

The Red Pyramid

by Rick Riordan

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: abyss, aura, auspicious, avenge, banish, bronze, chasm, chide, crux, deflect, dissipate, exile, highlight (2), initiate, insistent, narrator, obelisk, serpent, writhe



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	C
6	C
7	C
8	C
9	A
10	C
11	C
12	B
13	B
14	C
15	C
16	B
17	B
18	B
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. Our foot is stuck on the accelerator, and we are headed towards an **abyss**.
 - A. turning point
 - B. dangerous situation
 - C. major opportunity
2. The old theater had an **aura** of mystery.
 - A. written rule
 - B. distinctive atmosphere
 - C. loud announcement
3. Clear skies and a warm breeze made for an **auspicious** start to the journey.
 - A. favorable and promising
 - B. dull and ordinary
 - C. ominous and dark
4. The hero set out to **avenge** the cruel treatment of his village by the bandits.
 - A. kindly forgive
 - B. quietly forget
 - C. take revenge for
5. I tried to **banish** the thought from my mind.
 - A. understand
 - B. collect
 - C. send away
6. She approached the impressive **bronze** doors.
 - A. made of a high-quality wood
 - B. notably large and appearing heavy
 - C. made of a type of high-quality metal
7. We were stopped by an impassable **chasm**.
 - A. steep mountain
 - B. raging river
 - C. steep drop
8. She gently **chides** her friends who run up credit card debt unnecessarily.
 - A. avoids
 - B. celebrates with
 - C. criticizes
9. They debated for hours without addressing the **crux** of the issue.
 - A. most important part
 - B. first sentence
 - C. easiest detail
10. She **deflected** the blame onto someone else to avoid getting in trouble.
 - A. took full credit
 - B. explained it calmly
 - C. avoided by shifting away
11. Everyone is frightened right now, but the fear will eventually **dissipate**.
 - A. transform
 - B. increase
 - C. gradually disappear
12. Napoleon was forced into exile on the island of Elba.
 - A. apologizing
 - B. living elsewhere
 - C. hard labor

13. It was the **highlight** of our vacation.
- A. brightest day
 - B. best part
 - C. scariest moment
14. She gets blond **highlights** in the summer.
- A. hair extensions that are clipped in
 - B. makeup colored to complement blond hair
 - C. strips of hair that are lighter in color
15. Please fill out the new **initiate** information form.
- A. personal information to be entered into a computer database
 - B. someone who is entering a contest
 - C. someone who has formally started in an organization
16. She made an **insistent** request for more time on the project.
- A. shy and hesitant
 - B. firmly demanding
 - C. unclear and brief
17. One of the more popular **narrators** in movie history is Morgan Freeman. I especially liked him in *The Shawshank Redemption* where in addition to playing a major role, he narrated the film.
- A. producer who works closest with the actors
 - B. actor who talks directly to the audience
 - C. script writer
18. The ancient Egyptians erected **obelisks** as symbols of the sun god Ra, and many of these impressive structures still stand today.
- A. circular stone structures used for astronomical observations
 - B. stone pillars with a pyramidal tops
 - C. life-like statutes made of stone
19. What does the **serpent** represent in the Garden of Eden?
- A. fig leaf
 - B. snake
 - C. apple
20. She **writhed** on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
- A. cried and whimpered
 - B. yelled loudly
 - C. twisted and turned

