

A Curtain of Green

by Eudora Welty

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: abundant, appropriate, beseech, bewilder, cease, compel, cultivate, docile, heed, intricate, mesmerize, nimble, obliterate, oblivious, prelude, preoccupied, recollect, reputable, strenuous, vigor



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The region has **abundant** natural resources, from oil to fresh water.
 - A. extremely scarce
 - B. highly disputed
 - C. widely available
2. The movie is not **appropriate** for young children.
 - A. bad
 - B. good
 - C. funny
3. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
 - A. asking
 - B. demanding
 - C. instructing
4. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - A. confused
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
5. The injunction requires that they **cease** all activity on the site.
 - A. stop
 - B. record
 - C. permit
6. Can we **compel** the witness to testify?
 - A. prevent
 - B. force
 - C. delay
7. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
8. The sleddogs are **docile** and trainable.
 - A. easily led and managed
 - B. very strong and fast
 - C. smart and competitive
9. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
 - A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
10. The law in that area is **intricate**. I suggest you talk with a lawyer.
 - A. outdated
 - B. predictable
 - C. complicated
11. The dancer's graceful movements **mesmerized** the audience.
 - A. spellbound or enthralled
 - B. distracted or amused
 - C. shocked or surprised
12. Her **nimble** fingers danced on the keyboard.
 - A. long and attractive
 - B. quick and agile
 - C. ebony-colored

13. The tornado **obliterated** three homes.
- A. temporarily damaged
 - B. completely destroyed
 - C. completely missed
14. She's a happy girl--**oblivious** to most of the unhappiness around her.
- A. unaware of
 - B. concerned with
 - C. adding to
15. The quiet argument was a **prelude** to a much larger conflict at the meeting.
- A. decision made afterward
 - B. event that came before
 - C. problem solved quickly
16. Her mind was **preoccupied** with thoughts of the upcoming exam, making it hard for her to focus on the movie.
- A. unconcerned
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
17. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
18. No **reputable** scientist believes that.
- A. thoughtful
 - B. trusted and respected
 - C. under the age of 30
19. Landscaping is **strenuous** work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot
20. The scientist pursued her research with **vigor**, determined to make a breakthrough discovery.
- A. outside help
 - B. energy and strength
 - C. persistent patience

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 Now the intense light like a tweezers picked out her clumsy, small figure in its old pair of men's overalls rolled up at the sleeves and trousers, separated it from the thick leaves, and made it look strange and yellow as she worked with a hoe-over-**vigorous**, **disreputable**, and heedless.
 - A. uncultivated grasslands
 - B. with strength or energy
 - C. lowered moral standards
- 2 Now the intense light like a tweezers picked out her clumsy, small figure in its old pair of men's overalls rolled up at the sleeves and trousers, separated it from the thick leaves, and made it look strange and yellow as she worked with a hoe-over-**vigorous**, **disreputable**, and heedless.
 - A. acceptance of what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly
 - B. not trusted or respected -- especially thought to engage in illegal activities
 - C. the state of being a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance
- 3 Within its border of hedge, high like a wall, and visible only from the upstairs windows of the neighbors, this slanting, tangled garden, more and more **overabundant** and confusing, must have become so familiar to Mrs. Larkin that quite possibly by now she was unable to conceive of any other place.
 - A. aroused or inspired again
 - B. together at the same time
 - C. present in great quantity
- 4 It might seem that the extreme fertility of her garden formed at once a **preoccupation** and a challenge to Mrs. Larkin.
 - A. connected by blood or marriage; or a plant or animal related by origin or grouping
 - B. soccer: an unopposed kick awarded to a team due an infraction by the opposing team
 - C. busy thinking about or doing something so that other things are not noticed or done
- 5 Only by **ceaseless** activity could she cope with the rich blackness of this soil.
 - A. never-ending
 - B. not pleasing
 - C. disagreeable
- 6 ...without any regard for the ideas that her neighbors might elect in their club as to what constituted an **appropriate** vista,
 - A. especially good
 - B. suitable (fitting)
 - C. especially bad
- 7 Just to what end Mrs. Larkin worked so **strenuously** in her garden, her neighbors could not see.
 - A. with sympathy for another's suffering
 - B. in a manner that requires much effort
 - C. in a manner that is worthy of respect
- 8 To the neighbors gazing down from their upstairs windows it had the appearance of a sort of jungle, in which the slight, **heedless** form of its owner daily lost itself.
 - A. capable of thought, self-reflection, and will
 - B. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - C. ignorant or ignoring; or not following advice
- 9 She was busy with the hoe, clearing one of the last patches of **uncultivated** ground for some new shrubs.
 - A. made possible
 - B. not developed
 - C. got closer to
- 10 Her eyes were dull and puckered, as if from long impatience or **bewilderment**.
 - A. a feeling of extreme confusion
 - B. a type of small portable radio
 - C. a change; or a changed version

