

Take the Tortillas out of Your Poetry

by Rudolfo Anaya

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: abate, alternative, censor, clamor, criteria, crucial, deduce, distinct, diversity, endeavor, endowment, guise, insidious, legislature, liberate, narrow-minded, omission, revelation, status quo, theme



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	A
13	A
14	C
15	B
16	B
17	C
18	A
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. The pain **abated**.
 - A. increased
 - B. varied
 - C. decreased
2. The Amish lead an **alternative** lifestyle that limits the use of technology.
 - A. non-standard
 - B. oriental or East Asian
 - C. traditional or standard
3. The performer chose *Bombay* as a good word to rhyme with *today*, but India's Central Board of Film Certification censored the word and replaced it with a beep.
 - A. improved
 - B. reinforced
 - C. removed
4. Noisy **clamor** gave way to reasoned dialogue.
 - A. demands
 - B. insults
 - C. whining
5. The job posting listed several criteria for applicants.
 - A. rewards or prizes
 - B. standards or rules
 - C. jokes or stories
6. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
7. She trusts only what she can measure or can **deduce** from measurement.
 - A. describe in detail
 - B. conclude by reasoning
 - C. find in a book
8. Two **distinct** brain networks guide our judgments.
 - A. different
 - B. similar
 - C. identical
9. The team values **diversity** of thought and welcomes different perspectives.
 - A. variety of differences
 - B. agreement on principles
 - C. loyalty to tradition
10. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
11. The university's **endowment** grew significantly thanks to alumni donations.
 - A. invested funds
 - B. yearly expenses
 - C. student debt

12. Under the **guise** of friendship, she betrayed them.
- A. outward appearance
 - B. close bond
 - C. hidden plan
13. We've grown accustomed to spending more than we earn, but the increasing debt is an **insidious** problem.
- A. hidden
 - B. severe
 - C. shared
14. She is running for the state **legislature**.
- A. highest court
 - B. police department
 - C. lawmaking body
15. She writes to **liberate** her readers from social conformity.
- A. teach
 - B. free
 - C. instruct
16. His **narrow-minded** views made it hard to have a real conversation.
- A. open and curious
 - B. stubbornly closed-off
 - C. deeply researched
17. She looked for an **omission** in the list of planned expenses.
- A. people who do not believe in the existence of god
 - B. an impressive country house (or castle) in France
 - C. missing item
18. 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
19. She says she's the candidate to change the **status quo**.
- A. social safety net
 - B. existing state of affairs
 - C. status of immigrants
20. What is the **theme** of your essay?
- A. basic idea
 - B. grammatical voice
 - C. narrative point of view

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 For me, reading has always been a path toward **liberation** and fulfillment.
A. aroused or inspired again
B. the act of being set free
C. expressing intense hatred
- 2 Censorship has affected me directly, and I have formed some ideas on this **insidious** activity, but first, I want to give an example of censorship which recently affected a friend of mine.
A. not appearing dangerous, but actually very harmful over time

or:

treacherous (dangerous due to trickery or from hidden or unpredictable risks)
B. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
C. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
- 3 For some time I have been encouraging Chicano writers to apply for literary fellowships from the National **Endowment** for the Arts.
A. the invested money that provides income for an institution; or an instance of giving such money

or:

abilities or qualities -- especially those that are nature-given
B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
C. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
- 4 My friend rightfully **deduced** that his poetry was not receiving a fair reading.
A. not roughly calculated
B. concluded by reasoning
C. influenced or effected
- 5 My friend was **censoring** his creativity in order to fit the imposed criteria.
A. persuading someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
B. treating in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind
C. removing or suppressing something considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable
- 6 My friend was censoring his creativity in order to fit the imposed criteria.
A. the act of protecting something or keeping it as it is
B. reference points against which things can be evaluated
C. speaks with someone about something for the first time
- 7 I do not believe we should have to leave out the **crucial** elements of our language and culture to contribute to American literature, but, unfortunately, this is a conclusion I am forced to reach.
A. natural
B. very important
C. more than is needed
- 8 What are the methods of commission or **omission** that censorship employs?
A. people who do not believe in the existence of god
B. an impressive country house (or castle) in France
C. something left out that should have been included
- 9 If we leave out our tortillas—and by that I mean the language, history, cultural values, and **themes** of our literature—the very culture we're portraying will die.
A. recurring ideas
B. (noun) strips of hair that are lighter in color OR (verb) makes strips of hair lighter in color
C. changes the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening

