

Just Mercy

by Bryan Stevenson

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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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: advocate (2), conviction, critical (2), defendant, elaborate (2), exonerate, implication (2), incarcerate, litigate, parole, perjury, recant, reflect (2), testify, testimony



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She **advocates** giving all students the opportunity to attend school in the summer too.
 - A. is against
 - B. researches
 - C. supports
2. Privacy **advocates** want the law changed.
 - A. opponents
 - B. sufferers
 - C. supporters
3. 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
4. Ants play a **critical** role in the ecosystem.
 - A. small
 - B. important
 - C. confusing
5. She is very **critical** of the administration.
 - A. dangerous
 - B. important
 - C. tends to find fault
6. 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
7. Their culture has **elaborate** wedding ceremonies.
 - A. generous
 - B. exciting
 - C. detailed
8. He walked with an **elaborate** swagger.
 - A. exaggerated
 - B. slightly noticeable
 - C. rudely disrespectful
9. Despite what she says, I will be **exonerated**.
 - A. placed on trial
 - B. freed of blame
 - C. found guilty
10. The new policy has widespread legal and political **implications**.
 - A. disadvantages
 - B. effects
 - C. advantages
11. The fault clearly lies with the manufacturer, but we were **implicated** in the lawsuit because our company installed their equipment.
 - A. victorious
 - B. found guilty
 - C. involved

12. 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
13. I am trying to avoid litigation.
- A. close friendship amongst a group of people
 - B. the process of a engaging in a lawsuit
 - C. feelings of respect and reverence
14. 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
15. She signed a written declaration under penalty of perjury.
- A. the criminal offense of lying
 - B. the criminal offense of disrespecting the court
 - C. the criminal offense of ignoring a subpoena
16. Knowing he risked execution, Luther refused to renounce his opinions, saying "I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience."
- A. withdraw
 - B. apologize for
 - C. further explain
17. The author used gloomy weather to help reflect a depressing situation.
- A. express
 - B. make interesting
 - C. distract from
18. As I reflect on my life, I realize that it's relationships that matter most.
- A. write a story
 - B. live
 - C. think carefully
19. She testified that he struck her.
- A. said
 - B. hid
 - C. lied
20. 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

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 I piled up courses on constitutional law, **litigation**, appellate procedure, federal courts, and collateral remedies.
 - A. job, reservation, booking, or activity
 - B. the process of a engaging in a lawsuit
 - C. thing that affects a result or outcome
- 2 The more I **reflected** on the experience, the more I recognized that I had been struggling my whole life with the question of how and why people are judged unfairly.
 - A. helped make clear
 - B. guided or managed
 - C. thought
- 3 Although being smart and sensitive made his extended time in solitary confinement especially destructive, he had managed to educate himself, read hundreds of books, and write poetry and short stories that **reflected** an eager, robust intellect.
 - A. showed or demonstrated
 - B. provided evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - C. suffered through (or put up with) something difficult or unpleasant
- 4 This book is about getting closer to mass **incarceration** and extreme punishment in America.
 - A. murder
 - B. understanding
 - C. imprisonment
- 5 There are nearly six million people on probation or on **parole**.
 - A. "spiritually renew" (a person) in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 - B. conditional early release from imprisonment in which a person is required to comply with special conditions
 - C. treat something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
- 6 Scores of innocent people have been **exonerated** after being sentenced to death and nearly executed.
 - A. made uncomfortable (weighed heavily on the senses or spirit)
 - B. freed from blame OR (more rarely) freed from an obligation
 - C. joined with others in a public protest or display of support
- 7 Tom Robinson, the wrongly accused black **defendant**, is found guilty.
 - A. a person or institution legally accused or sued in court
 - B. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 8 Ralph believed that everything he said had to be epic, shocking, and **elaborate**.
 - A. exaggerated (or with lots of detail)
 - B. optimistic or agreeable
 - C. not sensible or careful
- 9 I was subjected to an **elaborate** admission process and given a beeper to activate if I was ever threatened or distressed while inside the prison.
 - A. exciting
 - B. serious
 - C. detailed
- 10 At this point, Tate and his investigators had little interest in Myers's **recantation**.
 - A. a statement that formally rejects or disavows a formerly held belief
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 11 Walter thought the **testimony** was so nonsensical he couldn't believe that people were taking it seriously.
 - A. an atom that has acquired an electrical charge by the loss or gain of an electron
 - B. something that serves as evidence -- especially a statement at a trial or hearing
 - C. an organ attached to the wall of the uterus to nourish the fetus during pregnancy

- 12 By the end of the decade, some justices had become openly **critical** of the review that death penalty cases received.
- A. the state or degree of not finding a condition or substance to be present
 - B. not co-existing peacefully; or with components that are pleasing together
 - C. expressing unfavorable opinions
- 13 Mr. Houston says that Hooks is lying, which makes his testimony a **critical** issue that should be heard in court.
- A. not clear or easily identifiable
 - B. important
 - C. the condition of being different
- 14 He began a whispered dialogue with me, imploring me to get the **testifying** expert to say things about his intent that were really outside the expert's knowledge.
- A. providing evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - B. calling -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
 - C. convincing (someone) that an idea previously believed is not correct
- 15 A **perjury** indictment seems like a tactic designed to intimidate and discourage people from coming forward with evidence that contradicts the State's case.
- A. making false statements
 - B. surgical interruption of nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
 - C. something suggested indirectly; or something that can be concluded; or a result
- 16 Victims' **advocates** were added to parole boards, and in most states they were given a formal role in state and local prosecutors' offices.
- A. social events or ceremonies
 - B. reasons for doing something
 - C. supporters
- 17 Marsha held on despite these challenges and started **advocating** for some of the younger women.
- A. stopping (something from happening)
 - B. making someone want to do something
 - C. supporting and speaking out
- 18 In hundreds of other cases, falsely accused women never received the forensic help they needed to avoid wrongful **convictions**.
- A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 19 Diane had been wrongly **implicated** in a drug-trafficking operation that involved her former boyfriend.
- A. not provided with investment funds
 - B. not interacting; or not interested
 - C. accused of involvement
- 20 We argued that the ban on the death penalty had **implications** because a death-in-prison sentence is also a terminal, unchangeable, once-and-for-all judgment on the whole life of a human being that declares him or her forever unfit to be part of civil society.
- A. supporters of dramatic change -- sometimes people fighting for overthrow of a government
 - B. consequences or impact
 - C. workplaces where people do scientific or medical research, or produce drugs or chemicals

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	litigate	Used 20 times in this book.
2	C	reflect (<i>as in: I want to reflect on it.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	reflect (<i>as in: reflect American Values</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	incarcerate	Used 61 times in this book.
5	B	parole (<i>as in: released on parole</i>)	Used 49 times in this book.
6	B	exonerate	Used 13 times in this book.
7	A	defendant	Used 23 times in this book.
8	A	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate wink</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	C	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate design</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	A	recant	Used 17 times in this book.
11	B	testimony	Used 80 times in this book.
12	C	critical (<i>as in: don't be so critical</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	critical (<i>as in: a critical problem</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	testify	Used 44 times in this book.
15	A	perjury	Used 15 times in this book.
16	C	advocate (<i>as in: an advocate supporting</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	advocate (<i>as in: to advocate</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 66 times in this book.
19	C	implication (<i>as in: Her implication in the crime</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	B	implication (<i>as in: the implication is that...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.