

Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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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: abrupt, accomplice, appeal, comprehend, demonstrate, earnest, elated, emerge, melancholy, parched, persist, poise, precise, profound, resent, scorn, solemn, tone, twilight, vary



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

- The weather changed **abruptly** at about noon.
 - for the better
 - gradually
 - suddenly
- They were **accomplices** in the crime.
 - working together
 - victims together
 - observers together
- Her enthusiasm **appeals** to me.
 - is attractive
 - is disturbing
 - is too intense
- Washington fails to **comprehend** the change in China's strategy.
 - fully understand
 - regard respectfully
 - respond adequately to
- The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
 - protested
 - shown
 - encouraged
- She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
 - frivolous attitude
 - seriousness
 - falseness
- The **elated** winner couldn't stop smiling.
 - extremely happy
 - newly created
 - exhausted or tired
- The idea **emerged** at a Student Council meeting.
 - was forgotten
 - came out
 - was abandoned
- This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring.
 - happy
 - sad
 - feel like singing
- Cactus is about all that will grow in this parched soil.
 - dried out
 - sandy
 - rocky
- We expect the conditions to **persist** into next year.
 - grow worse
 - continue
 - go away

12. The once self-conscious girl is now a woman with considerable poise.
- A. style
 - B. education
 - C. composure
13. The detective is talking to all the witnesses to try to determine the precise sequence of events.
- A. important
 - B. first
 - C. exact
14. It was a profound spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
15. As the war dragged on, the Thai population came to resent the Japanese presence.
- A. appreciate
 - B. dislike
 - C. request
16. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
17. Everyone was solemn at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
18. Would you describe the author's tone as more optimistic or more pessimistic?
- A. supporting characters
 - B. expressed mood
 - C. logical argument
19. I awakened to a twilight sky but did not know if the sun was setting or rising.
- A. the light from the sky just before sunrise
 - B. the light from the sky just after sunset
 - C. the light from the sky between daylight and darkness
20. McDonald's menu options vary by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known

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 Winnie had found some pebbles at the base of the fence and, for lack of any other way to show how she felt, had flung one at the toad. ... and since every pebble missed its final mark, the toad continued to squat and grimace without so much as a twitch. Possibly it felt **resentful**.
 - A. lucky about not being hurt
 - B. unhappy about unfair treatment
 - C. superior in a comparison
- 2 She leaned her forehead against the bars and after a short silence went on in a thoughtful **tone**.
 - A. musical sound that is lower in pitch
 - B. quality of voice expressing a mood
 - C. sympathetic manner
- 3 The last stains of sunset had melted away, and the **twilight** died, too,
 - A. an orange light sometimes seen at sunset
 - B. light from the moon during daylight
 - C. light from the sky between daylight and darkness
- 4 No one ever said **precisely** what it was that she would not be able to manage.
 - A. secretly
 - B. publicly
 - C. exactly
- 5 "I'm one hundred and four years old," he told her **solemnly**.
 - A. in a serious manner
 - B. in an excited manner
 - C. in an unexpected manner
- 6 "How old are you, anyway?" she asked, squinting at him.
...
"I'm one hundred and four years old," he told her solemnly.
"No, I mean really," she **persisted**.
 - A. wondered
 - B. continued asking
 - C. laughed
- 7 Miles and Jesse grabbed at the horse's harness and he pulled up **abruptly**, nearly toppling Winnie off over his neck.
 - A. gradually
 - B. carefully
 - C. suddenly
- 8 For her part, Winnie, now that the running was over, began to **comprehend** what was happening,
 - A. understand
 - B. explain
 - C. misunderstand
- 9 She ... was **scornful**--most of the time--of her grandmother's elves.
 - A. full of disrespect
 - B. full of wonder
 - C. full of respect
- 10 She was running away after all, but she was not alone. Closing the gate on her oldest fears as she had closed the gate of her own fenced yard, she discovered the wings she'd always wished she had. And all at once she was **elated**.
 - A. happy and excited
 - B. uncertain and afraid
 - C. tired and sleepy

- 11 For Tuck's head tilted to one side, his eyes went soft, and the gentlest smile in the world displaced the **melancholy** creases of his cheeks.
- A. laughing
 - B. sad
 - C. smile
- 12 The kitchen came first, with an open cabinet where dishes were stacked in perilous towers without the least regard for their **varying** dimensions.
- A. smaller
 - B. different
 - C. larger
- 13 "You think on it, Winnie Foster," Jesse whispered **earnestly**.
- A. calmly
 - B. sincerely
 - C. humorously
- 14 Once Winifred drinks some of the water, she'll do just as well for my **demonstrations**.
- A. question
 - B. display
 - C. history
- 15 Children are much more **appealing**, anyway.
- A. desirable
 - B. undesirable
 - C. harmless
- 16 He grasped the bars of the window firmly, ready to pull, and stood **poised**. ... Then—a flash of lightning and, soon after, a crack of thunder. In the midst of the noise, Miles gave a mighty heave.
- A. nervous
 - B. waiting
 - C. prepared
- 17 The tension in the **parched** earth eased and vanished.
- A. dry
 - B. sandy
 - C. cold
- 18 Two weeks had gone by since the night of the storm, the night of Mae Tuck's escape. And Mae had not been found. There was no trace of her at all, or of Tuck or Miles or Jesse. Winnie was **profoundly** grateful for that.
- A. very
 - B. slightly
 - C. wisely
- 19 She was ... an **accomplice**. She had helped a murderer escape.
- A. criminal partner
 - B. crime victim
 - C. accidental helper
- 20 The counterman **emerged** from the kitchen at the rear and sized them up expertly.
- A. shouted or yelled
 - B. came out (appeared)
 - C. listened carefully

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	resent	Used 3 times in this book.
2	B	tone (<i>as in: the tone of the essay</i>)	High-utility academic word
3	C	twilight (<i>as in: pink clouds in a twilight sky</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
4	C	precise (<i>as in: about noon; 12:03 to be precise</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	A	solemn	Used 2 times in this book.
6	B	persist	Used 2 times in this book.
7	C	abrupt (<i>as in: an abrupt change</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
8	A	comprehend	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	A	scorn	High-utility academic word
10	A	elated	Used 2 times in this book.
11	B	melancholy	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	vary	High-utility academic word
13	B	earnest	High-utility academic word
14	B	demonstrate (<i>as in: It demonstrates my point.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	A	appeal (<i>as in: appeals to youthful tastes</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	C	poise	Used 3 times in this book.
17	A	parched	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	A	accomplice	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	emerge	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
