

The History of Love

by Nicole Krauss

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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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: accordion, asteroid, clarity, immigrate, indelible, intuition, nostalgia, nucleus, obituary, obscure (2), positive (2), posthumous, reminisce, shamle, species, spontaneous, sprain, subsist



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- Her grandfather taught her to play the **accordion** at age seven.
 - bellows-based instrument
 - stringed instrument
 - brass instrument
- Astronomers monitor every **asteroid** that might pass close to Earth.
 - rocky object orbiting the sun
 - icy ball with a glowing tail
 - moon orbiting a large planet
- The judge praised the witnesses for the **clarity** of their testimony.
 - briefness
 - courage
 - clearness
- At that time, most of the people who **immigrated** to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
 - relocated
 - exported goods
 - visited
- That teacher made an **indelible** impression on her students.
 - ordinary
 - confusing
 - lasting
- Intuitively**, I knew not to trust her.
 - logically
 - instinctively
 - conclusively
- My parents are sometimes **nostalgic** about their college days.
 - secretive
 - longing
 - bitter
- The small reading group became the **nucleus** of a schoolwide book club.
 - ending
 - critics
 - center
- The **obituary** did not include a cause of death.
 - newspaper report
 - police report
 - biography
- She left instructions for us, but they are so **obscure** we can't agree on what they are.
 - unrelated to the subject at hand
 - controversial
 - not clearly expressed or understood
- An Internet search proved she had **plagiarized** from an **obscure** poem written in 1920.
 - not known to many people
 - well-known decades ago
 - kept secret
- I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
 - happy
 - pretty sure
 - certain

13. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
14. She received a **posthumous** award for her bravery during the rescue mission.
- A. unexpected
 - B. international
 - C. after death
15. The reunion gave everyone a chance to **reminisce** and reconnect.
- A. plan future trips
 - B. recall fond memories
 - C. debate old arguments
16. After the long hike, he **shambled** into camp, shoulders slumped and feet dragging.
- A. walked in a proud way
 - B. walked in a shuffling way
 - C. walked in a quick way
17. It is thought that there are over 20,000 **species** of ants.
- A. different categories
 - B. different nest types
 - C. different diets
18. The group broke into **spontaneous** laughter.
- A. quiet and polite
 - B. sudden and unplanned
 - C. loud and bothersome
19. The doctor said it was a mild **sprain** and didn't require a cast—just rest and ice.
- A. minor skin scratch
 - B. broken bone
 - C. twisted joint injury
20. Many people in the world have to **subsist** on \$1 a day.
- A. thrive
 - B. survive
 - C. grow

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 LAST WORDS ON EARTH When they write my **obituary**.
 - A. published notice of death with a short biography
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 2 Sometimes she **subsists** for days on water and air.
 - A. forgives
 - B. survives
 - C. shrivels
- 3 THE WALL OF DICTIONARIES BETWEEN MY MOTHER AND THE WORLD GETS TALLER EVERY YEAR Sometimes pages of the dictionaries come loose and gather at her feet, shallon, shallop, shallot, shallow, shalom, sham, shaman, **shamble**, like the petals of an immense flower.
 - A. make someone want to do something
 - B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
 - C. sadness, disappointment, or worry
- 4 I saw this as a **positive** thing, but when Henry Lavender called that afternoon my mother was at the supermarket and didn't call him back.
 - A. good
 - B. not representative
 - C. impossible to find
- 5 After two hours, the woman said she was absolutely one-hundred-percent **positive** there was no Alma Mereminski who died in New York City after 1948.
 - A. outside
 - B. various
 - C. certain
- 6 When Henry Lavender called a third time, she was engrossed in a book of stories, repeatedly exclaiming that the author should be given a **Posthumous** Nobel.
 - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. occurring, awarded, or published after a person's death
- 7 Not long after that, during the first week of April, he climbed up onto the roof at Hebrew School, fell, and **sprained** his wrist.
 - A. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drank, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
 - B. a structural form (rigid, web-like assembly of smaller, usually triangular members) that supports a roof, bridge or other structure
 - C. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 8 My parents had **immigrated** to Chile from Krakow when I was very young,
 - A. moved to (a new country)
 - B. with rises and falls in pitch
 - C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 9 I knew that the way others had lost a leg or an arm, I'd lost whatever the thing is that makes people **indelible**.
 - A. a hollow muscular organ in the pelvic cavity of females which can hold a developing fetus
 - B. one who believes that knowledge is acquired primarily by reason rather than by experience
 - C. impossible to remove, forget, or erase -- can refer to physical marks or lasting memories
- 10 When he died, he left Svetiya the eighteen volumes of *The History of the Jews*, and Misha the **accordion**.
 - A. characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open
 - B. design based on alphabetic letters; or adding such a design to something
 - C. regular crisscross grid that repeats in a pattern of squares or diamonds

