

Something Wicked This Way Comes

by Ray Bradbury

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

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

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: carnivorous, clamor, gesticulate, grotesque, guillotine, illustrate, menagerie, poise, probe, rancor, revelation, savor, serene, stallion, teem, tremulous, tumult, twilight, whet, writhe



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	C
15	C
16	C
17	C
18	C
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. Most bear species are omnivorous, but individuals' diets can range from almost exclusively herbivorous to almost exclusively **carnivorous** depending on what food sources are available locally and seasonally.
 - A. meat-eating
 - B. plant-eating
 - C. both meat-eating and plant-eating
2. Noisy **clamor** gave way to reasoned dialogue.
 - A. demands
 - B. insults
 - C. whining
3. I couldn't hear what they were saying or see their faces, but by their **gesticulations**, I'm sure they were angry at each other.
 - A. gestures
 - B. facial expressions
 - C. tones of voice
4. The disease causes **grotesque** deformity.
 - A. hidden (internal)
 - B. as from aging
 - C. ugly or distorted
5. The **guillotine** is often associated with the Reign of Terror, a period of extreme violence and political turmoil during the French Revolution.
 - A. a device used to torture people
 - B. a device used to behead people
 - C. a device used to imprison people
6. The assembly directions include **illustrations** to identify each part.
 - A. drawings
 - B. coded stickers
 - C. descriptions
7. The eccentric millionaire kept a sprawling **menagerie** at his country estate.
 - A. collection of animals
 - B. row of empty cages
 - C. patch of garden plants
8. The once self-conscious girl is now a woman with considerable **poise**.
 - A. style
 - B. education
 - C. composure
9. The committee will **probe** the cause of the failure.
 - A. investigate
 - B. make better
 - C. make worse
10. Even after years apart, the **rancor** between the brothers had not faded at all.
 - A. warm affection
 - B. mild curiosity
 - C. deep bitterness
11. I was leaning toward voting for her, but her stance on education policy was a **revelation** to me.
 - A. something surprising and previously unknown
 - B. something that made a decision easy
 - C. something that reversed a previous decision

12. She **savored** every minute of the trip.
A. hated
B. relished
C. hurried
13. She remained **serene** even when he was yelling at her.
A. unmoved
B. calm
C. aggressive
14. The powerful **stallion** galloped across the open field.
A. wild deer
B. young calf
C. male horse
15. The plaza is **teeming** with undercover policemen.
A. empty (has none)
B. slowly losing
C. filled (has many)
16. She tried to sound confident, but her voice was **tremulous**.
A. grating (rough)
B. frail (weak or soft)
C. quivering (shaky)
17. I was lucky to survive the **tumultuous** years of my youth.
A. strict
B. innocent
C. turbulent
18. I awakened to a **twilight** sky but did not know if the sun was setting or rising.
A. the light from the sky just before sunrise
B. the light from the sky just after sunset
C. the light from the sky between daylight and darkness
19. The first chapter **whets** the reader's curiosity about the mystery.
A. stimulates
B. diminishes
C. confuses
20. She **writhed** on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
A. cried and whimpered
B. yelled loudly
C. twisted and turned

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 *...and the sky's orange and ash grey at **twilight**,*
 - A. the time of day when the sun is highest
 - B. just after sunrise
 - C. the time of day between daylight and darkness
- 2 **THE DEMON GUILLOTINE!**
 - A. a method of artistic painting on a wall by using watercolors on wet plaster; or the painting made in such a manner
 - B. a device used to behead people (most associated with the French Revolution); or executing someone in such a manner
 - C. accept someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
- 3 A **menagerie!**
 - A. a collection of wild or unusual animals kept for exhibition; or more generally, a diverse or strange mixture of people or things
 - B. someone who emphasizes a person's capacity for self-realization through reason rather than through religion and the supernatural
 - C. an inhabitant of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq; or their language
- 4 *He swung astride a plum-dusk **stallion**.*
 - A. a large, elongated gland located behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin
 - B. of the philosophical & religious system based on the teachings of Laozi (also spelled Taoist)
 - C. a male horse that has not been castrated (gelded) -- especially one used for breeding purposes
- 5 *Will fell after and they both stood, **clamorous** with alarms, shaken by concussions of silent pantomime, blasted by events all the more numbing because they ran off into the night unknown.*
 - A. loud noise and/or persistent demands -- especially from human voice
 - B. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - C. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
- 6 *When their faces turned, Mr Cooger inside the nephew went silently blinkclick, blink-click, listening through the toy ears, watching through the toy-charm eyes, **whetting** the doll's mouth with a Pekingese tongue.*
 - A. to increase a sense or desire
 - or: to sharpen a knife or other cutting edge
 - B. sticking out, attracting more attention than desired, or imposing on others
 - C. changing to multiple areas of control or concentration (rather than just 1)
- 7 *There, on the biggest stage, a tattoo needle **poised** like a blowgun dart in his rose-crusted hand, stood Mr Dark, the Illustrated Man.*
 - 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. relaxed and ready for action
- 8 *It was the possible bitterness of **revelation**.*
 - A. something previously unknown; or making such a thing known
 - B. a large, elongated gland located behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin
 - C. of the philosophical & religious system based on the teachings of Laozi (also spelled Taoist)
- 9 *Dad **probed** one with his fingers.*
 - A. investigated
 - B. concentrated
 - C. bounced back
- 10 *Now, **tremulously**, experimentally, daring to test, the Witch inhaled.*
 - A. not capable of being found
 - B. in a bad or harmful manner
 - C. with quivering (shakiness)

