

# The City of Ember

by Jeanne DuPrau

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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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:** appeal, approximate, assume, beckon, comprehend, consequence, demonstrate, descend, determined, engage, evaluate, glimpse, grave, indicate, nevertheless, ponder, sheer, solemn, thus, utter



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## The City of Ember

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Her enthusiasm **appeals** to me.
  - is attractive
  - is disturbing
  - is too intense
- The circumference of the earth is **approximately** 24,900 miles at the equator.
  - exactly
  - commonly mistaken as
  - about
- The detective had no concrete evidence, but he began to **assume** the suspect was hiding something based on his evasive answers.
  - wonder if
  - believe
  - prove
- The police officer **beckoned** me to come over.
  - considered asking
  - called
  - prohibited
- Washington fails to **comprehend** the change in China's strategy.
  - fully understand
  - regard respectfully
  - respond adequately to
- Her job prospects are hindered as a consequence of the conviction.
  - result
  - unimportant part
  - important part
- The students **demonstrated** against limitations on free speech.
  - signed petitions
  - spoke eloquently
  - protested
- She saw him as he was **descending** the stairs.
  - climbing
  - looking at
  - going down
- She is **determined** to find a cure for the disease.
  - firmly planning
  - hoping
  - without hope
- At the time, she was **engaged** in a research project at Stanford.
  - a candidate
  - involved
  - promised to marry
- I'm **evaluating** job options.
  - considering
  - creating
  - avoiding

12. She gave them a **glimpse** of the challenge solving climate change has for people living in poverty.
- A. partial look
  - B. economic analysis
  - C. deep understanding
13. The day after the funeral, she was in a **grave mood**.
- A. hysterical
  - B. solemn
  - C. fearful
14. She did not **indicate** which candidate she supports.
- A. hide or disguise
  - B. decide
  - C. express or show
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. We **pondered** our fate.
- A. thought about
  - B. feared for
  - C. actively changed
17. A **sheer** cliff drops from the lighthouse to the sea.
- A. steep
  - B. ragged
  - C. rock
18. Everyone was **solemn** at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
  - B. teary eyed
  - C. dressed in dark colors
19. Having betrayed her **thus**, he was not surprised when she broke up with him.
- A. in an odd way
  - B. in the usual way
  - C. in that way
20. The company is in danger of **utter** collapse.
- A. partial
  - B. possible
  - C. total or complete

## Vocabulary in Context

### The City of Ember

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

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

- 1 So the first mayor of Ember was given the box, told to guard it carefully, and **solemnly** sworn to secrecy.
  - A. very seriously
  - B. very secretly
  - C. very unexpectedly
- 2 Then, **Evaluation**. Are you good at your job? Fine. You may keep it. Are you unsatisfactory? Is there a greater need elsewhere? You will be re-assigned.
  - A. analysis and judgment
  - B. taking a test
  - C. going to a new place
- 3 My confidence in you has been seriously diminished since I heard about the disreputable activities in which you **engaged** on Thursday last.
  - A. hired on
  - B. were involved
  - C. promised to marry
- 4 He **pondered** a moment.
  - A. thought
  - B. paused
  - C. relaxed
- 5 ...if he could just get a look at the generator, he would have the clue he needed. From there, he could begin to work on a solution that would keep the lights of Ember burning. But one **glimpse** of the generator showed him how foolish he was.
  - A. quick look
  - B. careful look
  - C. quick tour
- 6 Ember was in **grave** danger.
  - A. possible
  - B. serious
  - C. buried
- 7 The mayor's voice kept coming in blasts of **incomprehensible** sound, and the people in the crowd were either shouting angrily or yelping in fear of being squashed.
  - A. not understandable
  - B. quickly spoken
  - C. uncomfortably loud
- 8 "And when anger is the boss, you get—" "I know," said Doon. "Unintended **consequences**?"
  - A. results
  - B. memories
  - C. rules
- 9 It was a mystery in itself, whatever it was, and Lina was **determined** to solve it.
  - A. firm in purpose
  - B. figured out
  - C. almost certain to
- 10 The copy was as accurate as she could make it, with the missing bits between the letters carefully **indicated** as dashes.
  - A. eliminated
  - B. covered
  - C. shown

- 11 He found another supply closet at the far south end of the Pipeworks—at least, he **assumed** that's what it was.
- A. knew
  - B. believed
  - C. wondered if
- 12 Maybe it wasn't the door out of Ember, but it was a mystery **nevertheless**—a mystery connected, she was sure, to the bigger mystery they were trying to solve.
- A. in addition to that
  - B. in spite of that
  - C. all else being equal
- 13 Often they didn't even come out into the street but **beckoned** to a messenger from their doorway.
- A. threw
  - B. called
  - C. reported
- 14 Every now and then the **demonstrators** would yell these slogans out loud.
- A. workers
  - B. writers
  - C. protestors
- 15 It was a **sheer** rock wall, straight up and down and slick with spray, and at first that was all she saw.
- A. steep
  - B. thick
  - C. wet
- 16 The bars provided a way to climb down the riverbank. Not a very **appealing** way—the bars looked slippery, and the water below was so terribly fast.
- A. desirable
  - B. safe
  - C. fast
- 17 This must say, 'Something something down riverbank to ledge **approximately** eight feet below.'
- A. exactly
  - B. quickly
  - C. about
- 18 Behind it was a space of **utter** darkness.
- A. partial
  - B. questionable
  - C. complete
- 19 Lina's arms were just long enough to reach past Poppy and hold on to the ladder. She **descended** very slowly.
- A. began to move
  - B. climbed up
  - C. climbed down
- 20 He filled his bottle with river water, lit a candle for himself and one for Lina, and **thus** equipped, they left the boat behind and crept up the rocky shelf to the path.
- A. in an odd way
  - B. in the usual way
  - C. in that way

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	solemn	Used 2 times in this book.
2	A	evaluate	High-utility academic word
3	B	engage ( <i>as in: engage in conversation</i> )	High-utility academic word
4	A	ponder	Used 3 times in this book.
5	A	glimpse	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	grave ( <i>as in: Her manner was grave.</i> )	High-utility academic word
7	A	comprehend	High-utility academic word
8	A	consequence ( <i>as in: a direct consequence of</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	A	determined ( <i>as in: is determined to succeed</i> )	Used 3 times in this book.
10	C	indicate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	B	assume ( <i>as in: I assume it's true</i> )	High-utility academic word
12	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
13	B	beckon	Used 3 times in this book.
14	C	demonstrate ( <i>as in: demonstrate to protest</i> )	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	sheer ( <i>as in: a sheer cliff</i> )	Used 3 times in this book.
16	A	appeal ( <i>as in: appeals to youthful tastes</i> )	High-utility academic word
17	C	approximate	High-utility academic word
18	C	utter ( <i>as in: utter stupidity</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
19	C	descend ( <i>as in: descend the mountain</i> )	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	thus ( <i>as in: betrayed her thus</i> )	High-utility academic word