

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

by James Joyce

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: aesthetic, ardent, baptism, heresy, jargon, languid, listless, loathe, malice, mortified, obscure, omnipotent, peasant, penitent, pious, repent, scorn, spurn, squalid, squalor



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	C
9	C
10	B
11	B
12	B
13	C
14	C
15	C
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. She expressed concern about the **aesthetic** impact of wind turbines in such beautiful countryside.
A. related to money
B. related to beauty
C. related to morality
2. She is an **ardent** defender of free speech.
A. standing above others in attainment or reputation
B. enthusiastic (feeling intense emotion)
C. existing as an inseparable part or characteristic
3. The baby's **baptism** took place at the local church on Sunday.
A. religious ceremony
B. first birthday party
C. doctor's appointment
4. Before the separation of Church and State, an accusation of heresy could be treated as treason.
A. immorality
B. lying
C. witchcraft
5. The legal **jargon** in the contract was so complex that the client had to hire a lawyer to interpret it.
A. special vocabulary
B. complex ideas
C. underlying philosophy
6. She greeted us with a **languid** wave of the hand.
A. quick and sharp
B. slow and relaxed
C. stiff and formal
7. She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
A. unenergetic
B. frustrated
C. lonely
8. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
A. fear
B. avoid
C. hate
9. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
A. carelessly
B. mockingly
C. evilly
10. She felt **mortified** after tripping onstage during the awards ceremony.
A. great relief
B. exceedingly embarrassed
C. severe pain
11. Our view was **obscured** by the smoke.
A. enhanced
B. blocked
C. made frightening
12. His book was called **Omnipotent Government**.
A. knowing everything
B. all powerful
C. present everywhere

13. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
 - B. young person
 - C. poor farmer
14. After breaking the window, the **penitent** boy apologized to his neighbor.
- A. proud of one's actions
 - B. confused about the rules
 - C. feeling regret for wrongdoing
15. Benjamin Franklin's parents were **pious** Puritans.
- A. non-traditional
 - B. traditional
 - C. highly religious
16. She said the U.S. should **repent** for the sins of fossil fuels.
- A. reimburse
 - B. apologize
 - C. suffer
17. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
18. She **spurned** both major parties in the last election.
- A. joined
 - B. rejected
 - C. founded
19. The refugees lived in **squalid** conditions with no clean water or proper shelter.
- A. clean and pleasant
 - B. loud and crowded
 - C. filthy and unpleasant
20. While my living conditions are not what I would like, they are far better than the kind of **squalor** I read of in Charles Dickens novels.
- A. slum
 - B. cruelty
 - C. 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 A dusk like that of the outer world **obscured** his mind as he heard the mare's hoofs clattering along the tramtrack on the Rock Road and the great can swaying and rattling behind him.
 - A. emphasized (called attention to something)
 - B. clouded (made less clear)
 - C. not fit for service to humans or home life
- 2 He chronicled with patience what he saw, detaching himself from it and tasting its **mortifying** flavour in secret.
 - A. sticking out, attracting more attention than desired, or imposing on others
 - B. extremely embarrassed and ashamed—so humiliated that pride feels wounded.
 - C. changing to multiple areas of control or concentration (rather than just 1)
- 3 Now, as then, he stood **listlessly** in his place, seemingly a tranquil watcher of the scene before him.
 - A. with a lack of energy and normal enthusiasm
 - B. in a manner that stops or hinders something
 - C. in a manner involving only one part or side
- 4 His sensitive nature was still smarting under the lashes of an undivined and **squalid** way of life.
 - A. with the involvement of other people or things
 - B. the state or degree of being greater than zero
 - C. dirty and unpleasant; or (more rarely) immoral
- 5 This fellow has **heresy** in his essay.
 - A. opinions most people consider immoral
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 6 He was conscious of failure and of detection, of the **squalor** of his own mind and home, and felt against his neck the raw edge of his turned and jagged collar.
 - A. extremely dirty and unpleasant living conditions
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 7 Heron gave the lead and all three joined in a **scornful** laugh.
 - A. full of strong disrespect or rejection
 - B. able to accept as true (without proof)
 - C. able to be protected or kept unchanged
- 8 While he was still repeating the CONFITEOR amid the indulgent laughter of his hearers and while the scenes of that malignant episode were still passing sharply and swiftly before his mind he wondered why he bore no **malice** now to those who had tormented him.
 - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer
- 9 He went from country to country in the east, from Africa to India, from India to Japan, **baptizing** the people.
 - A. "spiritual renewing" a person in a Christian ceremony OR initiating or purifying by a challenging experience
 - B. restricting the amount of something each person can have -- such as food or gasoline when there is a shortage
 - C. competing in a contest to knock each other off horses with blunted lances OR competing in any kind of contest
- 10 And through the several torments of the senses the immortal soul is tortured eternally in its very essence amid the leagues upon leagues of glowing fires kindled in the abyss by the offended majesty of the **Omnipotent** God and fanned into everlasting and ever-increasing fury by the breath of the anger of the God-head.
 - A. not pleasing
 - B. all powerful
 - C. sticking out

