

The Alchemyst

by Michael Scott

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: aura, cloying, direct (3), distort, enable, focus (2), gossamer, highlight, imbue, immortal, intricate, ornate, persist, perspective (2), prophecy, serpent



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The old theater had an **aura** of mystery.
 - A. written rule
 - B. distinctive atmosphere
 - C. loud announcement
2. Her **cloying** compliments felt fake after a while.
 - A. overly sweet or sentimental
 - B. overly harsh and critical
 - C. too vague and confusing
3. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
4. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
5. The judge **directed** the jury to ignore the question.
 - A. asked
 - B. ordered
 - C. understood
6. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
7. Modern smartphones enable people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
8. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
9. The satellite **focuses** the signal into a narrow beam.
 - A. spreads
 - B. concentrates
 - C. pulses
10. A **gossamer** curtain softened the sunlight in the room.
 - A. thick and heavy
 - B. brightly colored
 - C. thin and delicate
11. The mayor **highlighted** positive developments in the city.
 - A. encouraged
 - B. searched for
 - C. emphasized
12. She was **imbued** from infancy with a sense that life should be fair.
 - A. filled
 - B. discouraged
 - C. misled

13. She believes we have an immortal soul.
- A. conflicted
 - B. perfect in every way
 - C. lasting forever
14. The law in that area is intricate. I suggest you talk with a lawyer.
- A. outdated
 - B. predictable
 - C. complicated
15. It was the most ornate building I've ever seen.
- A. ancient
 - B. boring
 - C. decorated
16. We expect the conditions to persist into next year.
- A. grow worse
 - B. continue
 - C. go away
17. 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
18. The clouds and turns in the trail continually change the magnificent perspectives while hiking in the mountains.
- A. colors seen
 - B. patterns of light
 - C. views
19. It was a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- A. profitable enterprise
 - B. prediction
 - C. explanation
20. What does the serpent represent in the Garden of Eden?
- A. fig leaf
 - B. snake
 - C. apple

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 *Without signaling, it pulled over **directly** in front of The Small Book Shop, right across the street.*
 - A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 - B. close (without anything in between)
 - C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 2 *Stay in the car, Nicholas Flamel **directed**, opening the door and stepping outside onto the short-cropped grass.*
 - A. helped make clear
 - B. instructed
 - C. thought carefully
- 3 *I m glad I brought it, Dee said, not **directly** answering her.*
 - A. in a straightforward manner (clearly without any ambiguity)
 - B. in an extremely negative manner -- often implying extreme hopelessness, misery, shame, or desperation
 - C. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
- 4 *Tendrils and wisps of green mist gathered in Fleming's palms, then curled in ornate patterns and drifted onto the floor, where they writhed like **serpents**.*
 - A. copies
 - B. snakes
 - C. enters
- 5 *A silver mist surrounded Perry Fleming, rising off her skin in **gossamer** threads.*
 - A. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - B. characteristic (of something or someone)
 - C. extremely light, delicate, airy, or thin
- 6 *The formulation for **immortality** must be brewed afresh every month.*
 - A. someone who disturbs or annoys
 - B. with or based on basic beliefs
 - C. eternal life (to live forever)
- 7 *Some appear around the edge of the body, other **auras** cloak the body like an envelope.*
 - A. (psychoanalysis) people's personality structures that mediates between the primitive instinctual desires of the "id" and the moral conscience of the "superego" OR (more rarely) conscious minds
 - B. A distinctive quality, mood, or feeling that seems to surround a person, place, or thing; or, more literally, a glowing light shown around someone's head or body in spiritual or artistic images
 - C. special pleasures--typically things done in excess of what is thought good--such as eating too much cake, or being too lazy OR (more rarely) special privileges or kindnesses
- 8 *Josh **persisted**, determined to get some answers.*
 - A. disagreed
 - B. continued
 - C. stuck out
- 9 *The walls were covered in smooth blond wood, and there were **intricately** woven white reed mats on the floor.*
 - A. without concern for what others might think of oneself
 - B. done in a manner that changes for different situations
 - C. complicated -- having many complexly arranged elements
- 10 *Dee focused on the young man and woman, trying to decide if one was older than the other, but the rat's vision was too clouded and **distorted** for him to be sure.*
 - A. said (or make a sound) with the voice
 - B. genetically changed through evolution
 - C. altered in an unnatural or untrue way
- 11 *They **enabled** him to see with almost razor-sharp clarity, albeit in monochrome.*
 - A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied

- 12 *Perenelle quickly became familiar with the ancient systems of magic and began to practice in small ways, developing her skills, concentrating on how to channel and **focus** the energy of her aura.*
- A. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
 - B. concentrate at one spot
 - C. dislike strongly and look down upon
- 13 *She **focused**, trying to make sense of what she was seeing. The liquid twisted and coiled into a face: Jefferson Miller, the ghost of the security guard.*
- A. concentrated
 - B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - C. began speaking with someone about something
- 14 *She rooted through her bag and pulled out a set of nunchaku two twelve-inch lengths of **ornately** carved wood linked by four and a half inches of chain.*
- A. in a strongly biased manner
 - B. in a manner that sticks out
 - C. with much decorative detail
- 15 *And remember the **prophecy**, he added.*
- A. social event or ceremony
 - B. prediction of the future
 - C. a positively charged ion
- 16 *Many years before, when Nicholas and Perry had first discovered the secret of immortality, they had realized that their extra-long lives allowed them to view the world from a different **perspective**.*
- A. collection of star systems held together by gravity
 - B. resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
 - C. way of seeing and thinking about things
- 17 *The images that appeared on the sword blade were surprisingly detailed. They were all from Hekate's **perspective**.*
- A. someone who believes in doing things the way they have generally been done in the past
 - B. related to the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of infants and children
 - C. view (appearance from where looking)
- 18 *The brilliance also **highlighted** the scars on the car's body, the scratches and gouges in sharp relief.*
- A. not fit for service to humans or home life
 - B. not vaccinated (to protect from a disease)
 - C. emphasized (called attention to)
- 19 *The magician recognized the heavy, **cloying** scent as soon as he stepped into the house: it was frankincense, the rare and incredibly expensive aromatic gum from the Middle East, used in ancient times in Egypt and Greece and as far to the east as China.*
- A. overly sweet or sentimental in a way that becomes unpleasant or excessive -- on the tongue or in sentiment
 - B. roughly calculating or guessing (based on incomplete information) a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - C. treating something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
- 20 *She had been Awakened, and the Witch of Endor had **imbued** her with all her knowledge.*
- A. filled
 - B. traded
 - C. copied

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Alchemist

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 50 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
2	B	direct (<i>as in: direct a question; or direct a film</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
3	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
4	B	serpent	Used 7 times in this book.
5	C	gossamer	Used 2 times in this book.
6	C	immortal	Used 26 times in this book.
7	B	aura	Used 85 times in this book.
8	B	persist	Used 6 times in this book.
9	C	intricate	Used 8 times in this book.
10	C	distort	Used 6 times in this book.
11	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	B	focus (<i>as with technical usage</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
13	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
14	C	ornate	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
15	B	prophecy	Used 20 times in this book.
16	C	perspective (<i>as in: Look at it from her perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	perspective (<i>as in: a perspective of the entire block</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
18	C	highlight (<i>as in: highlight the main findings</i>)	High-utility academic word
19	A	cloying	Used 2 times in this book.
20	A	imbue	Used 2 times in this book.