

Sycamore Row

by John Grisham

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: advocate (2), assets, crucial, deposition, dispose (2), docket, liability (2), litigate, mortgage, nonetheless, parole, relevant, stipulate, testament, testify, testimony, venue



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She **advocates** giving all students the opportunity to attend school in the summer too.
 - A. is against
 - B. researches
 - C. supports
2. Privacy **advocates** want the law changed.
 - A. opponents
 - B. sufferers
 - C. supporters
3. The company is worth much more than its reported net **assets**.
 - A. stock market valuation
 - B. cash value of things owned
 - C. money in the bank
4. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
5. She lied during her **deposition**.
 - A. trial
 - B. parole hearing
 - C. pre-trial questioning
6. What is the best way to responsibly **dispose** of old electronic equipment.
 - A. throw away
 - B. use efficiently
 - C. upgrade
7. The issue will be **disposed** of by the judge.
 - A. discussed
 - B. settled
 - C. studied
8. The court clerk added the new case to the **docket** for next week.
 - A. stack of files
 - B. list of cases
 - C. private office
9. Assets are worth a million dollars, but **liabilities** exceed that.
 - A. money they are owed but don't yet have
 - B. comparable assets at similar companies
 - C. debt and other financial obligations
10. **Liability** insurance should cover the financial costs of the accident.
 - A. legal responsibility
 - B. extra coverage
 - C. carried by someone else
11. I am trying to avoid **litigation**.
 - A. close friendship amongst a group of people
 - B. the process of a engaging in a lawsuit
 - C. feelings of respect and reverence

12. The site has a **mortgage** payment calculator that calculates the loan payment based on the interest rate and length of the loan.
- A. unsecured loan
 - B. real estate loan
 - C. credit card loan
13. The class was hard. It was **nonetheless** my favorite.
- A. despite that
 - B. because of that
 - C. for that reason
14. She was imprisoned for life without the possibility of **parole**.
- A. appeal to a higher court
 - B. early release from prison
 - C. transfer to a new prison
15. It is easier to learn things that seem **relevant** to your life.
- A. understandable
 - B. repeated
 - C. important
16. The contract **stipulates** the dates of the payments.
- A. does not specify
 - B. formally states
 - C. is vague about
17. Her music's popularity is a **testament** to her talent.
- A. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - B. evidence
 - C. income not required for mandatory and necessary expenses
18. She **testified** that he struck her.
- A. said
 - B. hid
 - C. lied
19. 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
20. The concert was moved to a larger venue to accommodate the growing number of fans.
- A. opening act
 - B. ticket price
 - C. event location

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 *The land around it was thick with hardwoods, valuable timber Seth had **mortgaged** repeatedly and parlayed into wealth.*
 - A. expressed personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work
 - B. pledged as collateral (something that has to be given to the lender if the loan isn't paid as agreed)
 - C. gradually destroyed or changed the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
- 2 *Is there a **last will and testament**?*
 - A. characterized by withdrawal, an inability to form close relationships, and taking pleasure in few activities
 - B. a final will (written instructions expressing how somebody wants their property distributed after they die)
 - C. a logical fallacy or error in reasoning when the conclusion of an argument is assumed in one of the premises
- 3 *Mr. Amburgh was vice president of my holding company and has a working knowledge of my assets and **liabilities**.*
 - A. scales where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - B. mammals of a specific type that seldom move and are typically very slow when they do move
 - C. debt and other financial obligations
- 4 *Two years earlier, his firm had spent \$200,000 on a product **liability** case, and lost.*
 - A. legal responsibility
 - B. a group formed to discuss or offer insight on a particular topic
 - C. to constrain in some way -- such as tie up, require, or obligate
- 5 *Why should I be an **advocate** for this slipshod, last-minute, handwritten piece of crap that gives everything to an undeserving black housekeeper who probably had too much influence over the old boy.*
 - A. a type of small portable radio
 - B. a change; or a changed version
 - C. a person who publicly supports
- 6 *I am the lawyer for Mr. Hubbard's estate, and in that capacity it's my job to **advocate** in favor of this will and to follow its terms.*
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. a bitter, long-standing fight
 - C. recommend or publicly support
- 7 *Those guys know how to **litigate**.*
 - A. to understand or explain something in a particular way
 - B. use a court to settle a disagreement with force of law
 - C. excessively examine in an attempt to better understand
- 8 *Jake could envision her **deposition** in the near future, in a room full of hyped-up lawyers all clamoring for the floor and the chance to grill her about what she and Mr. Hubbard did and did not do.*
 - A. a period of time or a stage during the development of something
 - B. a measure of north/south (relative to the equator) on the earth
 - C. formal questioning of a witness before a trial
- 9 *Hubbard, in his will, directed his executor to sell all of his **assets** for fair value and reduce everything to cash.*
 - A. things that hold other things together, or wrap or cover or tie something
 - B. things of financial value
 - C. atoms with an electrical charge caused by the loss or gain of an electron
- 10 *Because of Buckley, here they were twenty-seven months later staring at **parole** for a little thug who'd been trying to impress the Klan.*
 - A. "spiritually renew" (a person) in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 - B. conditional early release from imprisonment in which a person is required to comply with special conditions
 - C. treat something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations

