

# Riders of the Purple Sage

by Zane Grey

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.  
Review before use, or edit the DOCX from the Resources menu.

#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context .....	5	
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Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

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#### 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, austere, bewilder, creed, deception, earnest, implacable, infernal, infinite, inquire, intangible, moreover, nevertheless, pinnacle, ponder, sage, scorn, strife, wistful, yield



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### Riders of the Purple Sage

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## Riders of the Purple Sage

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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 monk's room was **austere**, with only a bed, a small table, and a wooden chair.
  - A. lavishly decorated
  - B. plain and without luxury
  - C. warm and welcoming
3. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
  - A. confused
  - B. bored
  - C. distracted
4. She lived by the simple creed that honesty is always the best policy.
  - A. quotation
  - B. misunderstanding
  - C. set of beliefs
5. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
  - A. kindness
  - B. trickery
  - C. praise
6. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
  - A. frivolous attitude
  - B. seriousness
  - C. falseness
7. The storm raged with **implacable** force, showing no signs of stopping.
  - A. diminishing
  - B. unyielding
  - C. increasing
8. That **infernal** alarm clock kept going off every five minutes.
  - A. annoying
  - B. expensive
  - C. antique
9. The night sky seemed **infinite** as we gazed at countless stars.
  - A. blurry
  - B. silent
  - C. endless
10. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
  - A. answer questions
  - B. ask about
  - C. perform a task
11. Trust between coworkers is an **intangible** quality that takes years to build.
  - A. easily broken
  - B. extremely heavy
  - C. non-material
12. Many graduates have high college debt. **Moreover**, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
  - A. in contrast to that
  - B. in addition to that
  - C. as a result of that

13. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
  - B. despite that
  - C. in addition
14. At the pinnacle of her success, she was earning over a million dollars a year.
- A. beginning
  - B. highest point
  - C. end
15. We pondered our fate.
- A. thought about
  - B. feared for
  - C. actively changed
16. Sage has an earthy, minty flavor with light piney and citrus notes.
- A. a popular herb
  - B. a vegetable popular in Asia
  - C. a fruit popular in easter Africa
17. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
  - B. encourages
  - C. trains
18. Civil strife tore the country apart for nearly a decade before reform began.
- A. joyful celebration
  - B. violent conflict
  - C. quiet agreement
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. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
  - B. gave in
  - C. produced

## Vocabulary in Context

### Riders of the Purple Sage

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 She wondered if the unrest and **strife** that had lately come to the little village of Cottonwoods was to involve her.
  - A. thing that affects a result or outcome
  - B. violent conflict or angry disagreement
  - C. job, reservation, booking, or activity
- 2 He loomed up now in different guise, not as a jealous suitor, but embodying the mysterious despotism she had known from childhood—the power of her **creed**.
  - A. a basic building block for proteins
  - B. someone who believe in a single God
  - C. any system of principles or beliefs
- 3 The strange glow, the **austere** light which radiated from Tull's face, might have been a holy joy at the spiritual conception of exalted duty.
  - A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
  - B. a notable absence of luxury, comfort, or decoration; or stern in manner
  - C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 4 It had the same comfort as was manifested in the home-like outer court; **moreover**, it was warm and rich in soft hues.
  - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
  - B. in addition to what has just been said
  - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 5 Tull is **implacable**.
  - A. diminishing
  - B. unyielding
  - C. increasing
- 6 It was the moment when the last ruddy rays of the sunset brightened momentarily before **yielding** to twilight.
  - A. showing, demonstrating, determining, or causing acceptance
  - B. giving in, giving up, or giving way (easily moved or soft)
  - C. placing trust (in someone) by talking about private things
- 7 A horseman showed dark on the sky-line, then merged into the color of the **sage**.
  - A. a type of plant
  - B. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
  - C. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
- 8 I ran into five yesterday 'way down near the trail to **Deception** Pass.
  - A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
  - B. the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
  - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 9 Venters lay low in the shade of the cottonwoods, **pondering** this chance meeting, and not for many moments did he consider it safe to move on.
  - A. thinking deeply or carefully about
  - B. finding, searching, or researching
  - C. learning, discovering, or deciding
- 10 Venters's **agitation** stilled to the trace of suppressed eagerness in Lassiter's query.
  - 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

- 11 **Nevertheless** he sent the dog Ring ahead and waited.
- A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
  - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
  - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 12 *Warily* he rounded this corner, once again to halt **bewildered**.
- A. confused
  - B. restored
  - C. collided
- 13 *The corners of wall bluntly rose, scarred and scrawled, to taper into towers and serrated peaks and pinnacled domes.*
- A. atoned (demonstrated sorrow for a wrong either by doing something good in return for the wrong, or by accepting punishment)
  - B. with high, tapered architectural features such as spires
  - C. complete (not diminished) -- usually used to say that something that is harmful or unpleasant is not in any way made less bad
- 14 *But in her it had **infinitely** more—a revelation of mortal spirit.*
- A. in a manner that is open to arguments, ideas, or change
  - B. inadequately (in a manner that does not provide enough)
  - C. unlimited; without boundaries; or too numerous to count
- 15 *She did **inquire** if he would return on the morrow, and Jerd, in mingled surprise and relief, assured her he would always work for her.*
- A. interact again or interest again
  - B. ask about or look into something
  - C. genetic change through evolution
- 16 *The one thing in man or woman that she **scorned** above all scorn, and which she could not forgive, was hate.*
- A. disrespected or rejected
  - B. mirrored back (an image)
  - C. quoted (to make a point)
- 17 *In her **earnestness** she stepped closer to him, repelled yet fascinated by the sudden transition of his moods.*
- A. the state of being awake
  - B. sincerity or seriousness
  - C. able to take on or adopt
- 18 *Then the flashing changed to a long, thoughtful look, in which there was a **wistful**, unconscious searching of his face, a look that trembled on the verge of hope and trust.*
- A. showing longing or unfulfilled desire
  - B. not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
  - C. able to be restored to good condition
- 19 *As **infernal** a job as even you, Lassiter, ever heard of.*
- A. very bad; or very annoying; or characteristic of hell or the underworld
  - B. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
  - C. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
- 20 *Meanwhile, abiding a day of judgment, she fought ceaselessly to deny the bitter drops in her cup, to tear back the slow, the **intangibly** slow growth of a hot, corrosive lichen eating into her heart.*
- A. in a manner influenced by personal belief, feelings, or preferences (rather than being based purely upon fact)
  - B. in a manner that uses a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
  - C. unable to be physically touched (existing but not material or concrete); or something that is hard to identify

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

### Riders of the Purple Sage

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	strife	Used 5 times in this book.
2	C	creed	Used 9 times in this book.
3	B	austere	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
5	B	implacable	Used 5 times in this book.
6	B	yield ( <i>as in: yield to pressure</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
7	A	sage ( <i>as in: the growing sage</i> )	Used 266 times in this book.
8	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 37 times in this book.
9	A	ponder	Used 9 times in this book.
10	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
11	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
12	A	bewilder	Used 8 times in this book.
13	B	pinnacle	Used 4 times in this book.
14	C	infinite	Used 10 times in this book.
15	B	inquire	Used 13 times in this book.
16	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
17	B	earnest	High-utility academic word; used 15 times in this book.
18	A	wistful	Used 12 times in this book.
19	A	infernal	Used 4 times in this book.
20	C	intangible	Used 5 times in this book.