

The Cay

by Theodore Taylor

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: anguish, debris, deft, earnest, harass, Holland, legacy, mutiny, notify, parched, positive, quiver, recede, recollect, rouse, scorn, squall, tether, the Netherlands, whitecaps



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - extreme solitude
 - extreme distress
 - extreme depression
- Crews spent hours clearing **debris** from the highway after the crash.
 - intact structures
 - valuable items
 - scattered wreckage
- She chopped the vegetables with **deft**, sure movements.
 - quick & skillful
 - small and firm
 - rotating
- She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
 - frivolous attitude
 - seriousness
 - falseness
- She was **harassed** by the police.
 - imprisoned rapidly
 - interviewed formally
 - bothered repeatedly
- Holland** is known for windmills, wooden shoes, tulips, famous artists, and liberal culture.
 - Sweden
 - Scandinavia
 - The Netherlands
- Her parents left her a small **legacy**.
 - inheritance
 - meal
 - "todo" list
- The largest **mutiny** in modern military history occurred during the first world war when an estimated 40,000 French soldiers, probably wisely, ignored the command to advance on German troops entrenched in hilltop positions.
 - open rebellion against authority
 - turnaround in a battle
 - defeat in battle
- People in the **Netherlands** are called Dutch, and their language is called Dutch.
 - Holland
 - Sweden
 - Finland
- The school will **notify** parents if the schedule changes.
 - ignore
 - punish
 - inform
- Cactus is about all that will grow in this **parched** soil.
 - dried out
 - sandy
 - rocky

12. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
13. Her hands began to quiver as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
 - B. tightly grip
 - C. quickly move
14. The pain is beginning to **recede**.
- A. get worse
 - B. return again
 - C. diminish (decrease)
15. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
16. The smell of freshly brewed coffee roused her from her sleep.
- A. interrupted
 - B. deepened
 - C. awakened
17. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
18. The fishermen rushed to shore as a **squall** approached.
- A. calm breeze
 - B. thick fog
 - C. brief storm
19. The astronaut is **tethered** to the space station while doing outside repairs.
- A. close
 - B. outside
 - C. tied
20. The restaurant has a beautiful ocean view. You can almost always waves breaking on shore as well as distant **whitecaps**.
- A. snow-covered mountains
 - B. seagulls with a gray body & white head
 - C. wind-blown waves with white foam at their crest

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 Men with binoculars had them trained toward the **whitecaps**, and everyone was tense.
 - A. acts of interacting or getting interested again
 - B. general feelings of not being as good as others
 - C. wind-blown waves with white foam at their crest
- 2 His little Navy was scattered all over after the Germans took **Holland**.
 - A. someone who believes in a discipline and school of thought discussing the mystical aspect of Judaism and hidden meanings in Hebrew scripture
 - B. pre-Copernicus theory that supported the belief that the planets revolve around the earth which was thought to be the center of the universe
 - C. Informal reference to the Netherlands (confusion arises because important provinces in the Netherlands are North Holland and South Holland).
- 3 The radio was on, and a voice said that fifty-six men had died on the lake tankers that were blown up and that the governor of **the Netherlands'** West Indies had appealed to Washington for help.
 - A. a European country (sometimes called Holland) and that literally means "lower countries"
 - 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
- 4 They were angry with the Chinese crews, and on the third day, my father said that **mutiny** charges had been placed against them.
 - A. open rebellion against authority -- especially by seamen or soldiers against their officers
 - B. a legal order requiring witnesses to appear, or documents related to an appeal be provided
 - C. utter obscenities or profanities; or to speak disrespectfully of something considered sacred
- 5 I looked on as the thick hoses that were attached to her **quivered** when the gasoline was pumped into her tanks.
 - A. to shake or tremble slightly
 - B. not working or not operating
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 6 My lips were **parched** and my throat was dry.
 - A. dried out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight; or very thirsty
 - B. not with energy redirected from a negative impulse to a positive one
 - C. convinced (someone) that an idea previously believed was not correct
- 7 When the sky began to turn a deep blue, Timothy **roused** himself and looked around.
 - A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. explains something in a particular way
 - C. to awaken, make more active, or excite
- 8 Before total darkness, he had skinned them, **deftly** cutting meat from their sides.
 - A. quick and skillful
 - B. with strong desire
 - C. in a sloped manner
- 9 I 'ave no **recollection** o' any-thin' 'cept dese islan's.
 - A. battle
 - B. result
 - C. memory
- 10 Timothy answered **scornfully**, "Dere, look, maim, look ..."
 - A. in a disrespectful or rejecting manner
 - B. in a manner that is not easily noticed
 - C. with grace of movement and flexibility
- 11 There was a silence until Timothy broke it with **anguish**.
 - A. extreme introversion
 - B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress
 - C. extreme depression

- 12 The **squall** wind was in the tops of the palms and I could imagine how they looked in the night sky, thrashing against each other high over our little cay.
- A. bounce back
 - B. begin again
 - C. windy storm
- 13 "Don't talk nonsense, Timothy," I said "D'evil spirit **harass** an' meliss us," he said daddy.
- A. show, determine, or understand
 - B. hire, reserve, book, or occupy
 - C. to repeatedly bother or attack
- 14 I was **positive** that Timothy was back on north beach cutting on that piece of wood but something told me not to go down there.
- A. outside
 - B. various
 - C. certain
- 15 I knew that if I kept going that way, I'd touch or fall over the length of life-line rope that **tethered** the raft.
- A. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
 - B. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - C. tied
- 16 When the water **receded**, it would tug at us, and Timothy's strength would fight against it.
- A. genetically changed through evolution
 - B. not encouraged or emotionally aroused
 - C. move away or diminished (became less)
- 17 Feeling it everywhere under my feet, I knew that the cay was littered with **debris**.
- A. the act of treating or preparing food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. passages food and drink follow between the back of mouths and the stomachs
 - C. pieces of something that has been destroyed; or trash that is lying around
- 18 They were one more part of the **legacy** Timothy had left me.
- A. something someone created and left from the past
 - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
 - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
- 19 This time, I dived in **earnest**.
- A. seven wise men of ancient Greece
 - B. serious; or in a serious manner
 - C. real (genuine, true, or sincere)
- 20 The Navy had **notified** them that I was blind, so that it would not be a shock.
- A. not judged in a negative way
 - B. found, sought, or researched
 - C. told someone about something

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	whitecaps	Used 3 times in this book.
2	C	Holland	Used 3 times in this book.
3	A	the Netherlands	Used 2 times in this book.
4	A	mutiny	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	quiver	Used about 16 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	parched	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
7	C	rouse	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	A	deft	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	C	recollect	High-utility academic word
10	A	scorn	High-utility academic word
11	B	anguish	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	squall (<i>as in: a squall blew in</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	C	harass	Used 4 times in this book.
14	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
15	C	tether	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	C	recede	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	C	debris	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	A	legacy	High-utility academic word
19	B	earnest	High-utility academic word
20	C	notify	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.