

The Devil's Arithmetic

by Jane Yolen

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

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: alienate, arbitrary, assent, deliberate (2), demonstrate, dominate, elaborate, genuine, hysteria, impudent, irony, lucid, mesmerize, nevertheless, ominous, recite, resolve, solemn, synagogue



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Devil's Arithmetic

by Jane Yolen

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Devil's Arithmetic

by Jane Yolen

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Her constant complaining started to **alienate** her coworkers, who found her difficult to be around.
 - A. make feel emotionally closer to
 - B. make feel angry or upset at
 - C. make feel emotionally separated from
2. The rules felt **arbitrary**, changing from one day to the next without clear explanation.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. strict
 - C. cruel
3. The singer **assented** to the request for an encore.
 - A. declined or refused
 - B. dislike or resented
 - C. consented or agreed
4. She **deliberately** added false information to the Wikipedia page.
 - A. intentionally
 - B. carelessly
 - C. accidentally
5. She wasn't accustomed to cold weather, but she managed to cross the icy street with **deliberate** care.
 - A. quick and energetic
 - B. very little
 - C. slow and careful
6. The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
 - A. protested
 - B. shown
 - C. encouraged
7. She completely **dominates** her boyfriend.
 - A. worships
 - B. obeys
 - C. controls
8. Their culture has **elaborate** wedding ceremonies.
 - A. generous
 - B. exciting
 - C. detailed
9. She has a **genuine** interest in each of her students.
 - A. sincere (real)
 - B. fake
 - C. generous (giving)
10. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of **hysteria**.
 - A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
11. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
 - A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet

12. Ironically, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
- A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
13. The patient had a lucid moment between bouts of deep confusion.
- A. very confused
 - B. clear-thinking
 - C. half-asleep
14. The dancer's graceful movements mesmerized the audience.
- A. spellbound or enthralled
 - B. distracted or amused
 - C. shocked or surprised
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. With the clouds looking so ominous, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
17. The children recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A. memorized
 - B. said aloud
 - C. listened to
18. I resolved to never drink again.
- A. was forced
 - B. was encouraged
 - C. firmly decided
19. Everyone was solemn at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
20. In his speech at the synagogue, the President repeated that the United States will support Israel.
- A. Jewish school
 - B. Jewish house of worship
 - C. universal religious building

Vocabulary in Context

The Devil's Arithmetic

by Jane Yolen

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 "You know it's Passover," her mother said, sighing, in a voice **deliberately** low.
 - A. intentionally
 - B. unemotionally
 - C. with distaste
- 2 When still no one moved, the officer very slowly and **deliberately** removed the pistol from his holster and pointed it at the feet of a man standing near the edge of the crowd.
 - A. in a manner that is likely to change
 - B. in a manner that does not find fault
 - C. with great care
- 3 Whether it was a dream or an **elaborate** game, she'd show them all she was a good sport.
 - A. without gender classification
 - B. overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. detailed and complicated
- 4 But Shmuel's smile was so **genuine**.
 - A. real
 - B. city
 - C. lazy
- 5 "I hear Reb Boruch is a **solemn** man," Gitl said carefully.
 - A. very serious
 - B. indicating approval or agreement
 - C. able to be taken on as one's own
- 6 "Maybe there's something everyone is afraid of. With you it's getting married. With me it's shots." "Shots?" "Shots. You know. Needles?" She jabbed her right finger into her left arm to **demonstrate**.
 - A. draw
 - B. show or exhibit (how something works)
 - C. quit
- 7 She **mesmerized** them with her tellings.
 - A. spellbound or enthralled
 - B. distracted or amused
 - C. shocked or surprised
- 8 The **dominant** color was brown:
 - A. the state of not representing or imitating external reality or the objects of nature
 - B. a solution that is simpler (and often more comprehensive) than most would anticipate
 - C. most conspicuous or influential
- 9 Sometimes she is **lucid**, other times she talks of Rochelles and needles and snakes.
 - A. cheerful and optimistic; or a tendency to maintain or quickly recover cheerfulness and optimism after setbacks
 - B. capable of thinking clearly
 - C. able to be portrayed or created in a particular way OR able to be interpreted, translated, or extracted from
- 10 They made a perfect half circle in front of the **synagogue** doors, like a steel trap with gaping jaws ready to be sprung.
 - A. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
 - B. a place where members of the Jewish faith worship
 - C. collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 11 There was a murmur of **assent** from the men.
 - A. to release from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
 - B. removing the favoring any side in a contest, war, disagreement, or other dispute
 - C. to express agreement -- especially with a statement or proposal to do something

- 12 A woman, her voice edged with **hysteria**, said, "You heard, you heard, but if they were all dead, how could anyone know for sure?"
- A. a state of excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - B. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - C. found a condition or substance to be present
- 13 The proverbs say 'He who harps on a matter **alienates** his friend.'
- A. accepts as true (without proof)
 - B. takes (power or responsibility)
 - C. make feel emotionally separated
- 14 Do not be **impudent**.
- A. alternative medicine using extremely diluted doses of a substance to treat the same symptoms larger doses cause
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful
 - C. working against psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 15 The smokestack and the **ominous** black curl emerging from it, dissipating against the bright blue sky,
- A. threatening; or suggestive of bad things to come
 - B. huge
 - C. comforting
- 16 It was obvious she had **recited** these same words to each group of newcomers, yet her voice held a sweetness and a patience quite out of keeping with the information she delivered.
- A. recommended or required what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) gave medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
 - B. said aloud
 - C. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 17 After the meal, the **zugangi** were lined up again in what seemed to Hannah to be a totally **arbitrary** order, orchestrated by the same three-fingered woman.
- A. based on chance or impulse
 - B. able to meet and talk with
 - C. the quality of disagreeing
- 18 She wondered if Gitl would know what it was, and **resolved** to ask her.
- A. changed
 - B. adapted
 - C. definitely decided
- 19 "Nevertheless, you must learn them," Rivka said.
- 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)
- 20 His name was Wolfe. Wolfe! And the **irony** of it was that he was as gentle as a lamb.
- A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - B. when things are together that seem like they don't belong together
 - C. someone who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often with the implication that the person is unrealistic

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Devil's Arithmetic

by Jane Yolen

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	deliberate (<i>as in: deliberate insult</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
2	C	deliberate (<i>as in: a deliberate thinker</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	C	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate design</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	A	genuine	High-utility academic word
5	A	solemn	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	demonstrate (<i>as in: It demonstrates my point.</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	A	mesmerize	Used 2 times in this book.
8	C	dominate	High-utility academic word
9	B	lucid	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	synagogue	Used 4 times in this book.
11	C	assent	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	hysteria	Used 3 times in this book.
13	C	alienate	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	impudent	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	ominous	Used 2 times in this book.
16	B	recite	Used 5 times in this book.
17	A	arbitrary	High-utility academic word
18	C	resolve (<i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
20	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.