

A Raisin in the Sun

by Lorraine Hansberry

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: appreciate (2), credulous, demonstrate, down payment, elaborate (2), exasperated, idealism, inclined, indifferent, indignant, meddle, mock, monologue, plaintive, precise (2), profound, vigor



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I would **appreciate** it if you would let me finish the story without interruption.
 - A. be grateful
 - B. reward
 - C. not ignore
2. She doesn't fully **appreciate** our difficulties.
 - A. explain
 - B. understand
 - C. increase
3. She is so **credulous** she believes everything she reads.
 - A. very skeptical
 - B. easily fooled
 - C. deeply thoughtful
4. The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
 - A. protested
 - B. shown
 - C. encouraged
5. They'll give us a lower interest rate if we can pay a larger **down payment**.
 - A. monthly payment
 - B. insurance fee
 - C. upfront cash payment
6. Their culture has **elaborate** wedding ceremonies.
 - A. generous
 - B. exciting
 - C. detailed
7. He walked with an **elaborate** swagger.
 - A. exaggerated
 - B. slightly noticeable
 - C. rudely disrespectful
8. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - A. very active
 - B. endearing (lovable)
 - C. greatly annoying
9. Her **idealism** made her believe the school could become fairer for everyone.
 - A. fear of change
 - B. belief in high ideals
 - C. love of comfort
10. I was **inclined** to laugh, but I overcame the urge.
 - A. disinclined
 - B. afraid
 - C. tending
11. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
 - A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger

12. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
- A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
13. Don't **meddle** in my affairs!
- A. interfere
 - B. pretend to understand
 - C. offer sympathy
14. American's have a hard time understanding that to **mock** Islam is to invite violence.
- A. discriminate against
 - B. not believe in
 - C. make fun of
15. Our conversation became more of a **monologue** on her part.
- A. speech
 - B. complaint
 - C. pity party
16. It is a **plaintive** poem
- A. sad
 - B. dramatic
 - C. joyful
17. The detective is talking to all the witnesses to try to determine the **precise** sequence of events.
- A. important
 - B. first
 - C. exact
18. She is **precise** in her thinking, appearance, and movements.
- A. meticulous (careful about details)
 - B. very serious--possibly dignified
 - C. not clear or easily identifiable
19. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
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

A Raisin in the Sun

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 (When she speaks to him, her voice has become a very gentle tease)
RUTH: (**Mocking**; as she thinks he would say it) Oh, Mama makes me so mad sometimes, I don't know what to do!
A. concentrating
B. bouncing back
C. imitating to make fun of
- 2 Her bearing is perhaps most like the noble bearing of the women of the Hereros of Southwest Africa—rather as if she imagines that as she walks she still bears a basket or a vessel upon her head. Her speech, on the other hand, is as careless as her carriage is **precise**—she is inclined to slur everything—
A. proper in form
B. able to be understood or explained
C. not connected by blood or marriage
- 3 BENEATHA: (Angrily, **precisely** as in the first scene of the play) What have you got to do with who I marry!
A. completely or totally
B. in a satisfied manner
C. exactly
- 4 I ain't **meddling**.
A. interfering (in another's affairs or business); or handling (something that shouldn't be handled)
B. changing the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening
C. cutting grass with a tool that has a curved blade and a long handle that is held with both hands
- 5 Brother isn't really crazy yet he—he's an **elaborate** neurotic.
A. exaggerated (or with lots of detail)
B. optimistic or agreeable
C. not sensible or careful
- 6 [As Ruth opens her gift from Travis] ...and lifts out an **elaborate**, but very elaborate, wide gardening hat, and all the adults break up at the sight of it
A. without gender classification
B. overly unhappy and unsociable
C. having details and complexity
- 7 (RUTH: Almost gently, with **profound** understanding) You think you a woman, Bennie—but you still a little girl.
A. deep (of great intensity or depth)
B. without a tendency to be full of thought
C. lacking a tendency to be full of thought
- 8 (Pause) I gave her a five-dollar **down** payment
A. two successive lines of poetry; usually rhymed
B. the main building (or buildings) of government
C. a partial payment made at the time of purchase
- 9 In one second we will hear all about the great Ashanti empires; the great Songhay civilizations; and the great sculpture of Benin—and then some poetry in the Bantu—and the whole **monologue** will end with the word heritage!
A. a long uninterrupted speech
B. result or predictable value
C. the highest-ranking manager
- 10 (RUTH folds her hands rather primly on her lap, determined to **demonstrate** the civilization of the family) Warm, ain't it? I mean for September.
A. draw
B. show
C. quit

