

# The Boy on the Wooden Box

by Leon Leyson

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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

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.

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#### 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:** affirm, anxiety, black market, congregation, contradict, demonstrate, devise, eviction, focus (2), immigrate, inevitable, infirmary, interminable, legacy, ration, refugee, scarcity, squalid, synagogue



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	A
13	B
14	B
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	C
19	C
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 court's ruling **affirms** the principle of freedom to expression.
  - A. supports
  - B. denies
  - C. complicates
2. It is a vicious cycle in which worry leads to decreased spending and decreased spending leads to increased **anxiety**.
  - A. happiness
  - B. worry
  - C. saving
3. It's illegal to sell elephant ivory, but it is still sold in the **black market**.
  - A. late-night market
  - B. discount market
  - C. illegal market
4. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
  - A. people who agree
  - B. people who worship together
  - C. people who meet periodically
5. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
  - A. disagree with
  - B. reinforce
  - C. expand upon
6. The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
  - A. protested
  - B. shown
  - C. encouraged
7. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
  - A. consider
  - B. create
  - C. save
8. I was served an **eviction notice**.
  - A. legal demand to pay
  - B. legal demand to appear
  - C. legal demand to move
9. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
  - A. concentrating
  - B. depending
  - C. getting help
10. The discussion brought into **focus** an important difference of opinion.
  - A. hiding
  - B. conflict
  - C. view
11. At that time, most of the people who **immigrated** to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
  - A. relocated
  - B. exported goods
  - C. visited

12. The leaves fall each year with the inevitable change of the seasons.
- A. certain to happen
  - B. complete or total
  - C. minor
13. I walked her to the campus infirmary.
- A. security office
  - B. health service
  - C. library
14. The meeting felt interminable as the speaker droned on about minor details.
- A. refreshingly brief
  - B. seemingly endless
  - C. surprisingly lively
15. Her parents left her a small legacy.
- A. inheritance
  - B. meal
  - C. "todo" list
16. During the Second World War, products such as food and gasoline were rationed in the United States, so more resources could be devoted to the war effort.
- A. restricted in the amount each person could have
  - B. set at a high price only the military could afford
  - C. imported in small amounts from many countries
17. She was a Tutsi refugee from Rwanda.
- A. someone who fled their homeland
  - B. someone who suffered
  - C. someone who immigrated
18. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
  - B. extremely hard
  - C. in short supply
19. The refugees lived in squalid conditions with no clean water or proper shelter.
- A. clean and pleasant
  - B. loud and crowded
  - C. filthy and unpleasant
20. In his speech at the synagogue, the President repeated that the United States will support Israel.
- A. Jewish school
  - B. Jewish house of worship
  - C. universal religious building

# Vocabulary in Context

## The Boy on the Wooden Box

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 **Inevitably**, some of the down would escape.
  - A. with certainty that it will happen
  - B. in a manner that involves betrayal
  - C. following as a result of something
- 2 I had been so **focused** on what I was learning that I hadn't heard my mother come in and begin cooking.
  - A. concentrated
  - B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
  - C. began speaking with someone about something
- 3 As I neared the Powstancow Bridge and the soldiers came into **focus**, I slowed my pace.
  - A. software that stops uninvited 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. a state where something has come into view or can be seen clearly
- 4 I looked forward to going to **synagogue** services with my maternal grandparents, with whom I was especially close.
  - A. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
  - B. a place of worship for a people of the Jewish faith
  - C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 5 The rabbi would begin the service in a strong, vibrant voice that soon blended in with the voices of the **congregation**.
  - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
  - B. people who worship together in the same building
  - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 6 Since my new friends and I never had any money, we **devised** what we thought was an extraordinarily clever way to ride for free.
  - A. not provided with investment funds
  - B. came up with (invented or created)
  - C. stopped (something from happening)
- 7 After a little while I would walk home, giving my fare to my mother, since even before the war, in my family, money was **scarce**.
  - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
  - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
  - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 8 The Polish government was intent on proving that it was as antisemitic as the Nazis and so refused to grant the **refugees** permission to reenter their homeland.
  - A. people who fled their homeland
  - B. understandings or explanations
  - C. quiet voices; or a quiet voice
- 9 Reports reached us that these Polish Jews were languishing on the border in a **squalid** no-man's-land of temporary camps.
  - A. with the involvement of other people or things
  - B. the state or degree of being greater than zero
  - C. dirty and unpleasant; or (more rarely) immoral
- 10 They **evicted** Jews from their apartments and moved in, confiscating their belongings.
  - A. did in a particular way
  - B. requested or challenged
  - C. forced someone to leave

