

The Things They Carried

by Tim O'Brien

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

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: affluent, consequence (2), direct (2), focus (2), function (2), impersonal, irony, monk, perimeter, polio, positive (2), rainforest, ration, replenish, valor



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Although she doesn't earn much money, she was raised in an **affluent** household.
A. wealthy
B. poor
C. middle-class
2. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
A. result
B. unimportant part
C. important part
3. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
A. unethical
B. important
C. harmful
4. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
A. formally
B. personally
C. when convenient
5. She is **easy** to work with. She is direct in her communications and expectations.
A. straightforward
B. considerate
C. humble
6. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
A. concentrating
B. depending
C. getting help
7. The discussion brought into focus an important difference of opinion.
A. hiding
B. conflict
C. view
8. My brain does not **function** as well when I'm under stress.
A. work
B. feel
C. have fun
9. Expertise is largely a **function** of hours spent on task.
A. social event
B. purpose or job
C. result
10. Hospitals can be **impersonal** places, despite the caring staff.
A. difficult to truly understand
B. lacking warmth or personal connection
C. highly efficient and organized
11. Ironically, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
12. Each monk in the order leads a simple life without luxury.
A. a female member of a religious order
B. a male member of a religious order
C. a member of a religious order

13. Build a fence along the **perimeter** of the yard.
- A. dangerous part
 - B. longest edge
 - C. outer edges
14. Even though it's rare now, the threat of **polio** resurgence remains in areas with low vaccination rates.
- A. viral disease that causes muscle paralysis
 - B. genetic disorder leading to weakened bones
 - C. bacteria that infects the respiratory system
15. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
16. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
17. When farmland replaces **rainforest**, many species lose their habitat at once.
- A. dense tropical wet forest
 - B. dry open grassland plain
 - C. cold rocky mountain meadow
18. During the Second World War, products such as food and gasoline were **rationed** in the United States, so more resources could be devoted to the war effort.
- A. restricted in the amount each person could have
 - B. set at a high price only the military could afford
 - C. imported in small amounts from many countries
19. After a hard workout, it's good to **replenish** the water and nutrients your body used up.
- A. consider
 - B. measure
 - C. replace
20. She has served her country with **valor**.
- A. wisdom
 - B. enthusiasm
 - C. courage

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 Henry Dobbins, who was a big man, carried extra **rations**; he was especially fond of canned peaches in heavy syrup over pound cake.
 - A. fixed portions of food
 - B. atones (demonstrates sorrow for a wrong either by doing something good in return for the wrong, or by accepting punishment)
 - C. removes or suppress anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable OR people who does such suppression
- 2 What they carried was partly a **function** of rank, partly of field specialty.
 - A. the highest-ranking manager
 - B. a long uninterrupted speech
 - C. result
- 3 The kid couldn't **function**.
 - A. do what would normally be expected
 - B. think carefully
 - C. strongly desire
- 4 It was what had brought them to the war in the first place, nothing **positive**, no dreams of glory or honor, just to avoid the blush of dishonor.
 - A. good
 - B. not representative
 - C. impossible to find
- 5 "You sure?"
"Positive."
 - A. outside
 - B. various
 - C. certain
- 6 He would look them in the eyes, keeping his chin level, and he would issue the new SOPs in a calm, **impersonal** tone of voice, a lieutenant's voice, leaving no room for argument or discussion.
 - A. highly efficient and organized
 - B. lacking warmth or personal connection
 - C. difficult to truly understand
- 7 Hygiene became a matter of small **consequence**.
 - A. translates
 - B. importance
 - C. sticks out
- 8 A moment of carelessness or bad judgment or plain stupidity carried **consequences** that lasted forever.
 - A. results
 - B. battles
 - C. desires
- 9 In the darkness there was that weird tribal music, which seemed to come from the earth itself, from the deep **rain forest**, and a woman's voice rising up in a language beyond translation.
 - A. dense, rainy forest with many species
 - B. a short part of a longer written work
 - C. the act of stopping a battle or fight
- 10 In many ways he was like America itself, big and strong, full of good intentions, a roll of fat jiggling at his belly, slow of foot but always plodding along, always there when you needed him, a believer in the virtues of simplicity and **directness** and hard labor.
 - A. the quality of being straightforward or clear
 - B. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
 - C. related to the collection and interpretation of numerical data -- especially life expectancy and other statistics use to calculate insurance premiums

- 11 *I was **directly** behind him.*
- A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 - B. close (without anything in between)
 - C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 12 *The **monks** bowed and moved out of the pagoda into the bright morning sunlight.*
- A. inhabitants of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq
 - B. male members of a religious order typically under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
 - C. amounts of the value of homes that some states and local jurisdictions deduct from the value that is taxed
- 13 *The road was a sort of boundary between the **affluent** and the almost affluent, and to live on the lake side of the road was one of the few natural privileges in a town of the prairie--the difference between watching the sun set over cornfields or over water.*
- A. people who are, or the condition of being, wealthy
 - B. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
 - C. the trait of being difficult to meet and talk with
- 14 *Fed by neither streams nor springs, the lake was often filthy and algaed, relying on fickle prairie rains for replenishment.*
- A. an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
 - B. popular art movement of late 19th century French painters who used dabs of color to give an impression of their subject rather than a photographic-like depiction
 - C. the process of replacing what was used up OR the process of restoring to a previous condition OR (more rarely) materials that replaced what was used up
- 15 *He would've explained to his father that none of these decorations was for uncommon **valor**.*
- A. exceedingly powerful bomb whose energy comes from the splitting of atoms
 - B. a long race that is shorter than the typical long race of about 26 miles
 - C. exceptional or heroic courage when facing danger -- especially in battle
- 16 *"Wasted in the waste," he said. "... You got to admit, it's pure world-class **irony**."*
- A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - B. an amusing coincidence
 - C. someone who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often with the implication that the person is unrealistic
- 17 *Polio, maybe.*
- A. viral disease that causes muscle paralysis
 - B. genetic disorder leading to weakened bones
 - C. bacteria that infects the respiratory system
- 18 *Bunker Six, a pile of sandbags at the southwest corner of the **perimeter**.*
- A. a fat compound
 - B. a hooved mamma
 - C. the outer edge of a defended area
- 19 *He'd try to bring the night into **focus**, willing coherence, but the effort would only cause distortions.*
- A. software that stops uninvited software from spreading between computers and causing damage to data and software
 - B. a condition where the body cannot properly regulate blood sugar levels because it produces little or no insulin
 - C. view (a state where something can be seen clearly)
- 20 *I **focused** on Jorgenson's brand-new boots, then on a pebble, then on my own face floating high above me--the last things I'd ever see.*
- A. looked
 - B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - C. began speaking with someone about something

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Things They Carried

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	ration	Used 8 times in this book.
2	C	function (<i>as in: oxygen is a function of altitude</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	A	function (<i>as in: can't function well without sleep</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	B	impersonal	Used 3 times in this book.
7	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
8	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	rainforest	Used 3 times in this book.
10	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
11	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	B	monk	Used 14 times in this book.
13	A	affluent	Used 2 times in this book.
14	C	replenish	High-utility academic word
15	C	valor	Used 7 times in this book.
16	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
17	A	polio	Used 8 times in this book.
18	C	perimeter	Used 14 times in this book.
19	C	focus (<i>as in: bring into focus; or out of focus</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.