

The Soloist

by Steve Lopez

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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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: accompany (2), advocate (2), arbor, bound (2), competent, concerto, delude, diagnose, mentor, muse (2), narrate, prescribe, psychotic, symphony, technique, tirade



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The exact numbers are shown in the **accompanying** table.
 - A. provided together
 - B. informative
 - C. previously published
2. Anyone who plays a musical instrument is encouraged to come to tryouts to **accompany** the choir.
 - A. enjoy
 - B. perform with
 - C. help evaluate
3. She **advocates** giving all students the opportunity to attend school in the summer too.
 - A. is against
 - B. researches
 - C. supports
4. Privacy **advocates** want the law changed.
 - A. opponents
 - B. sufferers
 - C. supporters
5. We are building an **arbor** in the back yard.
 - A. framework for plants
 - B. stone fire pit
 - C. raised flower bed
6. The suspect sat in the cell with her wrists **bound** by rope.
 - A. decorated
 - B. tied together
 - C. pulled upward
7. The deer **bounded** across the trail and into the woods.
 - A. leaped (jumped)
 - B. went to the edge
 - C. was determined to move
8. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
 - A. below average
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. outstanding
9. She performed a famous piano **concerto** by Mozart at the recital.
 - A. well-known opera singer
 - B. stringed wooden instrument
 - C. piece for solo and orchestra
10. Do not **delude** yourself into thinking one late apology fixes everything.
 - A. praise
 - B. protect
 - C. deceive
11. What was her **diagnosis**?
 - A. identification of an illness
 - B. treatment for the illness
 - C. major symptom
12. The famous professor **mentored** her during her years in graduate school.
 - A. graded essays by
 - B. personally advised
 - C. lectured to

13. Let me muse on it on a while and I'll get back to you.
- A. research
 - B. think
 - C. ask
14. She is my muse. She inspired all the songs on that album.
- A. assistant
 - B. musician
 - C. inspiration
15. She avoided eye contact as she narrated the story of how she ended up in prison.
- A. told (a story)
 - B. discouraged
 - C. urged strongly
16. Most doctors prescribe simple lifestyle changes before medication.
- A. ignore
 - B. delay
 - C. recommend
17. During the episode, he became psychotic and could not tell what was real.
- A. angry without reason
 - B. detached from reality
 - C. unusually anxious
18. She was nervous before playing violin with the city symphony.
- A. solo singer
 - B. dance troupe
 - C. orchestra
19. One technique I use for dealing with anger is to wait ten seconds before responding.
- A. way of doing something
 - B. habit
 - C. solution to anger
20. I'm growing tired of her tirades.
- A. displays of angry criticism
 - B. displays of useless guilt
 - C. displays of paralyzing worry

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 Men and women move about, duty-**bound**, ignoring him for the most part as they disappear around corners and into entryways.
 - A. the state or character of being bad or harmful
 - B. obligated (busy)
 - C. an exceedingly small quantity or indication of
- 2 "Oh, yes," she shrieks, **bounding** out of the car.
 - A. leaping
 - B. thinking carefully
 - C. helping make clear
- 3 If the poor soul is that **delusional**, he's even sicker than I thought.
 - A. tending to have excessively unfavorable opinions
 - B. the state or degree of criticism or disagreement
 - C. out of touch with reality (having false beliefs)
- 4 I'm no doctor, but I am able to diagnose the mild dread that is now washing over me, **accompanied** by a nervous stomach.
 - A. joined at the same time
 - B. performed with
 - C. traveled along with
- 5 You can play it yourself or have someone **accompany** you while you're on cello or violin.
 - A. travel with
 - B. perform with
 - C. hold sheet music for
- 6 The **diagnosis** was paranoid schizophrenia, and his life, as he had lived it until then, was over.
 - A. the name of a disease that was determined to be the cause of an illness
 - B. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
 - C. the act or process of stopping something from happening
- 7 I'm curious to know her every thought, her diagnosis, her prognosis, her **prescription**.
 - A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - B. submissiveness -- often an attitude of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
 - C. medical recommendation
- 8 Nathaniel, it seems, already has an **advocate** and trusted acquaintance, namely me.
 - A. a type of small portable radio
 - B. a change; or a changed version
 - C. public supporter
- 9 Even a columnist, with a license to **advocate** for one thing or another, generally stops short of personal involvement in the life of a subject.
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. a bitter, long-standing fight
 - C. publicly support
- 10 I scribble Nathaniel's **musings** in my spiral notebook, trying to keep up with a running soliloquy that is somewhat reminiscent of Joseph Mitchell's Professor Sea Gull character.
 - A. restores
 - B. thoughts
 - C. thoughts
- 11 Each is as true today as it will always be, and for Nathaniel the music is both medicine and **muse**, no less an inspiration now than it was before his fall.
 - A. someone who roughly calculates or guesses a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - B. someone responsible for making a judgment after thinking carefully about something
 - C. source of inspiration

