2), lenient, pilgrimage, premonition, reminisce, resignation, theme



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

- The detective had no concrete evidence, but he began to assume the suspect was hiding something based on his **evasive** answers.
 - wonder if
 - believe
 - prove
- Some members of my church are getting together for dinner for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary.
 - something that serves as a sign to show something else
 - the act of taking someone up into heaven
 - a judgment, rough calculation or guess of qualities or a value
- They removed the rug from my bedroom because of my **asthma**.
 - breathing trouble
 - sore throat
 - headaches
- Oprah Winfrey is often praised for overcoming diversity to become a **benefactor** to others.
 - helper or supporter
 - inspiration or example
 - taxpayer
- Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
 - trick
 - gently persuade
 - drag forcefully
- Marx's writings on communism inspired revolutions across many countries in the 1900s.
 - free market trade
 - collective ownership
 - religious reform
- She **confided** in her parents.
 - trusted
 - didn't trust
 - was proud
- Tonight, they play the **decisive** game seven of the series.
 - determining an outcome
 - hardest so far
 - most watched
- We need a **decisive** leader who can act quickly without losing time in consultation.
 - unhesitating
 - intelligent
 - popular
- In the U.S., the protected right of free speech makes it legal to **desecrate** the flag and other sacred symbols.
 - disrespect
 - oppose
 - burn
- She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - hinted
 - insisted
 - denied

12. Officers will **interrogate** the witnesses separately to compare their accounts.
- A. question closely
 - B. politely greet
 - C. quietly observe
13. **Ironically**, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
- A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
14. Her voice was dripping with **irony** as she said, "You look beautiful."
- A. sincerity
 - B. sarcasm
 - C. kindness
15. Her parents were too **lenient**.
- A. authoritarian (overly strict)
 - B. concerned or worried
 - C. permissive (not strict)
16. Many devout Hindus undertake a **pilgrimage** to the holy city of Varanasi in India, where they perform rituals and prayers along the banks of the sacred Ganges River.
- A. cultural festival
 - B. religious journey
 - C. historical reenactment
17. Like most soldiers, I was scared before battle, but it's not like I had a **premonition** that something bad was going to happen to me.
- A. expectation
 - B. feeling
 - C. certainty
18. The reunion gave everyone a chance to **reminisce** and reconnect.
- A. plan future trips
 - B. recall fond memories
 - C. debate old arguments
19. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
20. What is the **theme** of your essay?
- A. basic idea
 - B. grammatical voice
 - C. narrative point of view

Vocabulary in Context

In the Time of the Butterflies

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 The **theme** was to be our centennial and the generosity of our gracious Benefactor.
 - A. unifying idea
 - B. excessively examine in an attempt to better understand
 - C. to understand or explain something in a particular way
- 2 The theme was to be our centennial and the generosity of our gracious **Benefactor**.
 - A. someone who helps a person or organization -- especially financially
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 3 I felt one of my **asthma** attacks coming on.
 - A. a common lung disorder characterized by wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and sometimes coughing
 - B. windpipe (the air tube that conveys inhaled air to the lungs from just under the larynx or voice box)
 - C. the green substance in plants that absorbs light energy and converts it to chemical energy through photosynthesis
- 4 I felt the same excitement as when I'd been able to **coax** a wild bird or stray cat to eat out of my hand.
 - A. to think of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
 - B. try to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gentle persuasion
 - C. give authority, power, knowledge, or confidence to someone so they can do something
- 5 I decided not to take the children, so I could give myself over to the **pilgrimage**.
 - A. portray or create in a particular way OR interpret, translate, or extract from
 - B. a journey to a special place -- especially a sacred place for religious purposes
 - C. removing the favoring any side in a contest, war, disagreement, or other dispute
- 6 We sang, told stories, **reminisced** about this or that.
 - A. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - B. to talk or think fondly about past experiences
 - C. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
- 7 Belonging to the party was an obligation unless, of course, like Lio you wanted trouble for yourself and your family. ...the audience clapped politely. Except Minerva. Dede prodded her with an elbow and whispered, "Think of it as life insurance." The **irony** of it--she had been practicing for her future profession! [selling life insurance]
 - A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - B. an amusing coincidence
 - C. someone who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often with the implication that the person is unrealistic
- 8 Minou scowls at her aunt. "Are you making fun again?" Dede shakes her head. ... Minou is watching her aunt for any sign of **irony**.
 - A. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - B. saying one thing while meaning something else
 - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 9 Jaimito began what Minerva called her "**interrogation**."
 - A. the process of asking a series of questions of someone
 - B. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
 - C. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
- 10 I was sure I was having **premonitions** that Lio had not escaped after all.
 - A. speaks with someone about something for the first time
 - B. feelings, not based on reason, that things will happen
 - C. periods of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior

- 11 I nod **decisively**, at the last minute softening the gesture with a tilt of my head.
- A. in a manner that ends any question about something
 - B. in a manner that expresses criticism or disagreement
 - C. in a manner that is important, serious, or dangerous
- 12 One thing I was **decisive** about.
- A. indicating a firm decision
 - B. made by humans -- often to replace something that can be found in nature
 - C. the quality or degree of straightness, or absence of anything in between
- 13 It's full of **communists and agitators**, who want to, bring down the government.
- A. subatomic particles with negative charge that are found in all atoms and that act as the primary carrier of electricity
 - B. people who support an economic system that abolishes private ownership of property with the goal of a classless society
 - C. people who suffer from psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 14 But I have not been in a very **confiding** mood.
- A. placing trust (in someone) by talking about private things
 - B. showing, demonstrating, determining, or causing acceptance
 - C. viewing in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
- 15 She had become **resigned** to her daughters' odd and willful ways.
- A. to be or to become used to (adapted to and with an expectation of)
 - B. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - C. having accepted something undesired as unavoidable or the lesser of evils
- 16 Brother Daniel was talking of the last moment we knew of in Mary's human life, her **Assumption**.
- A. an agreement to marry; or relating to an agreement to marry
 - B. being taken up into heaven
 - C. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
- 17 Back then, we had **assumed** he was talking just about us.
- A. caused something to move forward
 - B. believed (without really knowing)
 - C. not found, sought, or researched
- 18 Jaimito's no Trujillista, if that's what you're **implying**.
- A. suggesting (saying indirectly)
 - B. going back to a previous state
 - C. acting in an official capacity
- 19 All of it violated, broken, **desecrated**, destroyed.
- A. violated the sacred nature of something
 - B. examined in detail to better understand
 - C. moved into position to work; or started
- 20 After each session, Santiclo is supposed to collect them, but he's pretty **lenient** with us.
- A. the state of being unaware of one's mental activity
 - B. increasing reason or general desire to do something
 - C. less strict or more tolerant than might be expected

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	theme (<i>as in: theme of the novel</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	A	benefactor	Used 14 times in this book.
3	A	asthma	Used 11 times in this book.
4	B	coax (<i>as in: coax her to join us</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
5	B	pilgrimage	Used 8 times in this book.
6	B	reminisce	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
7	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	irony (<i>as in: verbal irony</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	A	interrogate	Used 7 times in this book.
10	B	premonition	Used 4 times in this book.
11	A	decisive (<i>as in: a decisive defeat</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	decisive (<i>as in: a decisive decision maker</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	B	communism	Used 7 times in this book.
14	A	confide	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
15	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
16	B	assume (<i>as in: assumed into heaven</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	assume (<i>as in: I assume it's true</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	A	desecrate	Used 3 times in this book.
20	C	lenient	Used 3 times in this book.