

The Wide Window

by Lemony Snicket

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

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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: abhor, adopt, approximate, contradict, demonstrate, despise, dismay, fickle, forgery, futile, irrational, nevertheless, perspective, principle, rational, refract, solemn, testament, utmost, wistful



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. However much we **abhor** it, we must be prepared for war.
 - A. avoid
 - B. don't expect
 - C. hate
2. The company plans to **adopt** new safety guidelines next month.
 - A. ignore
 - B. publish
 - C. take on
3. The circumference of the earth is **approximately** 24,900 miles at the equator.
 - A. exactly
 - B. commonly mistaken as
 - C. about
4. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
5. The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
 - A. protested
 - B. shown
 - C. encouraged
6. She **despises** his lifestyle.
 - A. admires
 - B. wants
 - C. hates
7. Hope was replaced by **dismay**.
 - A. satisfaction
 - B. faith
 - C. sorrow
8. We got the independent vote last time, but the independent vote is notoriously **fickle**.
 - A. hard to get
 - B. small
 - C. quick to change
9. Experts proved the painting was a clever **forgery**, not the real masterpiece.
 - A. original work of art
 - B. early rough draft
 - C. fake passed off as real
10. Their attempt to fix the cracked screen with tape was **futile**.
 - A. simple
 - B. dangerous
 - C. pointless
11. I have an **irrational** fear of heights.
 - A. reasonable
 - B. varying
 - C. unreasonable

12. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
13. Attending a funeral helps me to put life into **perspective** and to separate the important things from those that are less important.
- A. a sensible view
 - B. a positive view
 - C. a limited view
14. One **guiding principle** is that everyone should be treated fairly.
- A. rule or belief
 - B. complaint
 - C. answer or result
15. Let's try to ignore how upset we are for a moment and think about this **rationally**.
- A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a creative manner
 - C. in a reasonable manner
16. Light passing through water is **refracted**, so when a pole or stick is partially submerged at an angle in clear water, it appears to be bent at the water's surface.
- A. increased in brightness
 - B. changed in velocity
 - C. changed in color
17. Everyone was **solemn** at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
18. Her music's popularity is a **testament** to her talent.
- A. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - B. evidence
 - C. income not required for mandatory and necessary expenses
19. She handled the fragile artifact with the **utmost** care.
- A. least
 - B. usual
 - C. greatest
20. She had a **wistful**, dreamy look as she thought about how life would change if she could get a good job.
- A. showing longing
 - B. showing determination
 - C. showing optimism

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 *At this particular moment she was thinking of how she could improve the engine of the Fickle Ferry so it wouldn't belch smoke into the gray sky.*
A. the quality of being characterized by fantastic imagery, or combinations of things and events that don't go together
B. related to the branch of medicine that deals with the diseases of women -- especially those of the reproductive organs
C. quick to change

(such as a person quick to change their mind, or the weather in a region where it changes suddenly)
- 2 *Still, it seemed rude to contradict Aunt Josephine.*
A. disagree
B. subtract
C. continue
- 3 *Sunny smiled at Aunt Josephine, showing all four of her sharp teeth, but her older siblings knew that Sunny despised rattles and the irritating sounds they made when you shook them.*
A. not good at concentrating on one thing
B. adjusted a lens to make an image clear
C. disliked strongly and looked down upon
- 4 *The Baudelaires looked at one another and tried to hide their dismay.*
A. make someone want to do something
B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
C. sadness, disappointment, or worry
- 5 *There are two kinds of fears: rational and irrational—or, in simpler terms, fears that make sense and fears that don't.*
A. very large
B. related to
C. reasonable
- 6 *There are two kinds of fears: rational and irrational—or, in simpler terms, fears that make sense and fears that don't.*
A. not pleasing
B. sticking out
C. unreasonable
- 7 *There is a way of looking at life called "keeping things in perspective."*
A. a sensible view of a situation
B. made by taking on as one's own
C. relating to the chest (thorax)
- 8 *She looked wistfully at all the delicious food on the shelves that required turning on the stove in order to prepare it.*
A. with longing or unfulfilled desire
B. in a manner that involves betrayal
C. following as a result of something
- 9 *Violet tried one more time, knowing it would probably be futile, a word which here means "filled with futility."*
A. result or predictable value
B. a long uninterrupted speech
C. pointlessness (uselessness)
- 10 *The card does have a serious grammatical error on it, but it is nevertheless proof that Captain Sham is who he says he is.*
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)

