

The Killer Angels

by Michael Shaara

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: analogy, competent, decisive (2), defer, deploy, devious, factor, martial, objective, ominous, precede, premonition, probe, ration, rein, reproach, rhetoric, seminary, wistful



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	C
13	B
14	A
15	A
16	B
17	B
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. An **analogy** can make a complex problem seem simpler by comparing it to a similar situation.
 - A. comparison of similar things
 - B. summary of key arguments
 - C. list of opposite traits
2. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
 - A. below average
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. outstanding
3. Tonight, they play the **decisive** game seven of the series.
 - A. determining an outcome
 - B. hardest so far
 - C. most watched
4. We need a **decisive** leader who can act quickly without losing time in consultation.
 - A. unhesitating
 - B. intelligent
 - C. popular
5. He almost always **defers** to her wishes about which movie to see.
 - A. presents argument
 - B. submits
 - C. add more
6. The city **deployed** snowplows before the storm reached downtown.
 - A. sent out
 - B. held back
 - C. sold off
7. She is a **devious** opponent.
 - A. widely respected
 - B. deceitful and clever
 - C. not very challenging
8. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
 - A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
9. The army practiced **martial** drills before the inspection.
 - A. related to war
 - B. related to music
 - C. related to farming
10. What is your **objective**?
 - A. problem
 - B. point-of-view
 - C. goal
11. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
 - A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving

12. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
13. Like most soldiers, I was scared before battle, but it's not like I had a premonition that something bad was going to happen to me.
- A. expectation
 - B. feeling
 - C. certainty
14. The committee will probe the cause of the failure.
- A. investigate
 - B. make better
 - C. make worse
15. During the Second World War, products such as food and gasoline were rationed in the United States, so more resources could be devoted to the war effort.
- A. restricted in the amount each person could have
 - B. set at a high price only the military could afford
 - C. imported in small amounts from many countries
16. She is committed to reining in excessive government infringement of personal freedom.
- A. exposing
 - B. restraining
 - C. discovering
17. Don't reproach yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
 - B. criticize
 - C. accept honor for
18. Students analyzed the senator's rhetoric before writing their essays.
- A. persuasive language
 - B. family history
 - C. voting record
19. She plans to attend Fuller Theological Seminary.
- A. a school for training musicians, painters, and other artists
 - B. a school for training ministers, priests, or rabbis
 - C. a school for training teachers and school administrators
20. She had a wistful, dreamy look as she thought about how life would change if she could get a good job.
- A. showing longing
 - B. showing determination
 - C. showing optimism

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 Their main **objective** is to draw the Union Army out into the open where it can be destroyed.
 - A. name
 - B. copy
 - C. goal
- 2 A moody man, often **competent**, bad-tempered, wealthy, aspires to a place in Richmond society, frets and broods and fights with superiors.
 - A. sincerity (realness)
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. sensible and careful
- 3 No decision he makes at Gettysburg will be **decisive**, except perhaps the last.
 - A. conclusive in settling a matter
 - B. relating to one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
 - C. able to be persuaded to do something by tempting with pleasure or something desired
- 4 He was by nature a **decisive** man, and although this was one of the great decisions of his life and he knew it, he made it quickly and did not agonize over it.
 - A. making quick decisions and sticking by them
 - B. made by humans -- often to replace something that can be found in nature
 - C. the quality or degree of straightness, or absence of anything in between
- 5 The spy thought hopefully, **wistfully**: if it's Stuart I can ask for an armed escort all the way home.
 - A. with longing or unfulfilled desire
 - B. in a manner that involves betrayal
 - C. following as a result of something
- 6 General, this will be a **factor**.
 - A. job, reservation, booking, or activity
 - B. thing that affects a result or outcome
 - C. something that is made or manufactured
- 7 He was **thirty-four** years old, and on this day one year ago he had been a professor of **rhetoric** at Bowdoin College.
 - A. the use of (or study of using) words to make a point
 - B. the quality of being very bad (deserving no respect)
 - C. the state or degree of being optimistic or agreeable
- 8 After that he **deployed** the brigades.
 - A. placed or activated
 - B. excessively excited
 - C. nervous or confused
- 9 A preacher from the **Seminary** began a low, insistent, theological argument with a young lieutenant,
 - A. the reason for doing something; or the level of desire to do something
 - B. a school for training ministers
 - C. a drug that calms or puts to sleep; or describing something as calming
- 10 "The General, ah, **defers** to General Hill's judgment, I believe."
 - A. presents argument
 - B. yields (or submits)
 - C. pretends to be ignorant
- 11 The fame of your regiment, sir, has **preceded** you.
 - A. wrongly understood
 - B. influenced opinion
 - C. went or was before
- 12 I think that's a fair **analogy**, hey, Pete?
 - A. a comparison of different things to point to a shared characteristic
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest

- 13 *Buford could hear the artillery coming into place on the far side, heard the spattering of rifle fire from probing patrols.*
- investigating
 - concentrating
 - bouncing back
- 14 *Fremantle stared at him, transfixed, trying to sense a premonition.*
- of Athens during the Golden Age of Greece (5th century BC)
 - a feeling, not based on reason, that something will happen
 - of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and sometimes Finland & Iceland
- 15 *Let him have some rations, try to give him directions.*
- a fixed share of something, especially scarce goods like food or fuel; or to limit and distribute something in fixed shares
 - atones (demonstrates sorrow for a wrong either by doing something good in return for the wrong, or by accepting punishment)
 - removes or suppress anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable OR people who does such suppression
- 16 *"General, I understood General Lee to say that the enemy would be up on the ridge back there..." Longstreet said, "That's correct."
McLaws hummed, scratched his face.
"Well?" Longstreet said ominously.
"Well, the enemy's right in front of me..."*
- suggesting/expecting bad things
 - in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
 - in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
- 17 *Taylor drew back in frosty reproach,*
- move into position to work; or start
 - criticism
 - to spread to other parts of the body
- 18 *By damn, man, if there is one human being in the world less devious than Robert Lee, I aint yet met him.*
- able to be persuaded to do something by tempting with pleasure or something desired
 - tricky (deceitful in a complicated, clever manner)
 - relating to one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
- 19 *He let go the reins of command.*
- (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - means of control
 - injures the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 20 *He had a martial bearing and the kind of a face on which emotion rarely showed, a calm, almost regal quality.*
- relating to war, the military, or fighting
 - mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - without involvement of anything in between

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	objective (<i>as in: our objective is to...</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
2	B	competent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
3	A	decisive (<i>as in: a decisive defeat</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
4	A	decisive (<i>as in: a decisive decision maker</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	A	wistful	Used 7 times in this book.
6	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
7	A	rhetoric	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
8	A	deploy	Used 6 times in this book.
9	B	seminary	Used 21 times in this book.
10	B	defer (<i>as in: deferred to her wishes</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
11	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
12	A	analogy	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	A	probe	Used 8 times in this book.
14	B	premonition	Used 3 times in this book.
15	A	ration	Used 8 times in this book.
16	A	ominous	Used 5 times in this book.
17	B	reproach	Used 7 times in this book.
18	B	devious (<i>as in: a devious plan</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
19	B	rein (<i>as in: to rein in their activities</i>)	Used 22 times in this book.
20	A	martial	Used 12 times in this book.