- 11 *He learned to decipher the meaning of certain silences, which is like solving a tough case without any clues, with only intuition.*
- the redirection energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - the ability to know instinctively rather than through reasoning
 - someone with a potentially life-threatening psychological eating disorder that prevents eating enough food
- 12 *The wall also protected me from the painful clarity of childhood.*
- a collection of things on public display OR a detailed explanation or background of a specific topic
 - the process of assigning a value on or judging the worth of something; or the result of such a process
 - seen, expressed, or understood clearly; or a degree of transparency such as the quality of clear water
- 13 *It also said that an average of seventy-four species of insects, plants, and animals become extinct every day.*
- a similar group of animals or plants
 - the quality of exactness or accuracy
 - the gain of advantage from something
- 14 *The last mass extinction happened about 65 million years ago, when an asteroid probably collided with our planet, killing all the dinosaurs and about half of the marine animals.*
- one of the millions of rocks that move around the sun, are smaller than a planet, and larger than a meter in diameter
 - of the American Indian civilization of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala that reached its peak between AD 300 and 900
 - a hole or dropoff so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply a frightening bottomless pit
- 15 *Even though I don't think there is going to be a nuclear bomb just in case I read it very carefully.*
- the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - relating to the central or most important part of something
- 16 *attacks of nostalgia*
- the best or most important
 - longing for something past
 - a secret agreement or plot
- 17 *The fifth time they met, under the spell of Rosa's youthful spontaneity—halfway through a heated discussion...—Litvinoff surprised himself by proposing they go hear a concert together.*
- the state or character of not finding a condition or substance to be present
 - behaving in an instinctive, uninhibited manner
 - a common name for tetanus, a serious infection that makes the jaw clamp shut
- 18 *But, with a dreadful feeling, she remembered how it had been her who'd insisted that he publish the book. He'd argued with her, saying it was too personal, a private matter, but she'd pushed and pushed, softening his resistance until he finally broke down and agreed. Because wasn't that what wives of artists were meant to do? Husband their husbands' work into the world, which, without them, would be lost to obscurity?*
- a condition of not being known by many people
 - wrong understanding
 - act of hiring again
- 19 *After Uncle Julian left, my mother became more withdrawn, or maybe a better word would be obscure, as in faint, unclear, distant.*
- the state of doing something intentionally
 - mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - not easily detected (not easily seen, heard, understood...)
- 20 *Then we reminisced about a water fight we'd had a hundred years ago, and I felt a pang of sadness that next year Herman would be gone to start his life.*
- considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - to talk or think fondly about past experiences
 - held together (connected or united) or wrapped

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	obituary	Used 6 times in this book.
2	B	subsist	Used 3 times in this book.
3	B	shamble (<i>as in: she shambled along</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
4	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	C	posthumous	Used 2 times in this book.
7	C	sprain	Used 5 times in this book.
8	A	immigrate	Used 5 times in this book.
9	C	indelible	Used 2 times in this book.
10	A	accordion (<i>as in: an accordion door</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
11	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	C	clarity	Used 2 times in this book.
13	A	species	Used 14 times in this book.
14	A	asteroid	Used 2 times in this book.
15	C	nucleus	Used 3 times in this book.
16	B	nostalgia	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	B	spontaneous	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	A	obscure (<i>as in: the famous and the obscure</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	C	obscure (<i>as in: the view or directions are obscure</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
20	B	reminisce	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.