

Snow Falling on Cedars

by David Guterson

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: cordial, cull, deceive, defendant, discord (2), equivocal, indulge, infer, perspective, petty, plausible, precede, prejudice, recollect, relevant, testify, testimony, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
 - A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a friendly manner
 - C. in a clumsy manner
2. She has to **cull** the sick members of the herd.
 - A. medicate quickly
 - B. select to remove
 - C. count accurately
3. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
4. The jury did not know the **defendant** had a long criminal history.
 - A. person who is on trial
 - B. person who is a witness
 - C. person filing a complaint
5. There is too much **discord** in their home.
 - A. conflict
 - B. loud noise
 - C. uncritical agreement
6. She heard the **discordant** clanging of pots in the kitchen.
 - A. unpleasant sound
 - B. attractive sound
 - C. loud sound
7. The politician's **equivocal** statement could be taken two completely different ways.
 - A. unclear in meaning
 - B. openly honest
 - C. firmly decided
8. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
9. The meaning of the word can be **inferred** based on context clues.
 - A. different
 - B. figured out
 - C. converted
10. Also, try to see it from her **perspective** before you make up your mind.
 - A. timeframe
 - B. education level
 - C. way of looking at things
11. She is the chief **petty officer** responsible for the review.
 - A. non-commissioned officer
 - B. an officer who complains about unworthy things
 - C. a police officer who focuses on misdemeanors
12. Her theory was neat, **plausible**, and wrong.
 - A. reasonable
 - B. praiseworthy
 - C. foolish

13. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
14. 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
15. I don't recollect her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
16. It is easier to learn things that seem relevant to your life.
- A. understandable
 - B. repeated
 - C. important
17. She testified that he struck her.
- A. said
 - B. hid
 - C. lied
18. Before your testimony, they will have you solemnly swear to tell *the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*.
- A. job interview
 - B. statements at a trial
 - C. confession
19. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 Snow fell that morning outside the courthouse windows, four tall, narrow arches of leaded glass that **yielded** a great quantity of weak December light.
 - A. gave or produced
 - B. was attractive or desirable
 - C. not wanting to do something
- 2 Your task as you deliberate together on these proceedings is to ensure that you do nothing to **yield** to a universe in which things go awry by happenstance.
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. give in, give way, or give up
 - C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 3 The **preceding** night a fog as palpable as cotton had hung suspended over Island County.
 - A. beginning to fight again
 - B. influencing or effecting
 - C. prior (in time or space)
- 4 **discordant** with the sinewy length of his jawline
 - A. seeming different or wrong together
 - B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 - C. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
- 5 the two of them sounded at the same moment, a clash of sound, **discordant**.
 - A. unpleasant sounding together
 - B. able to be found
 - C. likely to change
- 6 When you were **testifying**.
 - A. providing evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - B. calling -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
 - C. convincing (someone) that an idea previously believed is not correct
- 7 I have to ask about something else that confused me during your **testimony**.
 - A. an atom that has acquired an electrical charge by the loss or gain of an electron
 - B. something that serves as evidence -- especially a statement at a trial or hearing
 - C. an organ attached to the wall of the uterus to nourish the fetus during pregnancy
- 8 "It's my job to **infer**," insisted Horace Whaley.
 - A. take up or receive into heaven
 - B. conclude or guess by reasoning
 - C. hire, reserve, book, or occupy
- 9 But the cause of death--**unequivocally**--was drowning.
 - A. clearly and unmistakably
 - B. meticulously (with great care for small details)
 - C. in a manner that accepts as true (without proof)
- 10 Then he went and put five acres into raspberries and dumped money into that experiment--wire and cedar posts, labor to build trellises--it set them back until he figured how to **cull** the canes and train them to produce.
 - A. mirror back (an image)
 - B. select from among many
 - C. create dramatic change
- 11 the **defendant's** motive for committing murder
 - A. the person accused of a crime in court
 - B. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way

- 12 *She confessed to experiencing a moral anguish over meeting him so secretly and **deceiving** her mother and father.*
- A. influencing opinion
 - B. continuing to exist
 - C. lying or misleading
- 13 *Let us remember what is so easy to forget in the mad intensity of wartime: that **prejudice** and hatred are never right and never to be accepted by a just society.*
- A. fear, or anticipate with worry (commonly only seen in the forms "apprehensive" and "apprehension," but seen in this form in classic literature)
 - B. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - C. bias that prevents objective consideration -- especially an unreasonable belief that is unfair to members of a race, religion, or other group
- 14 *She wanted to believe this, and so she **indulged** herself and tried to be swept up in it.*
- A. enjoyed to excess
 - B. guided or managed
 - C. thought carefully
- 15 *He could not **recollect** his reason for being there—why he had enlisted to fight in the marines, what the point of it was.*
- A. disagree
 - B. subtract
 - C. remember
- 16 *It could be that their **cordiality** and handshaking had been nothing but stiff formality, that underneath they hated each other.*
- A. psychiatrist
 - B. friendliness
 - C. satisfaction
- 17 *Ishmael Chambers, in the last light of day, found himself seated in the office of the lighthouse chief **petty officer**, a large man named Evan Powell.*
- A. non-commissioned officer
 - B. lowering moral standards
 - C. changing or not reliable
- 18 *I want to ask you — I'm asking you again — from the perspective of a man who has been fishing for thirty years, from the **perspective** of the gill-netters association president — a man who presumably hears about almost everything that happens out there on the sea at night — would you, sir, consider this a good plan?*
- A. collection of star systems held together by gravity
 - B. resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
 - C. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
- 19 *Is that part **plausible**—so far?*
- A. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - B. in a manner that takes on or adopts
 - C. full of strong desire for something
- 20 *If you determine that he is guilty of something else—of hatred, of assault, of manslaughter, of murder in self-defense, of coldness, of passion, of second-degree murder—none of that will be **relevant**.*
- A. having the ability to change for different situations
 - B. not concerned with what others might think of oneself
 - C. relating in a meaningful way to the issue in question

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
4	A	discord (<i>as in: discord amongst the group</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	A	discord (<i>as in: discordant music</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	testify	Used 21 times in this book.
7	B	testimony	Used 19 times in this book.
8	B	infer	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
9	A	equivocal	Used 5 times in this book.
10	B	cull	Used 5 times in this book.
11	A	defendant	Used 102 times in this book.
12	C	deceive	Used 8 times in this book.
13	C	prejudice	Used 8 times in this book.
14	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
15	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
16	B	cordial (<i>as in: a cordial reception</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
17	A	petty (<i>as in: petty officer</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
18	C	perspective (<i>as in: Look at it from her perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
19	A	plausible	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
20	C	relevant	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.