

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

by Ransom Riggs

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: banish, bizarre, centaur, debris, delude, direct (2), dour, empirical, indulge, interrogate, loath, optimistic, ornate, purgatory, recluse, refuge, skeptical, unprecedented, vary



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I tried to **banish** the thought from my mind.
 - A. understand
 - B. collect
 - C. send away
2. She won one of those **bizarre** contests designed by Guinness Book of World Records.
 - A. present in great quantity
 - B. exceedingly odd or unusual
 - C. critical (full of criticism)
3. In Greek mythology, Chiron is probably the most famous of the centaurs. He is known for his wisdom and knowledge of medicine.
 - A. demigod fighters in wars between gods
 - B. winged horses that can fly
 - C. mythical beings that are half man and half horse
4. Crews spent hours clearing **debris** from the highway after the crash.
 - A. intact structures
 - B. valuable items
 - C. scattered wreckage
5. Do not **delude** yourself into thinking one late apology fixes everything.
 - A. praise
 - B. protect
 - C. deceive
6. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
7. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
8. The **dour** guard frowned at every joke and ordered the students to be quiet.
 - A. grim and unfriendly
 - B. cheerful and playful
 - C. confused and lost
9. **Empirical** studies provide inputs for our formulas, but the formulas themselves are largely based upon intuitive values.
 - A. theoretical
 - B. creative
 - C. measured
10. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
11. Officers will **interrogate** the witnesses separately to compare their accounts.
 - A. question closely
 - B. politely greet
 - C. quietly observe

12. Though they loath to admit it, there are serious divides splitting the party.
- A. are eager
 - B. are reluctant
 - C. are excited
13. 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
14. It was the most ornate building I've ever seen.
- A. ancient
 - B. boring
 - C. decorated
15. After hours of sitting in the airport with no updates, the stranded travelers described the experience as pure purgatory.
- A. a state of excitement
 - B. a state of ignorance
 - C. a state of suffering
16. Howard Hughes became an eccentric recluse.
- A. loaner
 - B. millionaire
 - C. collector
17. She took refuge from the sun under a beautiful oak tree.
- A. protection
 - B. shade
 - C. warmth
18. She is skeptical about the project.
- A. doubtful
 - B. keeping silent
 - C. excited
19. The targeting of civilians is unprecedented in the conflict.
- A. a recurring problem
 - B. not having happened before
 - C. highly regrettable
20. McDonald's menu options vary by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known

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 I asked him one afternoon at age seven, eyeing him **skeptically** across the card table where he was letting me win at Monopoly.
A. in a doubtful manner (regarding the truth of something)
B. in a manner that is open to arguments, ideas, or change
C. inadequately (in a manner that does not provide enough)
- 2 Shelley was the store manager, and her slumped shoulders and **dour** expression were as much a part of her uniform as the blue polo shirts we all had to wear.
A. very serious, stern, and unfriendly -- often in a gloomy or harsh way
B. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
C. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
- 3 The irony was, now that **delusions** and paranoia were starting to get the best of him, it was true—he wasn't safe at home, not with all those guns around.
A. psychiatrists
B. possibilities
C. false beliefs
- 4 He was all of those things, a **bizarre** cross-pollination of subcultures possible only in South Florida.
A. the quality of disagreeing
B. exceedingly odd or unusual
C. able to meet and talk with
- 5 I spent the months following my grandfather's death cycling through a **purgatory** of beige waiting rooms and anonymous offices, analyzed and interviewed, talked about just out of earshot, nodding when spoken to, repeating myself, the object of a thousand pitying glances and knitted brows.
A. treatment with extra kindness or tolerance OR (more rarely) a special pleasure (typically something done in excess of what is thought good -- such as eating too much cake, or being too lazy)
B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
C. a place or state of temporary suffering while waiting