- 11 *My mother was frantic, beside herself with fear and anxiety.*
- A. basic rule or belief
  - B. nervousness or worry
  - C. narrow water passage
- 12 *He also made arrangements with his gentile friend Wojek to sell a few of his fine suits on the black market.*
- A. a period of time or a stage during the development of something
  - B. a measure of north/south (relative to the equator) on the earth
  - C. the coming together of people who buy and sell things illegally
- 13 *They even let me inside the guard station a few times and shared a piece of chocolate from their rations.*
- A. a fixed share of something, especially scarce goods like food or fuel; or to limit and distribute something in fixed shares
  - B. atones (demonstrates sorrow for a wrong either by doing something good in return for the wrong, or by accepting punishment)
  - C. removes or suppress anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable OR people who does such suppression
- 14 *Every time German soldiers banged on our door, we flashed the permits and held our collective breath for the brief but interminable inspections.*
- A. relating to expert judgement of what is good and bad about something
  - B. seemingly endless; or long and unpleasant (often boring or annoying)
  - C. full of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
- 15 *It made no sense to me, and I even wondered how Nazis could believe such contradictions themselves.*
- A. things that disagree with themselves; or (more rarely) acts of disagreeing
  - B. things about which one feels angry or unhappy due to having to accept them
  - C. acts of move something out of an interacting position; or acts of stopping
- 16 *Earlier that evening my friend Yossel and I had carried an elderly woman on a stretcher to the ghetto infirmary, but we had made a dangerous miscalculation.*
- A. people who do not believe in the existence of god
  - B. a small facility where patients receive treatment
  - C. a state in which there is little ability to think
- 17 *When I think of all his many actions as a rescuer, big and small, it is this one act that first comes to mind; I think perhaps because it demonstrates such extraordinary compassion.*
- A. draws
  - B. shows
  - C. quits
- 18 *As I think back to that moment, it seems like we ripped them off in unison, an affirmation of our solidarity and victory.*
- A. demonstration
  - B. tile designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
  - C. the state of not being in danger of suffering from something
- 19 *At last, in May 1949, after nearly three years in the displaced persons camp, we received word that our immigration request had been approved.*
- A. the act of coming to live in a new country; or indication that something is related to that act
  - B. "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
  - C. a sexually transmitted disease that, if treated early, can be completely cured with antibiotics
- 20 *I wanted to give our children a legacy of freedom, not a legacy of fear.*
- A. something passed from one generation to the next
  - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
  - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	inevitable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	A	focus ( <i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	focus ( <i>as in: bring into focus; or out of focus</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
4	B	synagogue	Used 12 times in this book.
5	B	congregation ( <i>as in: the congregation voted</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
6	B	devise ( <i>as in: devise a plan</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
8	A	refugee	Used 5 times in this book.
9	C	squalid	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	eviction	Used 2 times in this book.
11	B	anxiety	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	C	black market	Used 6 times in this book.
13	A	ration	Used 5 times in this book.
14	B	interminable	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
16	B	infirmary	Used 6 times in this book.
17	B	demonstrate ( <i>as in: It demonstrates my point.</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	A	affirm ( <i>as in: affirmed her child's efforts</i> )	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
19	A	immigrate	Used 6 times in this book.
20	A	legacy	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.