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 *It seems impossible that the two young **narrators** are telling the truth, but you, the reader, must decide for yourself.*
 - A. translations
 - B. storytellers
 - C. concentrates
- 2 *In case you've never seen it: the Needle is an **obelisk**, not a needle, and it doesn't have anything to do with Cleopatra.*
 - A. a type of vocal music that originated in African-American churches in the United States
 - B. a stone pillar with a pyramidal top erected as a monument to remember a person or event
 - C. related to the smallest part of any material that cannot be broken up by chemical means
- 3 *It **lunged** at the fiery man, who effortlessly grabbed the **serpent** by its neck.*
 - A. skill
 - B. snake
 - C. story
- 4 *"An old trick, Julius," the fiery man **chided**.*
 - A. gained advantage from
 - B. marked important text
 - C. scolded or criticized
- 5 *ESPN was on the television, and Khufu was watching **highlights** from the games the night before.*
 - A. shows or demonstrates
 - B. best parts
 - C. people standing guard
- 6 *My sister, with her ratty red-**highlighted** hair and her linen pajamas and her combat boots—how could she possibly worry about being possessed by a goddess?*
 - A. made different; or showed difference
 - B. interacted again or interested again
 - C. with strips of hair lighter in color
- 7 *For the last two thousand years or so, we magicians have spent much of our time binding and **banishing** them whenever they appear.*
 - A. treating as if of low worth
 - B. coming together to form one
 - C. expelling or getting rid of
- 8 *He was **exiled**, I suppose you would say.*
 - A. took (power or responsibility)
 - B. forced to leave one's homeland
 - C. developed or changed gradually
- 9 *Muffin said, more **insistently**.*
 - A. in a good or beneficial manner
 - B. in a persistent or firm manner
 - C. in a manner that does not stop
- 10 *The residual life **aura** can interfere with spells?*
 - A. treatment with extra kindness or tolerance OR (more rarely) a special pleasure (typically something done in excess of what is thought good -- such as eating too much cake, or being too lazy)
 - B. A distinctive quality, mood, or feeling that seems to surround a person, place, or thing; or, more literally, a glowing light shown around someone's head or body in spiritual or artistic images
 - C. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
- 11 *Zia twisted her staff, and Serget fell sideways, **writhing** and smoking.*
 - A. opposing (struggling against each other)
 - B. examining in detail to better understand
 - C. moving in a twisting or contorted motion

- 12 *The black haze was no longer dissipating.*
A. emphasizing (drawing attention to something)
B. a non-doctor assisting a women in childbirth
C. gradually wasting; or gradually disappearing
- 13 *We were standing at the edge of a chasm.*
A. long eventful journey
B. a nerve or brain cell
C. a large gap or divide
- 14 *The dagger should've impaled me in the chest, but somehow I deflected it with my blade and sent it sailing into the abyss.*
A. made something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
B. excessively examined in an attempt to better understand
C. turned aside from a fixed direction or line of interest
- 15 *The dagger should've impaled me in the chest, but somehow I deflected it with my blade and sent it sailing into the abyss.*
A. of the American Indian civilization of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala that reached its peak between AD 300 and 900
B. a hole or dropoff so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply a frightening bottomless pit
C. removal and examination of tissues or liquids from the living body to determine the existence or cause of a disease
- 16 *"Our initiates," Zia said, "learning to scry."*
A. that emit radiation
B. people who act as a judges
C. potential new members
- 17 *On the right was a massive set of bronze doors with fires blazing on either side; on the left, a twenty-foot-tall sphinx carved into the wall.*
A. examine in detail to better understand
B. appropriate in size, amount, or degree
C. made of a type of high-quality metal
- 18 *I thought about the myths I knew—how Horus, the son of Osiris, had to avenge his father by defeating Set.*
A. take on or adopt
B. make more varied
C. take revenge for
- 19 *sunrise is the most auspicious moment for magic.*
A. favorable
B. the degree to which something can be translated
C. not able to change to fit a different situation
- 20 *I will arrange to be in Las Cruces, New Mexico, tonight.*
A. the most important or difficult part of a problem, argument, or situation
B. the state or degree of being capable of being protected or kept unchanged
C. the state of being of low quality or of lower quality than something else

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	narrator	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	B	obelisk	Used 43 times in this book.
3	B	serpent	Used 27 times in this book.
4	C	chide	Used 8 times in this book.
5	B	highlight (<i>as in: highlights of the year</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	C	highlight (<i>as in: highlights in hair</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
7	C	banish	Used 8 times in this book.
8	B	exile	Used 8 times in this book.
9	B	insistent	Used 7 times in this book.
10	B	aura	Used 8 times in this book.
11	C	writhe	Used 6 times in this book.
12	C	dissipate	Used 6 times in this book.
13	C	chasm	Used 7 times in this book.
14	C	deflect	Used 8 times in this book.
15	B	abyss	Used 8 times in this book.
16	C	initiate (<i>as in: She is a new initiate.</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
17	C	bronze (<i>as in: bronze won't corrode in salt water</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
18	C	avenge	Used 7 times in this book.
19	A	auspicious	Used 4 times in this book.
20	A	crux	Used 7 times in this book.