

The Shining

by Stephen King

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: amorphous, chastise, compulsive, cunning, cursory, cynical, grotesque, irrational, menagerie, obsolete, ominous, pallid, petulant, phenomenon, recoil, recur, satire, sinister, subconscious, wane



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	A
7	C
8	C
9	A
10	A
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	A
15	B
16	A
17	C
18	B
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. The artist created an **amorphous** sculpture that defied easy labels.
 - A. shapeless or vague
 - B. sharply defined
 - C. perfectly round
2. She **chastised** him for his insensitive remarks.
 - A. avoided
 - B. fired
 - C. criticized
3. She has a **compulsive** eating disorder.
 - A. uncontrollable
 - B. hidden
 - C. unhealthy
4. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
5. A **cursory** inspection failed to reveal the house's structural flaws.
 - A. in-depth
 - B. quick
 - C. expert
6. Over the years, she has grown cynical and unhappy.
 - A. distrustful of others
 - B. trusting of strangers
 - C. envious of friends
7. The disease causes **grotesque** deformity.
 - A. hidden (internal)
 - B. as from aging
 - C. ugly or distorted
8. I have an **irrational** fear of heights.
 - A. reasonable
 - B. varying
 - C. unreasonable
9. The eccentric millionaire kept a sprawling **menagerie** at his country estate.
 - A. collection of animals
 - B. row of empty cages
 - C. patch of garden plants
10. That old phone is **obsolete**.
 - A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken
11. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
 - A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
12. The patient's **pallid** complexion alarmed the nurse on duty.
 - A. deeply flushed
 - B. unhealthily pale
 - C. heavily wrinkled

13. The **petulant** child threw his toys whenever he didn't get his way.
- A. cheerful
 - B. cranky
 - C. hungry
14. The **phenomenon** was first noticed by Marie Curie.
- A. thing of interest
 - B. thing that is growing
 - C. thing that is hidden
15. She reached out to take his hand. He **recoiled** from her touch.
- A. suddenly was angry
 - B. suddenly pulled back
 - C. suddenly was comforted
16. It is a **recurring** nightmare.
- A. happening repeatedly
 - B. when least expected
 - C. frightening
17. Through **satire**, the cartoon exposed how ridiculous the new policy looked in practice.
- A. literal description
 - B. factual reporting
 - C. humorous criticism
18. In the movie, there was a **sinister** plot to kill people and harvest their organs.
- A. complicated
 - B. evil
 - C. clever
19. If revenge was a motive, it was **subconscious**.
- A. unnecessary
 - B. well-disguised
 - C. without awareness
20. Their passion **waned** over the years, but their love continued to grow.
- A. changed direction
 - B. gradually decreased
 - C. turned mutual

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 She thought that to children adult motives and actions must seem as bulking and **ominous** as dangerous animals seen in the shadows of a dark forest.
 - A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
 - B. huge
 - C. comforting
- 2 Jack sitting at the table, **pallid** and grizzled, a cigarette jittering between his fingers.
 - A. mental weakness caused by old age; or describing a medical condition as caused by old age
 - B. abnormally pale (lacking healthy skin color); or anything that lacks energy or liveliness
 - C. relating to a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen
- 3 It gave Jack a curious shrinking feeling, as if his life force had dwindled to a mere spark while the hotel and the grounds had suddenly doubled in size and become **sinister**, dwarfing them with sullen, inanimate power.
 - A. not able to be disagreed with
 - B. evil, harmful, or frightening
 - C. not thoughtful about the past
- 4 He had stuck his hand through some rotted flashing in high summer and that hand and his whole arm had been consumed in holy, righteous fire, destroying conscious thought, making the concept of civilized behavior **obsolete**.
 - A. no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - B. surprise -- often so much so that one doesn't know what to say or do
 - C. an appropriate size, amount, or degree in relation to something else
- 5 She saw what it really was and **recoiled** instinctively.
 - A. excessively excited
 - B. moved back suddenly
 - C. nervous or confused
- 6 Danny is doing **subconsciously** what these so-called mystics and mind readers do quite consciously and cynically.
 - A. in a manner that explains or demonstrates an understanding of something in a particular way
 - B. in a manner related to the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
 - C. of mental activity of which one is not aware, but which can influence feelings and behavior
- 7 Danny is doing **subconsciously** what these so-called mystics and mind readers do quite consciously and cynically.
 - A. someone who expects the worst -- especially of people (such as expecting them to be selfish and lie)
 - B. while taking pains to avoid being observed; or in a nervous manner (as though hoping not to be seen)
 - C. in a manner that provokes, excites, or stimulates -- especially controversy, sexual desire, or anger
- 8 We have a one-sentence explanation that explains the whole range of such **phenomena** in children -- "He'll grow out of it," Jack said.
 - A. interesting observable things
 - B. computer code modules each of which perform a specific task
 - C. stock markets during times of generally rising stock values
- 9 The question **recurred**: Why had he called Ullman in the first place?
 - A. happened again
 - B. began fighting
 - C. not translated
- 10 They stood side by side for a moment, watching the wax and **wane** of the coals of the fire.
 - A. a method of artistic painting on a wall by using watercolors on wet plaster; or the painting made in such a manner
 - B. gradually decrease in strength, intensity, size, or importance -- especially the part of the moon that is visible
 - C. accept someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test

