

Skellig

by David Almond

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

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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: ascend, beckon, derelict, dismay, enable, inflexible, inhibit, jut, nettle, nevertheless, oblivious, petty, plunder, protrude, recoil, remnant, stifle, tepid, transparent, vagrant



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. He watched the hot-air balloon **ascend** slowly into the clear morning sky.
 - A. move upward
 - B. drift downward
 - C. spin in place
2. The police officer **beckoned** me to come over.
 - A. considered asking
 - B. called
 - C. prohibited
3. The **derelict** warehouse on the corner had stood empty for many decades.
 - A. newly built and modern
 - B. abandoned and run-down
 - C. crowded and well-kept
4. Hope was replaced by **dismay**.
 - A. satisfaction
 - B. faith
 - C. sorrow
5. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
6. Things have changed, but she remains **inflexible**.
 - A. unimportant
 - B. unbending (not able to adjust well to different conditions)
 - C. not skilled
7. Cold weather can **inhibit** the growth of many tropical plants.
 - A. slow down
 - B. monitor
 - C. describe
8. She tripped on a thick tree root that **jutted out** across the muddy path.
 - A. washed away
 - B. curled up
 - C. stuck out
9. He brushed against a **nettle** and his arm burned for hours.
 - A. a stinging plant
 - B. a small bird
 - C. a sharp rock
10. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
11. She's a happy girl--**oblivious** to most of the unhappiness around her.
 - A. unaware of
 - B. concerned with
 - C. adding to
12. She has a record of **petty** theft.
 - A. small (less important)
 - B. extreme (intense)
 - C. important or severe

13. The pirates **plundered** small towns on that part of the coast.
- A. threatened
 - B. stole from
 - C. burned down
14. She is operating to repair the muscle wall through which the hernia **protrudes**.
- A. heals over
 - B. shrinks back
 - C. sticks out
15. She reached out to take his hand. He **recoiled** from her touch.
- A. suddenly was angry
 - B. suddenly pulled back
 - C. suddenly was comforted
16. The Yuan dynasty conquered the last **remnant** of the Song dynasty in 1279.
- A. of those appearing after others
 - B. of the little that remained
 - C. group at maximum strength
17. She had to **stifle** a laugh during the somber funeral service.
- A. let out freely
 - B. hold back
 - C. loudly announce
18. She stepped into the **tepid** bath, wishing it were hotter.
- A. slightly shallow
 - B. slightly warm
 - C. very soapy
19. As a safety measure, the school now insists that all backpacks and school bags be **transparent**.
- A. searched upon entry
 - B. weighed
 - C. easily seen through
20. Police used to be allowed to use their discretion in deciding whether to arrest any **vagrant**.
- A. person who used recreational drugs
 - B. impoverished person without a home or job
 - C. someone who is visiting from out-of-town

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 There were just **nettles** and thistles and weeds and half-bricks and lumps of stone.
 - A. a type of plant that often has fine irritating hairs
 - B. acts of taking something on as one's own
 - C. logical conclusions reached by reasoning
- 2 They're common, but **nevertheless** very beautiful.
 - 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)
- 3 We should never have come to this stinking **derelict** place.
 - A. job, reservation, booking, or activity
 - B. in terrible condition
 - C. thing that affects a result or outcome
- 4 We **ascended** three stairways, passed three landings.
 - A. climbed
 - B. not roughly calculated
 - C. consistent or the same
- 5 Light came in through an arched window that **jutted** out through the roof.
 - A. dangerous
 - B. bent down
 - C. stuck out
- 6 We believe that schools **inhibit** the natural curiosity, creativity, and intelligence of children.
 - A. keep from developing
 - B. take on or adopt
 - C. make more varied
- 7 The little ones spend the day
In sighing and **dismay**.
 - A. make someone want to do something
 - B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
 - C. to feel sadness, disappointment, or worry
- 8 Over millions of years, the bird has developed an anatomy that **enables** it to fly.
 - A. stops fighting
 - B. makes possible
 - C. leaps or jumps
- 9 I heard Mina **stifle** a cry.
 - A. aka analyze -- analyze based upon a theory of psychiatry
 - B. suppress (prevent from continuing to happen)
 - C. search for and discover through persistent investigation
- 10 "It is linked to another process," she said, "by which the mind too, becomes **inflexible**."
 - A. not able to be translated
 - B. not flexible (not adaptable)
 - C. not tending to find fault
- 11 She grinned and **beckoned** me over the wall when she saw me standing there.
 - A. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - B. called (to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod)
 - C. provided evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
- 12 "Gotcha," he said, and his hand **recoiled** like he'd fired.
 - A. excessively excited
 - B. moved back suddenly
 - C. nervous or confused

- 13 *She leaned over and drew a skinny black tongue protruding from Coot's mouth.*
A. hiring again
B. getting near
C. sticking out
- 14 *They'll dream about vicious children plundering the nest.*
A. fighting
B. stealing from
C. changing
- 15 *I wanted to be all alone in an attic like Skellig, with just the owls and the moonlight and an oblivious heart.*
A. unaware
B. related to
C. very large
- 16 *And then we fought, my dad and I, while we crunched burnt toast and swigged tepid tea.*
A. trustworthy with secrets or subtle (not attracting attention)
B. only slightly warm; or lacking heat, enthusiasm, or intensity
C. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
- 17 *And to be quite honest, Mrs. Dando, the last thing Michael needs is to be troubled by petty things like football and school.*
A. less important
B. not representative
C. able to get nearer
- 18 *Transparent, ghostly, hardly visible, but there they were.*
A. relating to properties of sound or hearing
B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
C. easily seen through
- 19 *It was long after dusk when Mina and I went out with the remnants of 27 and 53 and a bottle of brown ale in a paper bag.*
A. most important; or people that are most important
B. small amounts that remains after the rest is gone
C. people who do not believe in the existence of god
- 20 *Looks like you've had a vagrant spending a night or two in there.*
A. deserving no respect (worthless or of bad quality)
B. someone who is poor and has no regular home or job
C. the quality or degree of not being straightforward

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	nettle (<i>as in: beware of nettles near the river</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
2	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
3	B	derelict (<i>as in: derelict ship</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
4	A	ascend (<i>as in: ascend the mountain</i>)	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	C	jut	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	inhibit (<i>as in: inhibited the growth of...</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	C	dismay	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	B	enable	High-utility academic word
9	B	stifle (<i>as in: stifling the urge</i>)	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	inflexible	Used 2 times in this book.
11	B	beckon	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	recoil	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	C	protrude	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	plunder	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	oblivious	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	tepid	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
17	A	petty (<i>as in: a petty crime</i>)	High-utility academic word
18	C	transparent (<i>as in: transparent shower door</i>)	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	remnant	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	B	vagrant	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library