

Teddy

by J. D. Salinger

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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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: acquire, ambiguous, connotation, context, continuous, controversial, cordial, cunning, demeanor, entity, incarnate, inquiry, objective, perfunctory, poise, primarily, sacrilege, stimulate, tentative, unobtrusive



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. They are working to **acquire** nuclear weapons.
 - A. obtain (get)
 - B. eliminate (get rid of)
 - C. disguise or hide
2. Her **ambiguous** smile left him wondering whether she was amused or annoyed.
 - A. open to interpretation
 - B. easy to read clearly
 - C. obviously sarcastic
3. The word "home" often carries a warm **connotation** of comfort and security.
 - A. a suggested idea that goes beyond something's primary meaning
 - B. a literal definition that exactly matches the word's main meaning
 - C. an emotional reaction that directly stems from the word's sound
4. Alternating walk and rest was more beneficial than continuous walking for people with Type 2 diabetes.
 - A. occasional
 - B. scheduled
 - C. uninterrupted
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. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
 - A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a friendly manner
 - C. in a clumsy manner
7. The worst mix -- greedy, cunning, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
8. Despite her nervousness, her professional **demeanor** never wavered.
 - A. words
 - B. manner
 - C. work
9. The corporation is treated as a separate legal **entity** from its owners.
 - A. type of legal document
 - B. form of financial debt
 - C. distinct thing or being
10. Tolkien referred to his *Lord of the Rings* character, Gandalf, as an **angel incarnate**.
 - A. in a human body
 - B. in training
 - C. in evil surroundings
11. The official **inquiry** has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
 - A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
12. There were lots of rumors, but no **objective** evidence.
 - A. done by an expert
 - B. important
 - C. fact-based

13. She quoted him out of context.
- A. in a misleading manner
 - B. in a convincing manner
 - C. in a respectful manner
14. Her perfunctory apology did little to ease my annoyance.
- A. sincere
 - B. superficial
 - C. written
15. The once self-conscious girl is now a woman with considerable poise.
- A. style
 - B. education
 - C. composure
16. The second paragraph is primarily concerned with showing how the colleges are different.
- A. barely
 - B. mainly
 - C. secretly
17. Many people considered it sacrilege to joke loudly inside the sacred temple.
- A. respect for old customs
 - B. fear of religious rules
 - C. disrespect for the sacred
18. The government hopes that the new tax breaks will stimulate the economy.
- A. encourage activity or development in
 - B. directly control prices in
 - C. reduce overall spending in
19. She took a tentative step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
 - B. brave
 - C. confident
20. She sat unobtrusively in the rear of the room.
- A. without drawing attention
 - B. while shouting loudly
 - C. while crying softly

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 *Teddy turned around at the waist, without changing the vigilant position of his feet on the Gladstone, and gave his father a look of **inquiry**, whole and pure.*
 - A. small quantity or indication
 - B. reason (for doing something)
 - C. questioning or investigating
- 2 *They were crossed just enough to be mentioned, and only **in context** with the fact that one might have thought long and seriously before wishing them straighter, or deeper, or browner, or wider set.*
 - A. with consideration of surrounding setting and conditions
 - B. unfair pressure that takes away a person's free choice
 - C. an electric current that flows in one direction steadily
- 3 *Finished tying his sneaker lace, Teddy **perfunctorily** gave his mother a kiss on the cheek.*
 - A. in comparison to something else
 - B. without much interest or effort
 - C. in a manner that is not sincere
- 4 *Teddy glanced briefly, **objectively**, at Myron.*
 - A. in a manner related to the mechanical properties of fluids that are not in motion
 - B. of a guitar or other musical instrument: not using electricity to amplify sound
 - C. in an unbiased manner (without the influence of personal feelings or preferences)
- 5 *His youngness and single-mindedness were obvious enough, but perhaps his general **demeanor** altogether lacked, or had too little of, that sort of cute solemnity that many adults readily speak up, or down, to.*
 - A. lacking experience or sophistication
 - B. the manner in which a person behaves
 - C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 6 *It is quite **controversial** and Mrs. Mandell is a poet besides.*
 - A. not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. expressing or arousing sensual desire
 - C. tending to arouse strong disagreement
- 7 *Words and expressions to look up in library tomorrow when you return the books— Nephritis myriad gift horse **cunning** triumvirate Be nicer to librarian.*
 - A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 - B. good at achieving goals through cleverness and deception
 - C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 8 *After making this last entry, Teddy continued to keep his attention on the page and his ball-point pen **poised**, as though there were more to come.*
 - 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. calm, confident, and in control—especially in movement, behavior, or when ready to act
- 9 *Not a minute later, though, he turned up, **obtrusively** vertical, among the deck-chair ranks.*
 - A. in a manner that attracts undesired attention or imposes on others
 - B. in a manner that is made by humans rather than occurring in nature
 - C. in a manner that exercises privileges to which one is not entitled
- 10 *"Mind if I sit down a minute?" the young man asked, with what seemed to be unlimited **cordiality**.*
 - A. psychiatrist
 - B. friendliness
 - C. satisfaction
- 11 *Absolute **sacrilege**.*
 - A. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
 - B. the process or result of learning, discovering, or deciding
 - C. disrespect of something others consider important or sacred

