

When You Reach Me

by Rebecca Stead

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: allegiance, Amsterdam, conspiracy, despise, essential, gesture, hysteria, notify, oblivious, omen, physics, positive, principal, recite, repulsive, Shakespeare, stationery, swagger, tempest, torment



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	A
10	C
11	B
12	C
13	B
14	B
15	A
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. We owe no **allegiance** to the outdated ideas of our political party.
 - A. hatred
 - B. money
 - C. loyalty
2. We saw the Anne Frank House, the Rijksmuseum, and the Van Gogh Museum while we were in **Amsterdam**.
 - A. the largest city of Belgium
 - B. largest city of the Netherlands
 - C. largest city of Turkey
3. She is inclined to believe **conspiracy** theories.
 - A. unproven
 - B. scientific
 - C. secret plot
4. She **despises** his lifestyle.
 - A. admires
 - B. wants
 - C. hates
5. Regular exercise is **essential** for maintaining good cardiovascular health.
 - A. occasionally helpful
 - B. absolutely necessary
 - C. completely optional
6. She **gestured** toward the empty chair, inviting him to sit down.
 - A. signaled with a body movement
 - B. gradually moved closer
 - C. pointed out with a comment
7. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of **hysteria**.
 - A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
8. The school will **notify** parents if the schedule changes.
 - A. ignore
 - B. punish
 - C. inform
9. She's a happy girl--**oblivious** to most of the unhappiness around her.
 - A. unaware of
 - B. concerned with
 - C. adding to
10. The appearance of Halley's comet in 1066, was seen by many as an omen that the Norman Conquest would be successful.
 - A. a scientific explanation
 - B. the cause (of an important event)
 - C. a sign (of what would happen)
11. She became interested in **physics** after building a model rocket that launched using air pressure.
 - A. study of living things
 - B. science of matter and energy
 - C. study of human cultures

12. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
13. The **principal** reason for the delay was bad weather.
- A. final
 - B. main
 - C. stated
14. The children **recited** the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A. memorized
 - B. said aloud
 - C. listened to
15. She found the bully's rude behavior **repulsive**.
- A. deeply offensive
 - B. warmly inviting
 - C. calmly soothing
16. In the play *As You Like It* Shakespeare wrote "A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool."
- A. writer and humorist best known for his novels about Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn
 - B. author widely regarded as the greatest in the English language
 - C. author who depicted social injustice in such stories as *Oliver Twist*
17. She has beautiful **stationery** for writing notes.
- A. paper and envelopes
 - B. handwriting
 - C. choice of words
18. The cowboy **swaggered** into the saloon with his holster unstrapped.
- A. limped with difficulty
 - B. walked confidently
 - C. snuck
19. A **tempest** swept over the island.
- A. darkness
 - B. fear
 - C. storm
20. Bullies made his school days a constant torment he could not escape.
- A. severe suffering
 - B. great enjoyment
 - C. simple confusion

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 Mom wonders if that's a good **omen**.
 - A. make someone want to do something
 - B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
 - C. sign of something about to happen
- 2 I had left my keys at school and waited two and a half hours at Belle's Market on **Amsterdam** Avenue for Mom to get home from work.
 - A. measures of general intelligence
 - B. largest city of the Netherlands
 - C. fundamentalist Islamic militia
- 3 When she finally got there, Mom hugged Belle and told her, "I owe you," like I was some **repulsive** burden instead of the person who had very helpfully unpacked three boxes of green bananas and scoured the refrigerated section for expired dairy items.
 - A. very unpleasant or causing disgust
 - B. a tendency to think back on things
 - C. relating to surrounding conditions
- 4 The Miranda warnings are **essential**, you know.
 - A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. necessary or important or relating to the basic nature of something
 - C. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
- 5 —and then there's **Shakespeare**.
 - A. relating to a discipline and school of thought discussing the mystical aspect of Judaism and hidden meanings in Hebrew scripture
 - B. author widely regarded as the greatest in the English language and whose works include *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*
 - C. previously called Calcutta; influential city in East India; known for severe poverty, political activism, and cultural influence
- 6 He invented the name Miranda, you know, for **The Tempest**.
 - A. a long and determined effort for a cause that is passionately believed to be important
 - B. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer
 - C. a violent commotion or disturbance -- especially a violent storm or emotional outburst
- 7 Some of the categories are harder to figure out, like "things you **recite**" (poetry, the Pledge of Allegiance) or "things you squeeze" (a tube of toothpaste, someone's hand).
 - A. recommend or require what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) give medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
 - B. to say or read something aloud -- especially something previously memorized such as a poem

