

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes

by Chris Crutcher

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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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: abortion, adjacent, blasphemy, compassion, controversial, dilemma, enigma, factor, flammable, function (2), incriminate, meticulous, monstrosity, perspective (2), rational, slander, taunt, zeal



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. **Abortion** is a highly controversial and divisive issue, with people holding strong opinions on both sides of the debate.
 - A. intentionally preventing pregnancy
 - B. intentionally ending pregnancy
 - C. planned adoption before birth
2. The kitchen has an island that is **adjacent** to the family room.
 - A. opposite
 - B. near
 - C. matching
3. Even in the 21st century, high school teachers in the country are still occasionally imprisoned and/or lashed for **blasphemy**.
 - A. disrespect of something considered sacred
 - B. a dispute where there is strong disagreement
 - C. a serious logical error
4. It is not enough to be **compassionate**. We must act. It is not enough to act. We must act with intelligence.
 - A. lucky
 - B. sympathetic
 - C. talented
5. The school reached a **controversial** decision on affirmative action.
 - A. final after a long period of indecision
 - B. difficult due to complexity
 - C. tending to arouse strong disagreement
6. Maya faced a **dilemma**: tell the truth and hurt her friend, or stay silent.
 - A. hard choice
 - B. simple task
 - C. lucky break
7. The locked box with no key remained an **enigma** to everyone in the room.
 - A. mystery
 - B. simple task
 - C. clear answer
8. 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
9. Nothing **flammable** should be stored near the hot water heater.
 - A. attractive to insects
 - B. easily set on fire
 - C. easily damaged by water
10. Scientist do not know all the **functions** that the nutrient performs.
 - A. mathematical calculations
 - B. natural activities
 - C. transitions in form
11. Expertise is largely a **function** of hours spent on task.
 - A. social event
 - B. purpose or job
 - C. result

12. Her actions are **incriminating**.
- A. making her look foolish
 - B. making her look worried
 - C. making her look guilty
13. She is **meticulous** in her bookkeeping and at the end of the year she can tell the IRS where every dollar was spent.
- A. quick
 - B. careful
 - C. impressive
14. The critics described the gaudy hotel as a **monstrosity**.
- A. a lovely sight
 - B. a tiny gem
 - C. an ugly eyesore
15. 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
16. Attending a funeral helps me to put life into **perspective** and to separate the important things from those that are less important.
- A. a sensible view
 - B. a positive view
 - C. a limited view
17. Let's try to ignore how upset we are for a moment and think about this **rationally**.
- A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a creative manner
 - C. in a reasonable manner
18. Check your sources or you could be sued for **slander**.
- A. selling a product that is not suitable for its purpose
 - B. hurting someone's reputation by lying
 - C. injuring others with outdated scientific information
19. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
 - B. insulted
 - C. surrounded
20. We need someone with both **zeal** and ability.
- A. enthusiasm
 - B. patience
 - C. honesty

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 "I stand on the Fifth Amendment," I squeaked, "on the grounds that my answer may tend to **incriminate** me."

 - A. notable difference
 - B. come to terms with
 - C. make appear guilty
- 2 Mom opens the kitchen window to tell him to get that **monstrosity** away from her house before she calls a local Christian terrorist group, but Ellerby only smiles and says, "Hi, Mrs. Moby," and drops dramatically to his hands and knees to crawl safely to the kitchen door.

 - A. a central open space in a building
 - B. particles emitted by nuclear decay
 - C. something that is big and terrible
- 3 And they call me an **enigma**.

 - A. something mysterious that seems unexplainable
 - B. male, female, or any of many trans categories
 - C. an official charge (of having broken the law)
- 4 Ellerby, Brittain, and I lead circle patterns in **adjacent** lanes so we can see each other—another stroke of Lemry's genius which seems to keep our competitive juices flowing.

 - A. sloped
 - B. nearby
 - C. hidden
- 5 Though few of us would dare **taunt** him alone, there was safety in numbers and he'd already heard his name far more times than he would have expected.

 - A. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
 - B. (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - C. American football: a defensive maneuver to swiftly tackle the quarterback by pursuing him with one or more defenders who normally remain behind the line of scrimmage
- 6 With a **zeal** rivaled only by Alex Haley's relentless search for Kunta Kinte, he dived into Dale's seamy background, where he discovered the above story to be absolutely true and correct.