- 12 Though his speaking voice was, in the usual **connotation**, well bred, it carried considerably more than adequately, as though he had some sort of understanding with himself that anything he had to say would sound pretty much all right—intelligent, literate, even amusing or stimulating—either from Teddy's vantage point or from that of the people in the row behind, if they were listening.
- A. a suggested idea or feeling that goes beyond something's primary meaning
 - B. ruling on a point of Islamic law that is given by a recognized authority
 - C. cash or an asset (something of value) that is easily converted into cash
- 13 Aren't emotions what poets are **primarily** concerned with?
- A. really
 - B. mainly
 - C. wisely
- 14 From what I gather, you've **acquired** certain information, through meditation, that's given you some conviction that in your last incarnation you were a holy man in India, but more or less fell from Grace—
- A. obtained (came into possession of)
 - B. not provided with investment funds
 - C. not interacting; or not interested
- 15 But I wouldn't have had to get **incarnated** in an American body if I hadn't met that lady.
- A. embodied
 - B. restored
 - C. collided
- 16 Not **continuously** or anything, but fairly often.
- A. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
 - B. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
 - C. continuing in time or space without interruption or irregularity
- 17 He shifted in his seat and took out an eyesore of a handkerchief—a gray, wadded **entity**—and blew his nose.
- A. the act of taking someone up or receiving someone in heaven
 - B. an agreement to marry; or relating to an agreement to marry
 - C. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
- 18 He sat down, **tentatively**, on the extended leg attachment of his chair,
- A. carefully
 - B. in a manner that is not sincere
 - C. in comparison to something else
- 19 It **stimulates** him too much.
- A. encourages growth or excitement, or causes something to happen
 - B. points to differences between; or compares to show differences
 - C. manipulates voting district boundaries for political advantage
- 20 "What would you do if you could change the educational system?" he asked **ambiguously**.
- A. unclear -- because there could be two or more interpretations
 - B. in concise (said in few words) manner that is full of meaning
 - C. not in a manner intended to attract notice and impress others

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word
2	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
3	B	perfunctory	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
4	C	objective (<i>as in: an objective viewpoint</i>)	High-utility academic word
5	B	demeanor	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	C	controversial	High-utility academic word
7	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	C	poise	Used 2 times in this story.
9	A	unobtrusive	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	cordial (<i>as in: a cordial reception</i>)	Used 2 times in this story.
11	C	sacrilege	Used 2 times in this story.
12	A	connotation	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
13	B	primarily	High-utility academic word
14	A	acquire	High-utility academic word
15	A	incarnate	Used 3 times in this story.
16	C	continuous	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	C	entity	High-utility academic word
18	A	tentative (<i>as in: said it tentatively</i>)	High-utility academic word
19	A	stimulate	Used 2 times in this story.
20	A	ambiguous	High-utility academic word