

Running in the Family

by Michael Ondaatje

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: anonymous (2), appalling, coincide, compulsive, crucial, demure, focus (2), gullible, inquisitive, insurgent, intricate, lethargic, notorious, pariah, parody, serene, succulent, unrequited



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	C
11	B
12	A
13	C
14	A
15	C
16	A
17	B
18	B
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. Everyone wonders who made the **anonymous** donation.
 - A. nameless
 - B. generous
 - C. surprising
2. It is one of the **anonymous** houses on an uninteresting street.
 - A. stubbornly unyielding to the wishes of others
 - B. determined not to change a decision or belief
 - C. lacking individuality or interesting features
3. She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
 - A. false
 - B. horrible
 - C. foolish
4. The publication of the book will **coincide** with the 10th anniversary of the event.
 - A. happen after
 - B. happen before
 - C. happen at the same time
5. She has a **compulsive** eating disorder.
 - A. uncontrollable
 - B. hidden
 - C. unhealthy
6. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
7. She gave a **demure** nod and let her friend do most of the talking.
 - A. sharp and dismissive
 - B. modest and quiet
 - C. confused and nervous
8. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
9. The **focus** of this class is classic American Literature.
 - A. hardest part
 - B. area where attention is concentrated
 - C. prerequisite (understanding required to enroll)
10. She was **gullible** and in love with the wrong man.
 - A. too confused
 - B. too focused
 - C. too trusting
11. Her **inquisitive** nature led her to explore every corner of the old library.
 - A. nervous
 - B. curious
 - C. forgetful
12. The **insurgents** fought against the government.
 - A. members of an irregular armed force that fight a stronger force by sabotage and harassment
 - B. members of an army fighting outside of their home country
 - C. soldiers who fight for a country that is not their own in order to earn pay

13. The law in that area is intricate. I suggest you talk with a lawyer.
- A. outdated
 - B. predictable
 - C. complicated
14. Large lunches make me feel lethargic in the afternoon.
- A. sluggish
 - B. upset
 - C. energetic
15. She is notorious for flagrant fouls and losing her temper.
- A. frightening and intimidating
 - B. widely admired
 - C. well known for something bad
16. After betraying the team, she became a pariah in the locker room.
- A. social outcast
 - B. trusted leader
 - C. new visitor
17. It's the funniest parody on YouTube.
- A. skit using understatement
 - B. exaggeration of somebody's style
 - C. jokes by a comedian
18. She remained serene even when he was yelling at her.
- A. unmoved
 - B. calm
 - C. aggressive
19. The peaches are succulent and bursting with flavor.
- A. ripe
 - B. full of juice
 - C. colorful
20. She suffers the despair of unrequited love.
- A. loss (through death)
 - B. unreturned
 - C. beyond normal limits

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 fan hangs on a long stem, revolves **lethargic**, its arms in a tilt to catch the air which it folds across the room.*
 - A. lacking energy
 - B. agitated (upset)
 - C. apprehensive (nervous)
- 2 *Later the three of us moved to the dining room while my Aunt plucked **notorious** incidents from her brain.*
 - A. without boundaries or limits
 - B. not good at making decisions
 - C. well known for something bad
- 3 *In half an hour the others will waken from their sleep and **intricate** conversations will begin again.*
 - A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 - B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 - C. complicated -- having many complexly arranged elements
- 4 *In India only the aristocracy gambled; in Ceylon the bankers and lime-burners and fishmongers and the leisured class would spend their afternoons, shoulder to shoulder, betting **compulsively**.*
 - A. excessively due to an uncontrollable desire
 - B. in a manner that stops or hinders something
 - C. in a manner involving only one part or side
- 5 *Gambling was so **crucial** to the economy of certain households that semi-respectable women slept with jockeys to get closer to "the horse's mouth."*
 - A. natural
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
- 6 *The men leaned their chins against the **serene** necks of the women, danced a waltz or two, slid oysters into their partner's mouths.*
 - A. not straightforward
 - B. calm and untroubled
 - C. not done on purpose
- 7 *There are stories of elopements, **unrequited** love, family feuds, and exhausting vendettas, which everyone was drawn into, had to be involved with.*
 - A. consistent or the same
 - B. not returned or repaid
 - C. not aware of something
- 8 *A **parody** of the ruling language.*
 - A. to gradually destroy or change the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
 - B. a humorous, exaggerated imitation of somebody's style

