

Lonesome Dove

by Larry McMurtry

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: aggravate (2), competent, contemplate, fastidious, hobbled, however (2), insolent, matrimony, ponder, rein, republic, resignation (2), scorn, speculate, sulk, superfluous, vengeful



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	C
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	A
10	A
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	B
15	C
16	A
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.

1. She sees the bad side of everything and is **aggravated** by cheerful people.
 - A. annoyed or irritated
 - B. made distrustful
 - C. made happier
2. The drug **aggravates** the pain.
 - A. makes worse
 - B. makes better
 - C. has no effect upon
3. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
 - A. below average
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. outstanding
4. The philosopher **contemplated** the meaning of life, pondering the big questions of existence.
 - A. wrote about
 - B. read about
 - C. thought about
5. She was **fastidious** about keeping her desk perfectly organized.
 - A. careless and disorganized
 - B. loud and outgoing
 - C. extremely attentive to detail
6. She **hobbled** onto the court, determined to help her team win.
 - A. walked with difficulty
 - B. walked quickly
 - C. showed enthusiasm
7. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and
8. However safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
9. The **insolent** waiter rolled his eyes when the customer asked for more water.
 - A. boldly disrespectful
 - B. kindly helpful
 - C. shyly quiet
10. Their bond of **matrimony** lasted for over fifty years.
 - A. marriage
 - B. friendship
 - C. divorce
11. We **pondered** our fate.
 - A. thought about
 - B. feared for
 - C. actively changed

12. She is committed to **reining in** excessive government infringement of personal freedom.
- A. exposing
 - B. restraining
 - C. discovering
13. A **republic** is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
 - B. representative government
 - C. oligarchy
14. She said that if I don't **resign**, I will be fired.
- A. do better
 - B. quit
 - C. renew an agreement
15. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
16. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
17. We were **speculating** as to whether a president would have to resign after that kind of scandal.
- A. hoping
 - B. thoughtfully guessing
 - C. demonstrating concern
18. She **sulked** for the rest of the week when she learned she would not make the starting team.
- A. worked tirelessly to improve
 - B. was unhappy and unsociable
 - C. was angry and lashed out
19. Everyone liked the idea. The arguments I prepared to support it were **superfluous**.
- A. appreciated
 - B. important
 - C. unnecessary
20. In the legend, a **vengeful** queen curses those who betrayed her.
- A. wanting revenge for a wrong
 - B. feeling sorrow at a loss
 - C. filled with quiet pride

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 The old man had been a **competent** Mexican bandit before he ran out of steam and crossed the river.
A. sincerity (realness)
B. sufficiently capable
C. sensible and careful
- 2 Of course, real scouting skills were **superfluous** in a place as tame as Lonesome Dove, but Call still liked to get out at night, sniff the breeze and let the country talk.
A. the quality of being sensible and careful
B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
C. more than is needed, desired, or required
- 3 He had been in charge so long that everyone assumed all thoughts, questions, needs and wants had to be referred to him, **however** simple these might be.
A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
C. regardless of how
- 4 The widow Spettle, **however**, was eager for him to take the boys, and would hear no protest from Call.
A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though*, *in spite of that*, *in contrast*, *nevertheless*, etc.
B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 5 Xavier himself had a near-monopoly on **fastidiousness** in Lonesome Dove.
A. a person who works from within to destroy an established order; or relating to such destructive efforts
B. not relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
C. excessive concern with cleanliness or matters of taste
- 6 He fried it, and Jake and Deets ate it, while Bolivar sat in the corner and **sulked** at the thought of two more breakfasts to wash up after.
A. not limited or without boundaries
B. was overly unhappy and unsociable
C. not embarrassed or self-conscious
- 7 There were other chiefs, true, and the final fights were yet to be fought, but he had never had the **vengeful** nature of some Rangers and had no interest in spending a decade mopping up renegades and stragglers.
A. wanting to punish someone for causing harm
B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
C. without involvement of anything in between
- 8 She heard the boys **speculate** that the branding would be done in another week, which meant they were close to starting the drive.
A. examine in detail to better understand
B. guess
C. appropriate in size, amount, or degree
- 9 He had known several men who blew their heads off, and he had **pondered** it much.
A. thought deeply or carefully about
B. was overly unhappy and unsociable
C. not limited or without boundaries
- 10 Call watched the proceedings silently, unable to decide who he was more **aggravated** at, Gus or Jake.
A. annoyed or irritated
B. began fighting again
C. not accepted as true
- 11 Gus always managed to **aggravate** whatever situation he was in with a woman.
A. make worse
B. connection
C. get rid of

- 12 *Jasper had concluded that the best way would be to pelt him with small rocks, although such caution would only earn him the **scorn** of the rest of the hands.*
- A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific
- 13 *He had got the thorn in his thumb **hobbling** the horses the night before, and had been unable to get it out in the dark.*
- A. walked with difficulty (due to injury or physical impediment)
- or:
- hindered (made the action or progress of something difficult)
- B. injuring the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
 - C. presenting something to treat as true in order to advance a discussion or to further investigation even though it might not be true
- 14 *It was made even more interesting a few minutes later when Bolivar walked up and handed in his **resignation**.*
- A. to constrain in some way -- such as tie up, require, or obligate
 - B. a document expressing that he is quitting his job
 - C. a group formed to discuss or offer insight on a particular topic
- 15 *And, as in the rainstorms, his misery increased to a pitch and then was gradually replaced by fatigue and **resignation**.*
- A. the act of finding fault and telling others; or a description of faults
 - B. the process of thinking carefully and making a judgment about something
 - C. acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 16 *The fact that the bartender had been a little slow and **insolent** hadn't necessarily been a reason to break his nose.*
- A. rudely disrespectful -- especially toward someone in authority
 - B. the characteristic of being excessively unhappy and unsociable
 - C. the condition of continuing or seeming to continue without end
- 17 *He **contemplated** turning and trying to charge through them; if he killed three or four they might get discouraged.*
- A. restarted (a fire)
 - B. wrongly translates
 - C. consider or ponder
- 18 *I'd just like to know my **matrimonial** prospects.*
- A. marriage (or related to marriage)
 - B. able to be stopped from happening
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 19 *Frog Lip **reined in** his horse and watched as both cows fell through the roof of the sod house.*
- A. and others
 - B. restrained or controlled (by pulling on straps used to control a horse)
 - C. newly rich
- 20 *As the herd approached the **Republican**, Call's thoughts were back on the Brazos, where Jake had been allowed to go astray.*
- A. relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
 - B. of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
 - C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	competent	High-utility academic word; used 21 times in this book.
2	C	superfluous	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
4	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
5	C	fastidious	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	sulk	Used 13 times in this book.
7	A	vengeful	Used 4 times in this book.
8	B	speculate (<i>as in: don't know, but I'll speculate</i>)	Used 15 times in this book.
9	A	ponder	Used 11 times in this book.
10	A	aggravate (<i>as in: she aggravates me</i>)	Used 14 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
11	A	aggravate (<i>as in: aggravated his illness</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
13	A	hobbled (<i>as in: she hobbled up the hill</i>)	Used 20 times in this book.
14	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	insolent	Used 14 times in this book.
17	C	contemplate	Used 9 times in this book.
18	A	matrimony	Used 4 times in this book.
19	B	rein (<i>as in: to rein in their activities</i>)	Used 66 times in this book.
20	B	republic (<i>as in: the country is a republic</i>)	Used 15 times in this book.