

The Hero With a Thousand Faces

by Joseph Campbell

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: abyss, annihilate, attain, bard, boon, cleave (2), correspond, deity, dissolution, doctrine, i.e., illustrate, incarnate, metaphysical, ogre, perspective, serpent, transcendent, yield



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	B
11	C
12	B
13	C
14	A
15	B
16	A
17	C
18	B
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. Our foot is stuck on the accelerator, and we are headed towards an **abyss**.
 - A. turning point
 - B. dangerous situation
 - C. major opportunity
2. Black holes **annihilate** all traces of what falls into them.
 - A. carefully preserve
 - B. slowly examine
 - C. completely destroy
3. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
 - A. openly oppose
 - B. carefully describe
 - C. successfully gain
4. He calls himself a **bard** from Brooklyn.
 - A. someone who protects the weak and delivers justice to those who are evil
 - B. someone who composes and shares poems about important events and people
 - C. someone who knows everything about everyone
5. For remote workers, high-speed internet is a real **boon**, making it easier to stay productive from home.
 - A. something that causes great harm
 - B. a source of constant distraction
 - C. something that is of great benefit
6. It has the ability to **cleave** carbon-carbon bonds.
 - A. split
 - B. identify
 - C. find
7. She was taught that she must **cleave** to God.
 - A. pray sincerely
 - B. hold firmly
 - C. give service
8. The bones in a bat's wing exactly **correspond** to those in a human forearm.
 - A. are equivalent
 - B. are opposite
 - C. are unrelated
9. The village feared angry **deities**.
 - A. neighboring villages
 - B. gods and goddesses
 - C. wild animals
10. After months without members, the club voted for its **dissolution**.
 - A. new beginning
 - B. formal ending
 - C. public celebration
11. She challenges accepted **doctrine**.
 - A. champions
 - B. authority
 - C. beliefs
12. She is **bullish** (i.e., optimistic) about the stock market.
 - A. instead of
 - B. that is to say
 - C. for example

13. The example illustrates the belief.
- A. disproves
 - B. proves
 - C. makes clear
14. Tolkien referred to his *Lord of the Rings* character, Gandalf, as an *angel* incarnate.
- A. in a human body
 - B. in training
 - C. in evil surroundings
15. The story raises metaphysical questions about whether the soul can exist apart from the body.
- A. about daily expenses
 - B. about reality's nature
 - C. about legal procedure
16. The ogre in the story terrorized travelers passing through his forest.
- A. monster
 - B. princess
 - C. shepherd
17. Also, try to see it from her perspective before you make up your mind.
- A. timeframe
 - B. education level
 - C. way of looking at things
18. What does the serpent represent in the Garden of Eden?
- A. fig leaf
 - B. snake
 - C. apple
19. Seeing the Grand Canyon was a transcendent experience for me.
- A. memorable
 - B. outstanding
 - C. long-awaited
20. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down

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 *In the United States there is even a pathos of inverted emphasis: the goal is not to grow old, but to remain young; not to mature away from Mother, but to **cleave** to her.*
 - A. bounce back
 - B. hold firmly
 - C. begin again
- 2 *The eye of the ordained victor immediately perceives the chink in every fortress of circumstance, and his blow can **cleave** it wide.*
 - A. split or cut through
 - B. show, determine, or understand
 - C. take up or receive into heaven
- 3 *All the **ogres** and secret helpers of our nursery are there, all the magic of childhood.*
 - A. a frightening giant from fairy tales, especially one who eats people; or a cruel or terrifying person
 - B. aka natural rights -- rights that are naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. soccer players who play in the middle third of the field and who assist with both defense and offense
- 4 *In a word: the first work of the hero is to retreat from the world scene of secondary effects to those causal zones of the psyche where the difficulties really reside, and there to clarify the difficulties, eradicate them in his own case (i.e., give battle to the nursery demons of his local culture) and break through to the undistorted, direct experience and assimilation of what C. G. Jung has called "the archetypal images."*
 - A. an expression used to intensify denial of an idea
 - B. *that is to say* or *in other words*
 - C. for example
- 5 *Something of the light that blazes invisible within the **abysses** of its normally opaque materiality breaks forth, with an increasing uproar.*
 - A. removals and examination of tissues or liquids from the living body to determine the existence or cause of diseases
 - B. holes or dropoffs so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply frightening bottomless pits
 - C. people characterized by withdrawal, an inability to form close relationships, and taking pleasure in few activities
- 6 *This **doctrine** of the incommunicability of the Truth which is beyond names and forms is basic to the great Oriental, as well as to the Platonic, traditions.*
 - A. a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies to protect against a disease
 - B. an economic system where most decisions are made through voluntary buying and selling
 - C. a belief (or system of beliefs or principles) accepted as authoritative by some group
- 7 *The protecting **deities** of the universe took flight, but the Future Buddha remained unmoved beneath the Tree.*
 - A. after tax incomes
 - B. gods or goddesses
 - C. gives or supplies
- 8 *And Chapter IV, **Dissolutions**, tells of the foretold end, first of the hero, then of the manifested world.*
 - A. special pleasures--typically things done in excess of what is thought good--such as eating too much cake, or being too lazy OR (more rarely) special privileges or kindnesses
 - B. the act or process of breaking something up or bringing it to an end—for example, ending a relationship or meeting, or a substance breaking apart as it mixes into a liquid
 - C. organisms in the early stages of growth prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting; in humans organisms during the first eight weeks of development (prior to the fetal stage)
- 9 *And since it is the source of all existence, it **yields** the world's plenitude of both good and evil.*
 - A. gives or produces
 - B. complains or verbally attacks in a loud, excited way
 - C. formally gives up power, as of monarchs and emperors

