

October Sky

by Homer Hickam

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
Vocabulary Preview	3	

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: accord (2), approach (2), congregation, contemplate, continuous, discord, diverge, foreman, mollify, nefarious, physics, positive (2), prescribe, prodigious, rapt, ratio, rote



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	C
10	A
11	C
12	B
13	B
14	A
15	C
16	C
17	C
18	C
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. She dresses in **accordance** with the latest fashions.
 - A. opposition
 - B. keeping
 - C. ignorance
2. His lawyers demand he be **accorded** the status of a captured soldier rather than a spy.
 - A. given
 - B. denied
 - C. told about
3. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
4. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
5. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
 - A. people who agree
 - B. people who worship together
 - C. people who meet periodically
6. The philosopher **contemplated** the meaning of life, pondering the big questions of existence.
 - A. wrote about
 - B. read about
 - C. thought about
7. Alternating walk and rest was more beneficial than **continuous** walking for people with Type 2 diabetes.
 - A. occasional
 - B. scheduled
 - C. uninterrupted
8. She heard the **discordant** clanging of pots in the kitchen.
 - A. unpleasant sound
 - B. attractive sound
 - C. loud sound
9. We had a lot in common when we were younger, but then our interests began to **diverge**.
 - A. get weaker or less enthusiastic
 - B. move in opposition to each other
 - C. move apart or become different
10. If you want to leave early, you have to ask the **foreman**.
 - A. supervisor
 - B. owner
 - C. customer
11. She apologized, but he would not be **mollified**, and he continued to insist on speaking with her manager.
 - A. angered
 - B. ignored
 - C. calmed
12. The phishing email looked real, but its **nefarious** goal was to steal her login.
 - A. obvious
 - B. evil
 - C. pointless

13. She became interested in **physics** after building a model rocket that launched using air pressure.
- A. study of living things
 - B. science of matter and energy
 - C. study of human cultures
14. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
15. I appreciate your **positive** attitude.
- A. patient
 - B. open-minded
 - C. optimistic
16. Most doctors **prescribe** simple lifestyle changes before medication.
- A. ignore
 - B. delay
 - C. recommend
17. The young pianist showed **prodigious** talent at her very first recital.
- A. carefully practiced
 - B. barely noticeable
 - C. remarkably great
18. We all listened with **rapt** attention as she described the accident.
- A. divided
 - B. disciplined
 - C. interested
19. A relatively low **ratio** of the length of the index finger to the ring finger correlates with increased risk of prostate cancer in men.
- A. size in inches
 - B. relative measurement
 - C. metric measurement
20. Although she learned the historical dates by **rote**, she couldn't explain why those events mattered.
- A. group discussion
 - B. memorization by repetition
 - C. personal reflection

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 *Later, the Captain stopped all the hand digging and brought in giant machines, called **continuous** miners, to tear the coal from its seams.*
 - A. the state of being capable of thought, self-reflection, and will
 - B. pertaining to the working together of different religious groups
 - C. continuing in time or space without interruption or irregularity
- 2 *Like everybody else in Coalwood, I lived **according** to the rhythms set by the shifts.*
 - A. idiom meaning "won the day"
 - B. in keeping with (or in harmony or agreement with)
 - C. U.S. history: pre-Civil War period
- 3 *At the time, a player as good as Jim was **accorded** nearly the same celebrity status across Big Creek district as...*
 - A. given special treatment
 - B. found, sought, or researched
 - C. not judged in a negative way
- 4 *I stared at it with no less **rapt** attention than if it had been God Himself in a golden chariot riding overhead.*
 - A. noisy and unrestrained
 - B. accidental or unintentional
 - C. deep interest and focus
- 5 *As he neared the track, a long line of loaded coal cars trundled out of his way as if in recognition of his **approach**.*
 - A. getting near
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 6 *The best **approach** was to throw myself immediately on her mercy.*
 - A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. way of doing something
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 7 *His father had been crushed by a slate fall about a dozen years back on a section where Dad was the **foreman**.*
 - A. a person who is in charge of other workers
 - B. someone who roughly calculates or guesses a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - C. someone responsible for making a judgment after thinking carefully about something
- 8 *Although nobody noticed it until it was too late, having Mr. Dubonnet and my dad on opposite sides was a **prescription** for conflict.*
 - A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - B. submissiveness -- often an attitude of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
 - C. a recommendation or requirement OR (from a medical doctor) an instruction -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
- 9 *"A **physics book**, I suppose," he said stiffly.*
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. the science of matter and energy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 10 *She followed him, leaving us boys to **contemplate** what had been, after all, our scorched, stinking failures.*
 - A. restarted (a fire)
 - B. wrongly translates
 - C. consider or ponder

- 11 *Are you two boys plotting something **nefarious**?*
A. able to be protected or kept unchanged
B. evil, malicious, or criminal in nature
C. able to accept as true (without proof)
- 12 *"That's the way I'll mix it and grind it for our next rocket," I told him, and he was **mollified**.*
A. traded
B. copied
C. calmed
- 13 *A moment before, he seemed to be lifted high above the **congregation**, carried aloft by his own rhetoric.*
A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
B. people who worship together in the same building
C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 14 *To keep our morale up, we sang with **discordant** enthusiasm.*
A. voices that didn't go well together (unpleasant sounding)
B. able to be found
C. likely to change
- 15 *That is the most **prodigious** girl in this school!*
A. in a manner of taking on or adopting power or responsibility
B. producing a stream of atomic particles through nuclear decay
C. fabulous (beyond what is usual)
- 16 *"I fear the **ratio** of the mass of propellant added compared to the mass of the empty rocket will be too small," he said.*
A. wrong understanding
B. relative quantities
C. act of hiring again
- 17 *Mr. Turner has spoken of it, and not in **positive** terms.*
A. good
B. not representative
C. impossible to find
- 18 *Seeing Miss Riley so **positive** and hopeful made me ashamed and disgusted with my symptoms.*
A. unable to get closer to
B. not sensible or careful
C. optimistic
- 19 *In my nightly prayers, I always included by **rote** Mom and Dad, Jim, my uncles and aunts and grandparents (whether they were already in heaven or not), all the soldiers, sailors, and marines, Daisy Mae, Lucifer, Dandy, Poteet, and Chipper too.*
A. Rome from the founding of the city until the formation of the Republic (753–509 BC)
B. memorization by repetition; or repeated behavior done automatically without thought
C. Nathaniel Hawthorne's famous novel of hidden guilt and societal condemnation (1850)
- 20 *the converging/diverging angles could be seen from the outside.*
A. examining in detail to better understand
B. opposing (struggling against each other)
C. moving apart

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	continuous	Used 13 times in this book.
2	B	accord (<i>as in: according to, or in accord with</i>)	Used 17 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	accord (<i>as in: accord her the respect deserved</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
4	C	rapt (<i>as in: rapt attention</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
5	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 10 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	foreman	Used 19 times in this book.
8	C	prescribe	Used 6 times in this book.
9	B	physics	Used 9 times in this book.
10	C	contemplate	Used 8 times in this book.
11	B	nefarious	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	mollify	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
14	A	discord (<i>as in: discordant music</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	C	prodigious	Used 9 times in this book.
16	B	ratio	Used 5 times in this book.
17	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	positive (<i>as in: a positive attitude</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	B	rote	Used 3 times in this book.
20	C	diverge	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.