- 11 WALTER: *Me and you ought to sit down and talk sometimes, man. Man, I got me some ideas.*
 GEORGE: *(With boredom) Yeah—sometimes we'll have to do that, Walter.*
 WALTER: *(Understanding the indifference, and offended) Yeah—well, when you get the time, man...*
- lack of interest
 - risky investment
 - chaotic disorder
- 12 *(Plaintively) Walter Lee—why don't we just try to talk about it ...*WALTER: *(Not listening) I been out talking with people who understand me*
- in a sad manner
 - done on purpose
 - with steadiness
- 13 *(Frightened at this telling) Well—well—it's out there in Clybourne Park— (Rum's radiance fades abruptly, and WALTER finally turns slowly to face his mother with incredulity and hostility) RUTH: Where*
- social event or ceremony
 - a state of not believing
 - Islamic religious leader
- 14 *(Struck senseless with the news, in its various degrees of goodness and trouble, she sits a moment, her fists propping her chin in thought, and then she starts to rise, bringing her fists down with vigor, the radiance spreading from cheek to cheek again) Well —well*
- lacking things most people enjoy
 - strength, energy, or good health
 - opposed to people who are Jewish
- 15 *This is a woman who decided long ago to be enthusiastic about EVERYTHING in life and she is inclined to wave her wrist vigorously at the height of her exclamatory comments.*
- not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 - the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 - has a tendency
- 16 BENEATHA: *(With appreciation of the two meanings, which escape RUTH and WALTER) Un-huh.*
- calculating or judging too low
 - understanding (of a situation)
 - someone who disturbs or annoys
- 17 *I'm going to try to get right to the point. I'm sure we'll all appreciate that in the long run.*
- be grateful for
 - degrade (decrease) the purity, quality, or status of something
 - bad feeling such as embarrassment, disappointment, or annoyance
- 18 *(Indignantly) What's the matter with you all!*
- with anger or annoyance at something unjust or wrong
 - with surprise as something unexpected
 - with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 19 *And it is very odd but those who see the changes—who dream, who will not give up—are called idealists . . . and those who see only the circle we call them the "realists"!*
- things that are different than others of their type (synonyms could include: adaptations, versions, alternate forms)
 - people who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often implying that they are unrealistic
 - things created -- typically works of music or writing; or acts of creating such work; or the structures of such work
- 20 BENEATHA: *(Staring at him and crossing away with exasperation) Oh—Asagai—at this moment you decide to be romantic!*
- relative amount
 - in disagreement
 - great annoyance

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	mock (<i>as in: don't mock me</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	A	precise (<i>as in: a precise personality</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	precise (<i>as in: about noon; 12:03 to be precise</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	meddle	Used 2 times in this book.
5	A	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate wink</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	C	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate design</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
8	C	down payment	Used 2 times in this book.
9	A	monologue	Used 2 times in this book.
10	B	demonstrate (<i>as in: It demonstrates my point.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
11	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	A	plaintive	Used 3 times in this book.
13	B	credulous	Used 2 times in this book.
14	B	vigor	Used 6 times in this book.
15	C	inclined (<i>as in: I'm inclined to</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
16	B	appreciate (<i>as in: I appreciate the complexities</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	appreciate (<i>as in: I appreciate your help.</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	B	idealism (<i>as in: youthful idealism</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
20	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.