- 10 Through all, the **transcendent** force is then perceived which lives in all, in all is wonderful, and is worthy, in all, of our profound obeisance.
- A. of or relating to the body or flesh (in contrast to the spirit)
 - B. beyond the ordinary range of human experience or understanding
- or:
- surpassing usual limits of excellence
 - C. mundane (common or uninteresting)
- 11 Hairy and misformed, or eke shaped as animals, ostriches, or **serpents**, they were very dangerous to unprotected persons.
- A. copies
 - B. snakes
 - C. enters
- 12 Indeed, this young hero was none other than the Future Buddha, in an earlier **incarnation**.
- A. embodiment
 - B. difference
 - C. thigh bone
- 13 The hero whose attachment to ego is already **annihilate** passes back and forth across the horizons of the world, in and out of the dragon, as readily as a king through all the rooms of his house.
- A. stop (something from happening)
 - B. fulfill one's highest potential
 - C. to completely destroy or defeat
- 14 Olioll, Brian, and Fiachra, likewise, went on the quest and equally **attained** to the identical well.
- A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
 - C. gained or reached something with effort
- 15 The Greeks tell of King Midas, who had the luck to win from Bacchus the offer of whatsoever **boon** he might desire.
- A. something that causes great harm
 - B. a traditional practice or custom
 - C. something that is of great benefit
- 16 The **bard**'s legend and poems survive in a thirteenth-century manuscript, "The Book of Taliesin," which is one of the "Four Ancient Books of Wales."
- A. of the American Indian civilization of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala that reached its peak between AD 300 and 900
 - B. someone who composes and recites or sings poems about important events and people; or (as a proper noun) Shakespeare
 - C. a hole or dropoff so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply a frightening bottomless pit
- 17 The key to the modern systems of psychological interpretation therefore is this: the **metaphysical** realm = the unconscious.
- A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
 - C. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
- 18 The myths never tire of **illustrating** the point that conflict in the created world is not what it seems.
- A. thinking carefully
 - B. leaping or jumping
 - C. helping make clear
- 19 From the **perspective** of the source, the world is a majestic harmony of forms pouring into being, exploding, and dissolving.
- A. collection of star systems held together by gravity
 - B. resulting from God's intervention or plan; or lucky
 - C. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
- 20 Every beam and joist **corresponds** to an element in the great hogan of the all-embracing earth and sky.
- A. connects or fits together by being equivalent, proportionate, or matched
 - B. (noun) text that is marked as important OR (verb) marks important text
 - C. causes of problems or illnesses; or processes to identify such problems

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	cleave (<i>as in: cleave to</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
2	A	cleave (<i>as in: cleave through</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
3	A	ogre	Used 53 times in this book.
4	B	i.e.	Used 16 times in this book.
5	B	abyss	Used 17 times in this book.
6	C	doctrine	Used 23 times in this book.
7	B	deity	Used 35 times in this book.
8	B	dissolution	Used 11 times in this book.
9	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	transcendent	Used 12 times in this book.
11	B	serpent	Used 40 times in this book.
12	A	incarnate	Used 25 times in this book.
13	C	annihilate	High-utility academic word; used 18 times in this book.
14	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 19 times in this book.
15	C	boon	Used 34 times in this book.
16	B	bard (<i>as in: written by the bard</i>)	Used 11 times in this book.
17	B	metaphysical	Used 10 times in this book.
18	C	illustrate (<i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 21 times in this book.
19	C	perspective (<i>as in: Look at it from her perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 13 times in this book.
20	A	correspond (<i>as in: corresponding time period</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 20 times in this book.