

Slam!

by Walter Dean Myers

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: adulterate, asthma, beckon, cholesterol, immune, influenza, Lebanon, liable, Malcolm X, Michael Jordan, naive, nonchalant, point guard, poise, prejudice, providence, republic, sedative, technique, waver



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	B
4	B
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	C
10	B
11	C
12	B
13	C
14	C
15	C
16	B
17	B
18	A
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. This honey is **adulterated**.
 - A. not pure
 - B. inexpensive
 - C. organic
2. They removed the rug from my bedroom because of my **asthma**.
 - A. breathing trouble
 - B. sore throat
 - C. headaches
3. The police officer **beckoned** me to come over.
 - A. considered asking
 - B. called
 - C. prohibited
4. After three months, the diet decreased my blood pressure and my **cholesterol**.
 - A. blood chemical associated with allergies
 - B. blood chemical associated with heart disease
 - C. blood chemical associated with cancer
5. She is **immune** to chickenpox because she has been vaccinated.
 - A. at risk
 - B. resistant
 - C. open
6. Three **influenza** pandemics occurred in the 20th century killing tens of millions of people.
 - A. flu
 - B. measles
 - C. polio
7. **Lebanon's** location on the Mediterranean has long made it a crossroads of cultures.
 - A. large South American country
 - B. small Middle Eastern country
 - C. northern European kingdom
8. She's not **liable** to forget something that important.
 - A. the state or degree of being less than zero
 - B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
 - C. likely
9. **Malcolm X** criticized Martin Luther King Jr. and the mainstream civil rights movement for its emphasis on nonviolence and racial integration.
 - A. famous newspaper reporter
 - B. popular politician and orator
 - C. militant civil rights leader
10. **Michael Jordan** led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships.
 - A. U.S. football quarterback
 - B. U.S. basketball legend
 - C. U.S. boxing champion
11. Being **naive**, she is too quick to believe what people say.
 - A. honest
 - B. a pleaser
 - C. too trusting

12. How could she be so **nonchalant** about making him suffer?
- A. dishonest
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
13. The **point guard** dribbled up the court and called the next play.
- A. defensive specialist
 - B. team's head coach
 - C. primary ballhandler
14. The once self-conscious girl is now a woman with considerable **poise**.
- A. style
 - B. education
 - C. composure
15. Seeing the defendant wear prison clothes may **prejudice** the jury against the defendant.
- A. create a sympathetic belief in
 - B. create a serious attitude in
 - C. create an unfair belief in
16. By some stroke of **providence**, the rain stopped just as the wedding began.
- A. careful human planning
 - B. fortunate divine timing
 - C. stubborn bad luck
17. A **republic** is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
 - B. representative government
 - C. oligarchy
18. I took a **sedative**, but still couldn't sleep.
- A. sleep aid
 - B. break
 - C. quiet room
19. One **technique** I use for dealing with anger is to wait ten seconds before responding.
- A. way of doing something
 - B. habit
 - C. solution to anger
20. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady

