

Snow Crash

by Neal Stephenson

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: analogy, avatar, convey, enable, entity, hygiene, i.e., irrational, linguistic, materialistic, metaphor, monopoly, phenomenon, protagonist, recoil, rife, serpent, viral, virus (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	B
11	C
12	C
13	A
14	C
15	C
16	A
17	A
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. An **analogy** can make a complex problem seem simpler by comparing it to a similar situation.
 - A. comparison of similar things
 - B. summary of key arguments
 - C. list of opposite traits
2. Doctors quickly identified the **virus** that was making patients ill.
 - A. tiny infectious agent
 - B. harmless dust speck
 - C. healing bacteria
3. He installed **antivirus** software to protect his laptop from any virus.
 - A. rare upgrade
 - B. harmful program
 - C. broken cable
4. The funny dog video went **viral** within hours of being posted online.
 - A. widely banned
 - B. barely noticed
 - C. rapidly spreading
5. I spent hours customizing my **avatar** in the new virtual reality game, choosing the perfect outfit and hairstyle to represent my online persona.
 - A. game controller
 - B. digital representation
 - C. physical costume
6. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
 - A. express
 - B. accept
 - C. understand
7. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
8. The corporation is treated as a separate legal **entity** from its owners.
 - A. type of legal document
 - B. form of financial debt
 - C. distinct thing or being
9. The company inspects **hygiene** at food-processing plants.
 - A. practices promoting sanitary conditions
 - B. the act of keeping people or things separate -- especially people due to discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, or religion
 - C. microorganisms (living creatures so small it takes a microscope to see them) that can both cause disease and be beneficial.
10. She is **bullish** (i.e., optimistic) about the stock market.
 - A. instead of
 - B. that is to say
 - C. for example
11. I have an **irrational** fear of heights.
 - A. reasonable
 - B. varying
 - C. unreasonable

12. Indonesia has hundreds of ethnic and linguistic groups.
- A. racial
 - B. religious
 - C. language
13. 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
14. Jefferson used a *wall* as a **metaphor** to describe the separation of church and state.
- A. clever strategy
 - B. exaggeration
 - C. figure of speech
15. Critics warned that the tech giant's **monopoly** over online search could limit innovation and competition.
- A. minor stake
 - B. shared market
 - C. complete control
16. The **phenomenon** was first noticed by Marie Curie.
- A. thing of interest
 - B. thing that is growing
 - C. thing that is hidden
17. We are all **protagonists** of our own story.
- A. the main characters
 - B. the strongest adversaries
 - C. the most concerned
18. She reached out to take his hand. He **recoiled** from her touch.
- A. suddenly was angry
 - B. suddenly pulled back
 - C. suddenly was comforted
19. The area is **rife** with mosquitoes.
- A. completely lacking
 - B. moderately filled
 - C. excessively filled
20. What does the **serpent** represent in the Garden of Eden?
- A. fig leaf
 - B. snake
 - C. apple

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 **recoil** was immense, as though the weapon had blown up in his hand.
 - A. being a boundary or limit
 - B. to move backward suddenly
 - C. find, search, or research
- 2 It says Hiro **Protagonist** Last of the Freelance Hackers Greatest swordfighter in the world Stringer, Central Intelligence Corporation.
 - A. the main character in a work of fiction

or more rarely:

