

# Where the Red Fern Grows

by Wilson Rawls

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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

Answer Key — Preview .....	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview .....	3	

#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context .....	5	
Answer Key — In Context .....	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

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#### 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:** begrudge, bewilder, cease, cleave, coax, commotion, debris, dumfounded, fidget, foliage, monotonous, paralysis, passage, quiver, solemn, sprain, squabble, sulk, undermine, waver



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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

**Vocabulary Preview**  
**Where the Red Fern Grows**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

1. I don't **begrudge** her success. She's earned it.
  - A. resent
  - B. experience surprise at
  - C. hope for luck for
2. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
  - A. confused
  - B. bored
  - C. distracted
3. The injunction requires that they **cease** all activity on the site.
  - A. stop
  - B. record
  - C. permit
4. It has the ability to **cleave** carbon-carbon bonds.
  - A. split
  - B. identify
  - C. find
5. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
  - A. trick
  - B. gently persuade
  - C. drag forcefully
6. Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
  - A. disturbance
  - B. outburst of laughter
  - C. accident
7. Crews spent hours clearing **debris** from the highway after the crash.
  - A. intact structures
  - B. valuable items
  - C. scattered wreckage
8. She was too **dumbfounded** to answer.
  - A. surprised
  - B. unintelligent
  - C. polite
9. She **fidged** like a child caught in a lie.
  - A. moved restlessly
  - B. was embarrassed
  - C. cried
10. I like to rest my eyes by periodically looking up from the computer and gazing out the window at the **foliage**.
  - A. birds
  - B. plant leaves
  - C. clouds
11. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, **monotonous** roads.
  - A. dark
  - B. narrow
  - C. boring

12. She is **paralyzed** from the waist down.
- A. feeling a painful tingling
  - B. having muscle spasms
  - C. unable to move the body
13. After reading each **passage**, choose the best answer to each question.
- A. article
  - B. short part of a longer work
  - C. route to get somewhere
14. Her hands began to **quiver** as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
  - B. tightly grip
  - C. quickly move
15. Everyone was **solemn** at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
  - B. teary eyed
  - C. dressed in dark colors
16. The doctor said it was a mild **sprain** and didn't require a cast—just rest and ice.
- A. minor skin scratch
  - B. broken bone
  - C. twisted joint injury
17. They **squabble** all the time.
- A. sing
  - B. play
  - C. quarrel
18. She **sulked** for the rest of the week when she learned she would not make the starting team.
- A. worked tirelessly to improve
  - B. was unhappy and unsociable
  - C. was angry and lashed out
19. The purpose of the UN Human Rights Commission is undermined by dictators who have maneuvered to control it.
- A. strengthened
  - B. weakened
  - C. celebrated
20. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
  - B. grow rapidly
  - C. be unsteady

# Vocabulary in Context

## Where the Red Fern Grows

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

- 1 I remembered a **passage** from the Bible my mother had read to us: "God helps those who help themselves."
  - A. the act of stopping a battle or fight
  - B. a short part of a longer written work
  - C. dense, rainy forest with many species
- 2 Grandpa was **dumbfounded**. He tried to say something, but it wouldn't come out.
  - A. so surprised he was made temporarily speechless
  - B. pointed to differences between; or compared to show differences
  - C. separated OR emotionally uninvolved (separated from emotions)
- 3 It seems that the worries and wants of a young boy never **cease**.
  - A. end (discontinue)
  - B. influence or effect
  - C. gain advantage from
- 4 He would sometimes crawl up under an **undermined** bank or into an old muskrat den.
  - A. wrongly understood
  - B. weakened gradually
  - C. influenced opinion
- 5 He was **bewildered and mad**.
  - A. confused
  - B. restored
  - C. collided
- 6 She made an effort to stand but couldn't. Her muscles were **paralyzed** and the blood had long since ceased to flow.
  - A. portrayed or created something in a particular way OR interpreted, translated, or extracted from
  - B. changed the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening
  - C. unable to move
- 7 **Begrudgingly**, they walked out.
  - A. in a resentful manner; or giving unwillingly
  - B. in a manner that is not sensible and careful
  - C. in a manner that is capable of being noticed
- 8 **Debris** from floods had caught in the limbs,
  - A. the act of treating or preparing food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
  - B. passages food and drink follow between the back of mouths and the stomachs
  - C. remains (stuff of no value that was left behind)
- 9 Just then I heard growling, and a **commotion** off to one side.
  - A. noisy disturbance
  - B. circular movement
  - C. size or dimension
- 10 "Yes, Mama," I said, and **sulked** off to my room.
  - A. not limited or without boundaries
  - B. was overly unhappy and unsociable
  - C. not embarrassed or self-conscious
- 11 In a **solemn** voice, he said, "We won't talk about this again."
  - A. very serious
  - B. indicating approval or agreement
  - C. able to be taken on as one's own
- 12 From far back in the flinty hills, the **monotonous** call of a hoot owl floated down in the silent night.
  - A. increasingly more frightening and/or dangerous
  - B. interesting and/or stimulating
  - C. lacking in variety

- 13 *His body was stiff and straight, his head high in the air, his large muscles **quivered** and jerked under his glossy coat, but something went wrong.*
- A. to shake or tremble slightly
  - B. not working or not operating
  - C. calculates or judges too low
- 14 *Hearing the word beat, Grandpa began to **fidget**.*
- A. make small restless movements
  - B. select (on a computer screen)
  - C. consume or destroy completely
- 15 *I don't think it's broken, but it sure is a bad **sprain**.*
- A. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
  - B. (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
  - C. injury to the ligaments of a joint caused by stretching them too far
- 16 *Just when they were on the verge of sawing it in two, so each would have her allotted share, Papa settled the **squabble** by giving the oldest one a silver dollar.*
- A. indicating criticism or disagreement, or "no"
  - B. to be most powerful, important, or noticeable
  - C. argument
- 17 *Then I saw them--two burning, yellow eyes--staring at me from the shadowy **foliage** of the tree.*
- A. shadows
  - B. plant leaves
  - C. clouds
- 18 *The keen edge **cleaved** through the tough skin.*
- A. cut through
  - B. took on as one's own
  - C. differed; or changed
- 19 *I talked to her and tried to **coax** her out.*
- A. to think of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
  - B. try to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gentle persuasion
  - C. give authority, power, knowledge, or confidence to someone so they can do something
- 20 *The red fern **wavered** and danced to the music of the hills.*
- A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
  - B. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
  - C. moved back and forth

**ANSWER KEY**  
**Vocabulary in Context**  
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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	passage ( <i>as in: In lines 1-9 of the passage...</i> )	High-utility academic word
2	A	dumfounded	Used 2 times in this book.
3	A	cease	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
4	B	undermine	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	A	bewilder	Used 2 times in this book.
6	C	paralysis	Used 5 times in this book.
7	A	begrudge	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	C	debris	Used 2 times in this book.
9	A	commotion	Used 4 times in this book.
10	B	sulk	Used 2 times in this book.
11	A	solemn	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	monotonous	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	A	quiver	Used 7 times in this book.
14	A	fidget	Used 2 times in this book.
15	C	sprain	Used 4 times in this book.
16	C	squabble	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	foliage	Used 3 times in this book.
18	A	cleave ( <i>as in: cleave through</i> )	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	coax ( <i>as in: coax her to join us</i> )	Used 4 times in this book.
20	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.