

The Lone Star Ranger

by Zane Grey

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

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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: agitate, augment, bland, conjecture, conscience, contrast, denotes, ensue, farce, fugitive, juncture, laconic, motive, nevertheless, peril, ponder, scorn, scrutiny, somber, yield



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
2. The purpose of this exercise is to **augment** the natural vocabulary growth that comes with reading.
 - A. increase
 - B. study
 - C. argue for
3. The sauce tasted **bland** until she added garlic and pepper.
 - A. overly sweet
 - B. lacking flavor
 - C. full of color
4. It is important to distinguish between **conjecture** and fact.
 - A. fantasy
 - B. theory
 - C. popularity
5. I will vote as my **conscience** demands.
 - A. sense of right and wrong
 - B. memory of past events
 - C. fear of public ridicule
6. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
7. In algebra, letters often **denote** unknown numbers in equations.
 - A. scatter
 - B. represent
 - C. confuse
8. The storm ended by noon, and a quiet afternoon **ensued**.
 - A. decreasing
 - B. prior
 - C. following
9. The trial was a **farce**, with witnesses who clearly lied and a judge who didn't care.
 - A. thorough investigation
 - B. complete mockery
 - C. well-run procedure
10. The **fugitive** fled to Venezuela.
 - A. person on vacation
 - B. rebel
 - C. person running from the law
11. At that **junction** I didn't know what to do.
 - A. difficult point
 - B. new point
 - C. point
12. When asked why he wanted to climb the mountain, he retorted **laconically**, "Because it's there."
 - A. in a manner that uses few words
 - B. in a funny manner
 - C. in a shy manner

13. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
A. excuse
B. technique
C. reason
14. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
A. also
B. despite that
C. in addition
15. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
A. fame
B. danger
C. weariness
16. We pondered our fate.
A. thought about
B. feared for
C. actively changed
17. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
A. disrespects
B. encourages
C. trains
18. The new policy faced scrutiny from independent reviewers.
A. strong support
B. quick approval
C. careful examination
19. She exhibited a somber mood.
A. happy
B. curious
C. cheerless
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
A. added
B. gave in
C. produced

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 Soon, perchance, I shall have the pleasure of writing of the border of to-day, which in Joe Sitter's **laconic** speech, "Shore is 'most as bad an' wild as ever!"
 - A. using few words
 - B. strongly biased
 - C. material wealth
- 2 T hey ape **Bland** an' King Fisher an' Hardin an' all the big outlaws.
 - A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. dull or lacking stimulating characteristics -- especially in the flavor of food
 - C. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
- 3 "You mean for me to run?" asked Duane, in **scorn**.
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific
- 4 Presently he turned to Duane with an expression that **denoted** resignation, and yet a spirit which showed wherein they were of the same blood.
 - A. with rises and falls in pitch
 - B. stand for or symbolize literally; or be a sign or indicator of
 - C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 5 He had no fear of Bain or of any other man; but a vague fear of himself, of this strange force in him, made him **ponder** and shake his head.
 - A. think deeply or carefully about
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. fulfill one's highest potential
- 6 The noise ceased upon his entrance, and the silence **ensuing** presently broke to the clink of Mexican silver dollars at a monte table.
 - A. gradually adding or removing
 - B. thinking about or discussing
 - C. subsequent (happening later)
- 7 Duane heard no step, saw no movement; **nevertheless**, there was another present at that camp-fire vigil.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 8 Dawn caught the **fugitives** at a green camping-site on the bank of a rocky little stream.
 - A. males, females, or various trans categories
 - B. jobs, reservations, bookings, or activities
 - C. people hiding from law enforcement officers
- 9 At this **juncture** several more outlaws crowded out of the door, and the one in the lead was a tall man of stalwart physique.
 - A. something exclusive to (someone or some group) -- such as an activity or place
 - B. a rough substance that can be rubbed against something else to polish or clean
 - C. where things come together -- especially a point in time with a critical event
- 10 He had a long face, a flaming red beard, and clear, cold blue eyes that fixed in close **scrutiny** upon Duane.
 - A. the best or most important
 - B. a secret agreement or plot
 - C. careful look or inspection

- 11 *Very probably his faculties were absorbed in **conjecture** as to Duane's possibilities.*
A. suggest (say indirectly) OR something suggested indirectly; or something that can be concluded; or a result
B. a conclusion or opinion based on inconclusive evidence; or the act of forming of such a conclusion or opinion
C. cause to happen at the same time or in a coordinated sequence; or to set clocks/watches to show the same time
- 12 *Not once since this daring **motive** had stirred him had he been haunted by the phantom of Bain beside his bed.*
A. small quantity or indication
B. the sacred writings of Islam
C. reason (for doing something)
- 13 *She, however, in her **agitation** did not notice his shrinking.*
A. officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
B. formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
C. the act of stirring up (emotionally or physically); or a state of emotional unrest
- 14 *Duane's keenness told him that at the very darkest and most **perilous** moment there was still a chance for him.*
A. stuck out
B. dangerous
C. bent down
- 15 *For a moment he half **yielded** to a temptation to try to slip along the river-shore, close in under the willows.*
A. with rises and falls in pitch
B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 16 *When he spoke his expressionless face was in strange **contrast** with the ring, the quality, the cruelty of his voice.*
A. come to terms with
B. block or interfere
C. notable difference
- 17 *But Duane's years on the border had **augmented** a natural instinct or gift to read character, or at least to sense the evil in men; and he knew at once that these strangers were dishonest.*
A. enlarged or increased
B. recognized difference
C. marked important text
- 18 *Law here has been a **farce**.*
A. (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults
OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
B. a ridiculous, exaggerated situation too absurd to be taken seriously; or a type of comedy that relies on absurd humor, using physical slapstick, unlikely situations, and deliberate misunderstandings
C. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
- 19 *"I'm done," he said, **somberly**.*
A. in a manner that influences reason or general desire to do something
B. with disbelief; or with difficulty accepting something so unexpected
C. solemnly (in a manner that is serious--not cheerful or lighthearted)
- 20 *But now with **conscience** flayed to the quick, yet utterly powerless over this tiger instinct, he was lost.*
A. feeling or appraisal of having personally behaved in a morally right or wrong manner
B. a complex carbohydrate that is the chief constituent of all plant tissues and fibers
C. not planning to kill a person, but then intentionally killing in the heat of passion

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	laconic	Used 4 times in this book.
2	B	bland	Used 223 times in this book.
3	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
4	B	denotes	Used 3 times in this book.
5	A	ponder	Used 8 times in this book.
6	C	ensue	Used 9 times in this book.
7	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
8	C	fugitive (<i>as in: she is a fugitive</i>)	Used 15 times in this book.
9	C	junction	Used 4 times in this book.
10	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
11	B	conjecture	Used 6 times in this book.
12	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
13	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
14	B	peril	Used 8 times in this book.
15	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	augment	Used 5 times in this book.
18	B	farce	Used 4 times in this book.
19	C	somber (<i>as in: a somber mood</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
20	A	conscience	Used 10 times in this book.