

The Gunslinger

by Stephen King

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: adapt, apathy, bland, coherent, congregation, distort, factor, inarticulate, infinitesimal, interloper, jut, loathe, perpetual, pragmatic, prophecy, recoil, sensual, stolid, voluminous, writhe



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	A
11	C
12	C
13	B
14	A
15	B
16	B
17	A
18	A
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. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - A. copied
 - B. read
 - C. changed
2. Until she learned to motivate herself, **apathy** led to bad grades.
 - A. lack of interest
 - B. lack of ability
 - C. distraction
3. The sauce tasted **bland** until she added garlic and pepper.
 - A. overly sweet
 - B. lacking flavor
 - C. full of color
4. Her argument is **coherent**.
 - A. unreasonable
 - B. fragmented
 - C. sensible and clear
5. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
 - A. people who agree
 - B. people who worship together
 - C. people who meet periodically
6. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
7. 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
8. She seemed uninformed and **inarticulate** compared to her opponent in the debate.
 - A. biased
 - B. without empathy
 - C. poorly spoken
9. Even an **infinitesimal** amount of impurity can drastically affect the results of a sensitive chemical experiment.
 - A. tiny
 - B. partial
 - C. unintentional
10. She felt like an **interloper** at the family reunion she crashed.
 - A. an intruder
 - B. a close friend
 - C. an invited guest
11. She tripped on a thick tree root that **jutted out** across the muddy path.
 - A. washed away
 - B. curled up
 - C. stuck out

12. I loathe that man. He ruined my life.
A. fear
B. avoid
C. hate
13. He has a perpetual fear of forgetting important deadlines.
A. joyful
B. constant
C. secret
14. Successful politicians are pragmatists. Compromise is built into the system.
A. practical
B. personable
C. busy
15. It was a self-fulfilling prophecy.
A. profitable enterprise
B. prediction
C. explanation
16. She reached out to take his hand. He recoiled from her touch.
A. suddenly was angry
B. suddenly pulled back
C. suddenly was comforted
17. 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
18. Her face showed nothing but stolid indifference.
A. emotionless
B. confused
C. bitter
19. The librarian struggled to find space for the voluminous collection of books donated by the local university.
A. valuable
B. old
C. large
20. She writhed on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
A. cried and whimpered
B. yelled loudly
C. twisted and turned

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 gunslinger walked **stolidly**, not hurrying, not loafing.
 - A. unemotionally
 - B. intentionally
 - C. with distaste
- 2 There were perhaps six townies in the back of the room, juicing and playing Watch Me **apathetically**.
 - A. without interest or enthusiasm
 - B. in a good or beneficial manner
 - C. in a manner that is misleading
- 3 "Ahhhhhh..."An **inarticulate** sound of pleasure.
 - A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - B. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
 - C. unable to express oneself clearly; or not expressed clearly
- 4 Her voice, warped and **distorted**, cut through the babble like a dull ax through a calf's brain.
 - A. said (or make a sound) with the voice
 - B. genetically changed through evolution
 - C. altered in an unnatural or untrue way
- 5 She **recoiled**, hurt and amazed, her first thought being that he had lied about his holiness to test her.
 - A. excessively excited
 - B. moved back suddenly
 - C. nervous or confused
- 6 She felt a trembling **loathing** spring up in her, but the warmth still radiated from her belly.
 - A. changing through evolution
 - B. stopping a battle or fight
 - C. disgust or intense dislike
- 7 A full-grown one, blonde, dirty, **sensual**, watched with a speculative curiosity as she drew water from the groaning pump beside the building.
 - A. relating to pleasing the body's senses
 - B. exciting the mind's intellectual vigor
 - C. a deep sense of empathetic understanding
- 8 The subject of our meditation tonight is The **Interloper**.
 - A. someone or something that, without invitation, inserts itself
 - B. someone who converts something so it is not what it should be
 - C. someone or something that makes someone want to do something
- 9 The **Interloper** who came to Eve as a snake on its belly, grinning and **writhing**.
 - A. opposing (struggling against each other)
 - B. examining in detail to better understand
 - C. moving in a twisting or contorted motion
- 10 "Yesss—" Rocking and sobbing, the **congregation** became a sea; the woman seemed to point at all of them, none of them.
 - 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
- 11 Their faces were zealously blank, their eyes filled with **bland** fire.
 - A. having the characteristics of a monk (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. dull or lacking stimulating characteristics -- especially in the flavor of food
 - C. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
- 12 At the left, a chrome pipe **jutted** from it, terminating over a drain in the floor.
 - A. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
 - B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
 - C. to stick out; or a part that sticks out

- 13 *He was not an imaginative boy, and if Cort had intended to imply a moral, it was lost on him; he was pragmatic enough to believe that it might have been one of the few foolish statements he had ever heard Cort make.*
- A. concerned with practical matters
 - B. another battle with the same foe
 - C. describing someone as antisocial
- 14 *Far away, through the gash that led the way into the mountains, he heard the thick mouth of the perpetual thunder.*
- A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 15 *How well you fulfill the prophecies of old!*
- A. interactions or interests
 - B. predictions of the future
 - C. things easily set on fire
- 16 *The gunslinger felt no urge to think coherently, or to plan.*
- A. in an inactive manner (accepting what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly)
 - B. with nervousness or discomfort felt by someone due to concern about what others will think of them
 - C. in a sensible and clear manner; or in a manner where parts fit together consistently or pleasingly
- 17 *The light grew stronger, hurting their eyes a little, but growing slowly enough to allow them to adapt.*
- A. to spread one-sided information to influence opinions
 - B. alter the regular state of an otherwise stable system
 - C. change to fit a different situation; or make suitable
- 18 *Infinitesimal.*
- A. very tiny; or immeasurably small
 - B. the condition of being different
 - C. indicating approval or agreement
- 19 *The man in black shook the voluminous arm of his robe.*
- A. strongly biased
 - B. material wealth
 - C. large in volume
- 20 *Those two factors, the challenge of that blank green paper, and the utter silence (except for the trickle of the melting snow as it ran downhill and into the Stillwater), were more responsible than anything else for the opening lay of The Dark Tower.*
- 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

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	stolid	Used 2 times in this book.
2	A	apathy	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	inarticulate	Used 6 times in this book.
4	C	distort	Used 4 times in this book.
5	B	recoil	Used 4 times in this book.
6	C	loathe	Used 4 times in this book.
7	A	sensual	Used 5 times in this book.
8	A	interloper	Used 15 times in this book.
9	C	writhe	Used 5 times in this book.
10	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	B	bland	Used 5 times in this book.
12	C	jut	Used 4 times in this book.
13	A	pragmatic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
15	B	prophecy	Used 7 times in this book.
16	C	coherent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
17	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	A	infinitesimal	Used 3 times in this book.
19	C	voluminous	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.