

The Red Pony

by John Steinbeck

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

Vocabulary in Context	5	
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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: coax, complacent, contempt, deliberate, disparage, impersonal, infinite, listless, mane, perpetual, precede, probe, quiver, rancor, salve, saunter, signify, solemn, stallion, strenuous



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	B
7	C
8	A
9	B
10	B
11	C
12	A
13	A
14	C
15	B
16	C
17	A
18	A
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. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
 - A. trick
 - B. gently persuade
 - C. drag forcefully
2. This team could win State if they stay hungry instead of getting too **complacent**.
 - A. worried
 - B. distracted
 - C. satisfied
3. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
4. She **deliberately** added false information to the Wikipedia page.
 - A. intentionally
 - B. carelessly
 - C. accidentally
5. The victors write the history and **disparage** their enemies.
 - A. criticize
 - B. defeat
 - C. erase from history
6. Hospitals can be **impersonal** places, despite the caring staff.
 - A. difficult to truly understand
 - B. lacking warmth or personal connection
 - C. highly efficient and organized
7. The night sky seemed **infinite** as we gazed at countless stars.
 - A. blurry
 - B. silent
 - C. endless
8. She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
 - A. unenergetic
 - B. frustrated
 - C. lonely
9. She brushed the horse's tangled **mane** until it flowed smoothly down its neck.
 - A. long curved tail
 - B. thick neck hair
 - C. sharp pointed hoof
10. He has a **perpetual** fear of forgetting important deadlines.
 - A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
11. In English, most adjectives **precede** the noun they modify.
 - A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
12. The committee will **probe** the cause of the failure.
 - A. investigate
 - B. make better
 - C. make worse

13. Her hands began to quiver as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
 - B. tightly grip
 - C. quickly move
14. Even after years apart, the rancor between the brothers had not faded at all.
- A. warm affection
 - B. mild curiosity
 - C. deep bitterness
15. The salve also acts as a moisturizer.
- A. humidity
 - B. cream
 - C. nutrient
16. She sauntered over to us.
- A. limped painfully
 - B. marched quickly
 - C. walked leisurely
17. Her silence seemed to signify that she disagreed.
- A. indicate
 - B. delay
 - C. repeat
18. Everyone was solemn at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
19. The powerful stallion galloped across the open field.
- A. wild deer
 - B. young calf
 - C. male horse
20. Landscaping is strenuous work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot

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 After a while the boy **sauntered** down the hill again.
 - A. strutted (walked in an especially confident and proud manner)
 - B. walked leisurely
 - C. walked leisurely
- 2 "It's just a show saddle," Billy Buck said **disparagingly**.
 - A. with criticism or in a manner that makes something seem less important
 - B. aka analytically -- in a manner that relates to a theory of psychiatry
 - C. in a manner that impacts the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
- 3 He stood **quivering**, stiff ears forward, eyes rolling so that the whites showed, pretending to be frightened.
 - A. to shake or tremble slightly
 - B. not working or not operating
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 4 The room was dark but there was a grayness in the window like that which **precedes** the dawn.
 - A. is abundant or plentiful
 - B. moves or slopes downward
 - C. goes, does, or is before
- 5 Jody walked up to the house and took his place **listlessly** at the table.
 - A. with a lack of energy and normal enthusiasm
 - B. in a manner that stops or hinders something
 - C. in a manner involving only one part or side
- 6 He held up the head while Billy swabbed out the wound with weak carbolic acid **salve**.
 - A. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - B. a cream or liquid put onto skin to make it feel better or heal
 - C. the act of hiding something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hiding the truth; or something that hides or deceives
- 7 He found a hard black clod on the floor and **deliberately** threw it.
 - A. intentionally
 - B. unemotionally
 - C. with distaste
- 8 It was awful to see the red hide cut, but **infinitely** more terrible to know it was being cut and not to see it.
 - A. in a manner that is open to arguments, ideas, or change
 - B. inadequately (in a manner that does not provide enough)
 - C. unlimited; without boundaries; or too numerous to count
- 9 Doubletree Mutt sat still, as though he knew some **solemn** thing was happening.
 - A. very serious or dignified
 - B. indicating approval or agreement
 - C. able to be taken on as one's own
- 10 The red fearless eyes still looked at him, **impersonal** and unafraid and detached.
 - A. highly efficient and organized
 - B. lacking warmth or personal connection
 - C. difficult to truly understand
- 11 His eyes narrowed, his mouth worked **strenuously**; for the first time that afternoon he was intent.
 - A. with sympathy for another's suffering
 - B. in a manner that requires much effort
 - C. in a manner that is worthy of respect
- 12 "Be a good thing for all of us if ham and eggs grew on the side-hills " Jody knew how his father was **probing** for a place to hurt in Gitano.
 - A. investigating
 - B. concentrating
 - C. bouncing back

- 13 *Even the moist and uncomfortable creatures in the lunch pail ceased to exist, for the little red metal flag was up on the mail box, **signifying** that some postal matter was inside.*
- A. to indicate (to show or to mean)
 - B. lacking things most people enjoy
 - C. of the Netherlands or its people
- 14 *Jess Taylor, up to the ridge ranch, has a fair **stallion**, but it'll cost five dollars.*
- A. a large, elongated gland located behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin
 - B. of the philosophical & religious system based on the teachings of Laozi (also spelled Taoist)
 - C. a male horse that has not been castrated (gelded) -- especially one used for breeding purposes
- 15 *The bay mare Nellie quickly grew **complacent**.*
- A. unable to get closer to
 - B. not sensible or careful
 - C. contented (unworried and satisfied)
- 16 *As she walked about the yellowing hillsides or worked at easy tasks, her lips were curled in a **perpetual fatuous** smile.*
- A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 17 *Jody reached up a hand and took hold of Nellie's **mane**.*
- A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. long coarse hair growing on the back of the neck of a horse
 - C. exchange, convert, or pay off
- 18 *His father looked down at him **contemptuously**.*
- A. done on purpose
 - B. with disrespect
 - C. in a sad manner
- 19 *Jody peered cautiously at her to see whether any **rancor** toward him remained.*
- A. measure of general intelligence
 - B. a firm decision to do something
 - C. feelings of anger or hatred
- 20 *The dogs **coaxed** and whined about him, but he could not go.*
- A. did not vote OR did not drink alcohol OR (more rarely) did not do something else
 - B. tried to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuaded
 - C. thought of something as true or likely, even though it was not known with certainty

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	saunter	Used 4 times in this book.
2	A	disparage	High-utility academic word
3	A	quiver	Used 3 times in this book.
4	C	precede	High-utility academic word
5	A	listless	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	salve	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	deliberate (<i>as in: deliberate insult</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
8	C	infinite	Used 2 times in this book.
9	A	solemn	Used 3 times in this book.
10	B	impersonal	Used 3 times in this book.
11	B	strenuous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	probe	Used 2 times in this book.
13	A	signify	Used 2 times in this book.
14	C	stallion	Used 10 times in this book.
15	C	complacent	High-utility academic word
16	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	B	mane	Used 6 times in this book.
18	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
19	C	rancor	High-utility academic word
20	B	coax (<i>as in: coax her to join us</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.