- 11 *...a juggernaut of thunder wheeled over the stony heavens in a spark-throwing tumult.*
A. deep emotional impact
B. support or favor given
C. a situation of noisy confusion & disorder
- 12 *The plump fingers of the child gesticulated through the grille.*
A. moved to express something
B. not interacting or having interest; or stopped interacting or having interest
C. thought, communicated, or kept attention on something for a prolonged period
- 13 *Will's father noted the muscles cord along the arms, roping and unroping themselves with a writhe like the puff adders and sidewinders doubtless inked and venomous there.*
A. examine in detail to better understand
B. appropriate in size, amount, or degree
C. twisting or contorted motion
- 14 *As the thunder lizard strode, all glass-bead pomp, so strode Mr. Dark, armored with vile lightning scribbles of carnivores and sheep blasted by that thunder and arun before storms of juggernaut flesh.*
A. animals that eat only meat
B. opposed to "globalization"
C. requires (to do something)
- 15 *The Witch, mouth wide, savoring doom,*
A. changing through evolution
B. taking great pleasure from
C. stopping a battle or fight
- 16 *Serene, his father said, "Now." And fired the rifle.*
A. not straightforward
B. calm and untroubled
C. not done on purpose
- 17 *And between the tents, ahead, in transit, they saw a grotesque parade.*
A. clarifies (makes clear)
B. beautifies
C. distorted and unnatural
- 18 *The dust was antique spice, burnt maple leaves, a prickling blue that teemed and sifted to earth.*
A. was empty (had none)
B. was slowly losing
C. was filled (had many)
- 19 *There lay dragons slaughtered, towers ruined, monsters from dim ages toppled into rusted coinages pterodactyls smashed like biplanes from old and always meaningless wars, crustacea the color of emeralds abandoned on a white sand shore where the tide of life was going out, all, all the illustrations changing now, shifting, shriveling as the small flesh cooled.*
A. drawings or photographs
B. positively charged ions
C. proposed or actual laws
- 20 *the vital stuffs of their mortal greed, rancor, and poisonous guilt,*
A. measure of general intelligence
B. a firm decision to do something
C. deep and bitter anger or hatred

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	twilight (<i>as in: pink clouds in a twilight sky</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
2	B	guillotine	Used 8 times in this book.
3	A	menagerie	Used 3 times in this book.
4	C	stallion	Used 5 times in this book.
5	A	clamor	Used 4 times in this book.
6	A	whet	Used 3 times in this book.
7	C	poise	Used 6 times in this book.
8	A	revelation	Used 4 times in this book.
9	A	probe	Used 6 times in this book.
10	C	tremulous	Used 4 times in this book.
11	C	tumult (<i>as in: tumult in financial markets</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
12	A	gesticulate	Used 5 times in this book.
13	C	writhe	Used 8 times in this book.
14	A	carnivorous	Used 2 times in this book.
15	B	savor	Used 6 times in this book.
16	B	serene	Used 9 times in this book.
17	C	grotesque	Used 5 times in this book.
18	C	teem	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	A	illustrate (<i>as in: an illustrated children's book</i>)	Used 79 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	C	rancor	High-utility academic word