

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

by Mildred D. Taylor

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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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: abrupt, acknowledge, assume, audible, candid, composition, comprehend, consequence, disposition, distinct, engage, grave, indignant, inquire, mortgage, prevail, resolve (2), sufficient, wary



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- The weather changed **abruptly** at about noon.
 - for the better
 - gradually
 - suddenly
- She **acknowledged** her mistake and apologized.
 - admitted
 - minimized
 - exaggerated
- The detective had no concrete evidence, but he began to **assume** the suspect was hiding something based on his evasive answers.
 - wonder if
 - believe
 - prove
- It was so quiet; our breathing was the only thing **audible** in the room.
 - making too much noise
 - that was comforting
 - capable of being heard
- My **candid** opinion is that their team is much better than ours, but an upset isn't impossible.
 - honest
 - expert
 - tactful
- After months of refining, the band finally recorded their first **composition**.
 - final group rehearsal
 - original musical work
 - list of song lyrics
- Washington fails to **comprehend** the change in China's strategy.
 - fully understand
 - regard respectfully
 - respond adequately to
- Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - result
 - unimportant part
 - important part
- We'll see if her cheerful **disposition** continues when she's tired and under stress.
 - team
 - generosity
 - personality
- Two **distinct** brain networks guide our judgments.
 - different
 - similar
 - identical
- At the time, she was **engaged** in a research project at Stanford.
 - a candidate
 - involved
 - promised to marry

12. The day after the funeral, she was in a **grave** mood.
- A. hysterical
 - B. solemn
 - C. fearful
13. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
- A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
14. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
- A. answer questions
 - B. ask about
 - C. perform a task
15. The site has a **mortgage** payment calculator that calculates the loan payment based on the interest rate and length of the loan.
- A. unsecured loan
 - B. real estate loan
 - C. credit card loan
16. The defending champions **prevailed** again.
- A. competed
 - B. won
 - C. visited
17. I **resolved** to never drink again.
- A. was forced
 - B. was encouraged
 - C. firmly decided
18. She is testing my **resolve** to keep a good attitude.
- A. determination
 - B. ability
 - C. optimism
19. Is there **sufficient** cause for a search warrant?
- A. adequate (enough)
 - B. clear or obvious
 - C. dangerous
20. She looked **wary** as she reached out to pet her friend's new dog.
- A. determined
 - B. distrustful
 - C. excited

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 His **disposition** had been irritatingly sour lately.
A. job
B. boss
C. mood
- 2 I **resolved** to make the best of my rather dubious position.
A. was forced
B. questioned how
C. decided
- 3 Each time she did, we set our faces into looks of great seriousness, **resolved** that we would be adult about the matter and not gloat in our hour of victory.
A. determined
B. pretending
C. knowing
- 4 The room became **gravely** silent. Everyone knew that Little Man was in big trouble for no one, but no one, ever called Little Man "Clayton Chester" unless she or he meant serious business.
A. suddenly
B. seriously
C. gradually
- 5 He just stood staring down at the open book, shivering with **indignant** anger.
A. anger at something unjust
B. anger at something surprising
C. anger at something again
- 6 "You understand that if they don't have those books to study from, I'll have to fail them in both reading and **composition**, since I plan..."
A. math
B. writing
C. history
- 7 As the men rounded a curve in the road, they became more **distinct**.
A. clearly seen
B. quickly moving
C. frightening
- 8 ...we also had to worry about the Jefferson Davis school bus zooming from behind and splashing us with the murky waters of the road. ... But sometimes ... we did not look back as often nor listen as carefully as we should; we **consequently** found ourselves comical objects to cruel eyes that gave no thought to our misery.
A. as a result
B. unfortunately
C. in a humorous manner
- 9 "They gonna haul that bus outa there tonight?" Big Ma **inquired**.
A. whispered
B. asked
C. demanded
- 10 Boxes lined the walls and the center floor had been cleared for dancing—several older couples from Great Faith were already **engaged** in movements I had never seen before.
A. singing
B. involved
C. promised to marry
- 11 Big Ma didn't answer immediately; she was occupied in a test of wills with Jack. When hers had **prevailed** and Jack had settled into a moderate trot, she replied moodily...
A. been understood
B. proved superior or won
C. was defeated

- 12 I **assumed** that he had not heard me.
- A. learned
 - B. believed
 - C. knew
- 13 But before the boys could **sufficiently** admire the car, Mama and Big Ma shooed us toward the church for the service.
- A. adequately
 - B. quickly
 - C. sarcastically
- 14 Big Ma looked around at Papa and Uncle Hammer, but neither of them **acknowledged** her glance; their eyes were pinned on Mr. Jamison.
- A. expressed recognition of
 - B. could see
 - C. were upset about
- 15 "...the only thing any of you got to back that credit with is this land . . . and I'd hate to see you put it up." "Why's that?" asked Uncle Hammer, **wary** of his interest.
- A. curious
 - B. cautious
 - C. confused
- 16 "Because," answered Mr. Jamison **candidly**, "there aren't enough of those same white people who would admit how they feel, or even if they did, would hang a white man for killing a black one."
- A. honestly and directly
 - B. with carefully chosen words
 - C. in an unsafe or unsure manner
- 17 T.J., for the first time **comprehending** that we were no longer his friends, stopped.
- A. understanding
 - B. saying
 - C. deciding
- 18 "What did Mr. Jamison want?" she asked, her voice barely **audible**.
- A. below a shout
 - B. with feminine tone
 - C. able to be heard
- 19 Your mama's got no job come fall and there's the **mortgage** and next year's taxes to think of.
- A. credit card loan
 - B. property loan
 - C. pawnshop loan
- 20 He stopped **abruptly**, his eyes bulging in a terrified stare as Mr. Morrison climbed down from the wagon.
- A. carefully
 - B. gradually
 - C. suddenly

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	disposition (<i>as in: a kind disposition</i>)	High-utility academic word
2	C	resolve (<i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	resolve (<i>as in: Her resolve weakened.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	B	grave (<i>as in: Her manner was grave.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
5	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
6	B	composition (<i>as in: an original composition</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	A	distinct	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
8	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word
9	B	inquire	Used 5 times in this book.
10	B	engage (<i>as in: engage in conversation</i>)	High-utility academic word
11	B	prevail (<i>as in: reason will prevail</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	assume (<i>as in: I assume it's true</i>)	High-utility academic word
13	A	sufficient	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	A	acknowledge (<i>as in: acknowledge her or the truth</i>)	High-utility academic word
15	B	wary	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
16	A	candid (<i>as in: your candid opinion</i>)	High-utility academic word
17	A	comprehend	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	C	audible (<i>as in: barely audible</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
19	B	mortgage	Used 9 times in this book.
20	C	abrupt (<i>as in: an abrupt change</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.