

The Guardian

by Nicholas Sparks

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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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: adept, altercation, contrite, direct (2), empathy, estimate, evaluate, however (2), imply, lethargic, nonetheless, obituary, sensual, skeptical, stifle (2), subtle, tentative



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	A
13	A
14	A
15	A
16	A
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. She is **adept** with a soccer ball.
 - A. clumsy
 - B. surprising
 - C. skillful
2. We have video of the **altercation**.
 - A. fight
 - B. accident
 - C. theft
3. Even after the jury found her guilty, she showed no sign of **contrition**.
 - A. regret
 - B. understanding
 - C. emotion
4. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
5. She is **easy** to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
6. The teacher's **empathy** helped her connect with students facing difficulties at home.
 - A. ability to control emotional outbursts
 - B. understanding and sharing others' feelings
 - C. common sense and wise advice
7. Can you **estimate** the cost of the renovation?
 - A. officially approve
 - B. roughly calculate
 - C. publicly announce
8. I'm **evaluating** job options.
 - A. considering
 - B. creating
 - C. avoiding
9. I hope to take the ACT just once. **However**, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and
10. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
11. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied

12. Large lunches make me feel lethargic in the afternoon.
- A. sluggish
 - B. upset
 - C. energetic
13. The class was hard. It was nonetheless my favorite.
- A. despite that
 - B. because of that
 - C. for that reason
14. The obituary did not include a cause of death.
- A. newspaper report
 - B. police report
 - C. biography
15. She enjoyed the sensual pleasure of the warm sun on her skin.
- A. pleasing the body's senses
 - B. exciting the mind's intellect
 - C. deep empathetic understanding
16. She is skeptical about the project.
- A. doubtful
 - B. keeping silent
 - C. excited
17. She had to stifle a laugh during the somber funeral service.
- A. let out freely
 - B. hold back
 - C. loudly announce
18. The heat and humidity are stifling.
- A. summertime events
 - B. not bad
 - C. uncomfortable
19. She has a good eye for subtle differences in color.
- A. contrasting
 - B. complementary
 - C. minor
20. She took a tentative step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
 - B. brave
 - C. confident

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 **Nonetheless**, she looked up Jim, who—despite her persistent skepticism—brought her over to the salon to meet his aunt Mabel.
 - A. in spite of that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 2 He **did**, **however**, play the guitar and he practiced daily, hoping his big break was just around the corner.
 - A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though*, *in spite of that*, *in contrast*, *nevertheless*, etc.
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 3 Being homeless as a teenager, **however** briefly, had left her with a healthy sense of paranoia.
 - A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
 - B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
 - C. regardless of how
- 4 Nor was she particularly **adept** at styling and cutting hair, at least according to the directions her customers gave her.
 - A. absolute
 - B. pleasing
 - C. skillful
- 5 He recognized her from the other night in the restaurant, and though her expression seemed pleasant enough, he knew she was still **evaluating** him.
 - A. thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - B. returning to an undesirable previous condition
 - C. moving back and forth; or being unsure or weak
- 6 A quick **estimate** said she had maybe a few minutes.
 - A. add fuel or stir a fire to make it burn hotter; or make feelings stronger
 - B. a rough calculation or guess of a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - C. propose a seemingly reasonable, but unproven, idea based upon known facts
- 7 The conversation was stilted, almost uncomfortable at first, because Richard didn't volunteer much more than was asked **directly**.
 - A. in a straightforward manner
 - B. in an extremely negative manner -- often implying extreme hopelessness, misery, shame, or desperation
 - C. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
- 8 He paused, looking **directly** at her and holding her gaze, before finally nodding in Julie's direction.
 - A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 - B. straight (exactly where stated; used for emphasis)
 - C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 9 He smiled, looking **contrite**, a kid with his hand caught in the cookie jar.
 - A. feeling sorrow or regret for a fault or offense
 - B. the state or degree of being good or beneficial
 - C. not able to change to fit a different situation
- 10 When she lifted the wineglass and took a sip, puckering her lips as she did so, Mike knew it was one of the most **sensual** things he'd ever seen.
 - A. relating to pleasing the body's senses
 - B. exciting the mind's intellectual vigor
 - C. a deep sense of empathetic understanding
- 11 Anyone who could move from anger to **empathy** as effortlessly as she had was a treasure, and he was lucky to have found her.
 - A. a place where conditions are kept as they were to protect wildlife
 - B. the ability or tendency to understand or share in others' feelings
 - C. someone who believes that all knowledge is derived from experience

- 12 He noticed the **subtle** differences as she changed before his eyes.
A. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
B. (adjective) of low quality, or of lower quality or rank than something else OR (more rarely as a noun) a person of lower rank or status
C. slightly noticeable
- 13 As if that's going to be possible, the little voice inside her said **skeptically**.
A. with doubt (regarding the truth of something)
B. in a manner that is open to arguments, ideas, or change
C. inadequately (in a manner that does not provide enough)
- 14 Officer Romanello hadn't believed his account about the **altercation** in the bar.
A. fight
B. a particular understanding or explanation
C. the time during which something continues
- 15 Though everything she had said was absolutely true, when she looked at Pete again, his expression confirmed that Richard had already **implied** something different.
A. said indirectly
B. not wanting to do something
C. was attractive or desirable
- 16 Julie stepped forward **tentatively**, and when Mike didn't back away, she came closer and leaned into him.
A. in an unsure or hesitant manner
B. in a manner that is not sincere
C. in comparison to something else
- 17 **Stifling** her panic, Jennifer focused on the body below her.
A. ignoring someone's wishes or causing inconvenience or discomfort
B. suppressing (preventing something from developing further)
C. legally ordering to provide documents, or to appear as a witness
- 18 The air seemed thick and **stifling**.
A. developing or evolving from a latent or potential state OR (more rarely) determining by reasoning
B. directing energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
C. making breathing more difficult -- typically due to heat and humidity
- 19 He helped her up from the bed, ignoring the **lethargy** of her movements, and put his arms around her.
A. lack of energy
B. not appropriate or not properly related in size, amount, or degree
C. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
- 20 But what about the **obituaries**?
A. published death notices with short biographies
B. processes of controlling (how things turn out)
C. partial payments made at the time of purchases

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	nonetheless	Used 5 times in this book.
2	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
4	C	adept	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	A	evaluate	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
6	B	estimate	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
7	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	contrite	Used 2 times in this book.
10	A	sensual	Used 5 times in this book.
11	B	empathy	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	C	subtle (<i>as in: a subtle difference or thinker</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
13	A	skeptical	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
14	A	altercation	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
15	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
16	A	tentative (<i>as in: said it tentatively</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
17	B	stifle (<i>as in: stifling the urge</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	stifle (<i>as in: the heat is stifling</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	A	lethargic	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
20	A	obituary	Used 3 times in this book.