

The Impossible Knife of Memory

by Laurie Halse Anderson

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: acclaim, adrenaline, assess, assimilate, bizarre, demented, enable, epic, flaunt, horde, influenza, insurgent, interpret, loathe, narrator, pedantic, physics, prescribe, quibble, rehabilitate



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The book was released to great **acclaim**.
 - A. criticism
 - B. praise
 - C. curiosity
2. She was still shaking from the **adrenaline rush** that came with the fright.
 - A. calming hormone
 - B. muscle protein
 - C. fight-or-flight hormone
3. She is tasked with **assessing** the promise of new locations for stores.
 - A. explaining
 - B. evaluating
 - C. recording
4. The immigrants worked hard to **assimilate** the customs of their new homeland.
 - A. absorb and adopt
 - B. openly reject
 - C. secretly mock
5. She won one of those **bizarre** contests designed by Guinness Book of World Records.
 - A. present in great quantity
 - B. exceedingly odd or unusual
 - C. critical (full of criticism)
6. Stay away from her. She's dangerous and **demented**.
 - A. devious (clever)
 - B. overly confident
 - C. insane (crazy)
7. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
8. *The Odyssey* is an ancient **epic** about a hero struggling to return home.
 - A. long heroic story
 - B. brief private letter
 - C. ordinary news report
9. She **flaunts** her wealth.
 - A. shows off
 - B. hides
 - C. enjoys
10. A **horde** of excited fans rushed toward the stage when the band made their surprise appearance.
 - A. tiny group
 - B. huge crowd
 - C. single person
11. Three **influenza** pandemics occurred in the 20th century killing tens of millions of people.
 - A. flu
 - B. measles
 - C. polio
12. The **insurgents** fought against the government.
 - A. members of an irregular armed force that fight a stronger force by sabotage and harassment
 - B. members of an army fighting outside of their home country
 - C. soldiers who fight for a country that is not their own in order to earn pay

13. She will stand to his left and interpret his speech into sign language.
- A. refute (prove false)
 - B. elaborate upon
 - C. translate
14. I loathe that man. He ruined my life.
- A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
15. One of the more popular narrators in movie history is Morgan Freeman. I especially liked him in *The Shawshank Redemption* where in addition to playing a major role, he narrated the film.
- A. producer who works closest with the actors
 - B. actor who talks directly to the audience
 - C. script writer
16. Her essay was filled with creative ideas, but it was vulnerable to pedantic nitpicking.
- A. of someone too concerned with regional style
 - B. of someone too concerned with statistical studies
 - C. of someone too concerned with book learning
17. She became interested in physics after building a model rocket that launched using air pressure.
- A. study of living things
 - B. science of matter and energy
 - C. study of human cultures
18. Most doctors prescribe simple lifestyle changes before medication.
- A. ignore
 - B. delay
 - C. recommend
19. At the time, it was an emergency. There was no time to quibble over details.
- A. argue (about unimportant things)
 - B. analyze or analysis
 - C. be distressed or distress
20. The program helps injured athletes rehabilitate their muscles after surgery.
- A. hide from public view
 - B. restore to good condition
 - C. judge as impossible