- 11 *Now the hedges were buried under **amorphous** white cloaks.*
 A. without clearly defined boundaries
 B. degree to which things are related
 C. not connected by blood or marriage
- 12 *The hedge **menagerie** was buried up to its haunches; the rabbit, frozen on its hind legs, seemed to be rising from a white pool.*
 A. a collection of wild or unusual animals kept for exhibition; or more generally, a diverse or strange mixture of people or things
 B. someone who emphasizes a person's capacity for self-realization through reason rather than through religion and the supernatural
 C. an inhabitant of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq; or their language
- 13 *Daddy, sobered up some (or perhaps only with the stupid **cunning** of any hardpressed animal), told the doctor she had fallen downstairs.*
 A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 B. good at achieving goals through cleverness and deception
 C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 14 *There are people who collect insurance as **compulsively** as others collect coins and stamps, and Mark Torrance had been that type.*
 A. excessively due to an uncontrollable desire
 B. in a manner that stops or hinders something
 C. in a manner involving only one part or side
- 15 *Her fingers, on his shoulder, had noticed that his T-shirt was damp, but they had not bothered reporting the information to her brain in more than a **cursory** way.*
 A. full of strong desire for something
 B. quick (without attention to detail)
 C. in a manner that takes on or adopts
- 16 *And as she stood there on the landing, wondering what to do next, the singing came up from below, rich, angry, bitterly **satiric**: "Roll me over In the clo-ho-ver, Roll me over, lay me down and do it again."*
 A. full of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
 B. relating to expert judgement of what is good and bad about something
 C. a way of making fun of people or ideas -- often through exaggeration
- 17 *He glanced at the shelves again in wild, **irrational** hope but the shelves were just as empty as before.*
 A. not pleasing
 B. sticking out
 C. unreasonable
- 18 *They were perhaps the final **grotesque** toy of the unwinding fossil fuel age, given to ten-year-olds for Christmas.*
 A. clarifies (makes clear)
 B. beautifies
 C. distorted and unnatural in shape or size -- especially in a disturbing way
- or:
 ugly, gross, or very wrong
- 19 *He would **chastise** them both, and harshly.*
 A. almost, but not exact
 B. force into submission
 C. to scold or criticize
- 20 *There was nothing of the real Jack in that howling ... **petulant** voice, though.*
 A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 B. unreasonably upset
 C. not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	ominous	Used 6 times in this book.
2	B	pallid	Used 6 times in this book.
3	B	sinister	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
4	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	B	recoil	Used 6 times in this book.
6	C	subconscious	Used 9 times in this book.
7	A	cynical	Used 5 times in this book.
8	A	phenomenon	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
9	A	recur	Used 6 times in this book.
10	B	wane	Used 5 times in this book.
11	A	amorphous	Used 2 times in this book.
12	A	menagerie	Used 2 times in this book.
13	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
14	A	compulsive	Used 4 times in this book.
15	B	cursory	Used 2 times in this book.
16	C	satire (<i>as in: wrote a satire</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
17	C	irrational	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
18	C	grotesque	Used 6 times in this book.
19	C	chastise	Used 7 times in this book.
20	B	petulant	Used 8 times in this book.