

The Hammer of Thor

by Rick Riordan

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

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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: alleviate, alliance, coincidence, convey, gender, imbue, imply, invoke, malice, massacre, minutes, mosaic, nevertheless, patron, prophecy, prudent, rendezvous, scoundrel, serpent, topography



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	A
11	A
12	C
13	B
14	B
15	B
16	A
17	C
18	A
19	B
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 wants to save the planet and **alleviate** poverty at the same time.
 - A. understand
 - B. eliminate
 - C. lessen
2. She understands the shifting **alliances** in the Middle East.
 - A. associations formed to support common interests
 - B. sets of competing interests amongst neighbors
 - C. borders between countries
3. It was a fortunate **coincidence** that we ran into each other at Starbucks.
 - A. unlikely event
 - B. plan
 - C. likely event
4. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
 - A. express
 - B. accept
 - C. understand
5. The court found the company guilty of **gender discrimination**.
 - A. religious
 - B. male/female/trans
 - C. race or ethnic
6. She was **imbued** from infancy with a sense that life should be fair.
 - A. filled
 - B. discouraged
 - C. misled
7. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
8. In the midst of the storm, the sailors began to **invoke** the ancient sea gods, hoping for their protection and a safe journey home.
 - A. sail towards
 - B. call upon
 - C. ignore completely
9. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
 - A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
10. The village suffered a brutal **massacre** during the long civil war.
 - A. mass slaughter
 - B. tense standoff
 - C. quiet retreat
11. I always review the **minutes** to make sure there are no errors.
 - A. written record of what happened at a meeting
 - B. plans that detail how something will be done
 - C. time that has just passed

12. The museum has a **mosaic** that dates back to the 13th century.
- A. a piece of thick textile fabric with pictures or designs formed by weaving colored threads
 - B. a three-dimensional representation -- often made by carving, chiseling, or casting
 - C. art consisting of a design made of many pieces of colored material such as stone or tile
13. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
14. A wealthy **patron** donated millions to fund young artists in the city.
- A. critic
 - B. supporter
 - C. neighbor
15. It was a **self-fulfilling prophecy**.
- A. profitable enterprise
 - B. prediction
 - C. explanation
16. **Courage** is dangerous without **prudence**.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
17. The spies arranged a **secret rendezvous** at the old cafe at midnight.
- A. argument
 - B. celebration
 - C. meeting
18. He is the most intolerable **scoundrel** on the face of the earth.
- A. person without moral principles
 - B. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - C. without pattern or planning
19. What does the **serpent** represent in the Garden of Eden?
- A. fig leaf
 - B. snake
 - C. apple
20. Los Angeles is prone to smog because of its **topography**.
- A. geographic surface features
 - B. population density
 - C. industrial mix

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 *I wondered if her arrival was just a **coincidence** ...or whether it had something to do with the mark on Uncle Randolph's face in the photo and our sudden urgent need to find Thor's hammer.*
 - A. a situation where things happened at the same time by chance even though it was unlikely
 - B. a person who studies DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
 - C. baseball: a pitch thrown with little spin (so that it moves in an unpredictable manner)
- 2 *The feast hall was packed right up to the nosebleed section—hundreds of tables arranged like stadium seating, all facing the central court, where a tree as big as the **Prudential** Center spread its branches across the vast domed roof.*
 - A. arising from or characterized by being sensible and careful
 - B. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - C. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
- 3 *Ooh, a tomb **imbued** with evil magic?*
 - A. filled
 - B. traded
 - C. copied
- 4 *The more time they spent reading the **minutes** of past massacres, the less time they'd have for killing us in a future one.*
 - A. formal notes (of a meeting)
 - B. results or predictable values
 - C. things not easily set on fire
- 5 *The more time they spent reading the minutes of past **massacres**, the less time they'd have for killing us in a future one.*
 - A. crushing defeat or brutal, overwhelming attack — used figuratively in competition and literally for violent killings
 - B. examines an issue, gets opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asks people for political support individually
 - C. accepts someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
- 6 *I wasn't thinking about **prophecies**, or how everything Loki did, even a casual glance at his daughter, was a trick.*
 - A. interactions or interests
 - B. predictions of the future
 - C. things easily set on fire
- 7 *Suddenly I understood Ratatosk, the squirrel who only spoke **malice** and wanted to destroy the very tree he lived in.*
 - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer
- 8 *I got the feeling the term also **implied** mentally slow, because why insult someone on one level when you can insult them on two?*
 - A. suggested (said indirectly)
 - B. not wanting to do something
 - C. was attractive or desirable
- 9 *Alderman gazed at the **mosaic** ceiling.*
 - A. a piece of thick textile fabric with pictures or designs formed by weaving colored threads
 - B. a three-dimensional representation -- often made by carving, chiseling, or casting
 - C. art consisting of a design made of many pieces of colored material such as stone or tile