or:

a very poor imitation of somebody's style

 - C. a beam, bracket, or other structure supported only on one side; or to support something in that manner
- 9 *As this **coincided** with the Royal Thomian cricket match, we would collect them and throw them into the stands full of Royal students.*
 - A. follow
 - B. precede
 - C. happen at the same time
- 10 *The brown people of this island seem to me odiously **inquisitive** and bothery-idiotic.*
 - A. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
 - B. interested in learning about things -- often asking many questions
 - C. not having the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...

- 11 *The anonymous poets returned again and again to the same metaphors.*
- A. the quality of not being sensible and careful
 - B. the quality of being unchanging or continuous
 - C. lacking individuality or interesting features
- 12 *The artist is anonymous.*
- A. of unknown identity
 - B. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - C. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things seem incongruous together
- 13 *1971 was the year of the Insurgence.*
- A. a member of an irregular armed force that fights a stronger force by sabotage and harassment
 - B. the induction of an artificial seizure in a patient by passing electricity through the brain
 - C. (of a sound) not deep and rich OR not bringing to mind OR not having reinforcing effects
- 14 *Both widows became the focus of the attention of numerous bored husbands.*
- A. calculating or judging too high
 - B. where attention is concentrated
 - C. the ability to take on or adopt
- 15 *I can only clarify this range in him by focussing on this metamorphosis.*
- A. concentrating
 - B. bouncing back
 - C. investigating
- 16 *Lalla's son Noel was most appalled by her.*
- A. with an unadjusted lens so the image isn't clear
 - B. shocked by how terrible or horrible something is
 - C. gave an opinion of what was wrong with something
- 17 *Why did she not tell me the story—this demure woman in a sari who was once "bath prefect" at Bishop's College Girl's School, who officiated over the cleansing of my lean five-year-old nakedness?*
- A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - B. modest, quiet, and shy; or pretending such in a playful way
 - C. the quality of believing oneself morally superior to others
- 18 *I had this image that the Ondaatjes were absolute pariahs.*
- A. a social outcast
 - B. relative amounts
 - C. acts of betrayal
- 19 *He loved our gullibility, our innocence, and his tricks on us would last for years.*
- A. a period of time or a stage during the development of something
 - B. an optical device that produces an intense narrow beam of light
 - C. the trait of being easily tricked because of being too trusting
- 20 *He kept journals about every one of the four hundred varieties of cactus and succulents—some of which he had never seen, others of which he had smuggled into the country via a friend.*
- A. acts of stopping a battle or fight
 - B. plants adapted to dry conditions and having thick, leaves or stems that store water
 - C. a central open spaces in buildings

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	lethargic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	C	notorious	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
3	C	intricate	Used 3 times in this book.
4	A	compulsive	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	crucial	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	B	serene	Used 5 times in this book.
7	B	unrequited	Used 4 times in this book.
8	B	parody	Used 2 times in this book.
9	C	coincide	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
10	B	inquisitive	Used 3 times in this book.
11	C	anonymous (<i>as in: an anonymous, uninteresting house</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	anonymous (<i>as in: an anonymous author</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	insurgent	Used 10 times in this book.
14	B	focus (<i>as in: The focus of our study is...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	appalling	Used 4 times in this book.
17	B	demure	Used 4 times in this book.
18	A	pariah	Used 2 times in this book.
19	C	gullible	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	succulent (<i>as in: succulent roast beef</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