an important supporter or main figure of someone or something

 - B. a member of the 1960's counterculture associated with long hair, illegal drugs, casual sex, and opposition to violence.
 - C. someone or something that changes to fit a different situation, or that changes something to fit a different situation
- 3 Your **avatar** can look any way you want it to, up to the limitations of your equipment.
 - A. physical manifestation of a computer user
 - B. digital representation of a computer-user
 - C. earthly manifestation of a Hindu god
- 4 The Ports serve a function **analogous** to airports: This is where you drop into the Metaverse from somewhere else.
 - A. similar in some respect
 - B. unable to get closer to
 - C. not sensible or careful
- 5 I don't know how my face **conveyed** that information, or what kind of internal wiring in my grandmother's mind enabled her to accomplish this incredible feat.
 - A. communicated or expressed
 - B. was abundant or plentiful
 - C. thought -- possibly aloud
- 6 I don't know how my face conveyed that information, or what kind of internal wiring in my grandmother's mind **enabled** her to accomplish this incredible feat.
 - A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 7 Said it was **irrational** mysticism.
 - A. not pleasing
 - B. sticking out
 - C. unreasonable
- 8 The only one he recognizes immediately is an American: L. Bob Rife, the cabletelevision monopolist.
 - A. the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. power or responsibility that can be taken on or adopted
 - C. excessively abundant -- especially something unpleasant
- 9 The only one he recognizes immediately is an American: L. Bob Rife, the cabletelevision **monopolist**.
 - A. a collection of things on public display OR a detailed explanation or background of a specific topic
 - B. the process of assigning a value on or judging the worth of something; or the result of such a process
 - C. complete control over a product, service, or resource -- usually by a single person, company, or group
- 10 Half a dozen of them are kneeling on the pavement with their hands clenched tightly together, mumbling to unseen **entities**.
 - A. places where conditions are kept as they were to protect wildlife
 - B. constrains in some way -- such as ties up, requires, or obligates
 - C. people, organizations, lifeforms, or things that exist separately

- 11 *The Sadducees were materialists.*
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
- 12 *Kind of in the same way that a virus moves from one computer to another, damaging each computer in the same way.*
A. starting or spreading (a fire); or twigs, sticks, or other easily combustible material used to start a fire
B. a type of software that spreads without invitation between computers and causes damage to data and software
C. aka knuckleball -- baseball: a pitch thrown with little spin (so that it moves in an unpredictable manner)
- 13 *I wonder if viruses have always been with us, or not. There's sort of an implicit assumption that they have been around forever.*
A. tiny germs that cause disease by taking over cells
B. inexperience, innocence, or lack of sophistication
C. light seen after bouncing off a surface to another
- 14 *Does every viral idea have a biological virus counterpart?*
A. a neurotransmitter that plays a key role in mood and many other brain functions
B. name between 1914 & 1924 for Saint Petersburg -- the 2nd largest city in Russia
C. spreading rapidly and widely from person to person -- especially through the internet or social media
- 15 *Associated with serpents.*
A. copies
B. snakes
C. enters
- 16 *Y.T. does a double take at this new phenomenon: Ng using the street name for a controlled substance.*
A. something that exists or happened -- often of special interest
B. something that was once small, but is getting very large
C. something important that is hard to see or sense
- 17 *That story has to be a metaphor for something else.*
A. a melody that, after a short interval, is exactly repeated by a different instrument or voice to create competing melodic lines (a strict counterpoint)
B. law: an alternative to pleading guilty or not guilty, which says that even if the facts listed in charges are correct, they do not constitute a crime
C. a figure of speech in which a similarity between two things is highlighted by using a word to refer to something that it does not *literally* mean
- 18 *Then Enki must have had some kind of linguistic power that goes beyond our concept of normal.*
A. not done on purpose
B. not straightforward
C. related to language
- 19 *...provision must be made within the confines of the individual office for temporary stationing of bathroom tissue distribution units (i.e., rolls).*
A. an expression used to intensify denial of an idea
B. in other words
C. for example
- 20 *It's easy, it's hygienic, and it's legal.*
A. practices promoting the prevention of illness and maintenance of health -- such as cleanliness or promoting sanitary conditions
B. an inhabitant of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq; or their language
C. artist who belonged to an early 20th century art movement that expressed inner feelings through distorted renditions of reality

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	recoil	Used 8 times in this book.
2	A	protagonist	Used 24 times in this book.
3	B	avatar (<i>as in: her avatar in cyberspace</i>)	Used 112 times in this book.
4	A	analogy	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
5	A	convey (<i>as in: convey her thoughts</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
6	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
7	C	irrational	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
8	C	rife	Used 163 times in this book.
9	C	monopoly	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
10	C	entity	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
11	A	materialistic	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	B	virus (<i>as in: computer virus</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
13	A	virus (<i>as in: Covid 19 virus</i>)	Used 84 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
14	C	viral (<i>as in: it went viral</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
15	B	serpent	Used 8 times in this book.
16	A	phenomenon	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
17	C	metaphor	Used 9 times in this book.
18	C	linguistic	Used 6 times in this book.
19	B	i.e.	Used 8 times in this book.
20	A	hygiene	Used 8 times in this book.