- 11 *But memory tightened about her easily, without any **prelude** of warning or even despair.*
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. something that comes before and prepares for what follows; in music, a short piece that introduces a larger work or stands alone as a brief, expressive piece (often for piano)
C. American football: a defensive maneuver to swiftly tackle the quarterback by pursuing him with one or more defenders who normally remain behind the line of scrimmage
- 12 *She had waited there on the porch for a time afterward, not moving at all—in a sort of **recollection**— as if to reach under and bring out from obliteration her protective words and to try them once again ...so as to change the whole happening.*
A. battle
B. result
C. memory
- 13 *She had waited there on the porch for a time afterward, not moving at all—in a sort of recollection— as if to reach under and bring out from **obliteration** her protective words and to try them once again ...so as to change the whole happening.*
A. light-emitting diodes -- semiconductor devices that emit light when current flows through them
B. to completely destroy or wipe out so that nothing remains -- either physically or figuratively
C. a door divided in such a fashion that the bottom half may remain shut while the top half opens
- 14 *Everything had stopped once again, the stillness had **mesmerized** the stems of the plants, and all the leaves went suddenly into thickness.*
A. spellbound or enthralled
B. distracted or amused
C. shocked or surprised
- 15 *A look of **docility** in the Negro's back as he knelt in the plants began to infuriate her.*
A. easily led or managed -- perhaps submissive or well-behaved
B. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
C. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
- 16 *The head of Jamey, bent there below her, seemed witless, terrifying, wonderful, almost inaccessible to her, and yet in its explicit nearness meant surely for destruction, with its clustered hot woolly hair, its **intricate**, glistening ears, its small brown branching streams of sweat, the bowed head holding so obviously and so fatally its ridiculous dream.*
A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
C. complicated -- having many complexly arranged elements
- 17 *Such a head she could strike off, intentionally, so deeply did she know, from the effect of a man's danger and death, its cause in oblivion; and so helpless was she, too helpless to defy the workings of accident, of life and death, of unaccountability.... Life and death, she thought, gripping the heavy hoe, life and death, which now meant nothing to her but which she was **compelled** continually to wield with both her hands, ceaselessly asking, Was it not possible to compensate?*
A. fruit cooked with sugar (like jam)
B. forced; or (more rarely) convinced
C. didn't trust or have confidence in
- 18 *He remembered all the while the **oblivious** crash of the windows next door being shut when the rain started.... But now, in this unseen place, it was he who stood looking at poor Mrs. Larkin.*
A. unaware of
B. related to
C. very large
- 19 *He bent down and in a horrified, piteous, **beseeking** voice he began to call her name until she stirred.*
A. asking or begging
B. telling (a story)
C. causing suffering
- 20 *Then he jumped **nimbly** to his feet and ran out of the garden.*
A. with strong desire
B. quickly and easily
C. in a sloped manner

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	vigor	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	reputable	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	C	abundant	High-utility academic word
4	C	preoccupied	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	cease	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
6	B	appropriate (<i>as in: it is appropriate</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	B	strenuous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	C	heed	Used 2 times in this story.
9	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word
10	A	bewilder	Used about 15 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	B	prelude	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	recollect	High-utility academic word
13	B	obliterate	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	mesmerize	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	docile	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	C	intricate	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	compel	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	A	oblivious	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	A	beseech	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	B	nimble	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.