

The Merchant of Death

by D. J. MacHale

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

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: adrenaline, agony, comprehend, conflict, disdain, diverse, dumfounded, futile, incite, kiosk, ominous, on the other hand, ornate, ravenous, seethe, skeptical, sobering, stupefy, suburban, tirade



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She was still shaking from the **adrenaline** rush that came with the fright.
 - A. calming hormone
 - B. muscle protein
 - C. fight-or-flight hormone
2. She cried out in **agony**.
 - A. sudden surprise
 - B. intense anger
 - C. intense suffering
3. Washington fails to **comprehend** the change in China's strategy.
 - A. fully understand
 - B. regard respectfully
 - C. respond adequately to
4. The Israeli-Palestinian **conflict** flared up again in Jerusalem.
 - A. agreement
 - B. border
 - C. struggle
5. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. humility
 - C. intense anger
6. She is a person of **diverse** talents.
 - A. varied (different)
 - B. deeply specialized
 - C. amazing
7. She was too **dumbfounded** to answer.
 - A. surprised
 - B. unintelligent
 - C. polite
8. Their attempt to fix the cracked screen with tape was **futile**.
 - A. simple
 - B. dangerous
 - C. pointless
9. The rumors were spread by her enemies to **incite** the people against her.
 - A. provoke
 - B. calm the anger of
 - C. distract
10. We bought our concert tickets at the kiosk near the mall entrance.
 - A. large department store
 - B. small stand or booth
 - C. underground tunnel
11. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
 - A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving

12. I think she's pushy. On the other hand, my boyfriend describes her as assertive.
- A. also
 - B. from another point of view
 - C. for that reason
13. It was the most ornate building I've ever seen.
- A. ancient
 - B. boring
 - C. decorated
14. The ravenous lion prowled the savannah, searching for its next meal.
- A. extremely quiet
 - B. extremely dangerous
 - C. extremely hungry
15. She tried to stay calm but seethed inside over the unfair insult.
- A. shrugged it off
 - B. laughed it off
 - C. boiled inwardly
16. She is skeptical about the project.
- A. doubtful
 - B. keeping silent
 - C. excited
17. These are sobering statistics that should leave all of us concerned.
- A. serious
 - B. false
 - C. true
18. The magician's final trick seemed to stupefy everyone in the audience.
- A. bore and annoy
 - B. amaze and daze
 - C. warn and alert
19. They open restaurants in nice suburban areas.
- A. located in the center of the city
 - B. located far from any city
 - C. located outside the edge of a city
20. I'm growing tired of her tirades.
- A. displays of angry criticism
 - B. displays of useless guilt
 - C. displays of paralyzing worry

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 I hoped my mouth wasn't hanging open in **stupefied** shock.
 - A. donated a portion of one's income to a church
 - B. made unable to think; or completely surprised
 - C. caused to happen or occurred as a consequence
- 2 I'm not sure why, but that sounded strange, and a touch **ominous**.
 - A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
 - B. huge
 - C. comforting
- 3 He then kicked the bike into gear, hit the gas, and the two of us flew down the quiet, **suburban** street that had been my home for fourteen years.
 - A. not relating to practice or belief that is long-established or was previously long-established
 - B. outstanding or surpassing others in status, ability, or possession of a notable characteristic
 - C. relating to a residential area located near the outer edge of a city where it isn't as crowded
- 4 The two would spend hours debating issues as **diverse** as First Amendment rights and the relative merits of Pamela Anderson before and after cosmetic surgery.
 - A. varied or (having differences amongst things of the same kind) -- especially with regard to ideas or members of a population group
 - B. submissiveness -- often behavior of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
 - C. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
- 5 A surge of **adrenaline** shot through him and his brain went on full alert.
 - A. declaration of invalidity; or cancelation
 - B. the branch of geology that studies rocks
 - C. "fight or flight" stimulating hormone
- 6 Mark dug his heels in and pushed his back against the wall behind his bed in the **futile** hope that he'd crash through and escape out the other side.
 - A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. effort that is pointless because it is unproductive or unsuccessful
- 7 Uncle Press guided the motorcycle toward one of those old-fashioned **kiosks** that marked the stairs leading down to the subway.
 - A. things that are different than others of their type (synonyms could include: adaptations, versions, alternate forms)
 - B. a very small area used as a store or to dispense information; or an interactive computer-driven self-service machine
 - C. things created -- typically works of music or writing; or acts of creating such work; or the structures of such work
- 8 I could make out **ornate** mosaic tile work on the walls that must have been beautiful when new, but was now a mess of grimy cracks that looked like a giant, dirty spiderweb.
 - A. able to be taken on as one's own
 - B. indicating approval or agreement
 - C. having lots of decorative detail
- 9 Mark tried to stop her angry **tirade**, but Courtney was on a roll.
 - A. speech of angry criticism
 - B. something that stands out
 - C. something made from parts

