

The BFG

by Roald Dahl

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: adapt, aghast, anguish, beseech, breech, cunning, diabolical, disdain, enable, exasperated, genuine, grotesque, inevitable, positive, quiver, ravenous, repulsive, solemn, tact, wretched



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

- This passage is adapted from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - copied
 - read
 - changed
- Her employer looked **aghast** and fired her on the spot.
 - confident
 - shocked
 - angry
- Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - extreme solitude
 - extreme distress
 - extreme depression
- She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
 - asking
 - demanding
 - instructing
- The hunter cleaned the **breech** after firing several rounds at the target.
 - tip of an arrow
 - edge of a blade
 - back of a firearm
- The worst mix -- **greedy, cunning**, and without morals.
 - stupid and impatient
 - clever and deceitful
 - strong and cruel
- She was frightened by the **diabolical** expression on his face.
 - angry
 - evil
 - crazy
- She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
 - lack of respect
 - humility
 - intense anger
- Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - require
 - allow
 - remind
- My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - very active
 - endearing (lovable)
 - greatly annoying
- She has a **genuine** interest in each of her students.
 - sincere (real)
 - fake
 - generous (giving)

12. The disease causes **grotesque** deformity.
- A. hidden (internal)
 - B. as from aging
 - C. ugly or distorted
13. The leaves fall each year with the inevitable change of the seasons.
- A. certain to happen
 - B. complete or total
 - C. minor
14. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
15. Her hands began to **quiver** as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
 - B. tightly grip
 - C. quickly move
16. The **ravenous** lion prowled the savannah, searching for its next meal.
- A. extremely quiet
 - B. extremely dangerous
 - C. extremely hungry
17. She found the bully's rude behavior **repulsive**.
- A. deeply offensive
 - B. warmly inviting
 - C. calmly soothing
18. Everyone was **solemn** at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
19. She means well, but she lacks **tact**.
- A. a plan
 - B. sensitivity
 - C. ability
20. The photograph showed poor people in a wretched village in East Africa.
- A. irresponsible
 - B. in terrible condition
 - C. foolish or thoughtless

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 *'That means,' said Sophie, 'that somewhere in the world, every single night, nine **wretched** people get carried away and eaten alive.'*
 - A. not easily identified
 - B. miserable or very bad
 - C. exactness or accuracy
- 2 *He was thinking that if only he could get the Bloodbottler to take one bite of the **repulsive** vegetable, the sheer foulness of its flavour would send him bellowing out of the cave.*
 - A. very unpleasant or causing disgust
 - B. a tendency to think back on things
 - C. relating to surrounding conditions
- 3 *'Take a bite and I am **positive** you will be shouting out oh how scrumdiddlyumptious this wonderveg is!'*
 - A. outside
 - B. various
 - C. certain
- 4 *Sophie could feel the bubbles travelling lower and lower down her tummy, and then suddenly, **inevitably** ...the explosion came.*
 - A. with certainty that it will happen
 - B. in a manner that involves betrayal
 - C. following as a result of something
- 5 *His voice was filled with fury and **anguish**.*
 - A. extreme introversion
 - B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress
 - C. extreme depression
- 6 *'It is a trogglehumper!' cried the **exasperated** BFG.*
 - A. said indirectly
 - B. came or arrived
 - C. greatly annoyed
- 7 *They looked **repulsive**, filthy, **diabolical**.*
 - A. related to the spreading of a disease to another part of the body
 - B. evil; very bad; or cruel and clever (like something of the devil)
 - C. relating to a surface rather than to anything deep or penetrating
- 8 *'Yes,' he said, nodding his great head **solemnly** up and down.*
 - A. with seriousness and dignity
 - B. in a manner that finds fault
 - C. in a manner that is not good
- 9 *She was **quivering** with excitement.*
 - A. to shake or tremble slightly
 - B. not working or not operating
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 10 *She looked **genuinely** frightened.*
 - A. really
 - B. mainly
 - C. wisely
- 11 *Sophie looked **beseechingly** towards the Queen for help.*
 - A. in a manner that asks strongly or begs
 - B. in a manner that is not easily noticed
 - C. in a disrespectful or rejecting manner

- 12 *A man does not rise to become the Queen's butler unless he is gifted with extraordinary ingenuity, **adaptability**, versatility, dexterity, cunning, sophistication, sagacity, discretion and a host of other talents that neither you nor I possess.*
- A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
 - B. a semiconductor device use to amplify (or control) electrical current
 - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 13 *A man does not rise to become the Queen's butler unless he is gifted with extraordinary ingenuity, adaptability, versatility, dexterity, **cunning**, sophistication, sagacity, discretion and a host of other talents that neither you nor I possess.*
- 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
- 14 *The footmen all wore knee-**breeches** and every one of them displayed beautifully rounded calves and ankles.*
- A. views
 - B. names
 - C. pants
- 15 *The footmen all stared at him, **aghast**.*
- A. holds together (connects or unites) or wraps
 - B. shocked with feelings of surprise and dismay
 - C. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
- 16 *He directed four footmen to clear up the mess, then, with a **disdainful** little wave of the hand, he indicated to the giant that he should seat himself on top of the chest-of-drawers on top of the grand piano.*
- A. full of disrespect
 - B. good or beneficial
 - C. impossible to find
- 17 *During the next twenty minutes, a whole relay of footmen were kept busy hurrying to and from the kitchen carrying third helpings and fourth helpings and fifth helpings of fried eggs and sausages for the **ravenous** and delighted BFG.*
- A. able to be found
 - B. likely to change
 - C. extremely hungry
- 18 *'There you is!' cried the BFG, whose wonderful ears **enabled** him to hear what the Sultan was saying to the Queen on the telephone.*
- A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 19 *The Queen, with her usual admirable **tact** and good sense, came to the rescue.*
- A. having good judgment or good taste and/or perceiving things not easily perceived by most people
 - B. the ability or act of saying or handling things in such a way that others feel good about them
 - C. measles -- a highly contagious viral disease marked by distinct red spots followed by a rash
- 20 *Nine fearsome, ugly, half-naked, fifty-foot-long brutes lay sprawled over the ground in various **grotesque** attitudes of sleep, and the sound of their snoring was indeed like gunfire in a battle.*
- A. clarifies (makes clear)
 - B. beautifies
 - C. distorted and unnatural in shape or size -- especially in a disturbing way

or:

ugly, gross, or very wrong

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	wretched	Used 3 times in this book.
2	A	repulsive (<i>as in: she found him repulsive</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
4	A	inevitable	High-utility academic word
5	B	anguish	Used 2 times in this book.
6	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word
7	B	diabolical	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	A	solemn	Used about 17 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	A	quiver	Used 4 times in this book.
10	A	genuine	High-utility academic word
11	A	beseech	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word
13	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	C	breech	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	B	aghast	Used 2 times in this book.
16	A	disdain	High-utility academic word
17	C	ravenous	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	enable	High-utility academic word
19	B	tact	High-utility academic word
20	C	grotesque	Used 2 times in this book.