

A Streetcar Named Desire

by Tennessee Williams

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

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: adapt, amble, audible, condone, contract, cordial, deference, discreet, gaudy, indolent, lament, ogre, ominous, precede, prescribe, reproach, serene, sinister, swindle, vulgar



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - A. copied
 - B. read
 - C. changed
2. I often see them **amble** along the beach at sunset.
 - A. jog
 - B. power walk
 - C. walk leisurely
3. It was so quiet; our breathing was the only thing **audible** in the room.
 - A. making too much noise
 - B. that was comforting
 - C. capable of being heard
4. We cannot **condone** such behavior.
 - A. insure
 - B. understand
 - C. approve of
5. A lot of people get into trouble by signing **contracts** they don't understand.
 - A. written agreement with much small print
 - B. written agreements that is enforceable by law
 - C. written agreements with terms that are not specified
6. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
 - A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a friendly manner
 - C. in a clumsy manner
7. Out of **deference** to the Hindu visitors, they did not serve beef.
 - A. open dislike
 - B. loud praise
 - C. polite respect
8. I will be **discreet** in my investigation.
 - A. thorough
 - B. quick
 - C. subtle
9. The actor wore a **gaudy** jacket covered with bright sequins and gold trim.
 - A. tastelessly showy
 - B. plain and modest
 - C. old and worn
10. She is too **indolent** for med school.
 - A. calm
 - B. lazy
 - C. kind
11. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about
12. The **ogre** in the story terrorized travelers passing through his forest.
 - A. monster
 - B. princess
 - C. shepherd

13. With the clouds looking so ominous, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
14. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
15. Most doctors prescribe simple lifestyle changes before medication.
- A. ignore
 - B. delay
 - C. recommend
16. Don't reproach yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
 - B. criticize
 - C. accept honor for
17. She remained serene even when he was yelling at her.
- A. unmoved
 - B. calm
 - C. aggressive
18. In the movie, there was a sinister plot to kill people and harvest their organs.
- A. complicated
 - B. evil
 - C. clever
19. Scammers often swindle people through fake phone calls.
- A. warn or protect
 - B. pay back fully
 - C. cheat or defraud
20. His vulgar jokes embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner party.
- A. stale
 - B. crude
 - C. clever

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 But I guess the **contract** we signed is full of loopholes?
 - A. suntanned; or reddish-brown or yellowish-brown in color
 - B. written agreement
 - C. view in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
- 2 ...like you handled that operation you done on my daughter, so **discreetly** that a hillbilly Heckler is shouting me questions about it wherever I speak?
 - A. in the manner of someone who believes oneself morally superior to others
 - B. in a manner related to obtaining pleasure from inflicting pain on others
 - C. in a manner that is unlikely to attract attention or cause embarrassment
- 3 **prescription** for that cough
 - A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - B. submissiveness -- often an attitude of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
 - C. medical instructions written by a doctor
- 4 comes **deferentially**
 - A. not done on purpose
 - B. in a specific order
 - C. with polite respect
- 5 They are not **ominous** in their attitudes.
 - A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
 - B. huge
 - C. comforting
- 6 After all, that would be a bad incident to **precede** the Boss's all-South-wide to appearance ...and they all know it.
 - A. notable difference
 - B. come to terms with
 - C. to go or do before
- 7 All day I've kept hearing a sort of **lament** that drifts through the air of this place. It says, 'Lost, lost, never to be found again.'
 - A. gradually add or remove
 - B. make or cause to become
 - C. an expression of grief
- 8 I did not **condone** the operation
 - A. not answer questions; or block progress
 - B. move from more general to more specific
 - C. approve of; or accept without criticism
- 9 I climbed back alone up the beanstalk to the **ogre's** country where I live, now, alone.
 - A. a frightening giant from fairy tales, especially one who eats people; or a cruel or terrifying person
 - B. someone who persuades someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - C. an elected government representative who (with fellow representatives) has the power to create laws
- 10 I know that you're bound to **reproach** me - but before you do take into consideration - you left!
 - A. move into position to work; or start
 - B. criticize
 - C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 11 It looks to me like you have been **swindled**, baby, and when you're swindled under the Napoleonic code I'm swindled too.
 - A. prepared food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. supported by providing money or other economic aid
 - C. tricked or cheated someone -- usually to get money

- 12 *Blanche: I understand there's to be a little card party to which we ladies are cordially not invited.*
- A. in a pleasing way
 - B. in a friendly way
 - C. in a skillful way
- 13 *Stanley: What is Ambler & Ambler?*
- A. someone who walks leisurely
 - B. people making fun of others
 - C. someone who walks leisurely
- 14 *She raises her arms and stretches, as she moves indolently back to the chair.*
- A. mainly
 - B. lazily
 - C. really
- 15 *Blanche: I can't stand a naked light bulb, any more than I can a rude remark or a vulgar action.*
- A. increasing reason or general desire to do something
 - B. of bad taste (crude, offensive, or unsophisticated)
 - C. the state of being unaware of one's mental activity
- 16 *Blanche: I'm very adaptable — to circumstances.*
- A. able to be taken up or received into heaven
 - B. the quality of not working or not operating
 - C. able to change to fit a different situation
- 17 *Her face is serene in the early morning sunlight.*
- A. not straightforward
 - B. calm and untroubled
 - C. not done on purpose
- 18 *The table is sloppy with remains of breakfast and the debris of the preceding night, and Stanley's gaudy pyjamas lie across the threshold of the bathroom.*
- A. tastelessly showy
 - B. not demonstrating
 - C. able to challenge
- 19 *The 'Varsouviana' is heard, its music rising with sinister rapidity as the bathroom door opens slightly.*
- A. not able to be disagreed with
 - B. evil, harmful, or frightening
 - C. not thoughtful about the past
- 20 *She is calling barely audibly.*
- A. primarily or most importantly
 - B. in an offensively bold manner
 - C. loud enough to be heard

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	contract (<i>as in: legal contract</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this play.
2	C	discreet (<i>as in: discreet--not showy or gossipy</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
3	C	prescribe	Used 4 times in this play.
4	C	deference	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
5	A	ominous	Used 3 times in this play.
6	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
7	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this play.
8	C	condone	Used 2 times in this play.
9	A	ogre	Used 3 times in this play.
10	B	reproach	Used 6 times in this play.
11	C	swindle	Used 5 times in this play.
12	B	cordial (<i>as in: a cordial reception</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
13	C	amble	Used 6 times in this play.
14	B	indolent (<i>as in: she is naturally indolent</i>)	Used 2 times in this play.
15	B	vulgar	Used 4 times in this play.
16	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
17	B	serene	Used 3 times in this play.
18	A	gaudy	Used 3 times in this play.
19	B	sinister	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
20	C	audible (<i>as in: barely audible</i>)	Used 5 times in this play.