- 10 *And why would Magnus Chase threaten to leave ...unless these scoundrels are planning to steal my treasure?*
- people without moral principles
 - indications or small quantities
 - other battles with the same foe
- 11 *The old rendezvous point it is.*
- something constructed to control the flow of sound or fluid
 - determine or identify the nature of a problem or an illness
 - to meet at a specific time and place; or the meeting itself
- 12 *Therefore, I was not anxious to alleviate it.*
- provide investment funds for something -- such as a business
 - ignore someone's wishes or cause inconvenience or discomfort
 - to lessen something that is bad -- especially to lessen pain
- 13 *Not since the Great Alderman Disaster of that afternoon had the word dad invoked such negative feelings in a conversation.*
- criticized
 - brought forth
 - condemned
- 14 *With a marriage alliance to Loki and the hammer of Thor in his possession, Thrym would become Thane of Thanes.*
- association formed to support common interests
 - set of competing interests amongst neighbors
 - sense of isolation due to competing interests
- 15 *Nevertheless, I saw where he was going.*
- in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - therefore (for that reason)
- 16 *I remembered the serpent dripping poison in his face, and the way Loki had vowed: Soon enough, Magnus!*
- skill
 - snake
 - story
- 17 *He made some wild hand gestures that didn't really mean anything, but seemed to convey the idea GASP!*
- communicate or express
 - create dramatic change
 - mirror back (an image)
- 18 *"Well," he said at last, "I still don't trust an argr to do this job—" "A gender-fluid person," Alex corrected.*
- an official charge (of having broken the law)
 - male, female, or any of many trans categories
 - quick, informal vote to see what people think
- 19 *Because it was across from the Public Garden, I'd been to the pub a few times when I was homeless—to get warm on a bitter winter's day or beg a hamburger from the patrons.*
- members of the Religious Society of Friends (the Friends have never called themselves Quakers)
 - a regular customer; or someone who gives money or support to an organization, cause, or person
 - compounds consisting of large molecules made up of linked series of repeated smaller molecules
- 20 *Now I was willing to bet Randolph had been studying topographical maps of New England, comparing them with ancient Norse charts and legends.*
- the features of the surface area of a region; or their study -- especially changes in elevation
 - the quality or degree of being clear (easily understood or capable of expressing ideas clearly)
 - having a beneficial relationship between two species (or entities) that live in close proximity

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	coincidence	Used 6 times in this book.
2	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
3	A	imbue	Used 2 times in this book.
4	A	minutes (<i>as in: keep the minutes</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	massacre	Used 9 times in this book.
6	B	prophecy	Used 8 times in this book.
7	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
8	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	mosaic	Used 2 times in this book.
10	A	scoundrel	Used 5 times in this book.
11	C	rendezvous	Used 5 times in this book.
12	C	alleviate	Used 3 times in this book.
13	B	invoke	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
14	A	alliance	Used 13 times in this book.
15	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
16	B	serpent	Used 9 times in this book.
17	A	convey (<i>as in: convey her thoughts</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
18	B	gender (<i>as in: gender discrimination</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 18 times in this book.
19	B	patron (<i>as in: a patron of the arts</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
20	A	topography	Used 2 times in this book.