

Seabiscuit

by Laura Hillenbrand

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: attribute, cavort, coax, cultivate, despair (2), empathy, equivocal, establish (2), foal, intuition, lament, ligament, mane, optimal, precede, unprecedented, venerable, wane



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	B
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	C
11	A
12	B
13	C
14	A
15	B
16	A
17	C
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. She **attributes** her success to hard work.
 - A. gives money for
 - B. gives credit for
 - C. gives help for
2. Mom is always nervous when the boys are **cavorting** in the pool.
 - A. resting quietly
 - B. playing wildly
 - C. swimming carefully
3. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
 - A. trick
 - B. gently persuade
 - C. drag forcefully
4. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
5. She rescued me from **despair**.
 - A. fear
 - B. poverty
 - C. hopelessness
6. Don't **despair**--help is on the way!
 - A. lose hope
 - B. be impatient
 - C. cry
7. The teacher's **empathy** helped her connect with students facing difficulties at home.
 - A. ability to control emotional outbursts
 - B. understanding and sharing others' feelings
 - C. common sense and wise advice
8. The politician's **equivocal** statement could be taken two completely different ways.
 - A. unclear in meaning
 - B. openly honest
 - C. firmly decided
9. Which word choice would help to establish a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
10. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
11. The mare gave birth to a healthy **foal** in the spring meadow.
 - A. young horse
 - B. metal gate
 - C. wooden saddle

12. Intuitively, I knew not to trust her.
A. logically
B. instinctively
C. conclusively
13. We lamented our sad circumstances.
A. made worse
B. improved
C. expressed grief about
14. She injured a ligament in her knee during the soccer game.
A. bone-connecting band
B. blood-carrying tube
C. air-filled space
15. 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
16. Plants grow best under optimal conditions of light, water, and temperature.
A. most desirable
B. barely sufficient
C. easily replaced
17. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
A. follow
B. describe
C. go before
18. The targeting of civilians is unprecedented in the conflict.
A. a recurring problem
B. not having happened before
C. highly regrettable
19. Many were surprised that a venerable institution like Bear Stearns could so rapidly go out of business.
A. large and successful
B. long respected
C. popular
20. Their passion waned over the years, but their love continued to grow.
A. changed direction
B. gradually decreased
C. turned mutual

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 *Habitually putting himself in other people's shoes, he was in his private life charming and engaging, generous and genuinely **empathetic**.*
 - A. a solution that is simpler (and often more comprehensive) than most would anticipate
 - B. the ability, tendency, or act of understanding and sharing another's emotional state
 - C. the state of not representing or imitating external reality or the objects of nature
- 2 *He also lived out a fantasy that he had probably **cultivated** since childhood.*
 - A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - B. developed, grown, or prepared for growing crops
 - C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation
- 3 *A guy couldn't cavort with women, and thanks to the ban on cabaret dancing, he couldn't even watch women **cavorting** by themselves.*
 - A. opposing (struggling against each other)
 - B. playing in a lively, unrestrained manner
 - C. examining in detail to better understand
- 4 *He was always alone, even back then, in the **waning** days of the nineteenth century.*
 - A. creating dramatic change
 - B. declining or diminishing
 - C. beginning to fight again
- 5 *Even mainstream trainers would drop pennies in mares' water buckets to halt estrus, or exhaust themselves trying to get a **mane** that fell to the left—a bad omen—to fall to the right.*
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. long coarse hair on an animal
 - C. exchange, convert, or pay off
- 6 *Fitzsimmons soon **established** himself as the most successful conditioner of Thoroughbreds in the nation.*
 - A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. proved
- 7 *As the weekday wonder and the money man, Pollard and Woolf **established** themselves in the uppermost tier of North American racing.*
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. set (caused acceptance of)
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 8 *As a result, the vast majority of horses' sleeping is done standing, which they can do thanks to **ligaments** that lock their leg joints in the extended position.*
 - A. tough fibrous tissues that connect bones
 - B. acts of taking something on as one's own
 - C. animals between one and two years of age
- 9 *Seabiscuit had been a very late **foal**, born at the end of May 1933, but in January 1935, half a year short of his actual birthday, he was deemed a two-year-old, officially eligible to race.*
 - A. a young horse; or giving birth to a young horse
 - B. mark important text; or the text that is marked
 - C. give an opinion of what is wrong with something
- 10 *Sitting together in the clubhouse that afternoon, husband and wife felt a pull of **intuition**.*
 - A. the redirection energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - B. the ability to known instinctively rather than through reasoning; or the thing that is known in such a way
 - C. someone with a potentially life-threatening psychological eating disorder that prevents eating enough food

- 11 Accordingly, expectations for Woolf's career in the saddle **preceded** him into the world.
- A. wrongly understood
 - B. influenced opinion
 - C. went or was before
- 12 Falling into a severe depression **attributed** to his taking constant doses of purgatives to fight a weight problem he could not beat, he shot himself to death at age twenty-nine.
- A. not made different; or shown to be different
 - B. credited (pointed to as the cause of something)
 - C. not changed directly from a solid to a vapor
- 13 The difference between a fast fraction and a slow fraction is often less than a second, and a jockey must be able to discriminate between the two to place his horse **optimally**.
- A. most desirable possible -- often given the circumstances
 - B. with low spirits (sadness, disappointment, hopelessness)
 - C. in a manner that gradually destroys an established order
- 14 His win percentage dropped to a **lamentable** 6 percent.
- A. intentional
 - B. not sincere
 - C. regrettable
- 15 But the photo was **unequivocal**: Rosemont's long bay muzzle hung therein the picture, just a wink ahead of Seabiscuit's.
- A. unmistakably clear in meaning
 - B. overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. not thoughtful about the past
- 16 Necessity spurred technological innovations that offered the public **unprecedented** access to its heroes.
- A. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - B. not having happened before; or nothing similar having happened before
 - C. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 17 Rosemont was there, waiting to meet Seabiscuit in the **venerable** Brooklyn Handicap.
- A. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - B. respected (worthy of respect) -- typically because of age or position
 - C. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 18 The stable hands, **despairing** of getting help to the track fast enough, fetched the only transportation on hand, a little runabout truck that the track starter used to motor around the course.
- A. losing hope
 - B. disagreeing
 - C. translating
- 19 Pollard left the track in **despair**.
- A. adjusts a lens to make an image clear
 - B. not creating disagreement or struggle
 - C. a feeling of hopelessness or distress
- 20 "No one **coaxed** Howard to put his horse in the race because we figured something like this would happen," he sniped.
- 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

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	empathy	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
3	B	cavort	Used 4 times in this book.
4	B	wane	Used 8 times in this book.
5	B	mane	Used 9 times in this book.
6	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	ligament	Used 8 times in this book.
9	A	foal	Used 11 times in this book.
10	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
11	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	B	attribute (<i>as in: I attribute it to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
13	A	optimal	Used 4 times in this book.
14	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
15	A	equivocal	Used 3 times in this book.
16	B	unprecedented	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
17	B	venerable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	A	despair (<i>as in: do not despair</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	despair (<i>as in: she felt despair</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	B	coax (<i>as in: coax her to join us</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.