

A Tale of Two Cities

by Charles Dickens

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: bestow, chateau, compassion, convey, denounce, entreat, establish (2), guillotine, illustrious, inquiry, interpose, latent, peasant, remonstrate, republic, vengeance, wretched, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	C
9	B
10	A
11	C
12	C
13	B
14	C
15	B
16	B
17	C
18	B
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. Our organization **bestows** honors, awards, and sometimes cash prizes to promising writers.
A. shows
B. recommends
C. gives
2. The wealthy family owned a **chateau** in the wine region.
A. a city studio
B. a French manor
C. a small shack
3. It is not enough to be **compassionate**. We must act. It is not enough to act. We must act with intelligence.
A. lucky
B. sympathetic
C. talented
4. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
A. express
B. accept
C. understand
5. She bravely stepped forward to **denounce** the corruption within her company.
A. openly condemn
B. warmly praise
C. quietly ignore
6. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
A. bribed (with gifts)
B. asked earnestly
C. threatened
7. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
A. avoid
B. create
C. increase
8. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
A. minimizing
B. exaggerating
C. showing
9. The **guillotine** is often associated with the Reign of Terror, a period of extreme violence and political turmoil during the French Revolution.
A. a device used to torture people
B. a device used to behead people
C. a device used to imprison people
10. The **illustrious** scientist received another prestigious award for her research.
A. famous and admired
B. unknown and ordinary
C. controversial but rich
11. The official **inquiry** has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
A. story
B. statement
C. investigation

12. They have **interposed** themselves on the side of our enemy.
- A. been seen
 - B. hidden
 - C. inserted
13. A **latent** HPV infection reactivated when her immune system weakened with age.
- A. severe
 - B. inactive
 - C. common
14. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
 - B. young person
 - C. poor farmer
15. The lawyers will **remonstrate** that we're starting without a written agreement, but we trust each other.
- A. promise
 - B. protest
 - C. explain
16. A **republic** is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
 - B. representative government
 - C. oligarchy
17. Her evolutionary benefit theory of **vengeance** is supported by studies showing that a person's desire for revenge increases when others see their mistreatment.
- A. fairness
 - B. status
 - C. revenge
18. The photograph showed poor people in a **wretched** village in East Africa.
- A. irresponsible
 - B. in terrible condition
 - C. foolish or thoughtless
19. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 I **entreat** you to tell me more, sir.
 - A. stop fighting
 - B. ask earnestly
 - C. make possible
- 2 O dear, good, **compassionate** sir, for the truth!
 - A. did not find a condition or substance to be present
 - B. feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
 - C. to support by providing money or other economic aid
- 3 It would be worse than useless now to make any **inquiries**, because it would be dangerous.
 - A. social events or ceremonies
 - B. reasons for doing something
 - C. questions or investigations
- 4 Crowds of the wicked and the **wretched** had been reflected in it, and had passed from its surface and this earth's together.
 - A. not easily identified
 - B. miserable or very bad
 - C. exactness or accuracy
- 5 But, there my Lord **interposed** (with as grave a face as if it had not been true), saying that he could not sit upon that Bench and suffer those allusions.
 - A. (verb) drew pictures to accompany OR (adjective) accompanied by pictures
 - B. not justified or explained as an understandable reaction to another action
 - C. to insert between other elements; or to interrupt or stop action by others
- 6 Here again: Mr. Lorry's inquiries into Miss Pross's personal history had **established** the fact that her brother Solomon was a heartless scoundrel who had stripped her of everything she possessed, as a stake to speculate with, and had abandoned her in her poverty for evermore, with no touch of compunction.
 - A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. shown
- 7 It had been **established** voluntarily some time ago, among the more thorough patriots; but, was now law for everybody.
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. set in place (accepted and expected)
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 8 **Bestowing** a word of promise here and a smile there, a whisper on one happy slave and a wave of the hand on another, Monseigneur affably passed through his rooms to the remote region of the Circumference of Truth.
 - A. ruling
 - B. paying
 - C. giving
- 9 It was hard by the fountain, and the **peasants** suspended their operations to look at him.
 - 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. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: people of low income, education, and social standing -- especially those who raise crops or livestock

- 10 *sufficiently disturbing the darkness to elicit loud remonstrance from an owl*
 A. someone who expresses disapproval
 B. protest
 C. the act of recognizing difference
- 11 *A supper-table was laid for two, in the third of the rooms; a round room, in one of the chateau's four extinguisher-topped towers.*
 A. people who do not believe in the existence of god
 B. an impressive country house (or castle) in France
 C. discomfort caused by difficulty in digesting food
- 12 *An hour or two hence, and the low companions and low habits that I scorn but yield to, will render me less worth such tears as those, than any wretch who creeps along the streets.*
 A. select (on a computer screen)
 B. give in
 C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 13 *Sow the same seed of rapacious license and oppression over again, and it will surely yield the same fruit according to its kind.*
 A. produce
 B. stop (something from happening)
 C. think deeply or carefully about
- 14 *Vengeance and retribution require a long time; it is the rule.*
 A. something that stands out
 B. something made from parts
 C. the act of taking revenge
- 15 *The latent uneasiness in Darnay's mind was roused to vigorous life by this letter.*
 A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 B. potentially existing but not presently active
 C. the characteristic of tending to think back about things
- 16 *The word "wife" seemed to serve as a gloomy reminder to Defarge, to say with sudden impatience, "In the name of that sharp female newly-born, and called La Guillotine, why did you come to France?"*
 A. a method of artistic painting on a wall by using watercolors on wet plaster; or the painting made in such a manner
 B. a device used to behead people (most associated with the French Revolution); or executing someone in such a manner
 C. accept someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
- 17 *She might think it was contrived, in case of the worse, to convey to him the means of anticipating the sentence.*
 A. communicate or express
 B. create dramatic change
 C. mirror back (an image)
- 18 *I denounce them to Heaven and to earth.*
 A. to strongly criticize or accuse publicly
 B. to corrupt or seduce from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessive drinking, casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
 C. remove or suppress anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable OR a person who does such suppression
- 19 *My husband, fellow-citizen, is a good Republican and a bold man; he has deserved well of the Republic, and possesses its confidence.*
 A. relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
 B. of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
 C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
- 20 *I see him winning it so well, that my name is made illustrious there by the light of his.*
 A. famous and admired; or worthy of admiration
 B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
 C. able to be taken up or received into heaven

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	entreat	Used 15 times in this book.
2	B	compassion	Used 17 times in this book.
3	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
4	B	wretched	Used 13 times in this book.
5	C	interpose	Used 7 times in this book.
6	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	C	bestow	Used 11 times in this book.
9	C	peasant	Used 13 times in this book.
10	B	remonstrate	Used 6 times in this book.
11	B	chateau	Used 28 times in this book.
12	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	Used 43 times in this book.
15	B	latent	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	B	guillotine	Used 27 times in this book.
17	A	convey (<i>as in: convey her thoughts</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
18	A	denounce	Used 20 times in this book.
19	B	republic (<i>as in: the country is a republic</i>)	Used 44 times in this book.
20	A	illustrious	Used 6 times in this book.