

Sea Wolf

by Jack London

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: altruism, apprehensive, attain, clamor, compel, endeavor, feigned, immortal, impel, materialistic, melancholy, peril, retort, taut, vengeance, whet, whitecaps, with a vengeance, wrath, writhe



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	C
9	C
10	A
11	B
12	B
13	A
14	B
15	C
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 is known for her kindness, compassion, and altruism.
 - A. cheerfulness
 - B. selflessness
 - C. politeness
2. She is **apprehensive** about finals.
 - A. talkative
 - B. worried
 - C. unconcerned
3. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
 - A. openly oppose
 - B. carefully describe
 - C. successfully gain
4. Noisy **clamor** gave way to reasoned dialogue.
 - A. demands
 - B. insults
 - C. whining
5. Can we **compel** the witness to testify?
 - A. prevent
 - B. force
 - C. delay
6. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
7. He **feigned** surprise when his coworkers shouted 'Happy Birthday!'
 - A. faked
 - B. expected
 - C. shared
8. She believes we have an **immortal** soul.
 - A. conflicted
 - B. perfect in every way
 - C. lasting forever
9. Concern for her children's safety **impelled** her to take action and confront the intruder.
 - A. prevented
 - B. slowed
 - C. drove
10. I wouldn't describe myself as **materialistic**, but I would like some financial security.
 - A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
 - B. too afraid of risk and uncertainty
 - C. unwilling to spend any money
11. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring,
 - A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
12. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
 - A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness

13. She **retorted**, "Takes one to know one."
A. quickly replied
B. insulted back
C. joyfully laughed
14. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
A. shiny
B. tight
C. noisy
15. Her evolutionary benefit theory of **vengeance** is supported by studies showing that a person's desire for revenge increases when others see their mistreatment.
A. fairness
B. status
C. revenge
16. She threw herself into work with a **vengeance**.
A. with reluctance
B. with intensity
C. with careful thought
17. The first chapter **whets** the reader's curiosity about the mystery.
A. stimulates
B. diminishes
C. confuses
18. The restaurant has a beautiful ocean view. You can almost always waves breaking on shore as well as distant **whitecaps**.
A. snow-covered mountains
B. seagulls with a gray body & white head
C. wind-blown waves with white foam at their crest
19. She fears the **wrath** of God.
A. angry punishment
B. power
C. unpredictable moods
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 *I could scarcely catch my breath, so fiercely was I **impelled** through the heavens.*
 - A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 - B. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
 - C. to make someone feel they must do something
- 2 *He **wrenched** and **writhed** about convulsively.*
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
 - C. moved in a twisting or contorted motion
- 3 *The sea had turned a dull leaden grey and grown rougher, and was now tossing foaming **whitecaps** to the sky.*
 - A. acts of interacting or getting interested again
 - B. general feelings of not being as good as others
 - C. wind-blown waves with white foam at their crest
- 4 *From time to time they stole glances at Wolf Larsen, and I could see that they were **apprehensive** of the man.*
 - A. not representative
 - B. nervous or worried
 - C. impossible to find
- 5 *But he was consumed with indignation, real or **feigned**.*
 - A. pretended (made a pretense of)
 - B. not hired, occupied, or booked
 - C. developed or changed gradually
- 6 *The cabin was small, to begin with, and to move around, as I was **compelled** to, was not made easier by the schooner's violent pitching and wallowing.*
 - A. fruit cooked with sugar (like jam)
 - B. forced; or (more rarely) convinced
 - C. didn't trust or have confidence in
- 7 *"I read **immortality** in your eyes," I answered, dropping the "sir,"—an experiment, for I thought the intimacy of the conversation warranted it.*
 - A. someone who disturbs or annoys
 - B. with or based on basic beliefs
 - C. eternal life (to live forever)
- 8 *The **halyards** became instantly **taut**.*
 - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;
or: subjected to great tension
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 9 *Unlike other **materialists** I had met and with whom I had something in common to start on, I had nothing in common with him.*
 - A. overly concerned with wealth and possessions at the expense of other interests
 - B. defensive players who line up closest to the sideline to defend against passes
 - C. powerful attacks; or sudden and enormous amount of things that must be handled
- 10 *An **altruistic** act is an act performed for the welfare of others.*
 - A. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
 - B. unselfish concern for the welfare of others
 - C. the quality of not working or not operating
- 11 *The dark sun-bronze of his face went black with **wrath**, his eyes were ablaze.*
 - A. extreme anger
 - B. determination
 - C. use of reason

- 12 Every odd moment he could find he had the knife and stone out and was **whetting** away.
A. to increase a sense or desire

or: to sharpen a knife or other cutting edge
B. sticking out, attracting more attention than desired, or imposing on others
C. changing to multiple areas of control or concentration (rather than just 1)
- 13 This loneliness is bad enough in itself, but, to make it worse, he is oppressed by the primal **melancholy** of the race.
A. relating to the outside
B. a sad feeling or manner
C. about (but not exactly)
- 14 "I am not afraid," the sailor **retorted**, a slight angry flush rising through his sunburn.
A. quickly replied
B. said indirectly
C. greatly annoyed
- 15 Leach could have killed him, but, having evidently filled the measure of his **vengeance**, he drew away from his prostrate foe, who was whimpering and wailing in a puppyish sort of way, and walked forward.
A. something that stands out
B. something made from parts
C. the act of taking revenge
- 16 You've found your legs with a **vengeance**.
A. available cash
B. with intensity
C. very important
- 17 For he has what they have not—purpose, something to do and be done, an all-absorbing end to strive to **attain**, the desire to kill me, the hope that he may kill me.
A. technical: center or concentration
B. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
C. gain or reach something with effort
- 18 She finished the concluding stanza without **faltering** and then slowly guided the conversation into less **perilous** channels.
A. stuck out
B. dangerous
C. bent down
- 19 Thus we landed on **Endeavour** Island, as we came to it, land-sick from long custom of the sea.
A. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
B. to write or exchange written letters or emails
C. to attempt; or a project or activity attempted
- 20 Why, we'll be **clamorous** for something to do.
A. loud noise and/or persistent demands -- especially from human voice
B. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
C. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	impel	Used 10 times in this book.
2	C	writhe	Used 9 times in this book.
3	C	whitecaps	Used 5 times in this book.
4	B	apprehensive	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
5	A	feigned	Used 6 times in this book.
6	B	compel	Used 27 times in this book.
7	C	immortal	Used 23 times in this book.
8	B	taut	Used 7 times in this book.
9	A	materialistic	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
10	B	altruism	Used 6 times in this book.
11	A	wrath	Used 10 times in this book.
12	A	whet	Used 20 times in this book.
13	B	melancholy	Used 8 times in this book.
14	A	retort (<i>as in: quick retort</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
15	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	B	with a vengeance (<i>as in: with a vengeance</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
18	B	peril	Used 8 times in this book.
19	C	endeavor	Used 12 times in this book.
20	A	clamor	Used 7 times in this book.