

The Water is Wide

by Pat Conroy

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
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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: amicable, animate (2), antagonist, boycott, commute, derive, illiterate, literate, ludicrous, macabre, prejudice, preside, proficiency, repertoire, resignation (2), self-righteous, subtle (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	C
10	A
11	B
12	C
13	B
14	C
15	B
16	B
17	C
18	C
19	A
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 we disagree, I think we can reach an **amicable** compromise.
 - A. quick
 - B. friendly
 - C. temporary
2. She spoke in an **animated** manner.
 - A. silly
 - B. soft
 - C. enthusiastic
3. Have you seen the **animated** version of *Lord of the Rings*.
 - A. translated
 - B. moving cartoon
 - C. edited (to make shorter)
4. In the book, *Harry Potter*, Voldemort is Harry's **antagonist**.
 - A. partner
 - B. friend
 - C. enemy
5. Advertisers **boycotted** the show because of accusations that the script was racist.
 - A. refused to buy advertising of
 - B. investigated
 - C. paid discount rates
6. The study shows that the time needed for average **commute** has increased again.
 - A. travel to work
 - B. permit for construction
 - C. jury service
7. I **derive** pleasure from my work.
 - A. refuse
 - B. obtain
 - C. ignore
8. The country is working to reduce the rate of **illiteracy**.
 - A. lacking of health care
 - B. living in poverty
 - C. inability to read and write
9. If you're **literate** and can access the Internet, you can get answers to millions of questions.
 - A. curious
 - B. patient
 - C. able to read
10. Though she was serious, her suggestion was so **ludicrous**, I couldn't suppress a laugh.
 - A. absurd or silly
 - B. logical or sound
 - C. serious or somber
11. The story had a **macabre** ending, with ghosts gathering beside the grave.
 - A. cheerful and playful
 - B. grim and death-related
 - C. plain and realistic
12. Seeing the defendant wear prison clothes may **prejudice** the jury against the defendant.
 - A. create a sympathetic belief in
 - B. create a serious attitude in
 - C. create an unfair belief in

13. The student body president **presides** over student council meetings.
- A. regularly attends
 - B. officially leads
 - C. casually observes
14. After months of practice, she gained enough **proficiency** in Spanish to hold a simple conversation.
- A. interest
 - B. permission
 - C. skill
15. She added some Gershwin to her piano **repertoire**.
- A. favorites
 - B. capabilities
 - C. recordings
16. She said that if I don't **resign**, I will be fired.
- A. do better
 - B. quit
 - C. renew an agreement
17. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
18. Both sides are too **self-righteous** to reach a friendly agreement.
- A. hurt by perceived injustice
 - B. closed-minded and intolerant
 - C. convinced of moral superiority
19. It is a **subtle** poison. In small doses, it might never be detected, but eventually your heart will fail.
- A. hard to notice
 - B. powerful
 - C. painless
20. She has a good eye for **subtle** differences in color.
- A. contrasting
 - B. complementary
 - C. minor

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 *After the news the four of us argued until the late hours of night, exposing half-hidden **prejudices**.*
 - A. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - B. items characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open -- such as a door or musical instrument with that characteristic
 - C. bias that prevents objective consideration -- especially an unreasonable belief that is unfair to members of a race, religion, or other group
- 2 *To have teachers **commute** to the island or to have a large boat to transport the children to the mainland.*
 - A. make a regular journey of some distance -- typically between home and work
 - B. give an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - C. mark important text; or the text that is marked
- 3 *I felt **ludicrously** white.*
 - A. absurd in an amusing way
 - B. in a manner that changes
 - C. in an understated manner
- 4 *Not one of them knew my name, but all of them had prior knowledge that a white teacher would **preside** over them for the year.*
 - A. stop (something from happening)
 - B. be in charge; or head; or chair
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 5 *I asked the eighth graders and the other kids who appeared the least bit **literate** to retell the story in their own words on paper.*
 - A. consistent or the same
 - B. not aware of something
 - C. able to read and write
- 6 *...what has remained is an indefinable nonspeech, flavored **subtly** with a nonaccent, and decipherable to no one, black or white, on the American continent.*
 - A. in a manner related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
 - B. in a manner like a virus (often used to indicate that something spread quickly from person-to-person in a natural, unplanned manner)
 - C. not obvious, but noticeable
- 7 *It looked as though the Old South was still alive and well, a little more **subtle**, without the sheets and night riders, but a force that still tolerated little deviation from the norm.*
 - A. working in an indirect or hidden way
 - B. lacking a reason for doing something
 - C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 8 *Soon we **derived** a game out of it.*
 - A. hid
 - B. got
 - C. cut
- 9 *Every time he named a country, a new dimension or a new frame of reference was added to my class's growing **repertoire**.*
 - A. officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
 - B. a collection -- often of skills, or of works that an artist is prepared to perform
 - C. formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
- 10 *I found no area where they were remotely **proficient**.*
 - A. absolute
 - B. pleasing
 - C. skillful

