

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

by David Wroblewski

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: adapt, adapted, alternative, approach (2), coax, exhalation, focus (2), objective (2), opaque (2), pedigree, precise (2), resolution (2), transparent (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	A
8	A
9	C
10	C
11	C
12	C
13	C
14	B
15	C
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. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - A. copied
 - B. read
 - C. changed
2. The human spine is not as **well adapted** to walking upright as we would like.
 - A. well suited
 - B. known widely
 - C. insured
3. Can anyone think of a better **alternative**?
 - A. job
 - B. reason
 - C. possibility
4. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
5. I **approached** three bankers about a loan.
 - A. avoided
 - B. complained to
 - C. asked
6. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
 - A. trick
 - B. gently persuade
 - C. drag forcefully
7. She felt his warm **exhalation** on her cheek as he leaned closer to whisper.
 - A. outgoing breath
 - B. outgoing call
 - C. passing thought
8. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
9. The discussion brought into **focus** an important difference of opinion.
 - A. hiding
 - B. conflict
 - C. view
10. What is your **objective**?
 - A. problem
 - B. point-of-view
 - C. goal
11. There were lots of rumors, but no **objective** evidence.
 - A. done by an expert
 - B. important
 - C. fact-based
12. The bathroom has natural light that comes through an **opaque** window.
 - A. high
 - B. openable
 - C. privacy

13. She answered in a polite tone, but her answer was **opaque**.
A. not polite
B. not what was hoped
C. not understandable
14. The dog's **pedigree** showed champions in its family for generations.
A. current value
B. ancestral history
C. future health
15. The detective is talking to all the witnesses to try to determine the **precise** sequence of events.
A. important
B. first
C. exact
16. She is **precise** in her thinking, appearance, and movements.
A. meticulous (careful about details)
B. very serious--possibly dignified
C. not clear or easily identifiable
17. Are you making any New Year's **resolutions** this year?
A. decorations
B. event plans
C. decisions
18. Through many years and hardships, her **resolution** to serve the poor never wavered.
A. ability
B. determination
C. way (solution)
19. As a safety measure, the school now insists that all backpacks and school bags be **transparent**.
A. searched upon entry
B. weighed
C. easily seen through
20. The best hope for limiting excessive political influence of special interest groups is to make the decision-making process more **transparent**.
A. fair to all impacted groups
B. easily observable or understood
C. influenced by data and statistics

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 *And when they walked into the side yard, their gaits were identical, as if their bodies were hinged in **precisely** the same way.*
 - A. completely or totally
 - B. in a satisfied manner
 - C. exactly
- 2 *I confess, our rigor and **precision** wearies me at times.*
 - A. meticulousness (careful attention to detail)
 - B. the time during which something continues
 - C. a particular understanding or explanation
- 3 *They **coaxed** the stray up the path each day by refilling the bowl and moving it closer to the yard, just a few feet at first and then, as the days wore on, much farther.*
 - A. did not vote OR did not drink alcohol OR (more rarely) did not do something else
 - B. gently persuaded
 - C. thought of something as true or likely, even though it was not known with certainty
- 4 *A large family (Fringillidae) of small song-birds, including the bunting, sparrow, and goldfinch, having a small conical beak **adapted** to cracking seeds.*
 - A. well-suited
 - B. creates, starts, or sets in a place
 - C. not arousing interest or excitement
- 5 *Spears and creases of white shot between the trees, but Edgar would not turn his dark-**adapted** eyes back to look.*
 - A. fought in a bitter manner over a long period of time
 - B. caught in; or twisted together into a confusing mass
 - C. adjusted
- 6 *My New Year's **resolution**.*
 - A. measure of general intelligence
 - B. solid shapes made of flat faces
 - C. firm decision to do something
- 7 *If he looked into the strobed rain too long, he ended up curled and oblivious, for if there was no figure to be seen in the falling drops of water, he felt abandoned, and if he saw anything—a shape, a movement, a form—he screamed, silently, despite all **resolution** to the contrary.*
 - A. use of reason
 - B. determination (firmness of purpose)
 - C. right to vote
- 8 *She turned and looked at him, really **focused** on him, for the first time since they'd left the house.*
 - A. looked closely or concentrated
 - B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - C. began speaking with someone about something
- 9 *But the fresh night air was bringing him back from the ether and he could keep his eyes **focused**.*
 - A. differed notably in brightness or tone
 - B. vaccinated (to protect from a disease)
 - C. adjusted (to see clearly)
- 10 *You need to understand that there are **alternatives**.*
 - A. psychiatrists
 - B. fat compounds
 - C. other possibilities
- 11 *He knew what he wanted the moment his mother posed her question, and he knew what she wanted him to want, despite her attempt at **objectivity**.*
 - A. growth hormone -- a hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that promotes growth in humans
 - B. "spiritually renews" in a Christian ceremony OR initiates or purifies by a challenging experience
 - C. ignoring personal preferences

