

Looking for Alaska

by John Green

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: albeit, ambiguous, cessation, condescending, endeavor, epiphany, euphemism, expel, haphazard, jut, malice, monopoly, nonchalant, obligatory, paradigm, perpetual, plausible, primarily, subversion, veritable



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The repair was successful, **albeit** expensive.
 - A. therefore
 - B. though
 - C. unless
2. Her **ambiguous** smile left him wondering whether she was amused or annoyed.
 - A. open to interpretation
 - B. easy to read clearly
 - C. obviously sarcastic
3. She estimates that your probability of lung cancer will drop to that of a non-smoker if you haven't already got it 10 to 15 years after **cessation** of smoking.
 - A. the reducing
 - B. the ending
 - C. the beginning
4. She tried to sound supportive, but her advice came across as **condescending**.
 - A. acting superior
 - B. harmful or unhelpful
 - C. sounding uninformed
5. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
6. She described it as a religious **epiphany**.
 - A. trial of faith
 - B. spirit
 - C. sudden realization
7. *Put to sleep* is a **euphemism** for *painlessly killing a pet to end its suffering*.
 - A. a word or phrase that serves as a less harsh way of saying something unpleasant
 - B. the features of the surface area of a region; or their study -- especially changes in elevation
 - C. a fictional story whose characters, items, or events are symbolic to express a deeper meaning
8. If her behavior does not improve, she could face **expulsion** from school.
 - A. having to repeat a grade
 - B. serious punishment
 - C. being forcing to leave
9. The files were stacked in a **haphazard** pile, with no order or labels.
 - A. with careful planning
 - B. with strict rules
 - C. without clear order
10. She tripped on a thick tree root that **jutted** out across the muddy path.
 - A. washed away
 - B. curled up
 - C. stuck out
11. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
 - A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly

12. Critics warned that the tech giant's **monopoly** over online search could limit innovation and competition.
- A. minor stake
 - B. shared market
 - C. complete control
13. How could she be so **nonchalant** about making him suffer?
- A. dishonest
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
14. Military service is **obligatory** in her country.
- A. difficult
 - B. voluntary
 - C. required
15. Since then, there's been a **paradigm** shift, and we have a new way of thinking about such things.
- A. technological breakthrough
 - B. social trend
 - C. conceptual model
16. He has a **perpetual** fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
17. Her theory was neat, **plausible**, and wrong.
- A. reasonable
 - B. praiseworthy
 - C. foolish
18. The second paragraph is primarily concerned with showing how the colleges are different.
- A. barely
 - B. mainly
 - C. secretly
19. The novel explores the **subversion** of traditional values.
- A. overturning of order
 - B. support of order
 - C. creation of order
20. The back yard is a **veritable** jungle.
- A. decaying (figuratively)
 - B. walled (figuratively)
 - C. real (figuratively)

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 Her library filled her bookshelves and then overflowed into waist-high stacks of books everywhere, piled **haphazardly** against the walls.
 - A. in a strongly biased manner
 - B. in a manner that challenges
 - C. without pattern or planning
- 2 I made the **obligatory** joke: "Don't grab my boob."
 - A. absolute
 - B. pleasing
 - C. required
- 3 "Yeah, but he doesn't really go into blitzkrieg mode until classes start," Chip said **nonchalantly**.
 - A. in a good or beneficial manner
 - B. calmly (appearing unconcerned)
 - C. in a manner that does not stop
- 4 She had the kind of eyes that predisposed you to supporting her every **endeavor**.
 - A. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
 - B. to write or exchange written letters or emails
 - C. to attempt; or a project or activity attempted
- 5 And then he stared at me in a manner that was either serious or seriously **malicious**.
 - A. exceedingly important, serious, or dangerous
 - B. designed to be useful; or capable of working
 - C. the intention or desire to see others suffer
- 6 I sat still, my pen resting in my hand, my notebook open, my face flushed and my jaw **jutting out** into an underbite, an old trick I had to keep from looking sad or scared.
 - A. concentrates
 - B. bending down
 - C. sticking out
- 7 "He has no right to **condescend** to us is all I'm saying," Alaska said, continuing her conversation with the Colonel.
 - A. to treat others as inferior; or to do something considered beneath one's position or dignity
 - B. utter obscenities or profanities; or to speak disrespectfully of something considered sacred
 - C. have a sense that something bad will happen; or act as a sign that something bad will happen
- 8 She was stupid; she got caught; she got **expelled**; it's over.
 - A. translated
 - B. subtracted
 - C. forced out
- 9 **Primarily** because I towered over the rest of the players, I nearly made it onto the T-ball all-star team that year.
 - A. really
 - B. mainly
 - C. wisely
- 10 I don't know whether it was the general anxiety of being on a date (**albeit** one with my would-be date sitting five people away from me) or the specific anxiety of having the Beast stare in my direction, but for some reason, I took off running after Takumi.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. although (used to introduce a phrase that reduces or modifies the effect of what preceded it)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 11 And I vaguely remember Lara smiling at me from the doorway, the glittering **ambiguity** of a girl's smile, which seems to promise an answer to the question but never gives it.
 - A. lack of clarity -- unclear because there could be two or more interpretations
 - B. a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
 - C. a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen

- 12 *By the third day, I abandoned my umbrella entirely and walked around in a **perpetual** state of wetness.*
A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 13 *I had an **epiphany**.*
A. untied or released
B. easily set on fire
C. sudden realization
- 14 *It hurt, and that is not a **euphemism**.*
A. a word or phrase that serves as a less harsh or less offensive way of saying something unpleasant
B. physics: a single particle of light or other electromagnetic radiation measured a single quantum
C. any of the Scandinavian people who raided the coasts of Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries
- 15 *For the first time, the Colonel's theory seemed **plausible**.*
A. apparently reasonable, but unproven
B. in a manner that takes on or adopts
C. full of strong desire for something
- 16 *I stared at him for a moment, and then said, "I kissed her that night, and I've got a **monopoly** on that."*
A. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
B. in the manner of someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much
C. complete control over a product, service, or resource -- usually by a single person, company, or group
- 17 *The Buddha said that suffering was caused by desire, we'd learned, and that the **cessation** of desire meant the cessation of suffering.*
A. difference
B. a stopping
C. thigh bone
- 18 *He was a **veritable** existential identity crisis, a male stripper with more aliases than a covert CIA agent.*
A. deserving no respect (worthless or of bad quality)
B. the quality or degree of not being straightforward
C. used for emphasis to introduce a dramatic metaphor
- 19 *Well, it is certainly important to **subvert** the patriarchal paradigm, and I suppose this is a way.*
A. to gradually destroy or change the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
B. a beam, bracket, or other structure supported only on one side; or to support something in that manner
C. express personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work
- 20 *Well, it is certainly important to subvert the patriarchal **paradigm**, and I suppose this is a way.*
A. easily set on fire
B. untied or released
C. way of looking at things

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	haphazard	Used 4 times in this book.
2	C	obligatory	Used 2 times in this book.
3	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	C	endeavor	Used 3 times in this book.
5	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	C	jut	Used 3 times in this book.
7	A	condescending	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
8	C	expel	Used 18 times in this book.
9	B	primarily	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
10	B	albeit	Used 3 times in this book.
11	A	ambiguous	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	C	epiphany	Used 2 times in this book.
14	A	euphemism	Used 3 times in this book.
15	A	plausible	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	C	monopoly	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	B	cessation	Used 2 times in this book.
18	C	veritable	Used 2 times in this book.
19	A	subversion	Used 3 times in this book.
20	C	paradigm	Used 4 times in this book.