

The Sunlight Dialogues

by John Gardner

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: aesthetic, anarchist, communism, conviction, cunning, cynical, democracy, intuition, invulnerable, irrelevant, malice, minute, minutes, ominous, paltry, pedantic, scorn, senile, trifle, tyranny



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	B
4	B
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	B
11	C
12	C
13	A
14	A
15	A
16	C
17	A
18	C
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. She expressed concern about the **aesthetic** impact of wind turbines in such beautiful countryside.
 - A. related to money
 - B. related to beauty
 - C. related to morality
2. She didn't call herself an **anarchist**, but she refused to follow rules she saw as unfair.
 - A. someone with anxiety
 - B. someone against authority
 - C. someone who gives advice
3. Marx's writings on **communism** inspired revolutions across many countries in the 1900s.
 - A. free market trade
 - B. collective ownership
 - C. religious reform
4. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
5. The worst mix -- **greedy, cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
6. Over the years, she has grown **cynical** and unhappy.
 - A. distrustful of others
 - B. trusting of strangers
 - C. envious of friends
7. Canada has a parliamentary **democracy**.
 - A. government by the people
 - B. government by one ruler
 - C. government by the wealthy
8. **Intuitively**, I knew not to trust her.
 - A. logically
 - B. instinctively
 - C. conclusively
9. The hilltop fortress looked **invulnerable** behind its cliffs and thick walls.
 - A. easy to attack
 - B. likely to surrender
 - C. unable to be harmed
10. The writer should delete the sentence because it provides background information that is **irrelevant** to the paragraph.
 - A. confusing
 - B. unimportant
 - C. too wordy
11. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
 - A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly

12. Even a **minute** amount of lead can be harmful to children.
- A. large
 - B. 60 seconds
 - C. tiny
13. I always review the **minutes** to make sure there are no errors.
- A. written record of what happened at a meeting
 - B. plans that detail how something will be done
 - C. time that has just passed
14. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
15. They offered her a **paltry** amount for the rare book, hoping she didn't know its real value.
- A. insignificant
 - B. unfair
 - C. confusing
16. Her essay was filled with creative ideas, but it was vulnerable to **pedantic** nitpicking.
- A. of someone too concerned with regional style
 - B. of someone too concerned with statistical studies
 - C. of someone too concerned with book learning
17. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
18. About 10% of Americans between the ages of 65 and 75 suffer from **senility**.
- A. loneliness most days of the week
 - B. a poor sense of smell
 - C. mental weakness caused by old age
19. Don't waste my time with **trifling** matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
20. Pure democracy (without protection of minority rights) can become **tyranny** of the majority.
- A. a situation in which a difficult choice must be made between imperfect alternatives
 - B. a form of government where some people control others in a harsh, unfair manner
 - C. a form of government that is fair because decisions are made by majority vote

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 *Whether he was actually a student (he was an **anarchist**, all right) there was no way of telling.*
 - A. involvement in or the suggestion that someone was involved
 - B. someone who favors eliminating all government or authority
 - C. of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and sometimes Finland & Iceland
- 2 *You know how **democracy** works, son?*
 - A. a system of government in which citizens have power with equal votes
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 3 *He sounded now incredibly like one of those lawyers summing up, **tyrannical** and grandiose.*
 - A. likely to change
 - B. harsh and unjust
 - C. able to be found
- 4 *Ominously, the Chief snapped his fingers and pointed at Boyle.*
 - A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
 - B. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
 - C. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
- 5 *Trifling little thing you'd never think about twice, nine times out of ten.*
 - A. moving out of an interacting position; or stopping
 - B. canceling or annulling a formal ruling or contract
 - C. something of small importance; or a small quantity
- 6 *Irrelevant to the careening of the car, the whirling lights.*
 - A. a person who works from within to destroy an established order; or relating to such destructive efforts
 - B. not relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
 - C. the character or degree of bouncing back light (or more rarely: heat, sound, electromagnetic waves...)
- 7 *He was Hodge the immune and **invulnerable**, comfortable in the cage of his limitations.*
 - A. good or beneficial
 - B. not representative
 - C. impossible to harm
- 8 *But Hodge too, or the part of his mind that wasn't busy, had managed **cynicism**.*
 - A. believing that things usually go poorly and that selfish and insincere
 - B. a psychological disorder characterized by excessive distrust of others
 - C. one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
- 9 *Only later would he realize that he was afraid, that moment, that he was seeing his father's first lapse into real **senility**.*
 - A. because of a basic rule or belief
 - B. interacts, interests, or attracts
 - C. mental weakness caused by old age
- 10 *He's darn near a **Communist**, that's what people say.*
 - A. a member of the 1960's counterculture associated with long hair, illegal drugs, casual sex, and opposition to violence.
 - B. someone who supports an economic system that abolishes private ownership of property with the goal of a classless society
 - C. someone or something that changes to fit a different situation, or that changes something to fit a different situation
- 11 *Not **malice**, exactly—but more like malice than what went before, the wreck of the Volkswagen.*
 - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer

