

The Thundering Herd

by Zane Grey

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: abundant, appalling, augment, continuous, endeavor, foliage, fraught, impetuous, juncture, luxuriant, manifest, melancholy, monotonous, nevertheless, peril, poignant, retort, rouse, somber, stolid



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- The region has **abundant** natural resources, from oil to fresh water.
 - extremely scarce
 - highly disputed
 - widely available
- She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
 - false
 - horrible
 - foolish
- The purpose of this exercise is to **augment** the natural vocabulary growth that comes with reading.
 - increase
 - study
 - argue for
- Alternating walk and rest was more beneficial than continuous walking for people with Type 2 diabetes.
 - occasional
 - scheduled
 - uninterrupted
- I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - not be able
 - promise
 - try
- I like to rest my eyes by periodically looking up from the computer and gazing out the window at the **foliage**.
 - birds
 - plant leaves
 - clouds
- The work is **fraught** with difficulty.
 - preceded
 - filled
 - followed
- She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - impulsive
 - cautious
 - wealthy
- At that **junction** I didn't know what to do.
 - difficult point
 - new point
 - point
- Beavers were hunted nearly to extinction for their **luxuriant** fur.
 - thick and abundant
 - scarce (rare)
 - dark brown
- Her program has been a **manifest** failure. Everyone is trying to blame someone else for it.
 - sudden
 - obvious
 - surprising
- This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring,
 - happy
 - sad
 - feel like singing

13. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, monotonous roads.
- A. dark
 - B. narrow
 - C. boring
14. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
15. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
16. Have you read MLK's poignant "Letter from Birmingham Jail"?
- A. arousing deep emotion
 - B. logically compelling
 - C. long
17. She **retorted**, "Takes one to know one."
- A. quickly replied
 - B. insulted back
 - C. joyfully laughed
18. The smell of freshly brewed coffee roused her from her sleep.
- A. interrupted
 - B. deepened
 - C. awakened
19. She exhibited a somber mood.
- A. happy
 - B. curious
 - C. cheerless
20. Her face showed nothing but stolid indifference.
- A. emotionless
 - B. confused
 - C. bitter

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 So there was more than the **melancholy** languor of autumn in the still air.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. a sad feeling or manner
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 2 Bent and bowed, always head to head, they performed prodigious feats of ramming and butting, and **endeavoring** to give each other a fatal thrust with horn.
 - A. working or operating
 - B. believing or judging
 - C. trying or attempting
- 3 The volume of sound had swelled from rhythmic pound and beat to a mighty and **appalling** roar.
 - A. telling someone about something
 - B. shockingly terrible or horrible
 - C. commending or praising publicly
- 4 But this was one long **continuous** roll.
 - A. the state of being capable of thought, self-reflection, and will
 - B. pertaining to the working together of different religious groups
 - C. continuing in time or space without interruption or irregularity
- 5 Below the uplands, where the plain began, herds of buffalo dotted the patches and streaked the **monotony** of the gray vastness.
 - A. relative amount
 - B. dramatic change
 - C. lack of variety
- 6 Nevertheless, opportunity seemed indeed knocking at his door.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 7 When Tom **roused** next morning to Burn Hudnall's cheery call he found that he had slept later than usual for him.
 - A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. explains something in a particular way
 - C. to awaken, make more active, or excite
- 8 Fresh green grass grew **abundantly** on the banks and insured reasonably against the horses' straying that night.
 - A. not done on purpose
 - B. with polite respect
 - C. with great quantity
- 9 But at last, toward sunset, a fringe of winding **foliage** marked the course of a stream.
 - A. shadows
 - B. plant leaves
 - C. clouds
- 10 Tom offered his hand, and at this **junction** the horseman that had been behind the wagon rode forward abreast of the driver.
 - A. something exclusive to (someone or some group) -- such as an activity or place
 - B. a rough substance that can be rubbed against something else to polish or clean
 - C. where things come together -- especially a point in time with a critical event
- 11 "Dunn, I won't do anythin' of the kind," **retorted** Hudnall, bluntly.
 - A. quickly replied
 - B. said indirectly
 - C. greatly annoyed

- 12 From the camp-fire talk Milly gathered that both the number of buffalo and of hunters were **augmenting**.
- enlarging or increasing
 - attractive or desirable
 - making or manufacturing
- 13 In a silence **fraught** with exquisite torture for Milly she stood there, quivering against him.
- the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - full of negative things; or marked by or causing distress
 - a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
- 14 Then Tom found voice **poignantly** to beg Pilchuck to tell him everything.
- in a sharp or intense manner
 - in a manner that finds fault
 - in a manner that is not good
- 15 ...such greed and selfishness as was **manifested** by some of the hunters.
- unrecognized difference
 - made obvious
 - did in a particular way
- 16 He put a hard curb on his **impetuosity**, and forced himself to wait and think carefully of every action before he undertook it.
- impulsiveness (the trait of acting suddenly without much thought)
 - a ceiling designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - a person (often a writer or artist) living an unconventional life
- 17 There was not the slightest doubt of Catlee's emergence from the character of a **stolid** dull teamster into something incalculably otherwise.
- having or revealing little emotion -- sometimes indicating qualities of not changing or being dependable
- or (much more rarely):
- of an object: not interesting -- often large and unmoving
- the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
 - 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
- 18 Her **peril** at one time had been great, but if this herd had caught her in a stampede she would have been lost.
- useful
 - danger
 - allows
- 19 His working, fiercely malignant visage as suddenly set **somberly**.
- in a manner that influences reason or general desire to do something
 - with disbelief; or with difficulty accepting something so unexpected
 - solemnly (in a manner that is serious--not cheerful or lighthearted)
- 20 Trees were absent, and brush and grass had not the **luxuriance** common to most stretches of river bank.
- characterized by growing well or being richly thick or abundant -- as of vegetation or hair
- or (more rarely):
- characterized by luxury (very comfortable or extravagant)
- 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
 - a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	melancholy	Used 6 times in this book.
2	C	endeavor	Used 6 times in this book.
3	B	appalling	Used 7 times in this book.
4	C	continuous	Used 11 times in this book.
5	C	monotonous	Used 8 times in this book.
6	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
7	C	rouse	Used 10 times in this book.
8	C	abundant	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
9	B	foliage	Used 8 times in this book.
10	C	junction	Used 6 times in this book.
11	A	retort (<i>as in: quick retort</i>)	Used 12 times in this book.
12	A	augment	Used 9 times in this book.
13	B	fraught	Used 6 times in this book.
14	A	poignant	Used 7 times in this book.
15	B	manifest (<i>as in: manifest destiny</i>)	Used 35 times in this book.
16	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	A	stolid	Used 5 times in this book.
18	B	peril	Used 17 times in this book.
19	C	somber (<i>as in: a somber mood</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
20	A	luxuriant	Used 4 times in this book.
