

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

by Lisa See

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 from 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: agony, benefactor, chaste, confide, context, cultivate, demure, dialect, diligent, dowry, gaudy, imply, lament, lattice, nevertheless, prosperous, torment, waver, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	C
9	B
10	A
11	A
12	C
13	C
14	B
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	C
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. She cried out in **agony**.
 - A. sudden surprise
 - B. intense anger
 - C. intense suffering
2. Oprah Winfrey is often praised for overcoming diversity to become a **benefactor** to others.
 - A. helper or supporter
 - B. inspiration or example
 - C. taxpayer
3. Jacob remained **chaste** until he met his future spouse.
 - A. a virgin
 - B. disillusioned
 - C. unfaithful to anyone
4. She **confided** in her parents.
 - A. trusted
 - B. didn't trust
 - C. was proud
5. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
6. She gave a **demure** nod and let her friend do most of the talking.
 - A. sharp and dismissive
 - B. modest and quiet
 - C. confused and nervous
7. India has twenty-two officially recognized languages and thousands of **dialects**.
 - A. different ethnic groups
 - B. words shared by different languages
 - C. regional varieties of languages
8. A **diligent** detective investigates all clues.
 - A. lazy and careless
 - B. rude and dishonest
 - C. careful and hardworking
9. **Dowries** are common in that culture.
 - A. extended-families living together
 - B. payment to a husband upon marriage
 - C. large families
10. The actor wore a **gaudy** jacket covered with bright sequins and gold trim.
 - A. tastelessly showy
 - B. plain and modest
 - C. old and worn
11. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
12. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about

13. Vines climbed the wooden lattice beside the garden gate.
- A. smooth stone wall
 - B. deep water ditch
 - C. crisscross frame
14. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
15. She quoted him out of context.
- A. in a misleading manner
 - B. in a convincing manner
 - C. in a respectful manner
16. That part of the city is especially prosperous.
- A. financially successful
 - B. dangerous
 - C. crowded and noisy
17. Bullies made his school days a constant torment he could not escape.
- A. severe suffering
 - B. great enjoyment
 - C. simple confusion
18. We will never waver in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady
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 They **cultivated** that land with rice, cotton, taro, and kitchen crops.
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
- 2 Today I would say it was **gaudy** and unbefitting a widow, but then a matchmaker is not like a regular woman.
A. tastelessly showy
B. not demonstrating
C. able to challenge
- 3 She does business with men, establishing bride prices, haggling over **dowries**, and serving as a go-between.
A. people bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slaves or serfs
B. money or property given by a woman's family to the husband at marriage
C. subtle, but fatal weaknesses where otherwise there is obvious strength
- 4 I foolishly believed that if I was **diligent**, I would inspire Beautiful Moon to be diligent too.
A. impossible to find
B. good or beneficial
C. hard work and care
- 5 "pair," or "pear," **context** usually makes the meaning clear.
A. the setting or situation in which something occurs
B. the act of interacting or getting interested again
C. an image (seen on a mirror or other shiny surface)
- 6 I looked over at Beautiful Moon, and her face was as white as her name **implied**.
A. suggested (said indirectly)
B. not wanting to do something
C. was attractive or desirable
- 7 Grandmother and Elder Sister moved to the **lattice** window and looked out.
A. design based on alphabetic letters; or adding such a design to something
B. characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open
C. regular crisscross grid that repeats in a pattern of squares or diamonds
- 8 We three girls were nearly paralyzed from our physical **torment**, yet our trial had barely begun.
A. to cause or to experience great mental or physical suffering
B. provide investment funds for something -- such as a business
C. point to differences between; or compare to show differences
- 9 Even with empty stomachs, we vomited out our **agony**.
A. size or dimension
B. circular movement
C. intense suffering
- 10 "I can do these things for your little girl," he **confided** to Baba, "but they will be money spent on a no-use cause."
A. placed trust (in someone) by talking about private things
B. viewed in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
C. made a decision or voiced an opinion by formal group vote
- 11 Nevertheless, Father must agree too, before we can go any further.
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)
- 12 She spoke a slightly different **dialect** than I was familiar with in Puwei, but this was not the only reason for my incomprehension.
A. a type of small portable radio
B. a change; or a changed version
C. regional variety of a language

- 13 *Maybe I could make our love grow like a farmer made his crop to grow—through hard work, **unwavering** will, and the blessings of nature.*
- A. sloped
 - B. hidden
 - C. steady
- 14 *To us, this seemed **prosperous**, but it was still far, far less than what my future father-in-law controlled on his brother's behalf.*
- A. successful or good -- especially with regard to finances or wealth
 - B. not having the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - C. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
- 15 *More hours passed with meals and **laments**.*
- A. changes through evolution
 - B. gradually adds or removes
 - C. expresses grief or regret
- 16 *You comb your hair in a **demure** manner.*
- A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - B. modest, quiet, and shy; or pretending such in a playful way
 - C. the quality of believing oneself morally superior to others
- 17 *We must stay in our upstairs rooms, be **chaste**, be modest, and perfect the womanly arts.*
- A. not having sexual intercourse (ever, outside of marriage, or for a long time); or not involving sexual desire
 - B. a citizen of Rome between the founding of the city (753 BC) and the fall of the Western Roman Empire (476 AD)
 - C. able to be portrayed or created in a particular way OR able to be interpreted, translated, or extracted from
- 18 *Haven't they heard an exhausted well **yields** no water?*
- A. produces or gives
 - B. complains or verbally attacks in a loud, excited way
 - C. formally gives up power, as of monarchs and emperors
- 19 *Even when the farmers in our group sat around him, shielding him from our view and comforting him in low whispers, he did not **yield**.*
- A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. give in, give way, or give up
 - C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 20 *Out on the road, he had no friends, no **benefactors**, and only the clothes on his back.*
- A. people who help a person or organization
 - B. acts of taking something on as one's own
 - C. logical conclusions reached by reasoning

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	A	gaudy	Used 4 times in this book.
3	B	dowry	Used 32 times in this book.
4	C	diligent (<i>as in: she is diligent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
5	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
6	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	C	lattice	Used 36 times in this book.
8	A	torment	Used 9 times in this book.
9	C	agony	Used 6 times in this book.
10	A	confide	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
11	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
12	C	dialect	Used 8 times in this book.
13	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
14	A	prosperous	Used 6 times in this book.
15	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
16	B	demure	Used 4 times in this book.
17	A	chaste (<i>as in: remained chaste</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
18	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	benefactor	Used 4 times in this book.