or:

to say in detail -- especially a list of things

 - C. fear, or anticipate with worry (commonly only seen in the forms "apprehensive" and "apprehension," but seen in this form in classic literature)
- 8 Some of the categories are harder to figure out, like "things you **recite**" (poetry, the Pledge of Allegiance) or "things you squeeze" (a tube of toothpaste, someone's hand).
 - A. thought
 - B. payment
 - C. loyalty
- 9 This is more like **physics**.
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. the science of matter and energy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains

- 10 *I sat next to Alice Evans, who never complained about anything, and Annemarie sat next to Jay Stringer, who was **oblivious** to the world when he was reading, but Colin sat next to Julia.*
- A. unaware of
 - B. related to
 - C. very large
- 11 *And I **despise** the smell of pickles.*
- A. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
 - B. technical: center or concentration
 - C. dislike strongly and look down upon
- 12 *Annemarie **gestured** me over.*
- A. a movement or signal of the body used to communicate; or to make such a movement
 - B. change a letter from lower to upper case -- especially the first letter of words
 - C. rock which has been created from layers of sediment laying on top of one another
- 13 *Jimmy **swaggered** over to the phone with a huge smile on his face.*
- A. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
 - B. walked or behaved in a highly confident manner
 - C. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
- 14 *Somehow we became so completely **hysterical** that we were still having what Mom calls fits of helpless laughter when we got to school.*
- A. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things seem incongruous together
 - C. marked by a colonnade (series of regularly spaced columns) surrounding a building or enclosing a courtyard
- 15 *So we went into Gold's **Stationery** and bought Jimmy a greeting card.*
- A. paper and envelopes for writing letters
 - B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
 - C. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
- 16 *Torment, yes.*
- A. to cause or to experience great mental or physical suffering
 - B. provide investment funds for something -- such as a business
 - C. point to differences between; or compare to show differences
- 17 *Louisa thought that McDonald's was a giant **conspiracy** against the health of all Americans.*
- A. the best or most important
 - B. harsh and unfair treatment
 - C. a secret agreement or plot
- 18 *Remember the morning you waited for him in the lobby until you were absolutely, **positively** going to be late, and then you rang his doorbell, and it turned out he'd gone to school without you?*
- A. without regret
 - B. with hard work
 - C. with certainty
- 19 *We can use the **principal's** office for a few minutes so that you can brief me about whatever allegations have been made.*
- A. serving to help explain or demonstrate something
 - B. most important; or person that is most important
 - C. the state or degree of criticism or disagreement
- 20 *But of course you can't speak with Mr. Heilbroner himself until his parents have been **notified**.*
- A. not judged in a negative way
 - B. found, sought, or researched
 - C. told someone about something

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	omen	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	Amsterdam	Used 11 times in this book.
3	A	repulsive (<i>as in: she found him repulsive</i>)	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	B	essential	High-utility academic word
5	B	Shakespeare (<i>as in: William Shakespeare</i>)	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	C	tempest	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	B	recite	Used about 17 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	C	allegiance	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	B	physics	Used 2 times in this book.
10	A	oblivious	Used 2 times in this book.
11	C	despise	Used about 13 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	gesture (<i>as in: gestured towards her</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
13	B	swagger	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	hysteria	Used about 12 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	stationery	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	A	torment	Used about 13 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	C	conspiracy	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	Used about 19 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	principal	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	notify	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.