or in Roman Catholic theology: the place where those who have died in a state of grace undergo limited suffering to pay for their sins
- 6 But my mother was **loath** to pass up even the flimsiest excuse for a celebration—she once invited friends over for our cockatiel's birthday—in part because she loved to show off our house.
A. able to be protected or kept unchanged
B. reluctant or unwilling to do something
C. able to accept as true (without proof)
- 7 The letter was handwritten on fine, unlined paper in looping script so **ornate** it was almost calligraphy, the black ink varying in tone like that of an old fountain pen.
A. able to be taken on as one's own
B. indicating approval or agreement
C. having lots of decorative detail
- 8 The letter was handwritten on fine, unlined paper in looping script so ornate it was almost calligraphy, the black ink **varying** in tone like that of an old fountain pen.
A. gaining advantage from
B. differing; or changing
C. taking on as one's own
- 9 Ages ago, when just being a Catholic could get you hung from a tree, clergyfolk came here seeking **refuge**.
A. something giving protection or comfort -- especially a safe place
B. a ceiling designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
C. a person (often a writer or artist) living an unconventional life

- 10 *There was more left to explore, but suddenly it seemed like a waste of time; it was impossible that anyone could still be living here, even the most misanthropic **recluse**.*
A. someone withdrawn from society (living alone and avoiding contact)
B. a place where conditions are kept as they were to protect wildlife
C. someone who believes that all knowledge is derived from experience
- 11 *I underwent a brief **interrogation** about how I'd gotten to the house and who had taken me there, and because the easiest kind of lying is when you leave things out of a story rather than make them up, I passed with flying colors.*
A. the process of asking a series of questions of someone
B. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
C. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
- 12 *In any case, thank you for **indulging** me.*
A. enjoying to excess
B. leaping or jumping
C. thinking carefully
- 13 *It had shattered like a giant egg, its pieces all mixed up in a heap of **debris** and smashed floorboards.*
A. the act of treating or preparing food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
B. passages food and drink follow between the back of mouths and the stomachs
C. pieces of something that has been destroyed; or trash that is lying around
- 14 *Chasing after their lost ball, a pair of teenage boys ran to the base of the **centaur**, followed by a young girl.*
A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
B. a general feeling of not being as good as others
C. a mythical being that is half man and half horse
- 15 *It promises to be a work **unprecedented** in the history of academic scholarship.*
A. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
B. not having happened before; or nothing similar having happened before
C. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 16 *The whole notion was mad—absolute bunkum—a refutation of the **empirical** laws that govern everything!*
A. having the ability to change for different situations
B. not concerned with what others might think of oneself
C. based on experience or observation rather than theory
- 17 *I could sign up for a class at the gun range, the **optimistic** part of me would think.*
A. expecting the best; or focusing on the good part of things
B. in a manner of accepting something as true (without proof)
C. relating separately to the people or things just mentioned
- 18 *But whenever they weren't under **direct** orders to do something, the children sank heavily into chairs, stared listlessly out locked windows, paged through dog-eared books they'd read a hundred times before, or slept.*
A. clear, straightforward, or to the point
B. the state or degree of being very large
C. meticulousness (care for small details)
- 19 *She grabbed my arm and pulled me farther inside, to the one place Golan's gunshots couldn't reach us—**directly** under the stairs.*
A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
B. close, or in a straight line
C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 20 *I'm **banished** if I try to leave.*
A. thought -- possibly aloud
B. was abundant or plentiful
C. expelled or gotten rid of

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	skeptical	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	A	dour	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	delude	Used 5 times in this book.
4	B	bizarre (<i>as in: is bizarre</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
5	C	purgatory	Used 2 times in this book.
6	B	loath	Used 2 times in this book.
7	C	ornate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
8	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	A	refuge	Used 5 times in this book.
10	A	recluse	Used 2 times in this book.
11	A	interrogate	Used 5 times in this book.
12	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
13	C	debris	Used 6 times in this book.
14	C	centaur	Used 7 times in this book.
15	B	unprecedented	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
16	C	empirical	High-utility academic word
17	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
18	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
19	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
20	C	banish	Used 6 times in this book.