

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

by Betty Smith

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: avid, beguile, chord, conscience, consequence (2), contempt, devise, midwife, muse, poignant, purgatory, reminisce, resignation (2), taunt, unwieldy, wean, wither (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She's an **avid** reader.
 - A. enthusiastic
 - B. done accidentally or without intention
 - C. tending to arouse strong disagreement
2. She was **wined**, **dined**, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
 - A. forced
 - B. tricked
 - C. encouraged
3. The guitarist strummed a complex **chord**, its rich harmony filling the room.
 - A. three or more notes that blend harmoniously
 - B. a single, sustained musical tone
 - C. a repeated rhythmic pattern
4. I will vote as my **conscience** demands.
 - A. sense of right and wrong
 - B. memory of past events
 - C. fear of public ridicule
5. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - A. result
 - B. unimportant part
 - C. important part
6. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
 - A. unethical
 - B. important
 - C. harmful
7. He was **impolite**. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
8. This may be our last chance to devise a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
9. She is a licensed **midwife**.
 - A. non-doctor who assists in childbirth
 - B. not the 1st or most recent wife
 - C. best friend of a married woman
10. Let me **muse** on it on a while and I'll get back to you.
 - A. research
 - B. think
 - C. ask
11. Have you read MLK's **poignant** "Letter from Birmingham Jail"?
 - A. arousing deep emotion
 - B. logically compelling
 - C. long

12. After hours of sitting in the airport with no updates, the stranded travelers described the experience as pure **purgatory**.
- A. a state of excitement
 - B. a state of ignorance
 - C. a state of suffering
13. The reunion gave everyone a chance to **reminisce** and reconnect.
- A. plan future trips
 - B. recall fond memories
 - C. debate old arguments
14. She said that if I don't **resign**, I will be fired.
- A. do better
 - B. quit
 - C. renew an agreement
15. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
16. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
 - B. insulted
 - C. surrounded
17. The committee grew so large it became **unwieldy**.
- A. hard to handle
 - B. easy to manage
 - C. small and neat
18. She **weaned** her baby when he was three months old and started him on cow's milk.
- A. adapted to the removal of breastmilk
 - B. to make fit for service to humans or home life -- by breeding or taming
 - C. broke the law by telling lies after formally promising to tell the truth
19. Without water, the plants in the garden began to **wither** and die.
- A. become dormant
 - B. dry out
 - C. grow stronger
20. As the disease progressed, her once strong muscles began to **wither** and she struggled to even lift a glass of water.
- A. hurt
 - B. weaken
 - C. lose feeling

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 So they went to this early mass, got it over with and went home and slept all day with a free **conscience**.
 - A. feeling or appraisal of having personally behaved in a morally right or wrong manner
 - B. a complex carbohydrate that is the chief constituent of all plant tissues and fibers
 - C. not planning to kill a person, but then intentionally killing in the heat of passion
- 2 No matter that her brother would straggle back, empty-handed with his gang and **taunt** later comes the same way.
 - A. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
 - B. (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - C. American football: a defensive maneuver to swiftly tackle the quarterback by pursuing him with one or more defenders who normally remain behind the line of scrimmage
- 3 The boys looked at it briefly, quickly lost interest in it and started up a four-man baseball game of their own **devising**.
 - A. making strips of hair lighter in color
 - B. coming up with (inventing or creating)
 - C. requiring (obligating) to do something
- 4 Her right arm had been horribly burned and she grew up with its skin **withered** and purple.
 - A. not accepted as true
 - B. shriveled (wrinkled and/or shrunk)
 - C. began fighting again
- 5 The war touched the Model Press Clipping Bureau with its mailed finger and made it **wither** away.
 - A. started (a fire)
 - B. weaken and become smaller until it disappeared
 - C. restart (a fire)
- 6 Francie read them all **avidly**, then sold them at half price to the neighborhood stationery store and put the money in Mama's tin-can bank.
 - A. enthusiastically or with great interest
 - B. in a pessimistic or disagreeable manner
 - C. in a manner that makes others feel good
- 7 The Nolan men grew handsomer, weaker and more **beguiling** with each generation.
 - A. moving out of an interacting position; or stopping
 - B. charming or enchanting; or deceiving through charm
 - C. exercising privileges to which one is not entitled
- 8 For the rest of her days, his mother had a mass said once a month for the repose of his soul which she knew wandered about in **Purgatory**.
 - A. treatment with extra kindness or tolerance OR (more rarely) a special pleasure (typically something done in excess of what is thought good -- such as eating too much cake, or being too lazy)
 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. a place or state of temporary suffering while waiting

or in Roman Catholic theology: the place where those who have died in a state of grace undergo limited suffering to pay for their sins
- 9 He picked out some **chords**.
 - A. a combination of three or more notes that blend harmoniously when sounded together; or figuratively to express harmonious blending or clashing
 - B. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - C. items characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open -- such as a door or musical instrument with that characteristic

- 10 *She continued working until she got too **unwieldy** to dust under the desks.*
A. difficult to move or manage
B. not attractive or desirable
C. orbiting Earth once per day
- 11 ***Consequently**, there was a great surprise waiting for Johnny when he sauntered home to get a fresh dicky and collar for his evening's job.*
A. resultantly (as a result)
B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 12 *What she wrote was of little **consequence**.*
A. translates
B. importance
C. sticks out
- 13 *There was **resigned** regret that the new flat was not as nice as their Lorimer Street home.*
A. to be or to become used to (adapted to and with an expectation of)
B. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
C. accepted something undesired as unavoidable
- 14 *all of whom expected the city reading job when and if Miss Armstrong **resigned**.*
A. drew
B. quit (a job)
C. paid
- 15 *With **poignancy**, Sissy realized that he was growing up.*
A. deeply felt emotion -- perhaps sadness
B. support or favor given
C. belief in a single God
- 16 *The poor woman figured and figured on a way to **wean** Gussie.*
A. adapt
B. trade
C. delay
- 17 *They **reminisced** about past Christmases, or, as Francie put it, they talked about olden times.*
A. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
B. to talk or think fondly about past experiences
C. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
- 18 *Everyone has a secret life, she **mused**.*
A. was abundant or plentiful
B. thought
C. expelled or gotten rid of
- 19 *"It's time to get the **midwife**," Sissy said.*
A. a woman skilled in aiding the delivery of babies
B. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
C. American football: a defensive maneuver to swiftly tackle the quarterback by pursuing him with one or more defenders who normally remain behind the line of scrimmage
- 20 *But Ben was **contemptuous** of non-college lawyers*
A. not tending to find fault
B. lacked respect
C. able to be disagreed with

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	conscience	Used 9 times in this book.
2	B	taunt	Used 9 times in this book.
3	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
4	B	wither (<i>as in: wither on the vine</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	wither (<i>as in: her confidence withered</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	avid	Used 3 times in this book.
7	B	beguile	Used 4 times in this book.
8	C	purgatory	Used 8 times in this book.
9	A	chord (<i>as in: piano chord</i>)	Used 12 times in this book.
10	A	unwieldy	Used 4 times in this book.
11	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	A	poignant	Used 6 times in this book.
16	A	wean	Used 5 times in this book.
17	B	reminisce	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
18	B	muse (<i>as in: her musings</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
19	A	midwife	Used 18 times in this book.
20	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.