

Westside Story

by Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim

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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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: beckon, depravity, deprive, detach, elaborate, exasperated, faint, harangue, immigrate, intercept, neurotic, nostalgia, obscure, primarily, resignation, respective, segregation, taunt, waver, wistful



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	B
11	C
12	B
13	B
14	B
15	B
16	B
17	C
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. The police officer **beckoned** me to come over.
 - A. considered asking
 - B. called
 - C. prohibited
2. Feed your better nature--not the depravity within you.
 - A. evilness
 - B. impatience
 - C. weakness
3. The court ruling **deprived** him of custody of his children.
 - A. granted
 - B. stripped
 - C. delayed
4. These days, she seems emotionally **detached** whenever she talks about him.
 - A. separated
 - B. connected
 - C. heightened
5. He walked with an elaborate swagger.
 - A. exaggerated
 - B. slightly noticeable
 - C. rudely disrespectful
6. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - A. very active
 - B. endearing (lovable)
 - C. greatly annoying
7. He **fainted** left and then charged from the right.
 - A. faked
 - B. attacked strongly
 - C. moved sideways
8. The class was subjected to a ten-minute **harangue** for not taking their homework more seriously.
 - A. assignment
 - B. lecture
 - C. delay
9. At that time, most of the people who **immigrated** to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
 - A. relocated
 - B. exported goods
 - C. visited
10. The fighter plane was ordered to **intercept** an aircraft that had entered the country's airspace.
 - A. guide to safety
 - B. stop in transit
 - C. shoot from range
11. Her **neurotic** fear of heights prevented her from enjoying the breathtaking view from the skyscraper's observation deck.
 - A. present since birth
 - B. learned from bad experience
 - C. excessive worry about

12. My parents are sometimes **nostalgic** about their college days.
- A. secretive
 - B. longing
 - C. bitter
13. Our view was **obscured** by the smoke.
- A. enhanced
 - B. blocked
 - C. made frightening
14. The second paragraph is **primarily** concerned with showing how the colleges are different.
- A. barely
 - B. mainly
 - C. secretly
15. She said that if I don't **resign**, I will be fired.
- A. do better
 - B. quit
 - C. renew an agreement
16. The runners returned to their **respective** lanes after the practice drill.
- A. shared, common
 - B. separate, individual
 - C. randomly chosen
17. The court ruling helped end **segregation** in public schools.
- A. equal treatment
 - B. shared leadership
 - C. forced separation
18. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
 - B. insulted
 - C. surrounded
19. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady
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 It is **primarily** a condensation of the growing rivalry between two teen-age gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, each of which has its own prideful uniform.
A. really
B. mainly
C. wisely
- 2 Below, Riff is **haranguing**.
A. surgically interrupting nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
B. trying to persuade, or criticizing, or sharing a tirade in an impassioned and often annoying manner
C. avoiding or trying to avoid either a responsibility or telling the whole truth
- 3 ANITA MARIA [**exasperated**] Anita, it is now to be a dress of dancing, no longer for kneeling in front of an altar.
A. said indirectly
B. came or arrived
C. greatly annoyed
- 4 Both gangs are jitterbugging wildly with their bodies, but their faces, although they are enjoying themselves, remain cool, almost **detached**.
A. emotionally uninvolved (separated from their feelings)
B. pointed to differences between; or compared to show differences
C. legally ordered to provide documents, or to appear as a witness
- 5 Riff steps forward and **beckons** to his girl, Velma.
A. surprises -- often so much that one doesn't know what to say or do
B. calls (to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod)
C. spends time with; or the people with whom someone spends much time
- 6 They have been cheering on their **respective** friends, clapping in rhythm.
A. in a manner of accepting something as true (without proof)
B. relating separately to the people or things just mentioned
C. lacking emission of a stream of particles in nuclear decay
- 7 TONY [He is **unaware** that Bernardo is crossing toward him, but Riff **intercepts**.]
A. provides evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
B. stops him in route
C. (noun) causes of dissatisfaction OR (verb) causes dissatisfaction
- 8 [She sings **nostalgically**.]
A. separately in the specified order
B. with a longing for something past
C. in the manner of an investigation
- 9 An **immigrant** goes to America
A. person who comes to live in a new country
B. something accepted as true (without proof)
C. relating to properties of sound or hearing
- 10 DOC What're you gonna be when you grow up?
ANYBODYS [**wistfully**.] A telephone call girl!
A. with longing or unfulfilled desire
B. in a manner that involves betrayal
C. following as a result of something
- 11 Instantly, they shift positions so they are mixed up, no **segregation**.
A. an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
B. removing something that was caught by something else; or separating or smoothing things that were twisted together in a confusing mass
C. keeping people separate based on ethnicity

- 12 *They jockey for position, feinting, dueling; the two gangs shift position, now and again temporarily obscuring the fighters.*
- A. making deceptive motions (as when pretending to attack to try to get the opponent off balance)
 - B. suffering through (or putting up with) something difficult or unpleasant
 - C. overwhelming with a large number OR flooding (overwhelming with water)
- 13 *They jockey for position, feinting, dueling; the two gangs shift position, now and again temporarily obscuring the fighters.*
- A. changing to fit a different situation
 - B. hiding (blocking the view of, or partially blocking the view of)
 - C. strongly desiring; or a strong desire
- 14 *the kids waver, run one way, another, in panic, confusion.*
- A. portray or create in a particular way OR interpret, translate, or extract from
 - B. to release from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
 - C. are unsure and move back and forth
- 15 *Miss America can just resign!*
- A. draw
 - B. quit (from her position)
 - C. rule
- 16 *Elaborately casual, they start sauntering off as Krupke appears.*
- A. in an exaggerated manner
 - B. in a manner that changes
 - C. in an understated manner
- 17 *It keeps us deprived kids off the foul streets.*
- A. of the Netherlands or its people
 - B. lacking things most people enjoy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 18 *It's just his neurosis that oughta be curbed.*
- A. supporters of Oliver Cromwell and his side in the English Civil War
 - B. people of the second most populous denomination of Islam (over 10%)
 - C. a mild mental disorder -- usually worrying too much about something
- 19 *Hey, I'm depraved on account I'm deprived!*
- A. immoral
 - B. moved again into position to work; or started again
 - C. not examined in an attempt to improve understanding
- 20 *The taunting breaks out into a wild, savage dance, with epithets hurled at Anita,*
- A. giving an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - B. intentionally angering, challenging, or upsetting someone
 - C. keeping people and goods from reaching a location

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	primarily	High-utility academic word
2	B	harangue	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
3	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word
4	A	detach	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	B	beckon	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	B	respective	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	B	intercept	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	B	nostalgia	High-utility academic word
9	A	immigrate	Used 2 times in this play.
10	A	wistful	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	C	segregation	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	feint	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	B	obscure (<i>as in: it obscured my view</i>)	High-utility academic word
14	C	waver	High-utility academic word
15	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	A	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate wink</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
17	B	deprive	Used 2 times in this play.
18	C	neurotic	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	A	depravity	Used 2 times in this play.
20	B	taunt	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.