- 10 *At a time when multicultural **diversity** is challenging the literary canon of this country, the major publishers still are barely now responding to the literary output of Chicano writers.*
- A. the condition of variety -- especially in reference to members of a population group who are of different races or cultures
 - B. classical music in which a theme is introduced and then extended and developed through some number of successive imitations
 - C. the ability and tendency to determine what should be done and to start doing it without instruction; or to start something
- 11 *The **alternative** presses of the 1960s were created to contest the status quo.*
- A. non-traditional or non-standard
 - B. poor ability to make a decision
 - C. relating to a period of testing
- 12 *The alternative presses of the 1960s were created to contest the **status quo**.*
- A. an artist who created medieval European art associated with Gothic cathedrals
 - B. the existing situation (the way things are now or the way they typically are)
 - C. 3-dimensional X-ray images of parts of the body using computerized tomography
- 13 *Censorship is fear clothed in the **guise** of misguided righteousness.*
- A. an outward appearance -- often one that hides the true nature of something
 - B. the act of again being in a working position; or the act of starting again
 - C. someone involved in challenging, arguing about, or fighting over something
- 14 *Of course, our poetry and literature reflected to our communities our history and our right to exist as a **distinct** culture.*
- A. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - B. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - C. unbelieving; or having difficulty accepting something so unexpected
- 15 *Fifteen million Chicanos were **clamoring** at the door, insisting that the schools also belonged to us, that we had a right to our literature in the schools, and the conservative opposition in power fought back by burning our books.*
- A. demanding loudly and/or persistently
 - B. suggesting that someone was involved
 - C. walking in an awkward, shuffling way
- 16 *These **narrow-minded** reactionaries are still fighting us.*
- A. the quality or degree of being in a crosswise direction (at a right angle to the long axis)
 - B. unwilling to consider other views; or limited in perspective due to insufficient background
 - C. not relating to any single sect -- usually indicating the inclusion of all religious groups
- 17 *The threat to keep us subservient did not **abate**.*
- A. protect something or keep it as it is
 - B. learn, discover, or decide in advance
 - C. to become less in amount or intensity
- 18 *The English-Only movement continued the old censorship we had felt on the school playgrounds, but now the game had moved into the state **legislatures**.*
- A. organizations, each of which is comprised of firms in a single industry
 - B. thousands of very small unit of electrical energy (thousands of joules)
 - C. groups of government representatives that have the power to create laws
- 19 *Art is a very human **endeavor**, and it contains within its process and the objects it produces a road to liberation.*
- A. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
 - B. to write or exchange written letters or emails
 - C. to attempt; or a project or activity attempted
- 20 *The liberation is significant not only to the individual artist, it is a **revelation** for the community.*
- 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)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	liberate	Used 8 times in this essay.
2	A	insidious	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	A	endowment	Used 2 times in this essay.
4	B	deduce	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	C	censor (<i>as related to censorship</i>)	Used 33 times in this essay.
6	B	criteria	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this essay.
7	B	crucial	High-utility academic word
8	C	omission	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
9	A	theme (<i>as in: theme of the novel</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this essay.
10	A	diversity	Used 2 times in this essay.
11	A	alternative (<i>as in: alternative medicine</i>)	High-utility academic word
12	B	status quo	Used 6 times in this essay.
13	A	guise	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	distinct	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this essay.
15	A	clamor	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	narrow-minded	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
17	C	abate	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	C	legislature	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	C	endeavor	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	A	revelation	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.