- 12 *This whole question of choice between **objectives** has been a cause for idle speculation on my part the last few nights, and I have even gone as far as discussing it with my colleagues.*
- A. views
 - B. calls
 - C. goals
- 13 *Her **exhalations** sounded ever so slightly easier than they had that afternoon.*
- A. the act of breathing air out of the lungs; or the air breathed out
 - B. instances of donating one's income to a church; or the gifts given
 - C. fixed values or limits that establish how something should be done
- 14 *He knew instinctively how to **approach**, how to touch, how to confuse and distract, so that, fearful or not, the dog found itself acquiescing.*
- A. did not find a condition or substance to be present
 - B. to support by providing money or other economic aid
 - C. begin communication with someone about something
- 15 *Henry took a swallow of beer and watched them **approach**.*
- A. get near
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 16 *Just above his head, the raindrop paused, wobbling in midair like a **transparent** pearl, and began to fall again.*
- A. relating to properties of sound or hearing
 - B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - C. capable of being seen through
- 17 *She'd imagined he would stay **transparent** to her, more part of her, for so much longer.*
- A. non-traditional or non-standard
 - B. easily understood
 - C. poor ability to make a decision
- 18 *But when it came to knowing his thoughts, Edgar could be as **opaque** as a rock.*
- A. the quality of feeling angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked
 - B. an argument attributed to one's opponent that is weaker than their actual argument
 - C. difficult to understand (see into)
- 19 *The once-narrow ribbon of smoke had become an **opaque** mass that belched from the top half of the barn's entryway.*
- A. not sensible or careful
 - B. optimistic or agreeable
 - C. unable to be seen through
- 20 *He retreated across photographs and **pedigrees** scattered over the floor like a lunatic's history of the kennel.*
- A. intangible (non-touchable) properties that are the result of creativity (such as patents or trademarks or copyrights)
 - B. the line of ancestors of an animal; or any background or history of a person or idea, showing origins and development
 - C. things created -- typically works of music or writing; or acts of creating such work; or the structures of such work

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	precise (<i>as in: about noon; 12:03 to be precise</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	A	precise (<i>as in: a precise personality</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	B	coax (<i>as in: coax her to join us</i>)	Used 18 times in this book.
4	A	adapted (<i>as in: the species is well adapted for</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	C	resolution (<i>as in: a New Year's resolution</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	resolution (<i>as in: Her resolution weakened.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	C	focus (<i>as in: bring into focus; or out of focus</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	C	alternative (<i>as in: an alternative plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
11	C	objective (<i>as in: an objective viewpoint</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	C	objective (<i>as in: our objective is to...</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	exhalation	Used 7 times in this book.
14	C	approach (<i>as in: approached her with the proposal</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 28 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	C	transparent (<i>as in: transparent shower door</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	transparent (<i>as in: transparent decision making</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
18	C	opaque (<i>as in: opaque explanation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	C	opaque (<i>as in: opaque shower door</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
20	B	pedigree	Used 7 times in this book.