- 11 *Why did you turn aside from your **pious** practices and good works?*
 A. not able to be translated
 B. able to be disagreed with
 C. highly religious
- 12 *No matter how many or how foul the sins if you only **repent** of them they will be forgiven you.*
 A. mark important text; or the text that is marked
 B. to feel regret for having done something wrong and to resolve to be a better person in the future
 C. give an opinion of what is wrong with something
- 13 *The **penitent** emerged from the side of the box.*
 A. having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 B. suffering from too few red blood cells
 or (less commonly): lacking vitality
 C. a person who expresses remorse (sorrow) for misdeeds
- 14 *His soul had arisen from the grave of boyhood, **spurning** her grave-clothes.*
 A. gradually adding or removing
 B. rejecting as not good enough
 C. subsequent (happening later)
- 15 *Had he felt the need of an implicit faith amid the welter of sectarianism and the **jargon** of its turbulent schisms, six principle men, peculiar people, seed and snake baptists, supralapsarian dogmatists?*
 A. specialized vocabulary
 B. mirror back (an image)
 C. create dramatic change
- 16 *Desire urges us to possess, to go to something; **loathing** urges us to abandon, to go from something.*
 A. changing through evolution
 B. stopping a battle or fight
 C. disgust or intense dislike
- 17 *This supreme quality is felt by the artist when the **esthetic** image is first conceived in his imagination.*
 A. the act of interacting or getting interested again
 B. related to beauty -- often referring to one's appreciation of beauty or one's sense of what is beautiful
 C. an image (seen on a mirror or other shiny surface)
- 18 *An afterglow deepened within his spirit, whence the white flame had passed, deepening to a rose and **ardent** light.*
 A. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
 B. feeling intense emotion (often enthusiasm or love)
 C. the trait of being difficult to meet and talk with
- 19 *A gradual warmth, a **languorous** weariness passed over him descending along his spine from his closely cowed head.*
 A. lacking a reason for doing something
 B. slow, relaxed, or with little energy
 C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 20 *peasants greeted them along the roads in the country;*
 A. organisms in the early stages of growth prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting; in humans organisms during the first eight weeks of development (prior to the fetal stage)
 B. members of an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
 C. people of low income, education, and social standing -- especially those who raise crops or livestock

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	obscure (<i>as in: it obscured my view</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	B	mortified (<i>as in: felt mortified</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
3	A	listless	Used 7 times in this book.
4	C	squalid	Used 4 times in this book.
5	A	heresy	Used 10 times in this book.
6	A	squalor	Used 5 times in this book.
7	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
8	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
9	A	baptism	Used 10 times in this book.
10	B	omnipotent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
11	C	pious (<i>as in: a good, pious woman</i>)	Used 19 times in this book.
12	B	repent	Used 28 times in this book.
13	C	penitent	Used 9 times in this book.
14	B	spurn	Used 4 times in this book.
15	A	jargon	Used 3 times in this book.
16	C	loathe	Used 10 times in this book.
17	B	aesthetic	High-utility academic word; used 31 times in this book.
18	B	ardent	Used 12 times in this book.
19	B	languid	Used 9 times in this book.
20	C	peasant	Used 13 times in this book.