- 10 *Or would it start at my feet and gradually work its way up my legs, over my body, and zero in right on my head in a brilliant, searing flash of agony before everything went dark?*
- A. size or dimension
 - B. circular movement
 - C. intense suffering
- 11 *I know that's hard to comprehend, but you'll get it.*
- A. understand -- especially to understand it completely
 - B. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - C. rug-like artwork -- often hung on a wall for display
- 12 *I, on the other hand, understood nothing.*
- A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. from another point of view; or in a way that is different (a phrase used to introduce a different perspective or idea)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 13 *Courtney wheeled back to Mark, throwing him a look of total disdain.*
- A. a lack of respect
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. influence opinion
- 14 *Courtney breathed, dumbfounded.*
- A. very surprised -- often too surprised to know what to say or do
 - B. pointed to differences between; or compared to show differences
 - C. separated OR emotionally uninvolved (separated from emotions)
- 15 *Rellin answered with a seething yet controlled tirade that Osa translated for me.*
- A. roughly calculating or guessing (based on incomplete information) a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - B. treating something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
 - C. to be filled with intense but unexpressed emotion, especially anger; or to move in a restless, agitated way
- 16 *"Why?" asked Courtney, oozing skepticism.*
- A. doubt (that something is true)
 - B. concern with practical matters
 - C. between daylight and darkness
- 17 *To say that my mind was a jumble of conflicting thoughts was an understatement.*
- A. hiring, reserving, booking, or occupying
 - B. examining in detail to better understand
 - C. opposing (struggling against each other)
- 18 *My mind quickly flashed back to the quig that Uncle Press nailed with the spear and of how the other ravenous quigs devoured one of their own, ripping its flesh from the bone while it was still alive.*
- A. able to be found
 - B. likely to change
 - C. extremely hungry
- 19 *He is guilty of plotting to destroy the peaceful balance of our society and of inciting the Milago into overthrowing the great reign of our beloved Queen Kagan.*
- A. provoking
 - B. colliding
 - C. restoring
- 20 *"Save them and they'll kill you," he said soberly.*
- A. seriously
 - B. not done on purpose
 - C. with polite respect

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	stupefy	Used 3 times in this book.
2	A	ominous	Used 6 times in this book.
3	C	suburban	Used 7 times in this book.
4	A	diverse	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	C	adrenaline	Used 7 times in this book.
6	C	futile	Used 5 times in this book.
7	B	kiosk	Used 4 times in this book.
8	C	ornate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
9	A	tirade	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	agony	Used 6 times in this book.
11	A	comprehend	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
12	B	on the other hand	Used 10 times in this book.
13	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	A	dumfounded	Used 5 times in this book.
15	C	seethe (<i>as in: seething with anger</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
16	A	skeptical	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	C	conflict	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
18	C	ravenous	Used 2 times in this book.
19	A	incite	Used 2 times in this book.
20	A	sobering (<i>as in: a sobering thought</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.