

The Last Song

by Nicholas Sparks

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: alcove, concerto, conflict, congregate, consternation, direct (3), exasperated, highlight (2), imply, intricate, malignant, paralysis, passage, skeptical, summon, tentative, vagrant



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	C
11	B
12	A
13	C
14	B
15	C
16	B
17	A
18	A
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. We shared an intimate dinner in one of the restaurant's **alcoves**.
 - A. outdoor patios
 - B. spacious rooms
 - C. recessed or secluded spaces
2. She performed a famous piano **concerto** by Mozart at the recital.
 - A. well-known opera singer
 - B. stringed wooden instrument
 - C. piece for solo and orchestra
3. The Israeli-Palestinian **conflict** flared up again in Jerusalem.
 - A. agreement
 - B. border
 - C. struggle
4. People **congregated** outside of City Hall to protest.
 - A. came together
 - B. sat down
 - C. shouted
5. She is a natural athlete, but to the coach's **consternation**, she tends to forget the play in the heat of the moment.
 - A. prediction
 - B. dismay
 - C. blame
6. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
7. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
8. The judge **directed** the jury to ignore the question.
 - A. asked
 - B. ordered
 - C. understood
9. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - A. very active
 - B. endearing (lovable)
 - C. greatly annoying
10. The mayor **highlighted** positive developments in the city.
 - A. encouraged
 - B. searched for
 - C. emphasized
11. It was the **highlight** of our vacation.
 - A. brightest day
 - B. best part
 - C. scariest moment

12. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
- A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
13. The law in that area is **intricate**. I suggest you talk with a lawyer.
- A. outdated
 - B. predictable
 - C. complicated
14. **Malignant** rumors spread through social media damaged her reputation.
- A. insignificant or unimportant
 - B. harmful or evil
 - C. beneficial or helpful
15. She is **paralyzed** from the waist down.
- A. feeling a painful tingling
 - B. having muscle spasms
 - C. unable to move the body
16. After reading each **passage**, choose the best answer to each question.
- A. article
 - B. short part of a longer work
 - C. route to get somewhere
17. She is **skeptical** about the project.
- A. doubtful
 - B. keeping silent
 - C. excited
18. She received a **summons** from the court.
- A. official call to appear
 - B. letter of recommendation
 - C. payment receipt
19. She took a **tentative** step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
 - B. brave
 - C. confident
20. Police used to be allowed to use their discretion in deciding whether to arrest any **vagrant**.
- A. person who used recreational drugs
 - B. impoverished person without a home or job
 - C. someone who is visiting from out-of-town

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 Visiting **implied** a weekend or two, maybe even a week.
 - A. suggested (said indirectly)
 - B. not wanting to do something
 - C. was attractive or desirable
- 2 That, she supposed, was the **highlight** of her career.
 - A. something made from parts
 - B. best part
 - C. large artery of the heart
- 3 Like Kayla, she had at least half a dozen piercings in each ear, **highlighted** with a couple of miniature skulls that dangled from her earlobes, and her dark eye shadow and eyeliner gave her an almost feral appearance.
 - A. not fit for service to humans or home life
 - B. not vaccinated (to protect from a disease)
 - C. emphasized (calling attention to)
- 4 The piano was located in a small **alcove** off the small living room...
 - A. a platform (raised structure for performers so they are higher than the audience and thus more easily seen)
 - B. a triangular corner of a larger room
 - C. recessed (partly enclosed and pushing outward from the main room)
- 5 On the beach, a few remaining families were **congregated** on towels near the water, along with a couple of sand castles about to be swept away in the rising tide.
 - A. came together
 - B. sat down
 - C. shouted
- 6 Then I'll have to arrest you on **vagrancy** charges, and have your dad bring you home.
 - A. the process of removing from recognition or memory
 - B. someone who is poor and has no regular home or job
 - C. the act of making poor; or the state of being poor
- 7 They didn't argue and avoided **conflict** as a rule.
 - A. include consideration of
 - B. make nervous or confused
 - C. struggle or disagreement
- 8 He went on, "And then this morning, after you left, I went straight to the **director** of the aquarium and spoke to him in person."
 - A. a doctor who tests eyesight and provides glasses or contact lenses to improve vision
 - B. supervisor (person in charge)
 - C. someone who polishes something and makes it shiny; or someone who improves something
- 9 **Directly** ahead lay a huge, sun-filled open room, and beyond that, she saw the sparkling waters of the Intracoastal Waterway.
 - A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 - B. close
 - C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 10 And in his own **indirect** way, he never let Will forget what he'd done for him and his family that horrible day when Mikey died.
 - A. not straightforward (not clearly stated)
 - B. not done on purpose
 - C. deserving of praise
- 11 She didn't bother to hide her **skepticism**.
 - A. doubt (that something is true)
 - B. concern with practical matters
 - C. between daylight and darkness

- 12 ...she was less angry at him than **exasperated** by his persistence.
- A. said indirectly
 - B. came or arrived
 - C. greatly annoyed
- 13 He chose the **concerto** that Ronnie had played at her performance at Carnegie Hall, and closing his eyes, he concentrated.
- A. an expert who shares professional opinions in a specific field
 - B. the act of being in a working position; or the act of starting
 - C. music written for orchestra and one (or more) solo instruments
- 14 Scott frowned in **consternation**.
- A. related to the smallest part of any material that cannot be broken up by chemical means
 - B. dismay (unhappiness, worry, and often confusion) -- typically over something unexpected
 - C. a type of vocal music that originated in African-American churches in the United States
- 15 He hesitated, trying to **summon** his strength, for the rest of what he had to say.
- A. call forth
 - B. display to others
 - C. understand
- 16 I just didn't realize your dad had the ability to make something so **intricate**.
- A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 - B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 - C. complicated -- having many complexly arranged elements
- 17 When he spoke, his voice was at once **tentative** and urgent.
- A. careful or unsure
 - B. not demonstrating
 - C. able to challenge
- 18 The sight of Marcus suddenly being driven to the ground seemed to **paralyze** them,
- A. snap into action
 - B. surprise
 - C. make unable to move
- 19 She tried again not to think about the **malignant** cells invading his organs.
- A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - B. harmful or evil
- in medicine: harmful growth as with a cancerous tumor
- C. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
- 20 Her dad continued to study his Bible, and sometimes he'd read a **passage** or verse aloud at her request.
- A. the act of stopping a battle or fight
 - B. a short part of a longer written work
 - C. dense, rainy forest with many species

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	B	highlight (<i>as in: highlights of the year</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	C	highlight (<i>as in: highlight the main findings</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	alcove	Used 8 times in this book.
5	A	congregate	Used 2 times in this book.
6	B	vagrant	Used 3 times in this book.
7	C	conflict	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
8	B	direct (<i>as in: direct a question; or direct a film</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
9	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 11 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
10	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
11	A	skeptical	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
12	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
13	C	concerto	Used 2 times in this book.
14	B	consternation	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	summon	Used 6 times in this book.
16	C	intricate	Used 5 times in this book.
17	A	tentative (<i>as in: said it tentatively</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
18	C	paralysis	Used 5 times in this book.
19	B	malignant	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	passage (<i>as in: In lines 1-9 of the passage...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.