

Obasan

by Joy Kogawa

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: agitate, beckon, conscientious, deft, democracy, deport, direct (2), exile, expedient, however (2), liquidate, loath, partition, peril, protrude, pyre, revoke, waver



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	B
11	A
12	C
13	B
14	B
15	A
16	B
17	C
18	B
19	B
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. The police officer **beckoned** me to come over.
 - A. considered asking
 - B. called
 - C. prohibited
3. I try to hire employees who are **conscientious**.
 - A. smart
 - B. attractive
 - C. careful
4. She chopped the vegetables with **deft**, sure movements.
 - A. quick & skillful
 - B. small and firm
 - C. rotating
5. Canada has a **parliamentary democracy**.
 - A. government by the people
 - B. government by one ruler
 - C. government by the wealthy
6. She appealed the **deportation**.
 - A. large fine
 - B. order to leave
 - C. unfavorable decision
7. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
8. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
9. Napoleon was forced into **exile** on the island of Elba.
 - A. apologizing
 - B. living elsewhere
 - C. hard labor
10. Borrowing chairs from next door was a useful **expedient** until the new ones arrived.
 - A. careful warning
 - B. practical solution
 - C. lasting tradition
11. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and

12. However safe we make it, there will always be risk.
- A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
13. After the company declared bankruptcy, it was forced to liquidate all its assets to pay back creditors.
- A. protect from damage
 - B. sell for cash
 - C. combine into one group
14. Though they loath to admit it, there are serious divides splitting the party.
- A. are eager
 - B. are reluctant
 - C. are excited
15. A thin partition separated the office into two smaller workspaces.
- A. dividing wall
 - B. open doorway
 - C. wide window
16. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
17. She is operating to repair the muscle wall through which the hernia protrudes.
- A. heals over
 - B. shrinks back
 - C. sticks out
18. In 1829 India banned the Hindu custom of a widow's suicide on her husband's funeral pyre.
- A. coffin
 - B. fire
 - C. gravestone
19. The court decided to revoke his driver's license after the third offense.
- A. newly issue
 - B. officially cancel
 - C. renew for years
20. We will never waver in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady

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 coulee is so still right now that if a match were to be lit, the flame would not **waver**.
A. portray or create in a particular way OR interpret, translate, or extract from
B. to release from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
C. to move back and forth (shake or quiver)

or:

to change, be unsure, or weak
- 2 His **agitation** seemed to abate as we walked through the waving grass, though his eyes still stabbed at the air around him and occasionally at me.
A. officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
B. formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
C. the act of stirring up (emotionally or physically); or a state of emotional unrest
- 3 Grandma Nakane, Uncle's mother, was too old then to understand political expediency, race riots, the yellow **peril**.
A. useful
B. danger
C. allows
- 4 Her answers are always oblique and the full story never emerges in a **direct** line.
A. able to be learned, discovered, or decided
B. without anything in between
C. the state of doing something intentionally
- 5 But in nearly four hours of increasingly bitter debate, there was no **direct** answer to the blunt question posed by Mr. MacInnis: If the national security is no longer in danger, what is the reason for curtailing the freedom of Canadian citizens?
A. clear, or straightforward
B. the state or degree of being very large
C. meticulousness (care for small details)
- 6 **Deportation** on racial grounds has been defined as a crime against humanity,
A. an argument or a hostile situation
B. forcing someone to leave a country
C. a central open space in a building
- 7 **Revocation** of nationality.
A. the act of again being in a working position; or the act of starting again
B. to void, cancel, or take back -- especially to do so in an official manner
C. a professional athlete who is free to sign a contract to play for any team
- 8 The American Japanese were interned as we were in Canada, and sent off to concentration camps, but their property wasn't **liquidated** as ours was.
A. (verb) showed, demonstrated, proved, or caused acceptance OR (adjective) proven, known, accepted/trusted/successful
B. To settle or dispose of something completely -- especially by selling assets or forcefully eliminating a person or thing
C. atoned (demonstrated sorrow for a wrong either by doing something good in return for the wrong, or by accepting punishment)
- 9 **Expedience** still demands decisions which will one day be judged unjust.
A. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
B. the need for practical actions
C. a range of things between two boundaries

- 10 *She was no doubt keeping the home fires burning and shouting "Democracy" to keep the enemy at bay.*
A. a system of government in which citizens have power with equal votes
B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 11 *With swift deft fingers, Mother removes the live chicks first, placing them in her apron.*
A. quick and skillful
B. good or beneficial
C. not representative
- 12 *He's quoted as saying, "We can do without the Japanese," but he's not loath to take our boats.*
A. able to be protected or kept unchanged
B. reluctant or unwilling to do something
C. able to accept as true (without proof)
- 13 *Those of us who are really conscientious and loyal—how will we ever get a chance to prove ourselves to this country?*
A. not attractive or desirable
B. orbiting Earth once per day
C. careful to do what is right
- 14 *Rusted nails protrude from the walls.*
A. collision
B. translate
C. stick out
- 15 *A little distance from the pyre, there are two stacks of wood.*
A. a particular understanding or explanation
B. a pile of wood or other burnable material
C. meticulousness (care about small details)
- 16 *On the other side of a partition is a family with three children.*
A. a structure (less substantial than a wall) that divides a room
B. to think of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
C. give authority, power, knowledge, or confidence to someone so they can do something
- 17 *The two women step out, beckoning to the girls to follow them.*
A. providing evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
B. calling (to follow by using a hand gesture or a nod)
C. convincing (someone) that an idea previously believed is not correct
- 18 *They were branded, however, as theorists, visionary idealists, purists, talkers of academic nonsense, weepers of crocodile tears.*
A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless*, etc.
B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 19 *"In the heat of the August sun," Grandma writes, "however much the effort to forget, there is no forgetfulness."*
A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
C. regardless of how
- 20 *The Orders-in-Council provide for the exile of Canadian citizens.*
A. (noun) something that is lighter and draws attention -- such as an area of a painting OR (verb) making something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
B. forcing someone to live outside of their home country
C. recommend or require what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) give medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
3	B	peril	Used 7 times in this book.
4	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	deport (<i>as in: deport from the U.S.</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
7	B	revoke (<i>as in: revoked his privileges</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
8	B	liquidate	Used 2 times in this book.
9	B	expedient	Used 3 times in this book.
10	A	democracy	Used 7 times in this book.
11	A	deft	Used 4 times in this book.
12	B	loath	Used 2 times in this book.
13	C	conscientious	Used 2 times in this book.
14	C	protrude	Used 7 times in this book.
15	B	pyre	Used 5 times in this book.
16	A	partition	Used 6 times in this book.
17	B	beckon	Used 12 times in this book.
18	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	B	exile	Used 9 times in this book.