

The Road

by Cormac McCarthy

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: ashen, chronicle, coax, creed, desolate, effigy, implement, interstate, junction, peril, perimeter, plunder, precede, ravine, remnant, secular, sullen, sumptuous, taut, temporal



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	B
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	C
8	C
9	B
10	B
11	C
12	B
13	C
14	B
15	B
16	A
17	C
18	B
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. Her face turned **ashen**.
 - A. away
 - B. very pale
 - C. dirty
2. He was **burned in effigy** by the mob.
 - A. burned with tar and feathered
 - B. burned in a bath of hot water
 - C. a likeness that represented him was burned
3. The book is a **chronicle** of the family's struggles during the Great Depression.
 - A. fictional story
 - B. detailed record
 - C. brief mention
4. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
 - A. trick
 - B. gently persuade
 - C. drag forcefully
5. She lived by the simple **creed** that honesty is always the best policy.
 - A. quotation
 - B. misunderstanding
 - C. set of beliefs
6. It is in her book of **desolate** desert photographs.
 - A. empty
 - B. bright
 - C. detailed
7. She reached into the drawer and pulled out a strange-looking **implement** for peeling fruit.
 - A. instruction
 - B. ingredient
 - C. small tool
8. We'll make good time once we're on the **interstate**.
 - A. train
 - B. plane
 - C. freeway
9. The accident happened at a busy **junction** downtown.
 - A. an empty field
 - B. an intersection
 - C. a deep tunnel
10. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
 - A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
11. Build a fence along the **perimeter** of the yard.
 - A. dangerous part
 - B. longest edge
 - C. outer edges
12. The pirates **plundered** small towns on that part of the coast.
 - A. threatened
 - B. stole from
 - C. burned down

13. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
14. I was afraid that if we climbed into the ravine, we might be caught in a flood before we could get out.
- A. a hole so deep the bottom cannot be seen
 - B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
 - C. a large, fast-moving river
15. The Yuan dynasty conquered the last remnant of the Song dynasty in 1279.
- A. of those appearing after others
 - B. of the little that remained
 - C. group at maximum strength
16. Sweden's population is more secular than populations of most countries.
- A. non-religious
 - B. similar
 - C. blonde
17. She rode off under a sullen sky.
- A. heavy with snow
 - B. clear and windy
 - C. darkened by clouds
18. She wore a sumptuous gown made of the finest silk and adorned with sparkling jewels.
- A. flattering
 - B. magnificent
 - C. long
19. The clothesline was taut between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy
20. Monks renounce temporal pleasures to focus on their spiritual journey.
- A. of the divine realm
 - B. of the worldly realm
 - C. of the imagined realm

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 Then he just sat there holding the binoculars and watching the **ashen** daylight congeal over the land.
 - A. dangerous
 - B. very pale
 - C. bent down
- 2 The ashes of the late world carried on the bleak and **temporal** winds to and fro in the void.
 - A. the state of being capable of thought, self-reflection, and will
 - B. earthly
 - C. the state of emitting a stream of particles due to nuclear decay
- 3 No fall but **preceded** by a declination.
 - A. wrongly understood
 - B. influenced opinion
 - C. went or was before
- 4 He said the right dreams for a man in **peril** were dreams of peril and all else was the call of langilior and of death.
 - A. useful
 - B. danger
 - C. allows
- 5 In the produce section in the bottom of the bins they found a few ancient runner beans and what looked to have once been apricots, long dried to wrinkled **effigies** of themselves.
 - A. drugs that calm or put to sleep
 - B. indications or small quantities
 - C. models or other representations
- 6 The long concrete sweeps of the **interstate** exchanges like the ruins of a vast funhouse against the distant murk.
 - A. non-governmental organization (private, non-profit organization working for member goals at the international level)
 - B. the result of numerical division (if 8 divided by 4 = 2, then 8 can be described as the dividend, 4 as the divisor, and 2 as the quotient)
 - C. freeway, or highway that runs between states

or:

relating to the mutual relations between states -- especially of the United States
- 7 The flesh cloven along the bones, the ligaments dried to tug and **taut** as wires.
 - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;

or: subjected to great tension

 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 8 He walked out through the woods to where they'd left the cart. It was still lying there but it had been **plundered**.
 - A. calculated or judged too low
 - B. stolen from (things of value had been stolen from the cart)
 - C. not judged in a negative way
- 9 That night they camped in a **ravine** and built a fire against a small stone bluff and ate their last tin of food.
 - A. another battle with the same foe
 - B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
 - C. describing someone as antisocial

- 10 *He sat studying the twisted matrix of routes in red and black with his finger at the **junction** where he thought that they might be.*
- A. particles emitted by nuclear decay
 - B. place where roads come together
 - C. a central open space in a building
- 11 *I tried to **coax** it to come but it would not.*
- A. to think of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
 - B. try to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gentle persuasion
 - C. give authority, power, knowledge, or confidence to someone so they can do something
- 12 *Runic slogans, **creeds** misspelled.*
- A. instances of surrounding conditions
 - B. people related by blood or marriage
 - C. statements of belief
- 13 *His feet were still wrapped in the **remnants** of the coat and the shreds of tarp and...*
- A. most important; or people that are most important
 - B. small amounts that remains after the rest is gone
 - C. people who do not believe in the existence of god
- 14 *Finally he rose and went to the table and hooked up the little two burner gas stove and lit it and got out a frying pan and a kettle and opened the plastic box of kitchen **implements**.*
- A. instances of surrounding conditions
 - B. creates, starts, or sets in a place
 - C. small tools or other useful object
- 15 *They ate a **sumptuous** meal by candlelight.*
- A. the state or degree of having the ability to change for different situations
 - B. magnificent (impressively wonderful) -- often indicating something expensive
 - C. the quality of behaving in an instinctive, uninhibited, and unplanned manner
- 16 *They were crossing the broad coastal plain where the **secular** winds drove them in howling clouds of ash to find shelter where they could.*
- A. not religious
 - B. not important
 - C. inappropriate
- 17 *Beyond the edge of the fields the **sullen** haze hung over earth and sky alike.*
- A. unable to find
 - B. representative
 - C. gloomy (dark and unpleasant looking)
- 18 *He was standing there checking the **perimeter** when the boy turned and buried his face against him.*
- A. a fat compound
 - B. a hoofed mamma
 - C. the outer edge
- 19 *The dead grass thrashed softly. Out there a gray **desolation**.*
- A. a state of emptiness that provides no shelter or sustenance
 - B. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - C. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
- 20 *There is no prophet in the earth's long **chronicle** who's not honored here today.*
- A. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer
 - B. record of events
 - C. persuade someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	ashen (<i>as in: ashen face</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
2	B	temporal (<i>as in: temporal world</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	precede	High-utility academic word
4	B	peril	Used 2 times in this book.
5	C	effigy (<i>as in: burned in effigy</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
6	C	interstate (<i>as in: interstate commerce</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
7	B	taut	Used 4 times in this book.
8	B	plunder	Used 3 times in this book.
9	B	ravine	Used 2 times in this book.
10	B	junction	Used 2 times in this book.
11	B	coax (<i>as in: coax her to join us</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
12	C	creed	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	remnant	Used 3 times in this book.
14	C	implement (<i>as in: a small implement</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
15	B	sumptuous	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
16	A	secular (<i>as in: a secular organization</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
17	C	sullen (<i>as in: a sullen sky</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	perimeter	Used 3 times in this book.
19	A	desolate (<i>as in: a desolate place</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
20	B	chronicle	Used 2 times in this book.