- 11 *If he did, I promised myself, he would be facing an **antagonist** crazed with fear, a desire to live, and carrying a baseball bat that would remove heads if the occasion required.*
- A. someone who changes something (upon review)
 - B. someone who takes something on as their own
 - C. someone who offers opposition or is hostile
- 12 *Amicability was not Sam's greatest virtue.*
- A. not working or not operating
 - B. friendly or showing goodwill
 - C. activity or natural activity
- 13 *I was impatient because I had failed to turn **illiterates** into lovers of the great classics in the span of a single month.*
- A. good things or characteristics
 - B. acts of recognizing difference
 - C. people who can't read or write
- 14 *The masks Barbara picked out ranged from the ludicrous to the **macabre**.*
- A. acceptance of what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly
 - B. disturbing and related to death or horror -- especially in a grim or eerie way
 - C. the state of being a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance
- 15 *Mary, meanwhile, still looked dazed and **resigned** to a silent, unflinching suffering.*
- A. to be or to become used to (adapted to and with an expectation of)
 - B. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - C. having accepted something undesired as unavoidable
- 16 *Therefore I wrote to Piedmont, offered my **resignation** for the following June, and offered to help find a replacement.*
- A. to constrain in some way -- such as tie up, require, or obligate
 - B. a document expressing that someone is quitting a job
 - C. a group formed to discuss or offer insight on a particular topic
- 17 *Even though one of the children suffered a relatively serious injury and I failed by twenty-four hours to transport the group back to the island on time, the power of the children's unanimous, **animated** support of the venture erased any reluctance the parents might have experienced.*
- A. competed in a contest to knock each other off horses with blunted lances OR competed in any kind of contest
 - B. not happening at the same time or in a coordinated sequence; or (of watches/clocks) not set to show the same time
 - C. enthusiastic
- 18 *My youth sang the glory of books, the psalms of travel, of new faces, of the universe of Disney **animation**, of Popsicle sticks and county fairs, of parables of war spoken by a flight-jacketed father, of parables of love and Jesus sung by a blue-eyed mother, a renegade Baptist, a converted Catholic, a soldier of the Lord.*
- A. chaotic disorder
 - B. moving cartoons
 - C. risky investment
- 19 *A few **boycotts** of white students soon led to a boycott of black students.*
- A. to refuse to buy things (from someone); or to refuse to participate in an activity (with someone) in order to express disapproval
 - B. presents something to treat as true in order to advance a discussion or to further investigation even though it might not be true
 - C. enthusiastic expressions of feelings or thoughts OR squirts or gives off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
- 20 *I could be so **self-righteous**, so inflexible when I thought that I was right or that the children had been wronged.*
- A. the state of doing something unintentionally
 - B. exceedingly important, serious, or dangerous
 - C. convinced of personal moral superiority over others

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	prejudice	Used 9 times in this book.
2	A	commute (<i>as in: commute from New Jersey</i>)	Used 13 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	ludicrous	Used 11 times in this book.
4	B	preside	Used 9 times in this book.
5	C	literate	Used 4 times in this book.
6	C	subtle (<i>as in: a subtle difference or thinker</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	subtle (<i>as in: a subtle poison</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	derive	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
9	B	repertoire	Used 4 times in this book.
10	C	proficiency	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	C	antagonist (<i>as in: the antagonist in the film</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	B	amicable	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
13	C	illiterate	Used 10 times in this book.
14	B	macabre	Used 6 times in this book.
15	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	C	animate (<i>as in: animated by her strong belief</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	animate (<i>as in: an animated cartoon</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	A	boycott	Used 11 times in this book.
20	C	self-righteous	Used 8 times in this book.