

The Pigman

by Paul Zindel

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: aggravate, analyze, antagonist, compassion, deliberate, democracy, distort, elaborate, epic, factor, hypnotize, inquire, marathon, nocturnal, omen, pathetic (2), proficiency, strenuous, subconscious



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She sees the bad side of everything and is **aggravated** by cheerful people.
 - A. annoyed or irritated
 - B. made distrustful
 - C. made happier
2. The coach studied the film to **analyze** the defensive breakdown.
 - A. avoid
 - B. examine
 - C. cause
3. In the book, *Harry Potter*, Voldemort is Harry's **antagonist**.
 - A. partner
 - B. friend
 - C. enemy
4. It is not enough to be **compassionate**. We must act. It is not enough to act. We must act with intelligence.
 - A. lucky
 - B. sympathetic
 - C. talented
5. She **deliberately** added false information to the Wikipedia page.
 - A. intentionally
 - B. carelessly
 - C. accidentally
6. Canada has a **parliamentary democracy**.
 - A. government by the people
 - B. government by one ruler
 - C. government by the wealthy
7. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
8. Their culture has **elaborate** wedding ceremonies.
 - A. generous
 - B. exciting
 - C. detailed
9. *The Odyssey* is an ancient **epic** about a hero struggling to return home.
 - A. long heroic story
 - B. brief private letter
 - C. ordinary news report
10. 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
11. She dazzles, **hypnotizes**, and defrauds.
 - A. drugs
 - B. tricks
 - C. fascinates

12. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
- A. answer questions
 - B. ask about
 - C. perform a task
13. She finished her first **marathon** in just under four hours.
- A. 26-mile footrace
 - B. short sprint
 - C. swimming meet
14. Owls are **nocturnal** hunters that rely on excellent vision in low light.
- A. ocean-dwelling
 - B. long-tailed
 - C. nighttime-active
15. The appearance of Halley's comet in 1066, was seen by many as an omen that the Norman Conquest would be successful.
- A. a scientific explanation
 - B. the cause (of an important event)
 - C. a sign (of what would happen)
16. The shabby room struck her as extraordinarily **pathetic**.
- A. annoying
 - B. common
 - C. pitiful
17. She made some **pathetic** excuse about having a prior commitment.
- A. dishonest
 - B. very bad
 - C. complicated
18. After months of practice, she gained enough **proficiency** in Spanish to hold a simple conversation.
- A. interest
 - B. permission
 - C. skill
19. Landscaping is **strenuous** work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot
20. If revenge was a motive, it was **subconscious**.
- A. unnecessary
 - B. well-disguised
 - C. without awareness

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 *The truth and nothing but the truth, until this memorial **epic** is finished, So Help Us God!*
 - A. an outstanding work of literature or film
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. meticulousness (care about small details)
- 2 *Now, I don't like school, which you might say is one of the **factors** that got us involved with this old guy we nicknamed the Pigman.*
 - A. People who are of lower rank or status
 - B. things that affect a result or outcome
 - C. theories on the origin of the universe
- 3 *And if you think having Problems in American Democracy is a fun way to end the day, you need a snug-fitting **straitjacket**.*
 - A. a system of government in which citizens have power with equal votes
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 4 *Also, you'll find out soon enough that John **distorts**--when he isn't out-and-out lying.*
 - A. gives an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - B. interferes in other people's affairs or business
 - C. alters the truth
- 5 *But as I was saying, it is a fact that John has **compassion** deep inside of him, which is the real reason we got involved with the Pigman.*
 - A. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - B. sympathy for another's suffering and wanting to help
 - C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 6 *I've spent hours trying to **analyze** the situation, and the closest I've been able to come to a theory is that his father set a bad example at an age when John was impressionable.*
 - A. restore
 - B. examine
 - C. predict
- 7 *Anyway, the idea of the telephone **marathon** was you had to close your eyes and stick your finger on a number in the directory and then call it up to see how long you could keep whoever answered talking on the phone.*
 - A. a footrace of about 26 miles
 - B. small quantity or indication
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 8 *"...and you can't even tell a **subconscious** suicide when you talk to one. ... He sounded just like the kind of guy who'd commit suicide by taking a cold shower and then leaving the windows open to die of pneumonia!"*
 - A. the quality of being clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - B. the quality of not being clear, easily noticed, or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. mental activity of which we are not aware, but which can influence feelings and behavior
- 9 *I mean, that's how **antagonistic** she was.*
 - A. without boundaries or limits
 - B. not good at making decisions
 - C. with opposition or hostility
- 10 *we went into the **nocturnal** room of the Mammal Building.*
 - A. the quality of not being sensible and careful
 - B. the quality of being unchanging or continuous
 - C. (for animals that are) active during the night
- 11 *Snakes can **hypnotize** their prey.*
 - A. direct energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - B. express personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work
 - C. fascinate so much that awareness of other things is lost

- 12 *She finally got out of the house again that night by performing an elaborate ritual about having to go to the library.*
- A. without gender classification
 - B. overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. detailed (perhaps complex)
- 13 *This aggravates his father no end, and several other adults have made nasty remarks about it too.*
- A. annoys or irritates
 - B. differs; or changes
 - C. predicts or reveals
- 14 *Everybody was in it, so I knew it was going to be a strenuous bore.*
- A. able to be stopped from happening
 - B. difficult
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 15 *I mean those particular cops were so dumb it was pathetic.*
- A. (adjective) designed to stop something OR (noun) something that stops something else
 - B. so bad it is laughable or contemptible
 - C. related to intelligence -- such as requiring, appealing to, or possessing intelligence
- 16 *He walked very slowly, and he had lost so much weight. It was pathetic, that's what it was.*
- A. unable to get closer to
 - B. not sensible or careful
 - C. pitiful (something that arouses pity)
- 17 *"What did you have for breakfast?" Lorraine inquired, which was a little uncalled-for since all you had to do was look at the tray,*
- A. limited or with boundaries
 - B. asked
 - C. gradually added or removed
- 18 *Right there and then I should have known the dream was an omen of death.*
- A. make someone want to do something
 - B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
 - C. sign of something about to happen
- 19 *Would he think we had forsaken him and deliberately ripped his wife's clothes--viciously broken the pigs?*
- A. intentionally
 - B. unemotionally
 - C. with distaste
- 20 *One of the attendants was washing the sea-lion manure off the middle platform of the pool, and at least he was able to do that with a certain degree of proficiency.*
- A. snake
 - B. story
 - C. skill

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	epic	Used 4 times in this book.
2	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word
3	A	democracy	Used 5 times in this book.
4	C	distort	Used 6 times in this book.
5	B	compassion	Used 4 times in this book.
6	B	analyze	High-utility academic word
7	A	marathon (<i>as in: ran her first marathon</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
8	C	subconscious	Used 4 times in this book.
9	C	antagonist (<i>as in: the antagonist in the film</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
10	C	nocturnal	Used 3 times in this book.
11	C	hypnotize (<i>as in: hypnotized by her performance</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate design</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	A	aggravate (<i>as in: she aggravates me</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
14	B	strenuous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	B	pathetic (<i>as in: a pathetic attempt to insult me</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	C	pathetic (<i>as in: Her pathetic look saddened us.</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	inquire	Used 2 times in this book.
18	C	omen	Used 9 times in this book.
19	A	deliberate (<i>as in: deliberate insult</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	proficiency	High-utility academic word