

Marley & Me

by John Grogan

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: commotion, criteria, devour (2), dispute (2), ebullient, empathy, gene, incessant, indigenous, inhibit, intimidate, irrational, nonchalant, nurture, optimistic, phobia, recoil, technique



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
 - disturbance
 - outburst of laughter
 - accident
- The job posting listed several **criteria** for applicants.
 - rewards or prizes
 - standards or rules
 - jokes or stories
- The lions **devoured** the antelope.
 - killed
 - ate
 - caught
- She **devours** anything written about him.
 - reads with eager interest
 - is careful to avoid
 - discusses with friends
- We have a procedure for handling these kinds of **disputes**.
 - surprises
 - disagreements
 - opportunities
- She **disputes** his claim.
 - supports
 - accepts
 - challenges
- The **ebullient** crowd cheered and danced after the win.
 - cheerfully excited
 - quietly suspicious
 - deeply embarrassed
- The teacher's **empathy** helped her connect with students facing difficulties at home.
 - ability to control emotional outbursts
 - understanding and sharing others' feelings
 - common sense and wise advice
- Half the **genes** come from the father and half from the mother.
 - advice
 - second cousins
 - DNA segments
- Night and day we live with the **incessant** noise of the city.
 - loud
 - continuous
 - pleasant
- The museum showcased art from **indigenous** peoples of the Americas.
 - foreign to a place
 - native to a place
 - extinct in a place
- Cold weather can **inhibit** the growth of many tropical plants.
 - slow down
 - monitor
 - describe

13. She was intimidated by the formality of her first board meeting.
- A. made fearful
 - B. made welcome
 - C. quite amused
14. I have an irrational fear of heights.
- A. reasonable
 - B. varying
 - C. unreasonable
15. How could she be so nonchalant about making him suffer?
- A. dishonset
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
16. She loved and nurtured the dog from the time it was a puppy with its eyes closed.
- A. visited
 - B. took pictures of
 - C. raised
17. She keeps telling me her chances of dying in a car accident are 1 in 150, but I keep telling her that's too optimistic if she drives after drinking.
- A. hopeful
 - B. gloomy
 - C. simplistic
18. We think phobias are caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.
- A. extreme and unreasonable beliefs
 - B. extreme and unreasonable fear
 - C. extreme and unreasonable logic
19. She reached out to take his hand. He recoiled from her touch.
- A. suddenly was angry
 - B. suddenly pulled back
 - C. suddenly was comforted
20. One technique I use for dealing with anger is to wait ten seconds before responding.
- A. way of doing something
 - B. habit
 - C. solution to anger

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 Not that she was trying to; if anything, she **nurtured** the poor thing to death.
 - A. expelled or gotten rid of
 - B. was abundant or plentiful
 - C. helped to develop or grow
- 2 Just as we were reaching the car, we heard a **commotion** coming from the woods.
 - A. noisy disturbance
 - B. circular movement
 - C. size or dimension
- 3 We chose the breed on one **criterion** alone: curb appeal.
 - A. the act or process of stopping something from happening
 - B. a reference point against which things can be evaluated
 - C. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
- 4 I tried to sound **nonchalant**, but secretly I was overjoyed at the prospect of having the new puppy all to myself for a few days of uninterrupted male bonding.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. calm and unconcerned
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 5 The timbre of his bark had deepened to an **intimidating** boom.
 - A. making fearful
 - B. briefly seeing
 - C. avoiding waste
- 6 We could tell from the wide berth strangers gave him and the way they **recoiled** when he bounded their way that they no longer viewed him as a harmless puppy.
 - A. excessively excited
 - B. moved back suddenly
 - C. nervous or confused
- 7 The blank videotape sitting on the bench beside us suddenly seemed like an incredible embarrassment, a sharp reminder of our blind, naive **optimism**.
 - A. a tendency to expect and see the best in all things
 - B. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
 - C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 8 It was in their **genes** and in their job description.
 - A. measures of east/west (relative to the Prime Meridian) on the earth
 - B. bases with a pH of greater than 7 (so they will dissolve in water)
 - C. DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
- 9 They were not **indigenous** to the island, and there is no evidence that early Eskimos who first settled the area brought dogs with them.
 - A. strongly biased
 - B. of local origin
 - C. material wealth
- 10 Marley seemed positively **ebullient** to have us out there, lending a hand with his remodeling efforts.
 - A. happy and energetic
 - B. not straightforward
 - C. not done on purpose
- 11 We had hoped the chipper-shredder incident in the garage was an isolated aberration, but it turned out to be just the beginning of what would become a lifelong pattern of **phobic**, irrational behavior.
 - A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 - B. related to an extreme and unreasonable fear of something
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable

- 12 *Kathy did flinch noticeably a few times, especially as we went over tick-removal techniques, but she kept any misgivings to herself.*
- A. ways of doing things
 - B. wrong understandings
 - C. acts of hiring again
- 13 *I even tried my best to indulge her increasingly bizarre and irrational behavior.*
- A. not pleasing
 - B. sticking out
 - C. unreasonable
- 14 *Then one night he settled the dispute once and for all.*
- A. a basic building block for proteins
 - B. disagreement
 - C. someone who believe in a single God
- 15 *They wanted to dispute the central premise of my report, the part in which I insisted Marley was the world's worst-behaved animal.*
- A. learn, discover, or decide in advance
 - B. a pleasing way of speaking or singing
 - C. challenge (argue that it was not true that)
- 16 *Dr. Sherman ordered an intravenous saline drip and an injection of the labor inhibitor Brethine.*
- A. someone or something that limits activity
 - B. someone who takes power or responsibility
 - C. someone who tells someone about something
- 17 *I ran down to the bookstore and returned with a small fortune in reading materials, which Jenny devoured in the first three days.*
- A. read completely with eager interest
 - B. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - C. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
- 18 *Instead of spraying for insects, he unleashed thousands of ladybugs and other beneficial insects that devoured the destructive ones.*
- A. limited or with boundaries
 - B. ate rapidly
 - C. gradually added or removed
- 19 *There were dogs that howled incessantly, dug incessantly, fought incessantly, humped incessantly, and bit incessantly.*
- A. thoughtfully
 - B. continuously
 - C. with anxiety
- 20 *He looked up at me with those big empathetic eyes that I swore could almost talk.*
- A. a solution that is simpler (and often more comprehensive) than most would anticipate
 - B. the ability, tendency, or act of understanding and sharing another's emotional state
 - C. the state of not representing or imitating external reality or the objects of nature

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	nurture	Used 6 times in this book.
2	A	commotion	Used 4 times in this book.
3	B	criteria	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
5	A	intimidate	Used 5 times in this book.
6	B	recoil	Used 5 times in this book.
7	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
8	C	gene (<i>as in: the gene impacts eye color</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
9	B	indigenous	Used 2 times in this book.
10	A	ebullient	Used 3 times in this book.
11	B	phobia	Used 3 times in this book.
12	A	technique	Used 4 times in this book.
13	C	irrational	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
14	B	dispute (<i>as in: their border dispute</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	C	dispute (<i>as in: She disputes his claim.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	inhibit (<i>as in: inhibited the growth of...</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	A	devour (<i>as in: devours crime novels</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	devour (<i>as in: devoured three sandwiches</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	incessant	Used 6 times in this book.
20	B	empathy	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.