

The Miracle Worker

by William Gibson

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: acquire, bewilder, collide, comprehend, contemplate, crescendo, earnest, endeavor, imperious, impudent, indignant, indulge, interminable, intimation, morose, relinquish, resolute, simultaneous, vigor, wry



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. They are working to **acquire** nuclear weapons.
 - A. obtain (get)
 - B. eliminate (get rid of)
 - C. disguise or hide
2. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - A. confused
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
3. If the two cars **collide** at high speed, the damage will be severe.
 - A. crash
 - B. wait
 - C. split
4. Washington fails to **comprehend** the change in China's strategy.
 - A. fully understand
 - B. regard respectfully
 - C. respond adequately to
5. The philosopher **contemplated** the meaning of life, pondering the big questions of existence.
 - A. wrote about
 - B. read about
 - C. thought about
6. The music built to a **crescendo** as the hero faced his final battle.
 - A. a peak of intensity
 - B. a sudden silence
 - C. a quiet beginning
7. She has a **casual, go-with-the-flow** personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
 - A. frivolous attitude
 - B. seriousness
 - C. falseness
8. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
9. People don't generally warm to her. She comes across as **imperious**.
 - A. ridiculous
 - B. foolish
 - C. arrogant
10. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
 - A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet
11. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
 - A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
12. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about

13. The meeting felt interminable as the speaker droned on about minor details.
- A. refreshingly brief
 - B. seemingly endless
 - C. surprisingly lively
14. There was a subtle intimation in her tone that suggested she knew more about the situation than she was letting on.
- A. fear or panic
 - B. hint or indication
 - C. warning
15. She's been morose and unsociable.
- A. angry
 - B. frustrated
 - C. unhappy
16. I am relinquishing my bedroom to our house guest
- A. giving up
 - B. showing
 - C. preventing entry to
17. Despite the criticism, she remained resolute in her decision to speak out.
- A. hopeful
 - B. determined and unwavering
 - C. out of touch with reality
18. The store provides shoppers with a simultaneous art/music experience.
- A. consecutive
 - B. alternating
 - C. at the same time
19. The scientist pursued her research with vigor, determined to make a breakthrough discovery.
- A. outside help
 - B. energy and strength
 - C. persistent patience
20. Her wry comment made the bad news sound almost funny.
- A. openly cheerful
 - B. dryly humorous
 - C. deeply serious

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 *Time, in the form of a slow tune of distant belfry chimes which approaches in a **crescendo** and then fades, passes; the light comes up again on a day five years later, on three kneeling children and an old dog outside around the pump.*
 - A. gradual increase in intensity; or maximum intensity
 - B. did not find a condition or substance to be present
 - C. to begin communication with someone about something
- 2 *I'm **badgered** enough here by females without your **impudence**.*
 - A. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 3 *KELLER stands, caught, and watches **morosely**.*
 - A. in a manner that is not attractive or desirable
 - B. in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
 - C. unhappily -- often with a withdrawn personality
- 4 *HELEN now has the doll with eyes, and cannot contain herself for joy; she rocks the doll, pats it **vigorously**, kisses it.*
 - A. the ability to take on or adopt
 - B. in a strong or energetic manner
 - C. where attention is concentrated
- 5 *KATE on her knees pulls her hands off the cradle, wringing them; HELEN is **bewildered**.*
 - A. confused
 - B. restored
 - C. collided
- 6 *The second she is free HELEN blunders away, **collides** violently with a chair, falls, and sits weeping.*
 - A. crashes together with violent impact; or comes into conflict
 - B. makes uncomfortable (weighs heavily on the senses or spirit)
 - C. tries to make profit--typically by making a risky investment
- 7 *We hear a boy's voice whispering; perhaps we see shadowy **intimations** of these speakers in the background.*
 - A. the main buildings of governments
 - B. hints or suggestions of something
 - C. makes less effective or powerless
- 8 *ANNIE [RESOLUTELY]: Oh, you should have seen me when I left Boston.*
 - A. in a strongly biased manner
 - B. with firm purpose or belief
 - C. in a morally correct manner
- 9 *ANNIE [WRY]: Well, some have the luck of the Irish, some do not.*
 - A. the quality of being clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - B. humor -- often understated, sarcastic, or ironic -- often expressed by twisting the face
 - C. the quality of not being clear, easily noticed, or identifiable as different or separate
- 10 *The lights dim on them, having **simultaneously** risen full on the house; VINEY has already entered the family room, taken a water pitcher, and come out and down to the pump.*
 - A. done while awake
 - B. done with excess
 - C. at the same time

- 11 KELLER **acquires** the suitcase, and ANNIE gets her hands on it too, though still endeavoring to live up to the general air of propriety manners.
- obtains (comes into possession of)
 - interacts again or interests again
 - makes someone want to do something
- 12 KELLER **acquires** the suitcase, and ANNIE gets her hands on it too, though still endeavoring to live up to the general air of propriety manners.
- working or operating
 - believing or judging
 - trying or attempting
- 13 KATE goes out on the porch after HELEN, while KELLER knocks on ANNIE'S door, then rattles the knob, **imperiously**.
- in a manner that thoughtfully judges what is good and bad about something
 - in a manner that is in line with the floor, horizon, or another flat base
 - in a manner that expects obedience; or in an arrogant, domineering manner
- 14 ANNIE [**INDIGNANTLY**]: Why does she get a reward?
- with anger or annoyance at something unjust or wrong
 - with surprise as something unexpected
 - with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 15 Now the distant belfry chimes commence to toll the hour, also very slowly, almost—it is twelve—**interminably**; the sense is that of a long time passing.
- in a manner that influences reason or general desire to do something
 - seemingly endless; or long and unpleasant (often boring or annoying)
 - with disbelief; or with difficulty accepting something so unexpected
- 16 But KATE is moveless, until VINEY starts to take the baby; KATE looks down at her before **relinquishing** her.
- giving up or letting go
 - attractive or desirable
 - predicting or revealing
- 17 She is leaning toward ANNIE, in deadly **earnest**; it commands both ANNIE and KELLER.
- impossible to find
 - sincere or serious
 - good or beneficial
- 18 ANNIE **contemplates** this for a moment, then coming back takes HELEN'S wrists firmly and swings her off the chair.
- restarted (a fire)
 - wrongly translates
 - consider or ponder
- 19 KELLER [**EMBARRASSED**]: Oh, Katie, we—had a little talk, Miss Annie feels that if we **indulge** Helen in these —
- enjoy to excess
 - work or operate
 - think carefully
- 20 KATE **comprehends** it, their first act of verbal communication, and she can hardly utter the word aloud, in wonder, gratitude, and deprivation; it is a moment in which she simultaneously finds and loses a child.
- understands something
 - takes on as one's own
 - recognizes difference

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	crescendo	Used 2 times in this play.
2	B	impudent	Used 2 times in this play.
3	C	morose	Used 2 times in this play.
4	B	vigor	Used 5 times in this play.
5	A	bewilder	Used 4 times in this play.
6	A	collide	Used 3 times in this play.
7	B	intimation	Used 2 times in this play.
8	B	resolute	Used 5 times in this play.
9	B	wry	Used 4 times in this play.
10	C	simultaneous	Used 6 times in this play.
11	A	acquire	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
12	C	endeavor	Used 3 times in this play.
13	C	imperious	Used 3 times in this play.
14	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
15	B	interminable	Used 2 times in this play.
16	A	relinquish	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
17	B	earnest	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
18	C	contemplate	Used 5 times in this play.
19	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
20	A	comprehend	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.