

Words by Heart

by Ouida Sebestyen

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

Vocabulary in Context	5	
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: apprehensive, aspire, audacious, chronological, congregation, contempt, earnest, fortitude, gaunt, hallowed, inferior, jut, liable, omit, perplex, quiver, solemn, taut, wane, waver



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She is **apprehensive** about finals.
A. talkative
B. worried
C. unconcerned
2. The young artist **aspires** to create masterpieces that will inspire generations to come.
A. hopes
B. delays
C. fears
3. It is an **audacious** plan.
A. likely to succeed
B. bold and daring
C. improperly considered
4. The art works are displayed to show technique in a way that ordinary regional or chronological display wouldn't permit.
A. by region
B. by artist
C. by date
5. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
A. people who agree
B. people who worship together
C. people who meet periodically
6. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
A. great annoyance
B. lack of respect
C. impatience
7. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
A. frivolous attitude
B. seriousness
C. falseness
8. She showed **fortitude** by staying calm and determined during the long recovery.
A. physical speed
B. mental courage
C. sudden anger
9. Don Quixote looked **gaunt** and tired.
A. very worried
B. very thin
C. very bored
10. Visitors spoke softly as they entered the **hallowed** memorial.
A. deeply respected
B. newly repaired
C. open to everyone
11. The cheaper headphones sounded **inferior** to the ones she usually used.
A. lower in quality
B. higher in quality
C. equal in value

12. She tripped on a thick tree root that **jutted** out across the muddy path.
- A. washed away
 - B. curled up
 - C. stuck out
13. She's not **liable** to forget something that important.
- A. the state or degree of being less than zero
 - B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
 - C. likely
14. She **omitted** a few details to place herself in a more favorable light.
- A. made up
 - B. exaggerated
 - C. left out
15. I am **perplexed** by her sudden change of mind on this important issue.
- A. amused
 - B. annoyed
 - C. confused
16. Her hands began to **quiver** as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
 - B. tightly grip
 - C. quickly move
17. Everyone was **solemn** at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
18. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy
19. Their passion **waned** over the years, but their love continued to grow.
- A. changed direction
 - B. gradually decreased
 - C. turned mutual
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

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 The whole **congregation** was there, it seemed like, and new faces that might be relatives or friends of the contestants.
A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
B. people who worship together in the same building
C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 2 Winslow smiled, and in his deep, **earnest** voice said, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
A. impossible to find
B. sincere or serious
C. good or beneficial
- 3 He sounded like he was **liable** to go right through Genesis without a hitch.
A. devices that convert light into electricity
B. temperature scale used in most of the world
C. likely to; or maybe going to; or subject to
- 4 The lamplight **wavered** on the water bucket and Papa's shaving mirror, and went still.
A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
B. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
C. was unsure or weak; or moved back and forth
- 5 Lena rolled her eyes to show **fortitude**, and nodded.
A. unconstrained in some way -- such as untied or no longer obligated
B. strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage
C. the highest degree awarded in universities in many fields of study
- 6 His silence made her more **apprehensive** than hearing something terrible would have.
A. not representative
B. nervous or worried
C. impossible to find
- 7 A **hallowed** spot.
A. treated as sacred or greatly respected
B. able to be protected or kept unchanged
C. able to accept as true (without proof)
- 8 She could see the windmill at home, fluttering like some kind of **gaunt**, tethered bird.
A. not having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
B. very thin and bony -- often from hunger or as though having been worn to the bone
C. able to qualify for regular payments that permit having an income without working
- 9 Papa's way of thinking **perplexed** her.
A. excessively excited
B. nervous or confused
C. confused or puzzled
- 10 Hundreds of glass vases and prisms and statues and lamp globes **quivered** as Mrs. Chism swept past in a windstorm of flounces.
A. to shake or tremble slightly
B. not working or not operating
C. calculates or judges too low
- 11 She went in and set the table for Mrs. Chism, numbed by her own **audacity**.
A. act of hiring again
B. boldness and daring
C. wrong understanding

- 12 LENA HAD GRABBED Professor Gurshef's *Illustrated Atlas of the World – Being a Compendium of Statistical, Descriptive, Chronological, Geographical, Astronomical and Political Information Respecting All the Peoples and Nations of the Earth*.
- A. able to meet and talk with
 - B. the quality of disagreeing
 - C. arranged according to time
- 13 You **omitted** to tell Miss Chism you took her books, didn't you?
- A. learned, discovered, or decided
 - B. took up or received into heaven
 - C. to exclude or neglect something
- 14 Mr. Haney's chin suddenly **jutted** with pride.
- A. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
 - B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
 - C. to stick out; or a part that sticks out
- 15 Papa followed, dropping Baby Mine down the back of Lena's dress as he passed straight-faced and solemn.
- A. very serious--possibly dignified
 - B. indicating approval or agreement
 - C. able to be taken on as one's own
- 16 They're to **aspire** to.
- A. hope to be successful
 - B. decrease in intensity
 - C. express strong regret
- 17 She couldn't bear to think of their **contempt** turned on her.
- A. frustration at being treated unfairly
 - B. dislike and disrespect
 - C. prejudice or unfair treatment
- 18 As she started on the yams, the rope she had dropped wiggled and snapped **taut**.
- A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;
or: subjected to great tension
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 19 Yes, Elsie, throughout history the superior races have necessarily shouldered the burden of ruling the **inferior** ones.
- A. (adjective) of low quality, or of lower quality or rank than something else OR (more rarely as a noun) a person of lower rank or status
 - B. relating to existentialism -- a philosophical movement that assumes each person is free to determine what is essential in their existence
 - C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
- 20 If it looked like the letter C it was **waning**, Papa had taught her.
- A. creating dramatic change
 - B. declining or diminishing
 - C. beginning to fight again

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
2	B	earnest	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	C	liable (<i>as in: she is liable to</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
5	B	fortitude	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	B	apprehensive	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	A	hallowed	Used 2 times in this book.
8	B	gaunt	Used 2 times in this book.
9	C	perplex	Used 3 times in this book.
10	A	quiver	Used 5 times in this book.
11	B	audacious	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	chronological	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
13	C	omit	High-utility academic word
14	C	jut	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	solemn	Used 2 times in this book.
16	A	aspire	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
18	B	taut	Used 3 times in this book.
19	A	inferior	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	wane	Used 2 times in this book.