

The Call of the Canyon

by Zane Grey

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: aloof, apathy, assail, attain, contrast, discord, eloquent, endure (2), foliage, infinite, laconic, materialistic, melancholy, nevertheless, poignant, retort, rouse, scorn, strife



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She missed their warm relationship and was saddened by his **aloofness**.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. lack of concentration
 - C. lack of interest
2. Until she learned to motivate herself, **apathy** led to bad grades.
 - A. lack of interest
 - B. lack of ability
 - C. distraction
3. She took every opportunity to **assail** the policy.
 - A. study
 - B. attack
 - C. understand
4. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
 - A. openly oppose
 - B. carefully describe
 - C. successfully gain
5. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
6. She heard the **discordant** clanging of pots in the kitchen.
 - A. unpleasant sound
 - B. attractive sound
 - C. loud sound
7. She is the most **eloquent** speaker at the school.
 - A. well-spoken
 - B. experienced
 - C. popular
8. As a soldier, she was prepared to endure hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
 - A. risk
 - B. suffer through
 - C. cause
9. Over the years, the stories my grandmother told me have **endured** as a source of wisdom in my life.
 - A. stopped acting
 - B. brought suffering
 - C. continued to exist
10. I like to rest my eyes by periodically looking up from the computer and gazing out the window at the **foliage**.
 - A. birds
 - B. plant leaves
 - C. clouds
11. The night sky seemed **infinite** as we gazed at countless stars.
 - A. blurry
 - B. silent
 - C. endless

12. When asked why he wanted to climb the mountain, he retorted laconically, "Because it's there."
A. in a manner that uses few words
B. in a funny manner
C. in a shy manner
13. I wouldn't describe myself as materialistic, but I would like some financial security.
A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
B. too afraid of risk and uncertainty
C. unwilling to spend any money
14. This weather makes me melancholy. I can't wait for spring,
A. happy
B. sad
C. feel like singing
15. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
A. also
B. despite that
C. in addition
16. Have you read MLK's poignant "Letter from Birmingham Jail"?
A. arousing deep emotion
B. logically compelling
C. long
17. She retorted, "Takes one to know one."
A. quickly replied
B. insulted back
C. joyfully laughed
18. The smell of freshly brewed coffee roused her from her sleep.
A. interrupted
B. deepened
C. awakened
19. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
A. disrespects
B. encourages
C. trains
20. Civil strife tore the country apart for nearly a decade before reform began.
A. joyful celebration
B. violent conflict
C. quiet agreement

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 *Cold, silent, haunted by something, he had made her miserable with his **aloofness**.*
 - A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 - B. not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention
 - C. the quality or degree of being socially distant or uninterested
- 2 *Carley had **poignantly** felt the sadness of the one, the promise of the other.*
 - A. in a sharp or intense manner
 - B. in a manner that finds fault
 - C. in a manner that is not good
- 3 *It was the voice of a people crying out the **strife** and the agony of the year—pealing forth a prayer for the future.*
 - A. thing that affects a result or outcome
 - B. violent conflict or angry disagreement
 - C. job, reservation, booking, or activity
- 4 *"You are twenty-six years old, Carley," **retorted** Aunt Mary.*
 - A. quickly replied
 - B. said indirectly
 - C. greatly annoyed
- 5 *All these strange individuals stared **apathetically** as the train slowly passed.*
 - A. without interest or enthusiasm
 - B. in a good or beneficial manner
 - C. in a manner that is misleading
- 6 *Nevertheless, it **affronted** her.*
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 7 *As she entered the lobby a clicking of pool balls and the discordant rasp of a phonograph **assailed** her ears.*
 - A. gradually added or removed
 - B. to attack or cause trouble
 - C. limited or with boundaries
- 8 *With the same leisurely ease and a cool, **laconic** stare the clerk turned the book toward her.*
 - A. using few words
 - B. strongly biased
 - C. material wealth
- 9 *To Carley these groves, by reason of **contrast** and proof of what once was, only rendered the landscape more forlorn and dreary.*
 - A. come to terms with
 - B. block or interfere
 - C. notable difference
- 10 *When at length she looked out instead of down she could see nothing but a mass of green **foliage** crossed by tree trunks and branches of brown and gray.*
 - A. shadows
 - B. plant leaves
 - C. clouds
- 11 *Studying him so, with the memory of earlier years in her mind, she was forced to admit that she liked him **infinitely** more as he was now.*
 - A. in a manner that is open to arguments, ideas, or change
 - B. inadequately (in a manner that does not provide enough)
 - C. unlimited; without boundaries; or too numerous to count

- 12 Flo talked **eloquently** about the joys of camp life, and how the harder any outdoor task was and the more endurance and pain it required, the more pride and pleasure one had in remembering it.
- A. with powerful use of language
 - B. primarily or most importantly
 - C. in a manner that arouses pity
- 13 A few **melancholy** pines were standing, and everywhere, as far as she could see southward, were blackened fallen trees and stumps.
- A. relating to the outside
 - B. a sad feeling or manner
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 14 Carley had been told by a Columbia professor that she was a type of the present age—a modern young woman of **materialistic** mind.
- A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
 - B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 - C. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
- 15 In a moment she was racing at a speed she had never before half **attained** on a horse.
- A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
 - C. gained or reached something with effort
- 16 She set her will and steeled her heart with all the pride and vanity and fury of a woman who had been defeated but Who **scorned** defeat.
- A. disrespected or rejected
 - B. mirrored back (an image)
 - C. quoted (to make a point)
- 17 Their merry voices contrasted **discordantly**...
- A. not sounding good together
 - B. exactly or accurately
 - C. completely or totally
- 18 But had it not been a kind of selfish, false courage, **roused** to hide her hurt, to save her own future?
- A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. explains something in a particular way
 - C. to awaken, make more active, or excite
- 19 The lesson of the West had been to **endure**, not to shirk--to face an issue, not to hide.
- A. call -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
 - B. work through the difficult (suffer through)
 - C. communication through gestures and body movements (without words)
- 20 This old mountain ... **endured** because of the spirit of nature.
- A. took on or adopted
 - B. previously created
 - C. continued to exist

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	aloof	Used 13 times in this book.
2	A	poignant	Used 4 times in this book.
3	B	strife	Used 9 times in this book.
4	A	retort (<i>as in: quick retort</i>)	Used 12 times in this book.
5	A	apathy	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
7	B	assail	Used 7 times in this book.
8	A	laconic	Used 4 times in this book.
9	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	foliage	Used 8 times in this book.
11	C	infinite	Used 15 times in this book.
12	A	eloquent	Used 7 times in this book.
13	B	melancholy	Used 6 times in this book.
14	A	materialistic	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
15	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
17	A	discord (<i>as in: discordant music</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
18	C	rouse	Used 8 times in this book.
19	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	Used 25 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	C	endure (<i>as in: endure through the ages</i>)	2 meanings in this book.