

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

by Mark Haddon

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

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: approximate, detach, digress, focus (2), hypothesis (2), illustrate (2), intuition, junction, metaphor, molecule, nucleus, physics, red herring, rhetorical question, simile, speed of light, white lie



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. The circumference of the earth is approximately 24,900 miles at the equator.
A. exactly
B. commonly mistaken as
C. about
2. These days, she seems emotionally **detached** whenever she talks about him.
A. separated
B. connected
C. heightened
3. She likes it when they stick to the numbers and don't **digress** into storytelling.
A. wander
B. elaborate
C. compete
4. The discussion brought into **focus** an important difference of opinion.
A. hiding
B. conflict
C. view
5. The satellite **focuses** the signal into a narrow beam.
A. spreads
B. concentrates
C. pulses
6. He **hypothesized** the existence of Pluto before its discovery.
A. fantasized
B. theorized
C. disbelieved
7. Her **hypothesis** was that the plants grew faster with classical music playing.
A. confirmed scientific fact
B. well-known principle
C. unproven proposed idea
8. The example **illustrates** the belief.
A. disproves
B. proves
C. makes clear
9. The assembly directions include **illustrations** to identify each part.
A. drawings
B. coded stickers
C. descriptions
10. **Intuitively**, I knew not to trust her.
A. logically
B. instinctively
C. conclusively
11. The accident happened at a busy **junction** downtown.
A. an empty field
B. an intersection
C. a deep tunnel
12. Jefferson used a **wall** as a metaphor to describe the separation of church and state.
A. clever strategy
B. exaggeration
C. figure of speech

13. A water **molecule** is made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.
- A. tiny chemical unit
 - B. large living cell
 - C. kind of heavy metal
14. The small reading group became the nucleus of a schoolwide book club.
- A. ending
 - B. critics
 - C. center
15. She became interested in physics after building a model rocket that launched using air pressure.
- A. study of living things
 - B. science of matter and energy
 - C. study of human cultures
16. I think she raised the issue as a red herring.
- A. complaint
 - B. diversion
 - C. main argument
17. She started her talk with this rhetorical question: How would you like your obituary to read when you die?
- A. a fundamentally important question
 - B. a question asked to emphasize a point or to generate interest rather than to get information
 - C. an open-ended question that has no right or wrong answer
18. A good **simile** or metaphor will help your audience to remember a main point.
- A. exaggeration for emphasis
 - B. comparison using 'like'/'as'
 - C. rhyme at line endings
19. The **speed of light** in a vacuum is often denoted by the letter c.
- A. weight of an atom
 - B. force of gravity
 - C. rate light travels
20. When she takes a vacation from work, she tells a **white lie** on her email autoreply. She says she'll be gone a day longer than she will really be gone, so she has a day to clean out her inbox.
- A. creative lie
 - B. repeated lie
 - C. unimportant lie

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 And Mr. Jeavons smells of soap and wears brown shoes that have **approximately** 60 tiny circular holes in each of them.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. cheerfully and friendly
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 2 Then they worked out that the universe was expanding, that the stars were all rushing away from one another after the Big Bang, and the further the stars were away from us the faster they were moving, some of them nearly as fast as the **speed of light**, which was why their light never reached us.
 - A. an artist who created medieval European art associated with Gothic cathedrals
 - B. 3-dimensional X-ray images of parts of the body using computerized tomography
 - C. rate at which light travels (about 186,000 miles per second or 300,000,000 meters per second in a vacuum)
- 3 I decided that my best plan would be to wait for a really sunny day and then use my glasses to **focus** the sunlight on a piece of my clothing and start a fire.
 - A. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
 - B. concentrate at one spot
 - C. dislike strongly and look down upon
- 4 And the advert said "DREAM HOLIDAY, THINK KUONI IN MALAYSIA" and behind the writing there was a big photograph of 2 orangutans and they were swinging on branches and there were trees behind them but the leaves were blurred because the camera was **focusing** on the orangutans and not the leaves and the orangutans were moving.
 - A. making different; or showing difference
 - B. differing notably in brightness or tone
 - C. with lens adjusted for a clear image
- 5 But this is what is called a **digression**, and now I am going to go back to the fact that it was a Good Day.
 - A. instance of getting off the main topic
 - B. related to or causing dramatic change; of a supporter of the change
 - C. a series of regularly spaced columns -- typically covered by a roof
- 6 And after I've taken A-level maths I am going to take A-level further maths and **physics** and then I can go to university.
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. the science of matter and energy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 7 This is called a **white lie**.
 - A. a lie of white privilege
 - B. something that is easily proved to be false
 - C. an unimportant lie (especially one told to be polite or helpful)
- 8 And stars are the places where the **molecules** that life is made of were constructed billions of years ago.
 - A. chemical substance comprised of the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
 - B. soccer players who play in the middle third of the field and who assist with both defense and offense
 - C. aka natural rights -- rights that are naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
- 9 Here is a famous story called The Monty Hall Problem which I have included in this book because it **illustrates** what I mean.
 - A. strongly desires
 - B. lies or misleads
 - C. helps make clear
- 10 The deerstalker hat was invented by a man called Sidney Paget, who did the **illustrations** for the original books.
 - A. drawings
 - B. positively charged ions
 - C. proposed or actual laws

