

Milkweed

by Jerry Spinelli

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

Vocabulary in Context	5	
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: agitate, commotion, deport, goad, heed, immigrate, jut, mane, mock, morsel, nevertheless, pendulum, prescribe, quiver, repent, taunt, therefore, torment, waver, writhe



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
2. Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
 - A. disturbance
 - B. outburst of laughter
 - C. accident
3. She appealed the **deportation**.
 - A. large fine
 - B. order to leave
 - C. unfavorable decision
4. She tried to **goad** the candidate into saying something extreme.
 - A. poke with a stick
 - B. provoke
 - C. prevent
5. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
 - A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
6. At that time, most of the people who immigrated to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
 - A. relocated
 - B. exported goods
 - C. visited
7. She tripped on a thick tree root that **jutted** out across the muddy path.
 - A. washed away
 - B. curled up
 - C. stuck out
8. She brushed the horse's tangled **mane** until it flowed smoothly down its neck.
 - A. long curved tail
 - B. thick neck hair
 - C. sharp pointed hoof
9. American's have a hard time understanding that to **mock** Islam is to invite violence.
 - A. discriminate against
 - B. not believe in
 - C. make fun of
10. She offered the hungry dog a small **morsel** of bread from her plate.
 - A. small bit of food
 - B. large dinner plate
 - C. kitchen utensil
11. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
12. The clock's **pendulum** swung steadily from side to side.
 - A. fixed support
 - B. swinging weight
 - C. measuring mark

13. Most doctors **prescribe** simple lifestyle changes before medication.
- A. ignore
 - B. delay
 - C. recommend
14. Her hands began to quiver as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
 - B. tightly grip
 - C. quickly move
15. She said the U.S. should **repent** for the sins of fossil fuels.
- A. reimburse
 - B. apologize
 - C. suffer
16. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
 - B. insulted
 - C. surrounded
17. We reduced locations where mosquito eggs can mature and **therefore** reduced the number of mosquitoes.
- A. in addition
 - B. in spite of that
 - C. for that reason
18. Bullies made his school days a constant **torment** he could not escape.
- A. severe suffering
 - B. great enjoyment
 - C. simple confusion
19. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady
20. She **writhed** on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
- A. cried and whimpered
 - B. yelled loudly
 - C. twisted and turned

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 lumbering horse wore a black shawl over its **mane**.*
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. long coarse hair growing on the back of the neck of a horse
 - C. exchange, convert, or pay off
- 2 *He gave me a **prescription**.*
 - A. vision test
 - B. writing lesson
 - C. medical instructions
- 3 *I think he would have been surprised to know that I actually **heeded** his warning,*
 - A. ignored
 - B. repeated
 - C. paid attention to
- 4 *I didn't understand that he was **mocking** us.*
 - A. concentrating
 - B. bouncing back
 - C. making fun of
- 5 *A knot of children was **writhing** on the ground.*
 - A. opposing (struggling against each other)
 - B. examining in detail to better understand
 - C. moving in a twisting manner
- 6 *Where there was a **morsel** of food on a shelf, there was someone standing in front of it, often with a club in his hand.*
 - A. tiny amount
 - B. can
 - C. package
- 7 *Nevertheless, I tried.*
 - A. in addition to what has just been said
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
- 8 *She **wavered** from side to side, sometimes her head drooped, and her shoulders were not straight at all.*
 - A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 - B. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
 - C. moving back and forth
- 9 *I knew what the smell was, but despite what the Jackboots said, there were really no pigs, and **therefore** no pig flop, in the courtyard.*
 - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
 - C. for that reason
- 10 *She liked to **goad** me into chasing her.*
 - A. ignore
 - B. tease or provoke (into doing something)
 - C. run from
- 11 *With every blow Kuba swung back and forth like the **pendulum** of a grandfather clock.*
 - A. an inhabitant of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq; or their language
 - B. something that swings or shifts back and forth between two positions -- often seen in a swinging weight or in changing opinions
 - C. artist who belonged to an early 20th century art movement that expressed inner feelings through distorted renditions of reality

- 12 Her chin **jutted** into my back.
- A. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
 - B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
 - C. to stick out; or a part that sticks out
- 13 Sure enough, there was Janina in the middle of the street, squatting on her haunches, hurling her voice, thumbing her nose at Buffo, **taunting** him in perfect imitation of me.
- A. giving an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - B. intentionally angering, challenging, or upsetting
 - C. keeping people and goods from reaching a location
- 14 From that day on I stopped **tormenting** Buffo,
- A. causing suffering for
 - B. helping
 - C. causing laughter in
- 15 One day Janina and I heard a **commotion** in the courtyard.
- A. noisy disturbance
 - B. outburst of laughter
 - C. accident
- 16 Then he pulled Janina and me to our feet, and the twins also, and he made us all hold hands and we danced in a circle while Mr. Milgrom sang and the candle flame **quivered** and somebody screamed in the night.
- A. to shake or tremble slightly
 - B. not working or not operating
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 17 Uncle Shepsel became more and more **agitated**.
- A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. upset
- 18 He called down from the window to the courtyard: "Jews! **Repent!** It is not too late! Come with me! Save yourselves!"
- A. listen to me
 - B. regret your errors and change
 - C. come meet with us
- 19 The word **resettlement** took the place of the word **deportation**.
- A. the act of convicting someone of a crime
 - B. the act of forcing someone to leave a country
 - C. the act of taking someone's license away
- 20 I talked enough and stole enough and sold enough to buy a steamship ticket, and I joined the multitudes going to America.
- The **immigration** officer said, "What is your name?"
- A. (describing the officer as responsible for) movement of people who come to live in a new country
 - B. (describing the officer as responsible for) interviewing people accused of stealing
 - C. (describing the officer as responsible for) admitting people onto a large ship

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	mane	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	C	prescribe	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	C	heed	Used 4 times in this book.
4	C	mock (<i>as in: don't mock me</i>)	High-utility academic word
5	C	writhe	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	morsel	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
8	C	waver	High-utility academic word
9	C	therefore	High-utility academic word
10	B	goad	Used 2 times in this book.
11	B	pendulum	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	jut	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	taunt	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	torment	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	commotion	Used 2 times in this book.
16	A	quiver	Used 2 times in this book.
17	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	B	repent	Used 2 times in this book.
19	B	deport (<i>as in: deport from the U.S.</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
20	A	immigrate	Used 2 times in this book.