

Native Son

by Richard Wright

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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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: aspiration, bewilder, communism, defendant, elated, enable, evoke, grand jury, hysteria, latent, mitigate, motive, oblong, omit, quiver, resignation (2), taut, wistful, yearn



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Her **aspiration** to travel the world was finally realized when she received a job offer from an international company.
 - A. reason
 - B. payment
 - C. desire
2. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - A. confused
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
3. Marx's writings on **communism** inspired revolutions across many countries in the 1900s.
 - A. free market trade
 - B. collective ownership
 - C. religious reform
4. The jury did not know the **defendant** had a long criminal history.
 - A. person who is on trial
 - B. person who is a witness
 - C. person filing a complaint
5. The **elated** winner couldn't stop smiling.
 - A. extremely happy
 - B. newly created
 - C. exhausted or tired
6. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
7. This remark **evoked** sadness.
 - A. eased
 - B. caused
 - C. relieved
8. The number of people in a **grand jury** ranges from 6 to 23, depending on the state.
 - A. jury that decides a criminal case that is appealed to a higher court
 - B. jury that decides major crimes cases such as murder or kidnapping
 - C. jury that decides if there is enough evidence to formally accuse someone of a crime
9. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of **hysteria**.
 - A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
10. A **latent** HPV infection reactivated when her immune system weakened with age.
 - A. severe
 - B. inactive
 - C. common
11. The new factory is building privacy walls to **mitigate** its impact on neighbors.
 - A. make less harmful or unpleasant
 - B. change the subject from
 - C. make a bad situation worse

12. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
A. excuse
B. technique
C. reason
13. The table is an oblong shape, with curved edges.
A. elongated
B. circular
C. square
14. She omitted a few details to place herself in a more favorable light.
A. made up
B. exaggerated
C. left out
15. Her hands began to quiver as she opened the envelope.
A. slightly shake
B. tightly grip
C. quickly move
16. She said that if I don't resign, I will be fired.
A. do better
B. quit
C. renew an agreement
17. She was resigned to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
A. putting a stop
B. resistant
C. with acceptance
18. The clothesline was taut between the two trees in the yard.
A. shiny
B. tight
C. noisy
19. She had a wistful, dreamy look as she thought about how life would change if she could get a good job.
A. showing longing
B. showing determination
C. showing optimism
20. I yearn for more independence.
A. fear
B. desire
C. work

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 Every slight movement in the street **evoked** a casual curiosity in him.
 - A. consistent or the same
 - B. called forth or caused
 - C. not roughly calculated
- 2 "Yeah," Bigger said, **wistfully**.
 - A. with longing or unfulfilled desire
 - B. in a manner that involves betrayal
 - C. following as a result of something
- 3 He frowned in the darkened movie, hearing the roll of tom-toms and the screams of black men and women dancing free and wild, men and women who were adjusted to their soil and at home in their world, secure from fear and **hysteria**.
 - A. a state of excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - B. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - C. found a condition or substance to be present
- 4 His entire body hungered for keen sensation, something exciting and violent to relieve the **tautness**.
 - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;
or: subjected to great tension
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 5 He had heard about unions; in his mind unions and **Communists** were linked.
 - A. subatomic particles with negative charge that are found in all atoms and that act as the primary carrier of electricity
 - B. people who support an economic system that abolishes private ownership of property
 - C. people who suffer from psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 6 To Bigger it was plainly a **bewildered** and questioning look, a look that asked: What on earth is wrong with him?
 - A. confused
 - B. restored
 - C. collided
- 7 He held his hand over her mouth and his head was cocked at an angle that **enabled** him to see Mary and Mrs. Dalton by merely shifting his eyes.
 - A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 8 He walked over the snow, feeling giddy and **elated**.
 - A. had a feeling of happiness and excitement
 - B. caused great mental or physical suffering
 - C. consented reluctantly; or suffered defeat
- 9 Dimly, he felt that there should be one direction in which he and all other black people could go wholeheartedly" that there should be a way in which gnawing hunger and restless **aspiration** could be fused" that there should be a manner of acting that caught the mind and body in certainty and faith.
 - A. battle
 - B. memory
 - C. desire

- 10 *The rattling of the tiny lumps against the tin sides of the chute came loudly to his ears as the **oblong** mound of red fire turned gradually black and blazed from the fanwise spreading of coal whirling into the furnace.*
A. an elongated shape (having more length than width) -- typically of a stretched circle that is longer than an oval, but occasionally used to describe a rectangle
B. a workplace where people do scientific or medical research, or produce drugs or chemicals (also used figuratively) OR (as an adjective) related to such a place
C. soccer: a foul kick taken from 12 yards in front of the goal and defended only by the goalkeeper who cannot advance beyond the goal line until the shot is taken
- 11 *He pulled the lever, hearing the rattle of coal against tin and seeing the **quivering** embers grow black.*
A. to shake or tremble slightly
B. not working or not operating
C. calculates or judges too low
- 12 *He knew that whites thought that all Negroes **yearned** for white women, therefore he wanted to show a certain fearful deference even when one's name was mentioned in his presence.*
A. not concentrated
B. strongly desired
C. stopped fighting
- 13 *...a sigh of **resignation**, a giving up, a surrender of something more than her body.*
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
- 14 *I shall **resign** my office...*
A. draw
B. quit from
C. rule
- 15 *But he had to stand here until that picture came back, that **motive**, that driving desire to escape the law.*
A. small quantity or indication
B. the sacred writings of Islam
C. reason (for doing something)
- 16 *The **Grand Jury** will determine whether the testimony offered here has any relation or not.*
A. people who deny equal rights to others or make them suffer OR people who dominate others harshly and unfairly
B. members of a board that oversee the affairs of a corporation or other institution; or supervisors (people in charge)
C. a group of citizens who decide whether there is enough evidence to formally accuse someone of a crime
- 17 *The judge rapped for order and asked, "Is the **defendant** ready to enter a plea to this indictment?"*
A. a person or institution legally accused or sued in court
B. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 18 *And, also, the law permits the offering of evidence toward the **mitigation** of punishment.*
A. reduction (of something bad)
B. creates, starts, or sets in a place
C. not arousing interest or excitement
- 19 *Who, then, fanned this **latent** hate into fury?*
A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
B. potentially existing but not presently evident or active
C. the characteristic of tending to think back about things
- 20 *I **omitted** to mention her until now because she was largely omitted from the consciousness of Bigger Thomas.*
A. learned, discovered, or decided
B. took up or received into heaven
C. to exclude or neglect something

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	evoke	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
2	A	wistful	Used 10 times in this book.
3	A	hysteria	Used 13 times in this book.
4	B	taut	Used 26 times in this book.
5	B	communism	Used 70 times in this book.
6	A	bewilder	Used 11 times in this book.
7	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
8	A	elated	Used 9 times in this book.
9	C	aspiration	Used 4 times in this book.
10	A	oblong	Used 10 times in this book.
11	A	quiver	Used 9 times in this book.
12	B	yearn	Used 10 times in this book.
13	C	resignation (<i>as in:</i> <i>accepted it with</i> <i>resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
14	B	resignation (<i>as in:</i> <i>submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her</i> <i>motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 17 times in this book.
16	C	grand jury	Used 4 times in this book.
17	A	defendant	Used 17 times in this book.
18	A	mitigate	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
19	B	latent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	C	omit	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.