- 12 *She was as angry as the river, repelled by his pettiness and **pedantry**, his flight from the furious truth of the place to the name of a paltry trickle.*
- A. a group formed to discuss or offer insight on a particular topic
 - B. to constrain in some way -- such as tie up, require, or obligate
 - C. being too concerned with formal rules, details, or book learning
- 13 *She was as angry as the river, repelled by his pettiness and **pedantry**, his flight from the furious truth of the place to the name of a **paltry** trickle.*
- A. insignificant in amount or quality
 - B. degree to which things are related
 - C. able to be understood or explained
- 14 *Kozlowski, for one, was mildly **scornful** of, and mildly amused by, the uniform he wore.*
- A. full of strong disrespect or rejection
 - B. able to accept as true (without proof)
 - C. able to be protected or kept unchanged
- 15 *The absolutes of human **intuition** took on the weight and form of reality.*
- A. the redirection energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - B. the ability to know instinctively rather than through reasoning; or the thing that is known in such a way
 - C. someone with a potentially life-threatening psychological eating disorder that prevents eating enough food
- 16 *And three larceny arrests, no **convictions**, against Walter Boyle.*
- A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 17 *But afterward Clive Paxton walked in his garden, scrutinizing his lilacs and althea for **minute** flaws, giving orders, critically turning loose earth with his foot.*
- A. awake
 - B. exact
 - C. small
- 18 *He shall attend all meetings of stock-holders and of the Board of Directors and keep the **minutes** thereof.*
- A. formal notes (of a meeting)
 - B. results or predictable values
 - C. things not easily set on fire
- 19 *How the annihilation is accomplished is an irrelevant detail, a matter of **aesthetics**.*
- A. defensive players who line up closest to the sideline to defend against passes
 - B. related to beauty or good taste; or the study of what is beautiful or tasteful
 - C. powerful attacks; or sudden and enormous amount of things that must be handled
- 20 *Still the old eyes searched him, **cunning** and baffled and something else too; after an instant Hodge caught what it was: wounded.*
- 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

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	anarchist	Used 8 times in this book.
2	A	democracy	Used 13 times in this book.
3	B	tyranny	Used 13 times in this book.
4	A	ominous	Used 12 times in this book.
5	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 24 times in this book.
6	B	irrelevant	High-utility academic word; used 13 times in this book.
7	C	invulnerable	Used 6 times in this book.
8	A	cynical	Used 11 times in this book.
9	C	senile	Used 6 times in this book.
10	B	communism	Used 18 times in this book.
11	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
12	C	pedantic	Used 6 times in this book.
13	A	paltry	Used 5 times in this book.
14	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 32 times in this book.
15	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
16	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 13 times in this book.
17	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
18	A	minutes (<i>as in: keep the minutes</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
19	B	aesthetic	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
20	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 11 times in this book.