- 11 *With no one present to argue for a change of venue or removal of the judge, those motions were denied.*
- A. an subatomic particle with negative charge that is found in all atoms and that acts as the primary carrier of electricity
 - B. a highly educated person interested in learning and exploring ideas -- sometimes while ignoring practical considerations
 - C. event location -- especially a performance, meeting, or gathering
- or:
- law: the jurisdiction where a trial will be held
- 12 *Judge, what she says today will be sworn testimony, and it will become a part of the record in this case.*
- 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
- 13 *Since she and Herschel spent so little time with their father, their testimony would not be that crucial at trial.*
- A. natural
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
- 14 *In her deposition, Lettie had given as many of these names as she could remember, or so she testified.*
- A. provided evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - B. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - C. suffered through (or put up with) something difficult or unpleasant
- 15 *Drag it out, burn some clock, give Harry Rex enough time to get the divorce final, give the system enough time to dispose of Simeon and ship him away, and give the county some distance between the horror of the moment, the two burials, and the fight over the estate of Seth Hubbard.*
- A. change to fit a different situation; or make suitable
 - B. settle something so it no longer requires attention
 - C. to spread one-sided information to influence opinions
- 16 *Seth had purchased it at a pharmacy in Tupelo six days before he died, then he apparently disposed of it; thus, there was no proof of how much or how little he'd actually consumed.*
- A. got rid
 - B. hired again
 - C. briefly saw
- 17 *She said, "This is a docket book from the 1920s, specifically August of 1927 through October of 1928."*
- A. fear, or anticipate with worry (commonly only seen in the forms "apprehensive" and "apprehension," but seen in this form in classic literature)
 - B. a list of things -- especially cases to be tried in court or items to discuss in a meeting
- or less commonly: to add something to such a list
- C. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
- 18 *At Judge Atlee's heavy-handed insistence, the handwriting was stipulated to be that of Henry Seth Hubbard.*
- A. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
 - B. to formally state -- such as a condition, or a requirement of a contract, or an opinion of a circumstance that has legal significance
 - C. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drank, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
- 19 *Jake was weary of the topic but now thankful for it nonetheless; it kept attention away from the Hubbard case.*
- A. in spite of that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 20 *"Oh, it's very relevant, Your Honor," Lanier said casually and with the benefit of months of preparation.*
- 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	B	mortgage	Used 18 times in this book.
2	B	testament	Used 42 times in this book.
3	C	liability (<i>as in: liabilities on the balance sheet</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	liability (<i>as in: legal liability</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	C	advocate (<i>as in: an advocate supporting</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	C	advocate (<i>as in: to advocate</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	litigate	Used 32 times in this book.
8	C	deposition (<i>as in: gave her deposition</i>)	Used 53 times in this book.
9	B	assets (<i>as in: the company's assets & liabilities</i>)	Used 45 times in this book.
10	B	parole (<i>as in: released on parole</i>)	Used 20 times in this book.
11	C	venue	Used 17 times in this book.
12	B	testimony	Used 42 times in this book.
13	B	crucial	High-utility academic word; used 18 times in this book.
14	A	testify	Used 33 times in this book.
15	B	dispose (<i>as in: dispose of the matter</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
16	A	dispose (<i>as in: dispose of the waste</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
17	B	docket	Used 16 times in this book.
18	B	stipulate (<i>as in: she stipulated</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
19	A	nonetheless	Used 12 times in this book.
20	C	relevant	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