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 You **liable** to wake up in the morning and have an arm fall off, or maybe one leg don't want to walk right.
 - A. devices that convert light into electricity
 - B. temperature scale used in most of the world
 - C. likely to; or maybe going to; or subject to
- 2 I'm not **prejudiced** or anything like that.
 - A. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
 - B. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drank, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
 - C. bias that prevents objective consideration -- especially an unreasonable belief that is unfair to members of a race, religion, or other group
- 3 You going to be a **Republican** or a Democrat?
 - A. relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
 - B. of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
 - C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
- 4 "No, because the owner got **asthma**," the waitress said.
 - A. a common lung disorder characterized by wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and sometimes coughing
 - B. windpipe (the air tube that conveys inhaled air to the lungs from just under the larynx or voice box)
 - C. the green substance in plants that absorbs light energy and converts it to chemical energy through photosynthesis
- 5 So we gave her a **sedative**.
 - A. a drug that calms or puts to sleep; or describing something as calming
 - B. the reason for doing something; or the level of desire to do something
 - C. a serious mental disorder in which people interpret reality abnormally
- 6 There was an explosion in the barracks, **Lebanon** or some place like that, and he was blinded.
 - A. attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder -- a medical condition characterized by trouble paying attention, controlling impulsive behaviors, and/or being hyperactive
 - B. Middle Eastern country known for its beauty, religious diversity, turbulent history, and ancient Phoenician roots -- and borders Syria, Israel, and the Mediterranean
 - C. Dow Jones Industrial Average -- most commonly followed index of the U.S. stock market comprised of 30 stocks that are thought to be a barometer of U.S. stocks in general
- 7 Their **point guard** was quick but he was skinny.
 - A. 1950s literary and cultural movement that rejected conformity
 - B. soccer: a game that is not a part of an official competition
 - C. basketball: primary ballhandler who also sets up the offense
- 8 The ref gave him the ball and he looked like he was **nonchalanting** the shot.
 - A. to express strong hatred or loathing for
 - B. treating something with unconcerned calm
 - C. devices that turn light into electricity
- 9 "You're going to make my **cholesterol** go up," Derek said.
 - A. having the characteristics of a "sycophant" (someone who tries to flatter or please those in authority to gain personal advantage)
 - B. a substance found in animal fat that when eaten or produced in large quantities increases the probability of getting heart disease
 - C. removes something that was caught by something else; or separates or smooths things that were twisted together in a confusing mass

- 10 *You need to have your emotional **immune** system checked out.*
A. the state or character of having found a condition or substance to be present
B. not in danger of suffering from something OR relating to disease resistance
C. a health indicator measured by the force of circulating blood on the arteries
- 11 *I wasn't just sweating the chick I was dripping pure **unadulterated** love.*
A. pure or complete
B. strongly desired
C. not concentrated
- 12 *Up in **Providence**.*
A. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
B. resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 13 *Brothers **beckoned** me to him.*
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
- 14 *He would be coming down the right side and move a half-step faster or a half-step slower and you would think, or drop a hand, or move a knee, and then Ice would be in the air, the ball **poised** on his fingertips, the wrist bent back, and whatever you did would be too late.*
A. removed or suppressed something considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable
B. without a personal preference; or without any tendency to move in a particular direction
C. calm, confident, and in control—especially in movement, behavior, or when ready to act
- 15 *How come a kid as streetwise as you seem to be is so **naïve** when it comes to real life?*
A. the quality of being characterized by fantastic imagery, or combinations of things and events that don't go together
B. the degree of being influenced by personal belief, feelings, or preferences (rather than being based purely upon fact)
C. lacking experience or sophistication, and the understanding that comes from them -- often too trusting or optimistic
- 16 *When I come back to life I'm coming back as **Michael Jordan** and then I'll try a different theory.*
A. French impressionist painter identified with painting dancers (1834–1917)
B. retired U.S. basketball generally cited as the best of all time (b. 1963)
C. Italian, Roman Catholic monk who founded the Franciscan order (1181–1226)
- 17 *"Nice **technique**," he said.*
A. way of doing something
B. not easily set on fire
C. surrounding conditions
- 18 *"I'm a little light-headed but I think it's a touch of **the flu**," she said.*
A. influenza -- a highly contagious respiratory disease
B. overuse of a shared good by people not paying for it
C. existing in fact even though not officially declared
- 19 *She **wavered** on the edge of the roof and I thought she might fall, or even jump.*
A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
B. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
C. was unsure or weak; or moved back and forth
- 20 *I remembered something I had heard about **Malcolm X**. He had said that when he was preaching on the corners in Harlem he was fishing for the dead.*
A. American short story writer (1783–1859)
B. U.S. abstract expressionist (1912–1956)
C. militant civil rights leader (1925–1965)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	liable (<i>as in: she is liable to</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	C	prejudice	Used 2 times in this book.
3	B	republic (<i>as in: the country is a republic</i>)	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	A	asthma	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	sedative	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	B	Lebanon	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
7	C	point guard	
8	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word
9	B	cholesterol	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	B	immune	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	A	adulterate	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
12	B	providence (<i>as in: divine providence</i>)	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	B	beckon	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	C	poise	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	C	naive	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	Michael Jordan	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
17	A	technique	High-utility academic word
18	A	influenza	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	C	waver	High-utility academic word
20	C	Malcolm X	Used 2 times in this book.