

The Heritage of the Desert

by Zane Grey

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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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: apex, arbor, austere, contrast, creed, deceive, endeavor, foreman, hobbled, impel, imply, lethargic, mane, parched, peril, revelation, sage, stallion, wrath, yield



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
The Heritage of the Desert

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She recorded the song at the **apex** of her popularity.
 - A. lowest point
 - B. highest point
 - C. beginning
2. We are building an **arbor** in the back yard.
 - A. framework for plants
 - B. stone fire pit
 - C. raised flower bed
3. The monk's room was **austere**, with only a bed, a small table, and a wooden chair.
 - A. lavishly decorated
 - B. plain and without luxury
 - C. warm and welcoming
4. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
5. She lived by the simple **creed** that honesty is always the best policy.
 - A. quotation
 - B. misunderstanding
 - C. set of beliefs
6. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
7. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
8. If you want to leave early, you have to ask the **foreman**.
 - A. supervisor
 - B. owner
 - C. customer
9. She **hobbled** onto the court, determined to help her team win.
 - A. walked with difficulty
 - B. walked quickly
 - C. showed enthusiasm
10. Concern for her children's safety **impelled** her to take action and confront the intruder.
 - A. prevented
 - B. slowed
 - C. drove
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. She brushed the horse's tangled mane until it flowed smoothly down its neck.
- A. long curved tail
 - B. thick neck hair
 - C. sharp pointed hoof
14. Cactus is about all that will grow in this parched soil.
- A. dried out
 - B. sandy
 - C. rocky
15. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
16. I was leaning toward voting for her, but her stance on education policy was a revelation to me.
- A. something surprising and previously unknown
 - B. something that made a decision easy
 - C. something that reversed a previous decision
17. Sage has an earthy, minty flavor with light piney and citrus notes.
- A. a popular herb
 - B. a vegetable popular in Asia
 - C. a fruit popular in easter Africa
18. The powerful stallion galloped across the open field.
- A. wild deer
 - B. young calf
 - C. male horse
19. She fears the wrath of God.
- A. angry punishment
 - B. power
 - C. unpredictable moods
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

Vocabulary in Context

The Heritage of the Desert

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 A cool wind blew in from the desert, rustling the **sage**,
 - A. a type of plant
 - B. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
 - C. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
- 2 In forty-eight hours he had learned to hate the Mormons unutterably; here, in the presence of this **austere** man, he felt that hatred wrenched from his heart, and in its place stirred something warm and living.
 - A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - B. a notable absence of luxury, comfort, or decoration; or stern in manner
 - C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 3 They intermarry, and that's a death-blow to our **creed**.
 - A. a basic building block for proteins
 - B. someone who believe in a single God
 - C. any system of principles or beliefs
- 4 A Bishop of the Mormon Church has the gift of tongues, of prophecy, of **revelation**, of healing.
 - A. something previously unknown; or making such a thing known
 - B. a large, elongated gland located behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin
 - C. of the philosophical & religious system based on the teachings of Laozi (also spelled Taoist)
- 5 The suggestion in them, **implying** a relation to his future, made him wonder if the good Mormon intended to take him to his desert home.
 - A. suggesting (saying indirectly)
 - B. going back to a previous state
 - C. acting in an official capacity
- 6 His rider bent low to dodge the vines of the **arbor**, and reined in before the porch to slip out of the saddle with the agility of an Indian.
 - A. a framework that supports climbing plants; or a shady rest area made by such a framework or by trees and shrubs
 - B. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 7 The next instant they vanished, and the rapid clatter of hoofs down the road told Hare his eyes had not **deceived** him.
 - A. told (a story)
 - B. began fighting
 - C. lied or misled
- 8 Some unusual noise roused Hare out of his **lethargy**.
 - A. lack of energy; or (often in historic literature) a state of sleep
 - 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
- 9 He looked about, **endeavoring** to find her in the ring of light, for he felt in her a fascination akin to the charm of this twilight hour.
 - A. working or operating
 - B. believing or judging
 - C. trying or attempting
- 10 Silvermane is an iron gray, with a silver **mane**, the most beautiful horse I ever saw.
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. long coarse hair on an animal
 - C. exchange, convert, or pay off

- 11 *August Naab exclaimed in **wrath**.*
A. extreme anger
B. determination
C. use of reason
- 12 *He found it not at the **apex** of the right lung, always the one sensitive spot, but all through his breast.*
A. determination
B. highest point
C. use of reason
- 13 *His cheerfulness was as **impelling** as his splendid virility.*
A. protecting something or keeping it as it is
B. compensating for a loss; or paying a reward
C. to make someone feel they must do something
- 14 *Look out she doesn't go, **hobbles** and all.*
A. walks with difficulty (due to injury or physical impediment) OR hinders (made the action or progress of something difficult)
B. atones (demonstrates sorrow for a wrong either by doing something good in return for the wrong, or by accepting punishment)
C. presents something to treat as true in order to advance a discussion or to further investigation even though it might not be true
- 15 *No moisture reached the **parched** desert.*
A. dried out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight; or very thirsty
B. not with energy redirected from a negative impulse to a positive one
C. convinced (someone) that an idea previously believed was not correct
- 16 *A third time the whistle rang down from the ridge, splitting the air, strong and trenchant, the fiery, shrill challenge of a **stallion**.*
A. a large, elongated gland located behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin
B. of the philosophical & religious system based on the teachings of Laozi (also spelled Taoist)
C. a male horse that has not been castrated (gelded) -- especially one used for breeding purposes
- 17 *And he shut his teeth, and narrowed his eyes, and faced it with an eager joy that was in strange **contrast** to the pang in his breast.*
A. come to terms with
B. block or interfere
C. notable difference
- 18 *Climbing was arduous enough, yet the hardest and most **perilous** toil began when a wild steer was cornered.*
A. stuck out
B. dangerous
C. bent down
- 19 *I'm Snood, the **foreman**.*
A. a person chosen to lead and speak for a group, especially at work or in a courtroom
B. someone who roughly calculates or guesses a value, quantity, or extent of something
C. someone responsible for making a judgment after thinking carefully about something
- 20 *In the heat of midday Hare **yielded** to its influence and reined in his horse under a slate-bank where there was shade.*
A. with rises and falls in pitch
B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
C. embarrassed or self-conscious

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	sage (<i>as in: the growing sage</i>)	Used 71 times in this book.
2	B	austere	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	C	creed	Used 5 times in this book.
4	A	revelation	Used 12 times in this book.
5	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
6	A	arbor (<i>as in: shaded arbor</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
7	C	deceive	Used 6 times in this book.
8	A	lethargic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	endeavor	Used 6 times in this book.
10	B	mane	Used 25 times in this book.
11	A	wrath	Used 7 times in this book.
12	B	apex	Used 3 times in this book.
13	C	impel	Used 4 times in this book.
14	A	hobbled (<i>as in: she hobbled up the hill</i>)	Used 15 times in this book.
15	A	parched	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
16	C	stallion	Used 49 times in this book.
17	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
18	B	peril	Used 12 times in this book.
19	A	foreman	Used 11 times in this book.
20	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.