 - A. active interest and enthusiasm
 - B. made by taking on as one's own
 - C. relating to the chest (thorax)
- 7 She even got Mr. Otto to write DANGER-FLAMMABLE on the side of the box in adult handwriting so it would look all official.

 - A. untied or released
 - B. easily set on fire
 - C. logical conclusion
- 8 A counselor friend of Mom's once said that's merely a **function** of adolescence—that teenagers are into separating from our parents and others in authority in order to establish our independence.

 - A. the highest-ranking manager
 - B. a long uninterrupted speech
 - C. result
- 9 They have different **functions**.

 - A. adjusts a lens to make an image clear
 - B. purposes
 - C. suggestions that someone was involved
- 10 You could be a little more **compassionate**, Calhoun.

 - A. did not find a condition or substance to be present
 - B. feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
 - C. to support by providing money or other economic aid

- 11 I gave you possibilities such as war, world hunger, **abortion**, the homeless, children's rights, spiritual beliefs, political ideologies, et cetera.
- another battle with the same foe
 - intentionally ending a pregnancy
 - describing someone as antisocial
- 12 All I require is that you be willing to look at your subject from a personal **perspective**, that is, how the dilemma affects you.
- collection of star systems held together by gravity
 - resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
 - way of seeing and thinking about things
- 13 We do have time to put it in **perspective**.
- a sensible view of a situation
 - made by taking on as one's own
 - relating to the chest (thorax)
- 14 All I require is that you be willing to look at your subject from a personal perspective, that is, how the **dilemma** affects you.
- a situation in which a difficult choice must be made between imperfect alternatives
 - connected by blood or marriage; or a plant or animal related by origin or grouping
 - relating to the south Asian Muslim republic that is the fifth most populous country
- 15 Wouldn't you just expect some theological prodigy driving a **blasphemous** Pontiac station wagon to bring us his religious view packaged in a country-western song.
- disrespectful of something considered sacred
 - exceedingly important, serious, or dangerous
 - the state or degree of agreeing or approving
- 16 Man, you got to be careful when you go **slandering** one of us.
- moving again into position to work; or starting again
 - lying in a way that damages the reputation of another
 - spreading one-sided information to influence opinions
- 17 Each tool hangs on the wall inside a **meticulously** drawn outline of that tool.
- in a manner that is not sensible and careful
 - in a manner treating details with great care
 - in a manner that is capable of being noticed
- 18 For purposes of discussion, keep your passion to a minimum and make your points **rationally**.
- in a manner that is unlikely to attract attention or cause embarrassment
 - in the manner of someone who believes oneself morally superior to others
 - reasonable, able to think clearly, or based on logic rather than emotion
- 19 "Other factors," Mr. Ellerby says quietly.
- People who are of lower rank or status
 - things that affect a result or outcome
 - theories on the origin of the universe
- 20 Also attending the ceremony were Eric Calhoun, the victim of Virgil Byrnes's attack; Sandy Calhoun, the boy's mother and a frequent columnist for this newspaper; Carver Middleton, who served time on an assault charge against Virgil Byrnes in a related incident; the Reverend John Ellerby, controversial Episcopalian minister whose support of female clergy and full homosexual rights has frequently focused a spotlight on him in his 15-year stay at St. Mark's; and his son, Steve Ellerby, who describes himself as "a **controversial** Episcopalian preacher's kid."
- not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - expressing or arousing sensual desire
 - tending to arouse strong disagreement

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	incriminate	Used 2 times in this book.
2	C	monstrosity	Used 3 times in this book.
3	A	enigma	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	B	adjacent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	B	taunt	Used 3 times in this book.
6	A	zeal	Used 3 times in this book.
7	B	flammable	Used 3 times in this book.
8	C	function (<i>as in: oxygen is a function of altitude</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	B	function (<i>as in: Its main function is to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	compassion	Used 4 times in this book.
11	B	abortion (<i>as in: have an abortion</i>)	Used 37 times in this book.
12	C	perspective (<i>as in: Look at it from her perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	perspective (<i>as in: Keep it in perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	dilemma	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
15	A	blasphemy	Used 3 times in this book.
16	B	slander	Used 5 times in this book.
17	B	meticulous	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	C	rational (<i>as in: rational behavior</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
19	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
20	C	controversial	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.