

The Second Siege

by Henry H. Neff

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: acquisition, augur, beckon, boon, direct (3), elegant (2), hideous, incantation, incredulous, indignant, mystic, ogre, peril, perimeter, talisman, taut, wizened



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	C
10	B
11	B
12	C
13	A
14	B
15	A
16	B
17	C
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. Her primary focus is on the **acquisition** of money and the things it can buy.
 - A. getting
 - B. spending
 - C. fearing
2. The early test results **augur** a successful launch for the new vaccine.
 - A. predict and foretell
 - B. delay and postpone
 - C. ignore and forget
3. The police officer **beckoned** me to come over.
 - A. considered asking
 - B. called
 - C. prohibited
4. For remote workers, high-speed internet is a real **boon**, making it easier to stay productive from home.
 - A. something that causes great harm
 - B. a source of constant distraction
 - C. something that is of great benefit
5. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
6. She is **easy** to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
7. The judge **directed** the jury to ignore the question.
 - A. asked
 - B. ordered
 - C. understood
8. It was an **elegant** dinner party.
 - A. feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
 - B. refined and tasteful
 - C. unsuitable (not fitting) for a particular situation
9. Einstein's Theory of Relativity was an **elegant** solution to the contradiction that a constant speed of light created within Newtonian physics.
 - A. showing a gloomy or bad mood -- often by not interacting with others in a friendly way
 - B. related to single segments of DNA which when combined determine inherited traits
 - C. simple (and often more comprehensive) than most would anticipate
10. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
11. Harry Potter said the incantation, "*expecto patronum*" as he focuses on a happy memory to summon protection from dark magic.
 - A. common saying
 - B. magic words
 - C. foreign phrase

12. At first, she was **incredulous**--thinking the report was in error.
- A. worried
 - B. confused
 - C. without belief
13. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
- A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
14. The **mystic** spent years in a remote cave seeking spiritual insight.
- A. wealthy merchant
 - B. spiritual seeker
 - C. trained warrior
15. The **ogre** in the story terrorized travelers passing through his forest.
- A. monster
 - B. princess
 - C. shepherd
16. The journalist's investigation put her in **great peril**.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
17. Build a fence along the **perimeter** of the yard.
- A. dangerous part
 - B. longest edge
 - C. outer edges
18. The witch wore a **talisman** around her neck which she believed protected her from evil.
- A. garlic necklace thought to have magical power
 - B. object thought to have magical power
 - C. chain thought to have magical power
19. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy
20. Her grandmother's **wizened** hands held mine warmly.
- A. smooth and youthful
 - B. puffy and swollen
 - C. shrunken from age

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 command was delivered with calm, **taut** finality.*
 - 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
- 2 *A few had indeed seen Max before; last spring he had rescued them from a terrible fate in the crypt of Marley **Augur**.*
 - A. to indicate or predict that something will happen --especially as a sign of what's to come; or in ancient Rome, a religious official who interpreted signs and omens to guide public decisions
 - B. (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults
OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - C. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
- 3 *With proper stones and **incantations** Master Lynch does call and Mr. Sikes does answer.*
 - A. surgical interruptions of nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
 - B. combinations of words believed to have a magical effect when they are said aloud
 - C. the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy
- 4 *With a snap of his fingers, there was an audible pop and Mr. Sikes disappeared, replaced by a gray mouse with a pink tail that poked its nose along the edges of David's glowing **perimeter**.*
 - A. a fat compound
 - B. a hoofed mamma
 - C. the outer edge
- 5 *He knew in an instant that this barbed, murderous thing had been calling to him—**beckoning** him forward like a siren's song.*
 - A. providing evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - B. calling -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
 - C. convincing (someone) that an idea previously believed is not correct
- 6 *David was just pouring himself another cup of coffee while studying a golden **talisman** that he dangled from a finger.*
 - A. a collection of things on public display OR a detailed explanation or background of a specific topic
 - B. a small object or piece of jewelry thought to have magical power -- especially to protect against evil
 - C. the process of assigning a value on or judging the worth of something; or the result of such a process
- 7 *"What trickery is this?" demanded the witch in a hoarse voice, stabbing a ringed finger at the **Director**.*
 - A. a doctor who tests eyesight and provides glasses or contact lenses to improve vision
 - B. to guide, aim, or manage -- such as actions, attention, speech, a project or company
 - C. someone who polishes something and makes it shiny; or someone who improves something
- 8 *That's a **direct** order!*
 - A. clear, straightforward, or to the point
 - B. the state or degree of being very large
 - C. meticulousness (care for small details)
- 9 *The sun hovered **directly** overhead when the two reached the crest of a hill crowned with cherry blossoms.*
 - A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 - B. close, or in a straight line
 - C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 10 *Monstrous shapes have been sighted in the woods—rumors of **ogres** and werewolves are rampant.*
 - A. a frightening giant from fairy tales, especially one who eats people; or a cruel or terrifying person
 - B. aka natural rights -- rights that are naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. soccer players who play in the middle third of the field and who assist with both defense and offense

- 11 "They were very humane poisons," replied Mum with an **indignant** sniff.
- A. angered or annoyed at something unjust or wrong
 - B. surprised as something unexpected
 - C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 12 Just then, a **hideous** scream sounded in the distance, sending a primal chill down Max's spine.
- A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 13 There was a quiet dignity to the man, an **elegant** assuredness to his movements and a sharp, handsome profile unbowed by age.
- A. not demonstrative of
 - B. graceful and refined
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 14 I fully concede, however, that the Book is a more **elegant** solution.
- A. the state of not representing or imitating external reality or the objects of nature
 - B. not easily influenced or harmed; or not capable of being treated in a particular way
 - C. simple and effective
- 15 Given Rowan's professed need for its **acquisition**, I think our price is very reasonable.
- A. obtaining; or possession
 - B. social event or ceremony
 - C. a positively charged ion
- 16 "Oh dear," said Miss **Boon** quietly, watching the images anxiously as Rasmussen scrolled through them.
- A. something that causes great harm
 - B. a traditional practice or custom
 - C. something that is of great benefit
- 17 "And it took you this long to realize it?" asked Max, **incredulous**.
- A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. unbelieving; or having difficulty accepting something so unexpected
- 18 From out of Maggie's doors came the Promethean Scholars, twelve **wizened** Mystics clutching ancient books against their chests.
- A. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
 - B. deserving no respect (worthless or of bad quality)
 - C. lean and wrinkled
- 19 We need **Mystics**, not muscle.
- A. people who share professional opinions in a specific field
 - B. people with skill relating to reality using supernatural means
 - C. title for the heads of a government body in some countries
- 20 It is a wondrous thing, but it is **perilous** and has brought ruin upon all who have sought to possess it.
- A. stuck out
 - B. dangerous
 - C. bent down

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	taut	Used 16 times in this book.
2	A	augur	Used 57 times in this book.
3	B	incantation	Used 7 times in this book.
4	C	perimeter	Used 15 times in this book.
5	B	beckon	Used 16 times in this book.
6	B	talisman	Used 33 times in this book.
7	B	direct (<i>as in: direct a question; or direct a film</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
8	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
9	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
10	A	ogre	Used 63 times in this book.
11	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
12	B	hideous	Used 14 times in this book.
13	B	elegant (<i>as in: an elegant gown</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	C	elegant (<i>as in: as elegant equation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	A	acquisition	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	C	boon	Used 270 times in this book.
17	C	incredulous	Used 11 times in this book.
18	C	wizened	Used 4 times in this book.
19	B	mystic	Used 49 times in this book.
20	B	peril	Used 15 times in this book.