

The Great Fire

by Jim Murphy

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

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: bolster, combustion, congregation, culprit, cumbersome, debris, establish (2), estimate, factor, inhabitant, inquiry, lethargic, listless, opera, ornate, perish, refute, subsequent, urban



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The falling unemployment rate is **bolstering** consumer confidence.
 - A. weakening
 - B. confusing
 - C. strengthening
2. Unlike electric cars, gasoline-powered cars have an internal **combustion** engine that burns gasoline.
 - A. fuel burning
 - B. low-tech
 - C. high-tech
3. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
 - A. people who agree
 - B. people who worship together
 - C. people who meet periodically
4. Did they catch the **culprit**?
 - A. criminal
 - B. dog
 - C. problem
5. She struggled to lift the **cumbersome** box up the stairs.
 - A. easily broken
 - B. well-wrapped
 - C. difficult to handle
6. Crews spent hours clearing **debris** from the highway after the crash.
 - A. intact structures
 - B. valuable items
 - C. scattered wreckage
7. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
8. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
9. Can you **estimate** the cost of the renovation?
 - A. officially approve
 - B. roughly calculate
 - C. publicly announce
10. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
 - A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
11. The **inhabitants** of the village were very friendly.
 - A. tourists
 - B. residents
 - C. visitors

12. The official inquiry has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
- A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
13. Large lunches make me feel lethargic in the afternoon.
- A. sluggish
 - B. upset
 - C. energetic
14. She accepted her fate with listless resignation.
- A. unenergetic
 - B. frustrated
 - C. lonely
15. We're going to the opera this evening.
- A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
16. It was the most ornate building I've ever seen.
- A. ancient
 - B. boring
 - C. decorated
17. We can work together or perish separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
18. He refuted the argument.
- A. avoided
 - B. complained about
 - C. argued against
19. The results of the initial investigation were unclear, but a subsequent investigation concluded that she used good judgment.
- A. thorough
 - B. official
 - C. following
20. Urban neighborhoods often have more buses and sidewalks than rural areas.
- A. related to a city
 - B. related to farming
 - C. related to weather

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 *The city boasted having 59,500 buildings, many of them — such as the Courthouse and the Tribune Building — large and **ornately** decorated.*
 - A. in a strongly biased manner
 - B. in a manner that sticks out
 - C. with much decorative detail
- 2 *On the day the fire started, over 55 miles of pine-block streets and 600 miles of wooden sidewalks bound the 23,000 acres of the city in a highly **combustible** knot.*
 - A. able to burn easily
 - B. act of hiring again
 - C. wrong understanding
- 3 *As for Goll, he claimed later at the official **inquiry** into the fire that he had waited for Lee to leave and then turned in the alarm.*
 - A. small quantity or indication
 - B. reason (for doing something)
 - C. questioning or investigating
- 4 *While this system sounds very **cumbersome** to us, back in 1871 it was considered quite speedy and efficient.*
 - A. a sensible view of a situation
 - B. made by taking on as one's own
 - C. difficult to handle or awkward
- 5 *Chamberlin's distaste for the area and its **inhabitants** was shared by a great many people living in the city's wealthier sections and would go a long way toward fixing the blame for the Great Fire.*
 - A. things accepted as true (without proof)
 - B. people (who live in a particular place)
 - C. things designed to stop something else
- 6 *The heat and dry air had left twelve-year-old Claire Innes tired and **listless** all day.*
 - A. lacking energy and normal enthusiasm
 - B. lacking a reason for doing something
 - C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 7 *If the fire **established** itself on the tall steeple, the wind would spread firebrands over an even larger area.*
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. set
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 8 *Idle gossip had hardened into **established** fact.*
 - A. accepted someone's membership through a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. accepted as true
- 9 *Crosby's Opera House burns while pedestrians scamper to safety.*
 - A. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
- 10 *Bits of burning **debris** fell from the bridge and set boats below on fire.*
 - 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

- 11 Tens of thousands of people scrambled for their lives, became trapped and confused; most figured out how to escape, but scores of people **perished** in dead-end streets.
- A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - C. moved into position to work; or started
- 12 Other **factors** may have contributed to her survival.
- A. People who are of lower rank or status
 - B. things that affect a result or outcome
 - C. theories on the origin of the universe
- 13 One witness reported seeing a group of well-dressed people from a German saloon singing one tune after another while, a few tombstones away, a small **congregation** of Methodists held a prayer meeting.
- A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. people who worship together in the same building
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 14 In all only 120 bodies would be recovered, though officials **estimated** that nearly 300 people perished in the flames.
- A. put into a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility (a state of hypnosis)
 - B. roughly calculated or guessed (based on incomplete information) a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - C. disappointed from losing false belief that something is better than it is; or the removal of such a belief
- 15 They demanded a **culprit** — and Catherine O'Leary was the handiest target in sight.
- A. person responsible for a wrongdoing
 - B. a basic building block for proteins
 - C. someone who believe in a single God
- 16 Even the absence of an alarm being turned in at Goll's drugstore and the **subsequent** incorrect signals sent from the Courthouse were discussed.
- A. able to take on or adopt
 - B. the state of being awake
 - C. following something else
- 17 If some firemen did act strangely (moved **lethargically**, were clumsy, or had a glazed look in their eyes) on the night of the Great Fire, the best explanation is that they were completely exhausted from overwork and a lack of sleep.
- A. without energy
 - B. with certainty
 - C. without regret
- 18 Everybody seemed cool and collected ...and it is sufficient **refutation** of the absurd stories which have been circulating of outrages, lynchings, etc., to state the simple fact that my wife and her sister ...were a long time walking about the streets in the vicinity of the fire ...without ever a feeling of insecurity, or receiving an uncivil word from anyone.
- A. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - B. found a condition or substance to be present
 - C. evidence or argument that something is false
- 19 But the feeling of the general public — **bolstered** by the press's focus on the "poverty-stricken" Catherine O'Leary and the "drunken" firefighters wasn't sympathetic at all.
- A. expelled or gotten rid of
 - B. thought -- possibly aloud
 - C. supported or strengthened
- 20 Knox was talking specifically about New York City, but his concluding thoughts on this process could be applied to all large **urban** centers.
- A. city
 - B. real
 - C. wise

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	ornate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	A	combustion	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
4	C	cumbersome	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	B	inhabitant	Used 4 times in this book.
6	A	listless	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	opera	Used 4 times in this book.
10	C	debris	Used 13 times in this book.
11	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
12	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	B	estimate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	A	culprit	Used 2 times in this book.
16	C	subsequent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	A	lethargic	High-utility academic word
18	C	refute	High-utility academic word
19	C	bolster (<i>as in: to bolster</i>)	High-utility academic word
20	A	urban	Used 3 times in this book.