- 11 But if you use your **intuition** you think that chance is 50-50 because you think there is an equal chance that the car is behind any door.
- A. the redirection energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - B. the ability to know instinctively rather than through reasoning; or the thing that is known in such a way
 - C. someone with a potentially life-threatening psychological eating disorder that prevents eating enough food
- 12 I like *The Hound of the Baskervilles* because it is a detective story, which means that there are clues and **Red Herrings**.
- A. acts of being in a working position; or the acts of starting
 - B. diversions intended to distract attention from the truth
 - C. things or characteristics that express agreement or approval
- 13 Also it says in the book *Sherlock Holmes* had, in a very remarkable degree, the power of **detaching** his mind at will.
- A. separating
 - B. unwrapping
 - C. doing well
- 14 This is what Siobhan says is called a **rhetorical question**.
- A. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
 - B. a question asked to emphasize a point or to generate interest rather than to get information
 - C. pleasing music (through the combination of different notes); or describing music as pleasing
- 15 And when X is between 1 and 3, the population gets bigger and then it stays stable like this (and these graphs are **hypothetical**, too).
- A. finding fault and telling others; or tending to have unfavorable opinions
 - B. based on something that is seemingly reasonable, but unproven
 - C. the state or degree of not finding a condition or substance to be present
- 16 And if something is nearby you can find it by moving in a spiral, walking clockwise and taking every right turn until you come back to a road you've already walked on, then taking the next left, then taking every right turn and so on, like this (but this is a **hypothetical** diagram, too, and not a map of Swindon).
- A. relating to the threadlike structures in the cell nucleus that carry genes in a linear order
 - B. nervousness or discomfort felt by someone due to concern about what others will think of them
 - C. something temporarily treated as true to advance a discussion or to further investigation
- 17 It was falling so hard that it looked like white sparks (and this is a **simile**, too, not a metaphor).
- A. a word picture that clarifies meaning
 - B. a phrase that highlights similarity between things of different kinds
 - C. a pun or joke that plays on word meaning
- 18 It was falling so hard that it looked like white sparks (and this is a simile, too, not a **metaphor**).
- A. a melody that, after a short interval, is exactly repeated by a different instrument or voice to create competing melodic lines (a strict counterpoint)
 - B. law: an alternative to pleading guilty or not guilty, which says that even if the facts listed in charges are correct, they do not constitute a crime
 - C. a figure of speech in which a word is used to refer to something that it does not literally denote in order to suggest a similarity -- as when Shakespeare wrote, "All the world's a stage."
- 19 And they are **nuclear** explosions billions of miles away.
- A. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - B. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - C. relating to the central or most important part of something
- 20 Says *Underground Take the Bakerloo Line to Willesden Junction* or the Jubilee to Willesden Green.
- A. particles emitted by nuclear decay
 - B. a place where things come together
 - C. a central open space in a building

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	approximate	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
2	C	speed of light	Used 4 times in this book.
3	B	focus (<i>as with technical usage</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
4	C	focus (<i>as in: bring into focus; or out of focus</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	A	digress	High-utility academic word
6	B	physics	Used 7 times in this book.
7	C	white lie	Used 7 times in this book.
8	A	molecule	Used 4 times in this book.
9	C	illustrate (<i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	A	illustrate (<i>as in: an illustrated children's book</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
12	B	red herring (<i>as in: distracted with a red herring</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
13	A	detach	Used 4 times in this book.
14	B	rhetorical question	Used 3 times in this book.
15	B	hypothesis (<i>as in: a study to test her hypothesis</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	C	hypothesis (<i>as in: assume as a working hypothesis</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	simile	Used 5 times in this book.
18	C	metaphor	Used 8 times in this book.
19	C	nucleus	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	junction	Used 9 times in this book.