The Scorch Trials

by James Dashner

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: abominable, bizarre, distinct, fleeting, focus (2), hideous, however (2), linger, listless, perplex, positive (2), rational, replenish, retort, stimulate, stupor, variable

More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. That was before she was trained, when her work was **abominable**.
   A. showing early promise
   B. incomplete
   C. exceptionally bad

2. She won one of those **bizarre** contests designed by Guinness Book of World Records.
   A. present in great quantity
   B. exceedingly odd or unusual
   C. critical (full of criticism)

3. Two **distinct** brain networks guide our judgments.
   A. different
   B. similar
   C. identical

4. Youth is **fleeting**.
   A. short-lived
   B. reckless
   C. troubled

5. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
   A. concentrating
   B. depending
   C. getting help

6. The discussion brought into **focus** an important difference of opinion.
   A. hiding
   B. conflict
   C. view

7. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
   A. barely noticeable
   B. extremely ugly
   C. perfectly healed

8. I hope to take the ACT just once. **However**, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
   A. but
   B. also
   C. and

9. **However** we get there, the main thing is to be absolutely sure we're not late.
   A. whatever way
   B. even if in a non-standard manner
   C. to whatever degree

10. The sweet smell of cookies **lingered** in the kitchen for hours.
   A. spread quickly
   B. remained a long time
   C. smelled good

11. She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
   A. unenergetic
   B. frustrated
   C. lonely

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12. I am **perplexed** by her sudden change of mind on this important issue.
    A. amused
    B. annoyed
    C. confused

13. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
    A. happy
    B. pretty sure
    C. certain

14. The test for bacterial infection came back **positive**.
    A. showing it to be present
    B. showing it was avoided
    C. showing it is improving

15. Let's try to ignore how upset we are for a moment and think about this **rationally**.
    A. in a hurried manner
    B. in a creative manner
    C. in a reasonable manner

16. After a hard workout, it's good to **replenish** the water and nutrients your body used up.
    A. consider
    B. measure
    C. replace

17. She **retorted**, "Takes one to know one."
    A. quickly replied
    B. insulted back
    C. joyfully laughed

18. The government hopes that the new tax breaks will **stimulate** the economy.
    A. encourage activity or development in
    B. directly control prices in
    C. reduce overall spending in

19. After the fever broke, she lay in a **stupor** and barely responded.
    A. cheerful mood
    B. angry outburst
    C. dazed state

20. Her mood was **variable** throughout the day, sometimes cheerful and at other times noticeably quiet.
    A. consistent
    B. changing
    C. improving

Vocabulary in Context

The Scorch Trials

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

1 *Exhaling a deep breath, he relaxed into his pillow, his razor-edged nerves settling down from that* fleeting *moment of terror.*

A. lasting a short time
B. sensible and careful
C. not demonstrative of

2 *He pushed away the* lingering *ache of remembering his mom and the stuff about his dad and people going crazy.*

A. a serious intestinal infection caused by contaminated food or water
B. to remain in a place or situation longer than necessary or expected
C. people of the second most populous denomination of Islam (over 10%)

3 *Minho yelled, turning to glower at the closest one, a woman who looked even more* hideous *than the first man Thomas had seen.*

A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
C. the quality of not being sensible and careful

4 *"Those freaks aren't breaking through the window bars anytime soon," Frypan* retorted.

A. quickly replied
B. said indirectly
C. greatly annoyed

5 *He scanned the room, trying his best not to* focus *on the corpses, looking for a door that might lead to her room.*

A. concentrate, or look
B. make one's home in; or live in; or stay (in a place)
C. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan

6 *The things that had first come back to him with the Changing in the Maze were slowly starting to come into* focus, *solidify.*

A. software that stops uninvited software from spreading between computers and causing damage to data and software
B. a condition where the body cannot properly regulate blood sugar levels because it produces little or no insulin
C. a state where something has come into view or can be seen clearly

7 *He was completely* perplexed.

A. excessively excited
B. nervous or confused
C. confused or puzzled

8 *Every breath, every sigh in the room was like an explosion compared to the* bizarre *haze of quiet.*

A. the quality of disagreeing
B. exceedingly odd or unusual
C. able to meet and talk with

9 Listless *sleep—without any more of the memory-dreams he'd experienced.*

A. lacking energy and normal enthusiasm
B. lacking a reason for doing something
C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness

10 *You've been given this time to eat and* replenish *yourselves, and I strongly suggest you take advantage of it, young man.*

A. provide investment funds for something -- such as a business
B. point to differences between; or compare to show differences
C. replace what was used up; or restore to a previous condition

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11 Stimulating *the killzone and collecting the resultant patterns.*

A. interesting or exciting; or encouraging interest or excitement; or causing something to happen
B. cutting grass with a tool that has a curved blade and a long handle that is held with both hands
C. treating others as inferior; or doing something considered beneath one's position or dignity

12 *The last word seemed to finally snap everyone out of their* stupor, *all of them speaking up at once.*

A. people who do not believe in the existence of god
B. a small facility where patients receive treatment
C. a state in which there is little ability to think

13 *It stood out so* distinctly *he couldn't believe he hadn't noticed it until now "Hey!" he yelled, pointing toward it.*

A. in a manner that is clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
B. in a manner that relates to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
C. in a manner related to a tendency to remain in a fixed stuporous state for long periods

14 *By midnight,* however, *when Minho finally called on them to stop and get more sleep, the city and its now-burning fires ever closer, the wind had become even stronger.*

A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though*, *in spite of that*, *in contrast*, *nevertheless*, etc.
B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
C. therefore (for that reason)

15 *He didn't mention Teresa,* however—*she was the only thing he left out.*

A. in whatever way
B. starts fighting
C. starts (a fire)

16 *He hoped it was because the Crank had finally accepted that his new visitor was going to take a* rational *and calm approach to their situation.*

A. very large
B. related to
C. reasonable

17 *I caught it just a few weeks ago, tested* positive *at the quarantine checkpoint—government's trying their damnedest to keep the sick and the well separate.*

A. indicating that a condition was found
B. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
C. agreement to temporarily stop fighting a war

18 "*I'm* positive."

A. outside
B. various
C. certain

19 *Our comas had to be part of the* Variables, *so maybe we could communicate just so we wouldn't go crazy.*

A. someone who disturbs or annoys
B. things that are able to change
C. calculating or judging too low

20 *Thomas looked on in horror as the* abominable *thing flopped and wiggled until it lurched over the edge of the open pod and stumbled to the ground.*

A. poor ability to make a decision
B. non-traditional or non-standard
C. exceptionally bad or detestable

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	fleeting	Used 4 times in this book.
2	B	linger	Used 9 times in this book.
3	B	hideous	Used 12 times in this book.
4	A	retort *(as in: quick retort)*	Used 5 times in this book.
5	A	focus *(as in: Turn your focus to question #2.)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	C	focus *(as in: bring into focus; or out of focus)*	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	C	perplex	Used 5 times in this book.
8	B	bizarre *(as in: is bizarre)*	Used 5 times in this book.
9	A	listless	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	replenish	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
11	A	stimulate	Used 3 times in this book.
12	C	stupor	Used 6 times in this book.
13	A	distinct	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
14	A	however *(as in: However, complications may…)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	however *(as in: However you do it, get it done!)*	2 meanings in this book.
16	C	rational *(as in: rational behavior)*	Used 4 times in this book.
17	A	positive *(as in: The test came back positive.)*	2 meanings in this book.
18	C	positive *(as in: I'm absolutely positive!)*	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	variable	Used 16 times in this book.
20	C	abominable	Used 3 times in this book.

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