

# A Rose for Emily

by William Faulkner

## 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

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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.

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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:** acrid, attain, august, bemused, coquette, diffident, divulge, edict, encroach, haughty, macabre, obliterate, pauper, pervasive, serene, tedious, teem, thwart, tranquil, vanquish



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### A Rose for Emily

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## A Rose for Emily

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

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

1. We were chased from the room by the **acid** smoke.
  - A. black
  - B. unhealthy
  - C. harsh
2. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
  - A. openly oppose
  - B. carefully describe
  - C. successfully gain
3. I am proud to have my picture hung in this **august** hall of this university.
  - A. expensive
  - B. hidden away
  - C. greatly admired
4. She is **bemused** by the way he views the world.
  - A. disapproving
  - B. puzzled
  - C. unconcerned
5. He introduced Bette Midler (pronounced *bet*) by saying, *Bette* rhymes with *coquette*, but never *regret*.
  - A. a flirt
  - B. a dancer
  - C. a star
6. She is so **diffident**; I can't imagine her as president of the organization.
  - A. young
  - B. unassertive
  - C. argumentative
7. She would not **divulge** it to anyone.
  - A. take
  - B. serve
  - C. reveal
8. Constantine issued an **edict** for religious tolerance throughout the Roman Empire.
  - A. suggestion
  - B. study
  - C. order
9. Broadband providers are **encroaching** on traditional cable TV market share.
  - A. demonstrating love and uncritical affection
  - B. gradually taking
  - C. attempting to end bad feelings or build trust
10. She has that **haughty**, rich and entitled attitude.
  - A. wealthy
  - B. arrogant
  - C. optimistic
11. The story had a **macabre** ending, with ghosts gathering beside the grave.
  - A. cheerful and playful
  - B. grim and death-related
  - C. plain and realistic
12. The tornado **obliterated** three homes.
  - A. temporarily damaged
  - B. completely destroyed
  - C. completely missed

13. It is a story about a prince who changes places with a pauper.
- A. palace visitor
  - B. poor person
  - C. wealthy person
14. It is a country where corruption pervades their government at every level.
- A. is stopped by
  - B. is spread in
  - C. is remembered by
15. She remained serene even when he was yelling at her.
- A. unmoved
  - B. calm
  - C. aggressive
16. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it tedious.
- A. stressful
  - B. punishing
  - C. boring
17. The plaza is teeming with undercover policemen.
- A. empty (has none)
  - B. slowly losing
  - C. filled (has many)
18. The environmental activists thwarted the construction of the new oil pipeline by protesting and filing lawsuits.
- A. surprised
  - B. prevented
  - C. responded
19. After the storm passed, the village returned to its tranquil evening routine.
- A. loudly chaotic
  - B. brightly colored
  - C. peacefully calm
20. You need to vanquish those negative thoughts and think about good things.
- A. completely defeat
  - B. gently ease
  - C. gently persuade

## Vocabulary in Context

### A Rose for Emily

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

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

- 1 But garages and cotton gins had **encroached** and obliterated even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily's house was left, lifting its stubborn and coquettish decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps—an eyesore among eyesores.
  - A. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
  - B. gradually taken property once used for other purposes
  - C. began speaking with someone about something
- 2 But garages and cotton gins had encroached and **obliterated** even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily's house was left, lifting its stubborn and coquettish decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps—an eyesore among eyesores.
  - A. expelled or gotten rid of
  - B. completely done away with
  - C. thought -- possibly aloud
- 3 But garages and cotton gins had encroached and obliterated even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily's house was left, lifting its stubborn and **coquettish** decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps—an eyesore among eyesores.
  - A. casually playful in a way that arouses sexual interest of men
  - B. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
  - C. trustworthy with secrets or subtle (not attracting attention)
- 4 And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those **august** names where they lay in the cedar-bemused cemetery among the ranked and anonymous graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who fell at the battle of Jefferson.
  - A. related to the spreading of a disease to another part of the body
  - B. relating to a surface rather than to anything deep or penetrating
  - C. greatly admired
- 5 And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those august names where they lay in the cedar-**bemused** cemetery among the ranked and anonymous graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who fell at the battle of Jefferson.
  - A. related such that a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
  - B. puzzled or amused