- 12 *That doesn't mean that in the case of someone who is acutely psychotic, and a threat to himself or someone else, Ragins would argue against meds and hospital care.*
- A. group of people responsible for determining if early release from prison is permitted and if so, what conditions should be required of the prisoner
 - B. related to psychosis or someone who suffers from a psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
 - C. inability to think clearly; or an instance of not thinking clearly; or describing parts as not fitting together in a consistent or pleasing manner
- 13 *He did, however, dig up and copy Camille Saint–Saens's Concerto for Violoncello.*
- A. an expert who shares professional opinions in a specific field
 - B. the act of being in a working position; or the act of starting
 - C. music written for orchestra and one (or more) solo instruments
- 14 *Having spent years under Homer Mensch's wing, he recognized the sound as that of his mentor, and he decided to steal just a minute or two to peek in and watch the master at work.*
- A. to gradually destroy or change the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
 - B. someone who guides and advises another who is less experienced; or the act of providing such guidance
 - C. a beam, bracket, or other structure supported only on one side; or to support something in that manner
- 15 *Mr. Stuart Robinson is not competent to manage Lamp, Los Angeles, Cleveland, New York City LAPD, and I don't want any of those clowns in there telling me what to do when they cannot deal with the drug addicts and cigarette smokers who come in here and steal everything.*
- A. sincerity (realness)
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. sensible and careful
- 16 *I know he's an excellent player, a magnificently accomplished professional musician, because I saw him playing Beethoven's Third Symphony.*
- 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 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
 - C. a long and complex piece of music -- typically for full orchestra in four parts
- 17 *The patio is an oasis of trees and benches, a manicured lawn and bougainvillea cascading over a wooden arbor.*
- A. a framework that supports climbing plants; or a shady rest area made by such a framework or by trees and shrubs
 - B. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 18 *Talent—A Technique—A Tone—A Rhythm—A Intonation—A Memory—B+ Grade—A Scholarship— Definitely.*
- A. way of doing something
 - B. not easily set on fire
 - C. surrounding conditions
- 19 *We listen to classical KUSC on my car radio and it's like having a DJ on board, with Nathaniel narrating and patiently tutoring me.*
- A. telling (a story)
 - B. causing suffering
 - C. becoming aware of
- 20 *She remembers too well her brother's tirades, which terrified her and were like a dagger through her mother's heart.*
- A. speeches of angry criticism
 - B. social events or ceremonies
 - C. reasons for doing something

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	bound (<i>as in: bound together or bound by law</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
2	A	bound (<i>as in: The deer bound across the trail.</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	C	delude	Used 7 times in this book.
4	A	accompany (<i>as in: the accompanying chart</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	accompany (<i>as in: accompanied her in the performance</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	A	diagnose	Used 14 times in this book.
7	C	prescribe	Used 6 times in this book.
8	C	advocate (<i>as in: an advocate supporting</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	C	advocate (<i>as in: to advocate</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	muse (<i>as in: her musings</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	C	muse (<i>as in: She was his muse</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	B	psychotic	Used 8 times in this book.
13	C	concerto	Used 8 times in this book.
14	B	mentor	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
15	B	competent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
16	C	symphony	Used 18 times in this book.
17	A	arbor (<i>as in: shaded arbor</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
18	A	technique	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
19	A	narrate	Used 2 times in this book.
20	A	tirade	Used 3 times in this book.