

Starship Troopers

by Robert A. Heinlein

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: attrition, belligerent, competent, derive, doctrine, factor, hypnotize, illustrate, jargon, muster, nevertheless, obsolete, radiation, receptive, rendezvous, revise, scarcity, scorn, simulate, utopia



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

Starship Troopers

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The long conflict became a war of **attrition**, with both sides slowly wearing each other down.
 - A. rapid victory
 - B. steady growth
 - C. gradual loss
2. She likes to make people lose their cool by starting **belligerent** political arguments.
 - A. hostile or combative
 - B. clever or intelligent
 - C. ridiculous or absurd
3. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
 - A. below average
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. outstanding
4. I **derive** pleasure from my work.
 - A. refuse
 - B. obtain
 - C. ignore
5. She challenges accepted **doctrine**.
 - A. champions
 - B. authority
 - C. beliefs
6. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
 - A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
7. The police want to **hypnotize** me to see if it will help me remember what she looked like.
 - A. give a memory drug to
 - B. put into a trance
 - C. visit the crime scene with
8. The example **illustrates** the belief.
 - A. disproves
 - B. proves
 - C. makes clear
9. The legal **jargon** in the contract was so complex that the client had to hire a lawyer to interpret it.
 - A. special vocabulary
 - B. complex ideas
 - C. underlying philosophy
10. She tried to **muster** the courage to ask for a raise.
 - A. summon or gather
 - B. abandon entirely
 - C. question deeply
11. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition

12. That old phone is **obsolete**.
- A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken
13. Geiger counters detect **radiation** released by unstable atoms.
- A. magnetic forces
 - B. atomic particles
 - C. loud sound bursts
14. She was not very **receptive** to advice, believing she already knew the best course of action.
- A. open to suggestions
 - B. quick to anger
 - C. fond of jokes
15. The spies arranged a secret **rendezvous** at the old cafe at midnight.
- A. argument
 - B. celebration
 - C. meeting
16. Do you think the writer should **revise** the underlined sentence?
- A. remove
 - B. highlight
 - C. improve
17. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
18. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
19. Our police are tested in conditions that **simulate** gunfire exchange with criminals in the presence of innocent bystanders.
- A. imitate
 - B. train
 - C. defend against
20. We thought we could create a **utopia**, but we failed because we overestimated human nature.
- A. an ideal place
 - B. constant innovation
 - C. a challenging journey

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 *after we had **mustered** in the drop room of the Rodger Young, our platoon leader inspected us.*
 - A. gathered
 - B. restored
 - C. not said
- 2 *But some of you ain't got any minds to **hypnotize** so I'll sketch it out.*
 - A. a method of artistic painting on a wall by using watercolors on wet plaster; or the painting made in such a manner
 - B. to put someone into a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility
 - C. accept someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
- 3 *Ace answered as I could have expected — Ace should have had my spot but he didn't want to give up his squad; **nevertheless** he didn't fancy taking orders from me.*
 - 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)
- 4 *We had landed in a V formation, with Jelly at the bottom of the V and Red and myself at the ends of the two arms; now we had to close it into a circle around the retrieval **rendezvous**.*
 - A. something constructed to control the flow of sound or fluid
 - B. determine or identify the nature of a problem or an illness
 - C. to meet at a certain time and place
- 5 *Anyone who clings to the historically untrue -- and thoroughly immoral -- **doctrine** that 'violence never settles anything' I would advise to conjure up the ghosts of Napoleon Bonaparte and of the Duke of Wellington and let them debate it.*
 - A. a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies to protect against a disease
 - B. an economic system where most decisions are made through voluntary buying and selling
 - C. a belief accepted as authoritative by some group
- 6 *"The exact words of the book," he said **scornfully**.*
 - A. in a disrespectful or rejecting manner
 - B. in a manner that is not easily noticed
 - C. with grace of movement and flexibility
- 7 *A purely nominal political privilege that pays not one centavo and that most of them aren't **competent** to use wisely anyhow.*
 - A. sincerity (realness)
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. sensible and careful
- 8 *But a neodog is not a talking dog; he is not a dog at all, he is an artificially mutated symbiote **derived** from dog stock.*
 - A. hid
 - B. got
 - C. cut
- 9 *But we learned a lot of "**obsolete**" weapons, too.*
 - A. no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - B. surprise -- often so much so that one doesn't know what to say or do
 - C. an appropriate size, amount, or degree in relation to something else
- 10 *These kitchen illustrations **demolish** the Marxian theory of value — the fallacy from which the entire magnificent fraud of communism derives — and to **illustrate** the truth of the common-sense definition as measured in terms of use.*
 - A. work or operate
 - B. think carefully
 - C. help make clear

- 11 This very personal relationship, 'value,' has two **factors** for a human being: first, what he can do with a thing, its use to him ...and second, what he must do to get it, its cost to him.
- A. People who are of lower rank or status
 - B. things that affect a result or outcome
 - C. theories on the origin of the universe
- 12 The band suffered a lot of **attrition** but somehow they always kept it going.
- A. the quality of appropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - B. feels or expresses regret for having done something wrong
 - C. a gradual reduction in number, strength, or effectiveness
- 13 The inside of the suit is a mass of pressure **receptors**, hundreds of them.
- A. open to arguments, ideas, or change
 - B. circular movements around something
 - C. creates, starts, or sets in a place
- 14 everything was **simulated** -- but you are required to behave as if it is all real.
- A. imitating a real situation
 - B. not good at concentrating on one thing
 - C. adjusted a lens to make an image clear
- 15 If he kept out of major trouble while confined, he could usually evade most of even that mild punishment, be given probation — 'paroled' in the **jargon** of the times.
- A. specialized vocabulary
 - B. mirror back (an image)
 - C. create dramatic change
- 16 You see, it's short on mutations; it does not enjoy Earth's high level of natural **radiation**.
- A. a central open space in a building
 - B. particles emitted by nuclear decay (which can cause illness and in very rare cases, desired mutations)
 - C. something quoted (to make a point)
- 17 It is a potential **utopia**, and, with desirable real estate so scarce in this end of the Galaxy, it will not be left in the possession of primitive life forms that failed to make the grade.
- A. an imaginary place considered to be perfect or ideal
 - B. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
 - C. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
- 18 It is a potential utopia, and, with desirable real estate so **scarce** in this end of the Galaxy, it will not be left in the possession of primitive life forms that failed to make the grade.
- A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 19 From our co-belligerents the Skinnies we knew that many missing troopers were alive as prisoners
- A. fighters
 - B. restores
 - C. thoughts
- 20 Here's the revised **plan**.
- A. adapted
 - B. delayed
 - C. changed

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	muster (<i>as in: muster strength or the crew</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
2	B	hypnotize (<i>as in: hypnotized to try to remember</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
3	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 19 times in this book.
4	C	rendezvous	Used 11 times in this book.
5	C	doctrine	Used 12 times in this book.
6	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
7	B	competent	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
8	B	derive	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
9	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
10	C	illustrate (<i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
12	C	attrition	Used 3 times in this book.
13	A	receptive	Used 3 times in this book.
14	A	simulate	High-utility academic word; used 17 times in this book.
15	A	jargon	Used 2 times in this book.
16	B	radiation (<i>as in: nuclear radiation</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
17	A	utopia	Used 2 times in this book.
18	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
19	A	belligerent	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	revise	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.