

# Kit's Wilderness

by David Almond

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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.

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#### 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, avenge, contemplate, content, cower, descend, distort, flourish (2), gist, homage, labyrinth, meager, mock, ponder, relevant, sullen (2), tentative, yearn



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	A
10	C
11	C
12	C
13	C
14	B
15	A
16	C
17	B
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. Their **adversaries** outsmarted them.
  - A. sub-groups
  - B. replacements
  - C. opponents
2. The hero set out to **avenge** the cruel treatment of his village by the bandits.
  - A. kindly forgive
  - B. quietly forget
  - C. take revenge for
3. The philosopher **contemplated** the meaning of life, pondering the big questions of existence.
  - A. wrote about
  - B. read about
  - C. thought about
4. It's hard to get her to consider a change because she is so **contented** with the way things are.
  - A. satisfied
  - B. concerned
  - C. stubborn
5. She **cowered** behind her big sister.
  - A. walked slowly
  - B. walked proudly
  - C. fearfully hid
6. She saw him as he was **descending** the stairs.
  - A. climbing
  - B. looking at
  - C. going down
7. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
  - A. reflected
  - B. improved
  - C. altered
8. The business **flourished** from day one.
  - A. grew or developed well
  - B. struggled to make a profit
  - C. was a dangerous place
9. He bowed with a **flourish**.
  - A. showy gesture
  - B. twitch from pain
  - C. smile
10. It's a 300-page report, but the **gist** of it is that the plan won't work.
  - A. concern
  - B. problem
  - C. main point
11. The director's latest film is a quiet **homage** to classic black-and-white cinema.
  - A. modern version
  - B. light parody
  - C. show of respect
12. Old limestone mines and smugglers' tunnels create a **labyrinth** beneath the city of Odessa.
  - A. hazard
  - B. storage area
  - C. maze

13. She works part time to contribute to the family's meager income.
- A. mixed
  - B. extra
  - C. small
14. It is an exercise where the two divisions take part in a mock battle.
- A. low-casualty
  - B. not real
  - C. high-casualty
15. We pondered our fate.
- A. thought about
  - B. feared for
  - C. actively changed
16. It is easier to learn things that seem relevant to your life.
- A. understandable
  - B. repeated
  - C. important
17. A sullen crowd watched the execution.
- A. excited
  - B. unhappy
  - C. celebrating
18. She rode off under a sullen sky.
- A. heavy with snow
  - B. clear and windy
  - C. darkened by clouds
19. She took a tentative step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
  - B. brave
  - C. confident
20. I yearn for more independence.
- A. fear
  - B. desire
  - C. work

## Vocabulary in Context

### Kit's Wilderness

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 He **contemplated** me.
  - A. restarted (a fire)
  - B. wrongly translates
  - C. consider or ponder
- 2 They were dark things, black things: silhouettes of children on a gray field; black slow river; black tilting houses; black scratches of birds in a **sullen** sky.
  - A. unable to find
  - B. representative
  - C. dark (gloomy)
- 3 But I stood there **sullen** and silent with my eyes downcast,
  - A. exactness or accuracy
  - B. unhappy and withdrawn
  - C. not easily identified
- 4 "Look at the earth and you think it's solid," he said. "But look deeper and you'll see it's riddled with tunnels. A warren. A **labyrinth**."
  - A. a math value that tells how many times a number is multiplied by itself to reach another number -- often used to describe very big or very small quantities
  - B. a melody that, after a short interval, is exactly repeated by a different instrument or voice to create competing melodic lines (a strict counterpoint)
  - C. a complex system of paths or tunnels
- 5 Great place for young life to **flourish**.
  - A. grow or develop well
  - B. take on as one's own
  - C. recognize difference
- 6 He swung his arm out with a **flourish**.
  - A. a showy gesture
  - B. tell someone about something
  - C. something repeated regularly
- 7 But I simply fail to see the **relevance** of the subject to a person of my inclinations and ambitions.
  - A. Palestinian uprising or rebellion against Israeli control
  - B. the study of dinosaurs and other prehistoric ancient life
  - C. importance (meaningful relation to the issue in question)
- 8 "We will **avenge** him," they whispered.
  - A. take on or adopt
  - B. make more varied
  - C. take revenge
- 9 Only one of the candles still burned, a cold, **meager** light.
  - A. a sensible view of a situation
  - B. made by taking on as one's own
  - C. less than desired
- 10 They tried to keep the tale of Askew's den from Grandpa, but he got the **gist** of it.
  - A. the act of taking something on as one's own
  - B. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
  - C. the main point(s) of a more detailed matter
- 11 I looked out of the window, saw Askew far out there, heading away, **distorted** by the water on the pane.
  - A. said (or make a sound) with the voice
  - B. genetically changed through evolution
  - C. altered in an unnatural way

- 12 *But I could feel that his grip was also a way of clinging to me, that his eyes were also filled with yearning.*
- A. changing to fit a different situation
  - B. strongly desiring; or a strong desire
  - C. charging (with having broken the law)
- 13 *I lifted my pen and pondered.*
- A. thought deeply or carefully
  - B. was overly unhappy and unsociable
  - C. not limited or without boundaries
- 14 *Lak bowed his head and paid homage to the spirit of the bear.*
- A. uncultivated grasslands
  - B. lowered moral standards
  - C. showed respect or honor
- 15 *He gave thanks to the gods for the cunning and strength that had caused him to defeat such an adversary.*
- A. disorder
  - B. reporter
  - C. opponent
- 16 *The boy cowered, covered his face.*
- A. deeply involved; or intermixed with complications or difficulties
  - B. entered into a place of religious seclusion (such as a monastery)
  - C. showed fear by positioning the body as though afraid of being hit
- 17 *The baby slept, contented.*
- A. satisfied and unworried
  - B. worried about what will happen
  - C. not satisfied with the way things are
- 18 *Old people walked tentatively, took careful steps, used rubber-tipped sticks to keep them safe.*
- A. in an unsure manner
  - B. in a manner that is not sincere
  - C. in comparison to something else
- 19 *A gasp of mock-fright from the children, then The Snow Queen began.*
- A. not real
  - B. pretend (not real)
  - C. allowing
- 20 *He descended through the dark with her.*
- A. mirrored back (an image)
  - B. quoted (to make a point)
  - C. moved downward

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	contemplate	Used 2 times in this book.
2	C	sullen ( <i>as in: a sullen sky</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
3	B	sullen ( <i>as in: a sullen mood</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
4	C	labyrinth	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	flourish ( <i>as in: the business is flourishing</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	flourish ( <i>as in: dismissed them with a flourish</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
7	C	relevant	High-utility academic word
8	C	avenge	Used 2 times in this book.
9	C	meager	Used 4 times in this book.
10	C	gist	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	C	distort	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	yearn	Used 4 times in this book.
13	A	ponder	Used 8 times in this book.
14	C	homage	Used 2 times in this book.
15	C	adversary	High-utility academic word
16	C	cower	Used 3 times in this book.
17	A	content ( <i>as in: content with how things are</i> )	Used 2 times in this book.
18	A	tentative ( <i>as in: said it tentatively</i> )	High-utility academic word
19	B	mock ( <i>as in: a mock trial</i> )	High-utility academic word
20	C	descend ( <i>as in: descend the mountain</i> )	Used 3 times in this book.

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