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 "What's an **unreliable narrator**?" asked Topher.
 - A. translation
 - B. storyteller
 - C. quiet voice
- 2 Fully **assimilated** zombies.
 - A. took in, transformed, or fit in
 - B. selected (on a computer screen)
 - C. took up or received into heaven
- 3 The **flaunts**, the taunts, the poses, they were all part of the lie.
 - A. shows off (displays something ostentatiously)
 - B. disrespects or rejects as not valuable enough
 - C. writes or exchanges written letters or emails
- 4 My **adrenaline** turned up a notch.
 - A. declaration of invalidity; or cancelation
 - B. the branch of geology that studies rocks
 - C. "fight or flight" stimulating hormone
- 5 Thought you had **physics**.
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. the science of matter and energy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 6 At one point in the distant past, it had been a Plymouth **Acclaim**, but there wasn't much left to shout about.
 - A. draw pictures to accompany
 - B. enthusiastic public praise
 - C. hire again or occupy again
- 7 Every few minutes a new **horde** of girls would buzz over and bug him about tickets or T-shirts or swim practice.
 - A. a fat compound
 - B. a large number
 - C. a hooved mamma
- 8 I'm still talking and I am looking for something to talk about but it's tough because this is a **bizarre** situation.
 - A. the quality of disagreeing
 - B. exceedingly odd or unusual
 - C. able to meet and talk with
- 9 My **interpreter** claims he can.
 - A. people who criticize or condemn
 - B. someone who extensively damages
 - C. someone who translates language
- 10 We killed four **insurgents** and captured four more.
 - A. members of an irregular armed force that fight a stronger force by sabotage and harassment
 - B. the science related to DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
 - C. streaks of light in the sky caused by small space rocks burning up in Earth's atmosphere
- 11 Do you know how much women **loathe** it when guys think every show of negative emotion is tied to our menstrual cycle, like we're sheep or something?
 - A. draw
 - B. quit
 - C. hate

- 12 One of my mom's **prescriptions**.
- A. classical musical forms in which a theme is introduced and then extended and developed through some number of successive imitations
 - B. diplomats appointed by their government to protect the government's commercial interests and help its citizens in a foreign country
 - C. recommendations or requirements OR (from a medical doctor) instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
- 13 Mr. Diaz, who really needs to work on his anger management issues, yelled at me for disrupting his class with what he called my '**pedantic quibbles**.'
- A. not having the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
 - C. excessive concern for details
- 14 Mr. Diaz, who really needs to work on his anger management issues, yelled at me for disrupting his class with what he called my '**pedantic quibbles**.'
- A. to argue about unimportant things; or an argument or complaint about something unimportant
 - B. persuades someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - C. officially requests, demands, or takings of things; or the forms used to make such requests
- 15 "**Epic** is a stupid word," I said.
- A. an outstanding work of literature or film
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. meticulousness (care about small details)
- 16 Finn's mother had taken an **unplanned trip** to Boston because his dad had the flu.
- A. influenza -- a highly contagious respiratory disease
 - B. overuse of a shared good by people not paying for it
 - C. existing in fact even though not officially declared
- 17 Chelsea wants to go to **rehab**, but there isn't any money.
- A. an art movement early in the 20th century in which an inner feeling was expressed through a distorted rendition of reality
 - B. restore someone (or more rarely, something) to a state of good condition; or a program or facility or where that is done
 - C. a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
- 18 Your mom's **enabling** your sister and screwing you over.
- A. being a sign of
 - B. making possible
 - C. moving downward
- 19 I knew he was **assessing** the space: no visible threat, clear line of sight, and quick access to all exits.
- A. attractive or desirable
 - B. considering and judging
 - C. predicting or revealing
- 20 The **demented** soul who was my physical therapist laughed and high-fived me the first time I burst into tears when I was rehabbing my knee.
- A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
 - C. acting crazy

or:

suffering from cognitive dementia (mental deterioration)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	narrator	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	A	assimilate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	A	flaunt	Used 3 times in this book.
4	C	adrenaline	Used 4 times in this book.
5	B	physics	Used 6 times in this book.
6	B	acclaim	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	B	horde	Used 7 times in this book.
8	B	bizarre (<i>as in: is bizarre</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
9	C	interpret (<i>as in: interpret Spanish to English</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
10	A	insurgent	Used 5 times in this book.
11	C	loathe	Used 3 times in this book.
12	C	prescribe	Used 6 times in this book.
13	C	pedantic	Used 3 times in this book.
14	A	quibble	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	epic	Used 8 times in this book.
16	A	influenza	Used 4 times in this book.
17	B	rehabilitate	Used 5 times in this book.
18	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
19	B	assess (<i>as in: assess the situation</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
20	C	demented (<i>as in: demented lyrics</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.