or (less commonly): interested, engrossed or intrigued

  - C. frolicked (skipped, jumped, and/or ran around in a happy, playful manner)
- 6 Alive, Miss Emily had been a tradition, a duty, and a care; a sort of hereditary obligation upon the town, dating from that day in 1894 when Colonel Sartoris, the mayor—he who fathered the **edict** that no Negro woman should appear on the streets without an apron—remitted her taxes, the dispensation dating from the death of her father on into perpetuity.
  - A. a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
  - B. a stone shaped like a disk that spins and is used to grind, sharpen or polish
  - C. an order -- typically a formal proclamation or a legally binding court decree
- 7 So SHE **vanquished** them, horse and foot, just as she had vanquished their fathers thirty years before about the smell.
  - A. completely defeated
  - B. excessively excited
  - C. nervous or confused
- 8 It was another link between the gross, **teeming** world and the high and mighty Griersons.
  - A. empty (has none)
  - B. slowly losing
  - C. filled with busy people

- 9 The next day he received two more complaints, one from a man who came in **diffident** deprecation.
- young
  - hesitant and unassertive
  - belligerent (argumentative or aggressive)
- 10 Being left alone, and a **pauper**, she had become humanized.
- someone who briefly sees
  - someone who is very poor
  - one who formally rejects
- 11 When we saw her again, her hair was cut short, making her look like a girl, with a vague resemblance to those angels in colored church windows—sort of tragic and **serene**.
- not straightforward
  - calm and untroubled
  - not done on purpose
- 12 She was over thirty then, still a slight woman, though thinner than usual, with cold, **haughty** black eyes in a face the flesh of which was strained across the temples and about the eyesockets as you imagine a lighthouse-keeper's face ought to look.
- absolute
  - arrogant
  - pleasing
- 13 He would never **divulge** what happened during that interview, but he refused to go back again.
- read, listen, or watch with eager interest
  - provide better understanding or make clear
  - make known (secret or private information)
- 14 Then we knew that this was to be expected too; as if that quality of her father which had **thwarted** her woman's life so many times had been too virulent and too furious to die.
- portrayed or created something in a particular way OR interpreted, translated, or extracted from
  - to prevent someone from doing what they want to do; or (less commonly) to oppose someone's efforts
  - changed the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening
- 15 During the next few years it grew grayer and grayer until it **attained** an even pepper-and-salt iron-gray, when it ceased turning.
- examined in detail to better understand
  - tension from opposing ideas or feelings
  - gained or reached something with effort
- 16 Then the newer generation became the backbone and the spirit of the town, and the painting pupils grew up and fell away and did not send their children to her with boxes of color and **tedious** brushes and pictures cut from the ladies' magazines.
- sensible and careful
  - not demonstrative of
  - boring or monotonous
- 17 Thus she passed from generation to generation—dear, inescapable, impervious, **tranquil**, and perverse.
- sensible and careful
  - sincerity (realness)
  - calm and undisturbed
- 18 They held the funeral on the second day, with the town coming to look at Miss Emily beneath a mass of bought flowers, with the crayon face of her father musing profoundly above the bier and the ladies sibilant and **macabre**;
- acceptance of what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly
  - disturbing and related to death or horror -- especially in a grim or eerie way
  - the state of being a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance
- 19 The violence of breaking down the door seemed to fill this room with **pervading** dust.
- working or operating
  - spreading or filling
  - happening repeatedly
- 20 One of us lifted something from it, and leaning forward, that faint and invisible dust dry and **acrid** in the nostrils, we saw a long strand of irongray hair.
- likely to change
  - able to be found
  - harsh or caustic

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	encroach	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	obliterate	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	A	coquette	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
4	C	august ( <i>as in: august stature</i> )	Used 2 times in this story.
5	B	bemused	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	C	edict	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
7	A	vanquish	Used 2 times in this story.
8	C	teem	High-utility academic word
9	B	diffident	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	B	pauper	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
11	B	serene	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	B	haughty	High-utility academic word
13	C	divulge	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	thwart ( <i>as in: thwarted her plans</i> )	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	C	attain	High-utility academic word
16	C	tedious	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	C	tranquil	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	macabre	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
19	B	pervasive	High-utility academic word
20	C	acrid	Used 2 times in this story.