

Nine Stories

by J. D. Salinger

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
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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: acute (2), advocate, competent, context, cordial, hideous, incidental, intellectual (2), loathe, nonetheless, orthopedic, perfunctory, poise, prolific, squalid, squalor, trifle, vary



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She had **acute** appendicitis.
 - A. minor
 - B. bad
 - C. gradual
2. Birds tend to have **acute** vision.
 - A. colorless
 - B. poor
 - C. excellent
3. She **advocates** giving all students the opportunity to attend school in the summer too.
 - A. is against
 - B. researches
 - C. supports
4. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
 - A. below average
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. outstanding
5. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
 - A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a friendly manner
 - C. in a clumsy manner
6. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
7. Travel costs were the main expense; meals were just **incidental**.
 - A. minor and secondary
 - B. central and primary
 - C. carefully planned
8. Einstein's **intellectual** achievements and originality have made the word *Einstein* synonymous with *genius*.
 - A. related to intelligence
 - B. related to science
 - C. related to physics
9. Adam Smith was a leading **intellectual** of his time.
 - A. a highly intuitive person who practices self-expression through art
 - B. a highly educated person interested in learning and exploring ideas
 - C. a person most concerned with experiences of the senses
10. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
 - A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
11. The class was hard. It was **nonetheless** my favorite.
 - A. despite that
 - B. because of that
 - C. for that reason
12. Her shoes are **orthopedic** and help with her arthritis.
 - A. for bones and joints
 - B. for vision problems
 - C. for warm weather

13. She quoted him out of context.
- A. in a misleading manner
 - B. in a convincing manner
 - C. in a respectful manner
14. Her perfunctory apology did little to ease my annoyance.
- A. sincere
 - B. superficial
 - C. written
15. The once self-conscious girl is now a woman with considerable poise.
- A. style
 - B. education
 - C. composure
16. Thomas Edison was a prolific inventor, holding over a thousand US patents.
- A. producing abundantly
 - B. little understood
 - C. highly creative
17. The refugees lived in squalid conditions with no clean water or proper shelter.
- A. clean and pleasant
 - B. loud and crowded
 - C. filthy and unpleasant
18. While my living conditions are not what I would like, they are far better than the kind of squalor I read of in Charles Dickens novels.
- A. slum
 - B. cruelty
 - C. confusion
19. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
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 *In her opinion, it was an altogether **hideous** room—expensive but cheesy.*
 - A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 2 *"Hello," he said, **cordially**, to Ginnie.*
 - A. in a pleasing way
 - B. in a friendly way
 - C. in a skillful way
- 3 *They looked neither strong nor **competent** nor sensitive.*
 - A. sincerity (realness)
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. sensible and careful
- 4 *A **flux** of circumstances delivered the Laughing Man's best friend, his timber wolf, Black Wing, into a physical and **intellectual** trap set by the Dufarges.*
 - A. intelligent thought
 - B. (adjective) designed to stop something OR (noun) something that stops something else
 - C. relating to a form of social organization in which men are given more power than women
- 5 *She thinks she's a goddam **intellectual**.*
 - A. one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - B. highly educated person interested in ideas
 - C. an subatomic particle with negative charge that is found in all atoms and that acts as the primary carrier of electricity
- 6 *However, the Dufarges had no intention of liberating Black Wing, whom they feared and **loathed**.*
 - A. took (power or responsibility)
 - B. developed or changed gradually
 - C. detested or intensely disliked
- 7 *I had no idea what was going on between the Chief and Mary Hudson (and still haven't, in any but a fairly low, intuitive sense), but **nonetheless**, I couldn't have been more certain that Mary Hudson had permanently dropped out of the Comanche lineup.*
 - A. in spite of that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 8 *The impact of this feat on the Dufarges was so **acute** that their hearts literally burst, and they dropped dead at the Laughing Man's feet.*
 - A. gradually getting worse
 - B. severely negative (sharp)
 - C. only superficial
- 9 *She looked at me with a kind of fresh **acuteness**.*
 - A. with the involvement of other people or things
 - B. mental activity of which one is not self-aware
 - C. sharpness (perceptiveness and/or intelligence)
- 10 *For Esme:—with Love and **Squalor** JUST RECENTLY, by air mail, I received an invitation to a wedding that will take place in England on April 18th.*
 - A. extremely dirty and unpleasant living conditions
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 11 *I said that I wasn't terribly **prolific**.*
 - A. producing abundantly
 - B. sensible and careful
 - C. sincerity (realness)

- 12 "Make it extremely **squalid** and moving," she suggested.
- A. with the involvement of other people or things
 - B. the state or degree of being greater than zero
 - C. dirty and unpleasant; or (more rarely) immoral
- 13 It **varies**.
- A. predicts or reveals
 - B. differs; or changes
 - C. shows or represents
- 14 The school was directly over an **orthopedic** appliances shop.
- A. relating to medical treatment of bones & joints
 - B. opinion of what is good and bad about something
 - C. the majority denomination of Islam (almost 90%)
- 15 ...**Incidentally**, if you have a command of the French language, I hope you will let me know as I am able to express myself very precisely in that language, having spent the greater part of my youth chiefly in Paris, France.
- A. of something that comes with something else, but is less important than it
 - B. a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility
 - C. in a way that suppresses (prevents something or decreases its development)
- 16 I **advocate** no doctrine; it is not my nature to do so.
- A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. a bitter, long-standing fight
 - C. recommend or publicly support
- 17 The substance of it seemed to me a **trifle** thin,
- A. leave a place, job or position previously occupied
 - B. someone (or something) taking the place of another
 - C. just a little (a small quantity)
- 18 They were crossed just enough to be mentioned, and only **in context** with the fact that one might have thought long and seriously before wishing them straighter, or deeper, or browner, or wider set.
- A. with consideration of surrounding setting and conditions
 - B. unfair pressure that takes away a person's free choice
 - C. an electric current that flows in one direction steadily
- 19 Teddy **perfunctorily** gave his mother a kiss on the cheek.
- A. in comparison to something else
 - B. without much interest or effort
 - C. in a manner that is not sincere
- 20 After making this last entry, Teddy continued to keep his attention on the page and his ball-point pen **poised**, as though there were more to come.
- A. removed or suppressed something considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable
 - B. without a personal preference; or without any tendency to move in a particular direction
 - C. calm, confident, and in control—especially in movement, behavior, or when ready to act

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	hideous	Used 6 times in this book.
2	B	cordial (<i>as in: a cordial reception</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
3	B	competent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
4	A	intellectual (<i>as in: intellectual stimulation</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	intellectual (<i>as in: She is an intellectual.</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	C	loathe	Used 3 times in this book.
7	A	nonetheless	Used 6 times in this book.
8	B	acute (<i>as in: acute pain</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	C	acute (<i>as in: acute sense of smell</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	A	squalor	Used 5 times in this book.
11	A	prolific	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	squalid	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	A	orthopedic	Used 3 times in this book.
15	A	incidental (<i>as in: an incidental expense</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
16	C	advocate (<i>as in: to advocate</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 13 times in this book.
18	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	B	perfunctory	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	poise	Used 5 times in this book.