

Old Yeller

by Fred Gipson

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

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: balk, clamor, coax, commotion, embedded, fluster, hamstrung, hideous, hobbled, liable, mane, plunder, recollect, refuge, sulk, sumptuous, trifle with, waver, whet, writhe



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	C
11	B
12	B
13	C
14	A
15	B
16	B
17	A
18	C
19	A
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 **balked** when she saw the price tag on the jacket—it was way more than she expected.
 - A. admired or praised something
 - B. hesitated or refused to do something
 - C. calculated or compared something
2. Noisy **clamor** gave way to reasoned dialogue.
 - A. demands
 - B. insults
 - C. whining
3. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
 - A. trick
 - B. gently persuade
 - C. drag forcefully
4. Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
 - A. disturbance
 - B. outburst of laughter
 - C. accident
5. I have cactus needles **embedded** in my shoulder.
 - A. loosely hanging
 - B. firmly stuck into
 - C. slightly touching
6. The unexpected question **flustered** her during the interview.
 - A. caused a state of humor and delight
 - B. caused a state of nervous confusion
 - C. caused a state of angry resentment
7. She is **hamstrung** by a lack of resources at the school.
 - A. left unaffected
 - B. given more power
 - C. made ineffective
8. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
9. She **hobbled** onto the court, determined to help her team win.
 - A. walked with difficulty
 - B. walked quickly
 - C. showed enthusiasm
10. She's not **liable** to forget something that important.
 - A. the state or degree of being less than zero
 - B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
 - C. likely
11. She brushed the horse's tangled **mane** until it flowed smoothly down its neck.
 - A. long curved tail
 - B. thick neck hair
 - C. sharp pointed hoof
12. The pirates **plundered** small towns on that part of the coast.
 - A. threatened
 - B. stole from
 - C. burned down

13. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
14. She took **refuge** from the sun under a beautiful oak tree.
- A. protection
 - B. shade
 - C. warmth
15. She **sulked** for the rest of the week when she learned she would not make the starting team.
- A. worked tirelessly to improve
 - B. was unhappy and unsociable
 - C. was angry and lashed out
16. She wore a **sumptuous** gown made of the finest silk and adorned with sparkling jewels.
- A. flattering
 - B. magnificent
 - C. long
17. The European Parliament refuses to be **trifled with**.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with
18. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady
19. The first chapter **whets** the reader's curiosity about the mystery.
- A. stimulates
 - B. diminishes
 - C. confuses
20. She **writhed** on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
- A. cried and whimpered
 - B. yelled loudly
 - C. twisted and turned

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 head dropped to the ground three or four feet away from the **writhing** body.*
 - A. opposing (struggling against each other)
 - B. examining in detail to better understand
 - C. moving in a twisting or contorted motion
- 2 *That made me **recollect** how Birdsong Creek had got its name.*
 - A. disagree
 - B. subtract
 - C. remember
- 3 *She said she named it the first day she and Papa got there, with Mama driving the ox cart loaded with our house **plunder**, and with Papa driving the cows and horses.*
 - A. persuade someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. to steal -- often after conquering the location with the goods

or:

the goods stolen

C. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer
- 4 *Jumper was a dun mule with a narrow black stripe running along his backbone between his **mane** and tail.*
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. long coarse hair on an animal
 - C. exchange, convert, or pay off
- 5 *I'd taught Little Arliss and Jumper that I wasn't to be **trifled** with.*
 - A. treated thoughtlessly or without respect
 - B. injury to muscles or tendons of the knee
 - C. limit light vibrations to a single plane
- 6 *It was good eating; but I'd had my appetite **whetted** for fried middling meat to go with it.*
 - A. to increase a sense or desire

or: to sharpen a knife or other cutting edge

B. not having been assigned a value, or not having been considered as to worth

C. hid something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hid the truth
- 7 *Then he lifted his voice in a wild brassy blare that set echoes **clamoring** in the draws and canyons for miles around.*
 - A. demanding loudly and/or persistently
 - B. suggesting that someone was involved
 - C. walking in an awkward, shuffling way
- 8 *Like cottontail rabbits and chaparral birds and a baby possum that **sulked** and lay like dead for the first several hours until he finally decided that Arliss wasn't going to hurt him.*
 - A. not limited or without boundaries
 - B. was overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. not embarrassed or self-conscious
- 9 *I searched his feet and pulled out a long mesquite thorn that had become **embedded** between his toes.*
 - A. adjusted a lens to make an image clear
 - B. firmly within; or placed firmly within
 - C. not good at concentrating on one thing
- 10 *So in spite of the fact that Little Arliss had caused me to make a bad shot, we had us a real **sumptuous** supper that night.*
 - A. the state or degree of having the ability to change for different situations
 - B. magnificent (impressively wonderful) -- often indicating something expensive
 - C. the quality of behaving in an instinctive, uninhibited, and unplanned manner

- 11 *And what with Mama running after Little Arliss, hollering for him to shut up and quit throwing those rocks, it was altogether the biggest and loudest **commotion** that had taken place around our cabin for a good long while.*
- A. noisy disturbance
 - B. circular movement
 - C. size or dimension
- 12 *A deep cut-bank draw ran through the pear flats between me and the huge mesquite tree I was heading for, and it was down in the bottom of this draw that the hogs **balked**.*
- A. protected or kept something as it was
 - B. to hesitate, refuse, or stop suddenly
 - C. controlled (how something turned out)
- 13 *He'd taken **refuge** there from the hogs.*
- 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
- 14 *I knelt beside him and **coaxed** him out from under the rocks.*
- A. did not vote OR did not drink alcohol OR (more rarely) did not do something else
 - B. tried to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuaded
 - C. thought of something as true or likely, even though it was not known with certainty
- 15 *She looked a little **flustered**, like she didn't know what to do with me, but all she said was, "How'll we bring him back?"*
- A. excessively excited
 - B. nervous or confused
 - C. place firmly within
- 16 *Jumper's **liable** to throw a fit with that hide rattling along behind him, and you might not can hold him by yourself.*
- A. devices that convert light into electricity
 - B. temperature scale used in most of the world
 - C. likely to; or maybe going to; or subject to
- 17 *I'd **hobbled** out to sit in a chair beside Old Yeller, where I could scratch him under his chewed-off ear.*
- A. walked with difficulty (due to injury or physical impediment)
- or:
- hindered (made the action or progress of something difficult)
- B. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
 - C. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drank, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
- 18 *But that didn't keep them from gathering for miles around and making the nights **hideous** with their howlings and snarlings.*
- A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 19 *They were big and savage enough to **hamstring** a horse or drag down a full-grown cow.*
- A. another battle with the same foe
 - B. describing someone as antisocial
 - C. make less effective or powerless
- 20 *There in the **wavering** light, I couldn't get a true bead on the wolf.*
- A. thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - B. returning to an undesirable previous condition
 - C. moving back and forth; or being unsure or weak

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	writhe	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	B	plunder	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	B	mane	Used 2 times in this book.
5	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
6	A	whet	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	clamor	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	B	sulk	Used 3 times in this book.
9	B	embedded	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	sumptuous	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
11	A	commotion	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	balk	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	A	refuge	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	coax (<i>as in: coax her to join us</i>)	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	B	fluster	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	C	liable (<i>as in: she is liable to</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
17	A	hobbled (<i>as in: she hobbled up the hill</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
18	B	hideous	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	C	hamstrung (<i>as in: hamstrung by excessive rules</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
20	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.