

The Catcher in the Rye

by J. D. Salinger

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: adapt, analysis, annex, bourgeois, composition, conceit, digress, falsetto, harrowing, infirmary, matinée, monotonous, nonchalant, phase, qualms, recuperate, scrupulous, spontaneous, stationery, unanimous



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - A. copied
 - B. read
 - C. changed
2. Freud's theory of **analysis** emphasized dreams and sexual repression.
 - A. psychiatric treatment
 - B. plot creation
 - C. film-making
3. Their display is in the **annex** to the main convention hall.
 - A. largest room
 - B. center
 - C. addition
4. She told the police officer that she was trying to awaken the sensibilities of her **bourgeois** neighbors.
 - A. conventional
 - B. irresponsible
 - C. foolish
5. After months of refining, the band finally recorded their first **composition**.
 - A. final group rehearsal
 - B. original musical work
 - C. list of song lyrics
6. Her **conceit** showed in the way she interrupted others and assumed she was always the smartest person in the room.
 - A. ignorance
 - B. arrogance
 - C. encouragement
7. She likes it when they stick to the numbers and don't **digress** into storytelling.
 - A. wander
 - B. elaborate
 - C. compete
8. She does a good imitation of Michael Jackson's famous **falsetto**.
 - A. smooth dance move
 - B. deep speaking tone
 - C. high singing voice
9. The story is especially **harrowing** because it could have happened to any of us.
 - A. frightening
 - B. instructive
 - C. realistic
10. I walked her to the campus **infirmary**.
 - A. security office
 - B. health service
 - C. library
11. We bought tickets for the **matinée** because the evening show was sold out.
 - A. opening speech
 - B. final rehearsal
 - C. daytime performance

12. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, monotonous roads.
- A. dark
 - B. narrow
 - C. boring
13. How could she be so nonchalant about making him suffer?
- A. dishonest
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
14. 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
15. Despite qualms about discussing her friends, she agreed to cooperate with the investigation.
- A. a desire for revenge
 - B. feelings of uneasiness
 - C. detailed plans
16. To control the spread of the disease, the school has a separate room where sick students wait for a ride home to recuperate.
- A. family care
 - B. do homework
 - C. regain health
17. Lenders trust her as a scrupulous property inspector.
- A. fast and cheap
 - B. honest and careful
 - C. loud and rude
18. The group broke into spontaneous laughter.
- A. quiet and polite
 - B. sudden and unplanned
 - C. loud and bothersome
19. She has beautiful stationery for writing notes.
- A. paper and envelopes
 - B. handwriting
 - C. choice of words
20. The jury reached a unanimous decision after just two hours of deliberation.
- A. agreed on by all
 - B. made by just one juror
 - C. split nearly evenly

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 Do you have any particular **qualms** about leaving Pencey?
 - A. subtle characteristics
 - B. uneasiness
 - C. basic rules or beliefs
- 2 I'm just going through a **phase** right now.
 - 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 He started laughing in this very high **falsetto** voice.
 - 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. a male singing voice with artificially high tones (in an upper register)
- 4 She's waiting in the **annex**.
 - A. an agent that works against a bacterial infection that is typically contracted through a puncture wound with a dirty object
 - B. main character of Mark Twain's classic novel about Huck and Jim's journey down the Mississippi River to find freedom (1884)
 - C. an addition that extends a main building
- 5 He wanted you to think that the only reason he was lousy at writing **compositions** was because he stuck all the commas in the wrong place.
 - A. things that are different than others of their type (synonyms could include: adaptations, versions, alternate forms)
 - B. essays
 - C. people who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often implying that they are unrealistic
- 6 He started talking in this very **monotonous** voice,
 - A. increasingly more frightening and/or dangerous
 - B. interesting and/or stimulating
 - C. boring
- 7 If you knew Stradlater, you'd have been worried, too. ... He was **unscrupulous**.
 - A. disbelief
 - B. unethical
 - C. important
- 8 He **adapts** himself very well to things.
 - A. makes different; or shows difference
 - B. declares invalid; or ends or cancels
 - C. adjusts (changes to fit different situations)
- 9 I mean he was the **unanimous** choice.
 - A. with everyone in agreement
 - B. able to meet and talk with
 - C. the quality of disagreeing
- 10 I just got very cool and **nonchalant**.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. calm and unconcerned
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 11 "I'm still **recuperating**," I told her.
 - A. gradually adding or removing
 - B. subsequent (happening later)
 - C. regaining health or strength

- 12 *...my suitcases, for instance. He kept saying they were too new and bourgeois.*
- A. represented middle class values
 - B. the act of protecting something or keeping it as it is
 - C. speaks with someone about something for the first time
- 13 *But the thing was, I'd made that date to go to a **matinee** with old Sally Hayes, and I needed to keep some dough for the tickets and stuff.*
- A. act of hiring again
 - B. wrong understanding
 - C. daytime performance
- 14 *...the reason she thought he was **conceited** was because he happened to mention to her that he was captain of the debating team.*
- A. not judged in a negative way
 - B. too proud
 - C. calculated or judged too low
- 15 *He's helped me to adjust myself to a certain extent, but an extensive **analysis** hasn't been necessary.*
- A. psychiatric treatment
 - B. performance review
 - C. treatment with medication
- 16 *Old Mr. Antolini felt his pulse and all, and then he took off his coat and put it over James Castle and carried him all the way over to the **infirmary**.*
- 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 *It's this course where each boy in class has to get up in class and make a speech. You know. **spontaneous** and all.*
- A. fascinate so much that awareness of other surrounding things is partially lost and too much trust is granted
 - B. without planning
 - C. related to a government official whose job is to represent their country in discussions with other countries
- 18 *The trouble with me is, I like it when somebody **digresses**. It's more interesting and all.*
- A. wanders off topic
 - B. rough calculations or guesses of values, quantities, or extents
 - C. praises, glorifies, or honors OR fills with extreme happiness
- 19 *Apparently before he phoned me he'd just had a long, rather **harrowing** letter from your latest headmaster, to the effect that you were making absolutely no effort at all.*
- A. unsettling
 - B. able to be disagreed with
 - C. not tending to find fault
- 20 *So all of a sudden, I ran like a madman across the street—I damn near got killed doing it, if you want to know the truth—and went in this **stationery** store and bought a pad and pencil.*
- A. a store selling paper & envelopes for writing letters, and related items such as supplies for an office or for an artist
 - B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
 - C. expressed strong hatred or loathing for

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	qualms	Used 2 times in this book.
2	C	phase (<i>as in: she's going through a phase</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	falsetto	
4	C	annex (<i>as in: annex of the main building</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	composition (<i>as in: an original composition</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 13 times in this book.
6	C	monotonous	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	scrupulous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	A	unanimous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
11	C	recuperate	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	bourgeois	Used 5 times in this book.
13	C	matinée	Used 4 times in this book.
14	B	conceit (<i>as in: confident, but not conceited</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
15	A	analysis (<i>as in: psychiatrist suggested analysis</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
16	B	infirmary	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	spontaneous	High-utility academic word
18	A	digress	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
19	A	harrowing (<i>as in: a harrowing story</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	A	stationery	Used 2 times in this book.