- 11 *The Baudelaire orphans nodded **solemnly**, but the cold pit in their stomachs had not gone away.*
A. with seriousness and dignity
B. in a manner that finds fault
C. in a manner that is not good
- 12 *Klaus stared at the ceiling with the **utmost** concentration, as if something very interesting were written on it, but nothing helpful occurred to him as the hour grew later and later.*
A. not real
B. allowing
C. greatest
- 13 *As my **last will and testament**, I leave you three in the care of Captain Sham, a kind and honorable man.*
A. characterized by withdrawal, an inability to form close relationships, and taking pleasure in few activities
B. a final will (written instructions expressing how somebody wants their property distributed after they die)
C. a logical fallacy or error in reasoning when the conclusion of an argument is assumed in one of the premises
- 14 *"Well, we could do a **forgery**," Klaus said, using a word which here means "write something yourself and pretend somebody else wrote it."*
A. any of the Scandinavian people who raided the coasts of Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries
B. a compound consisting of large molecules made up of a linked series of repeated smaller molecules
C. something that is represented as real even though it is a fake; or the making of such a fake item
- 15 *The sailboat had reached the **approximate** middle of the lake.*
A. express strong regret
B. a large group of fish
C. almost, but not exact
- 16 *Because as soon as Violet saw the flickering reflection, she remembered the scientific **principles** of the convergence and refraction of light.*
A. basic rules or beliefs
B. subtle characteristics
C. long eventful journeys
- 17 *Because as soon as Violet saw the flickering reflection, she remembered the scientific principles of the convergence and **refraction** of light.*
A. a melody that, after a short interval, is exactly repeated by a different instrument or voice to create competing melodic lines (a strict counterpoint)
B. to change the velocity of a beam of light or other wave-form as it passes from one medium into another (apparently bending it when passing at an angle)
C. a figure of speech in which a similarity between two things is highlighted by using a word to refer to something that it does not *literally* mean
- 18 *Burning ants, of course, is an **abhorrent** hobby—the word "abhorrent" here means "what Count Olaf used to do when he was about your age"—but remembering the story made Violet see that she could use the lens of the spying glass to focus the light of the moon and make a fire.*
A. able to make clear with example, diagram, photo, etc.
B. the degree of being completely in the specified state
C. disgusting (of something hated, detested, or immoral)
- 19 *If you don't care about something, one way to **demonstrate** your feelings is to say the word and then repeat the word with the letters S-C-H-M replacing the real first letters.*
A. draw
B. show
C. quit
- 20 *My associate will take you to my apartment while I stay here and finish the **adoption** paperwork with Mr. Poe.*
A. relating to where attention is concentrated
B. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
C. the act of taking something on as one's own

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	fickle	Used 8 times in this book.
2	A	contradict	High-utility academic word
3	C	despise	Used 4 times in this book.
4	C	dismay	Used 4 times in this book.
5	C	rational (<i>as in: rational behavior</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
6	C	irrational	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
7	A	perspective (<i>as in: Keep it in perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
8	A	wistful	Used 2 times in this book.
9	C	futile	Used 2 times in this book.
10	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
11	A	solemn	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	utmost	Used 3 times in this book.
13	B	testament	Used 4 times in this book.
14	C	forgery	Used 6 times in this book.
15	C	approximate	High-utility academic word
16	A	principle	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	B	refract	Used 3 times in this book.
18	C	abhor	Used 2 times in this book.
19	B	demonstrate (<i>as in: It demonstrates my point.</i>)	High-utility academic word
20	C	adopt	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.