

The Best of Me

by Nicholas Sparks

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

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: direct (2), economics, evaluate, focus (2), highlight, intersperse, irrevocable, nonetheless, pediatric, phase (2), positive (2), precedent, reminisce, suppress, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Best of Me

by Nicholas Sparks

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Best of Me

by Nicholas Sparks

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
2. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
3. She earned her degree in **economics** and now works at the Federal Reserve.
 - A. study of stars and planets
 - B. study of ancient ruins
 - C. study of money and markets
4. I'm **evaluating** job options.
 - A. considering
 - B. creating
 - C. avoiding
5. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
6. The discussion brought into focus an important difference of opinion.
 - A. hiding
 - B. conflict
 - C. view
7. The mayor **highlighted** positive developments in the city.
 - A. encouraged
 - B. searched for
 - C. emphasized
8. In the garden, she decided to **intersperse** the roses with a variety of wildflowers to create a vibrant and colorful display.
 - A. mix
 - B. replace
 - C. substitute
9. If you agree to the terms, you give them **irrevocable** permission to share your comments with others on their site.
 - A. easy to reverse later
 - B. unable to be undone
 - C. needing court approval
10. The class was hard. It was **nonetheless** my favorite.
 - A. despite that
 - B. because of that
 - C. for that reason
11. The clinic has a separate **pediatric** wing designed just for infants and toddlers.
 - A. for child patients
 - B. for elderly patients
 - C. for emergency cases

12. We finished the first **phase** of the project.
- A. pretending to have moral standards while not living up to them
 - B. a stage during the development of something
 - C. someone responsible for a wrongdoing -- especially a criminal
13. When I was young, I went through a **phase** where I was deathly afraid of the dark.
- A. a short saying that expresses a general truth or principle
 - B. an organized body of related information on a computer
 - C. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
14. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
15. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
16. Legal **precedent** set by the Supreme Court should be followed by all lower courts.
- A. a decision made at a prior time
 - B. a law passed by the legislature
 - C. an exception to a general rule
17. The reunion gave everyone a chance to **reminisce** and reconnect.
- A. plan future trips
 - B. recall fond memories
 - C. debate old arguments
18. Stalin **suppressed** criticism in the press.
- A. kept from spreading
 - B. caused to spread
 - C. expressed publicly
19. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

Vocabulary in Context

The Best of Me

by Nicholas Sparks

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 At first, they clung to the hope that Amanda was simply going through a rebellious **phase**, and they tried to ignore it.
 - A. a measure of north/south (relative to the equator) on the earth
 - B. a stage in the development of something
 - C. an optical device that produces an intense narrow beam of light
- 2 I saw it when she first came to see me, and I guess I hoped it was a **phase**, but the more she came to visit, the worse she seemed to be feeling.
 - A. the act or process of stopping something from happening
 - B. an organization comprised of firms in a single industry
 - C. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
- 3 Despite her volunteer work at the **Pediatric** Cancer Center at Duke University Hospital, her life largely revolved around the kids.
 - A. related to the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of infants and children
 - B. someone who believes in doing things the way they have generally been done in the past
 - C. psychoanalysis: that part of the unconscious mind with primitive, instinctual desires
- 4 He'd said nothing to her **directly**, but thinking back, she realized that he'd probably had his suspicions.
 - A. in a straightforward manner (open and uncomplicated)
 - 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
- 5 But that didn't stop him from making **directly** for the back room of his shack, where he kept all his weapons.
 - A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 - B. immediately
 - C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 6 On either side of the highway, farmhouses were set back from the road and **interspersed** with the occasional tobacco barn that had fallen into ruin.
 - A. to place something at irregular intervals in something else; or to mix two things irregularly
 - B. light-emitting diode -- a semiconductor device that emits light when current flows through it
 - C. doors divided in such a fashion that the bottom half may remain shut while the top half opens
- 7 "I suppose," he answered, and she had to **suppress** a smile.
 - A. trying to keep under control
 - B. tell someone about something
 - C. something repeated regularly
- 8 She **evaluated** his answer.
 - A. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - B. began speaking with someone about something
 - C. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
- 9 He sometimes felt guilty about having the Bonners followed, but he had to know whether he'd been able to make even the smallest **positive** difference in their lives.
 - A. good or beneficial
 - B. not representative
 - C. impossible to find
- 10 "You're sure?"
"Positive."
 - A. outside
 - B. various
 - C. certain
- 11 Even her fancy **economics** degree from UNC didn't buy her a pass.
 - A. the quality of accepting what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly
 - B. baseball: pitches thrown with little spin (so that they move in an unpredictable manner)
 - C. the study of how limited resources are allocated in an attempt to satisfy unlimited wants

- 12 *Nonetheless, he sounded glad to hear her voice.*
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)
- 13 *He didn't know, but the more he tried to **focus** on what he'd actually seen, the more it began to slip away.*
A. concentrate
B. make one's home in; or live in; or stay (in a place)
C. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
- 14 *Only slowly did the world come into **focus** again.*
A. software that stops unwanted software from spreading between computers and causing damage to data and software
B. a condition where the body cannot properly regulate blood sugar levels because it produces little or no insulin
C. view (a state where something can be seen clearly)
- 15 *"We talked, we ate, we **reminisced**," he pointed out.*
A. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
B. to talk or think fondly about past experiences
C. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
- 16 *And then he was gone, leaving her with the certainty that whatever the consequences, her life had already been **irrevocably** altered in ways she'd never imagined possible.*
A. separately in the specified order
B. in a manner that cannot be undone
C. in the manner of an investigation
- 17 *The halogen streetlights cast an eerie glow on the macadam, **highlighting** the route that led to Rick's, taunting him with the possibility that he might never make it there.*
A. a non-doctor assisting a women in childbirth
B. challenging, arguing about, or fighting over
C. emphasizing (drawing attention to)
- 18 *Ted started kicking him in the kidneys, **yielding** bursts of white-hot agony.*
A. producing
B. gradually adding or removing
C. subsequent (happening later)
- 19 *The nurse wouldn't answer, and her expression was **unyielding**.*
A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
B. firm
C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 20 *There was no **precedent** for a patient like Jared to be added to the waiting list.*
A. an example from a prior time -- typically used to justify similar occurrences at a later time (especially a judicial decision)
B. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
C. related to accepting someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Best of Me
by Nicholas Sparks

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	phase (<i>as in: a critical phase</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
2	C	phase (<i>as in: she's going through a phase</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	A	pediatric	Used 6 times in this book.
4	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	A	intersperse	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	suppress	Used 5 times in this book.
8	A	evaluate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
9	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	C	economics	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	A	nonetheless	Used 4 times in this book.
13	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	C	focus (<i>as in: bring into focus; or out of focus</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
15	B	reminisce	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	B	irrevocable	Used 2 times in this book.
17	C	highlight (<i>as in: highlight the main findings</i>)	High-utility academic word
18	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	precedent (<i>as in: sets a precedent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.