

A White Heron

by Sarah Orne Jewett

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

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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: bewilder, cease, compassion, comprehend, demure, divine, grave, inclined, landmark, migrate, peril, ponderous, premonition, provoke, solemn, squalor, vex, wary, waver, wistful



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - A. confused
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
2. The injunction requires that they **cease** all activity on the site.
 - A. stop
 - B. record
 - C. permit
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. Washington fails to **comprehend** the change in China's strategy.
 - A. fully understand
 - B. regard respectfully
 - C. respond adequately to
5. She gave a **demure** nod and let her friend do most of the talking.
 - A. sharp and dismissive
 - B. modest and quiet
 - C. confused and nervous
6. She wouldn't talk about it, but I was able to **divine** that the project isn't going well.
 - A. figure out
 - B. state
 - C. share
7. The day after the funeral, she was in a **grave** mood.
 - A. hysterical
 - B. solemn
 - C. fearful
8. I was **inclined** to laugh, but I overcame the urge.
 - A. disinclined
 - B. afraid
 - C. tending
9. The old lighthouse stands as a beloved **landmark** along the rocky coast.
 - A. well-known feature
 - B. hidden danger
 - C. passing ship
10. Many Germans **migrated** to South America in the mid-19th century
 - A. flew toward
 - B. flew away
 - C. moved
11. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
 - A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
12. The old truck made **ponderous** progress up the steep mountain road.
 - A. slow and heavy
 - B. quick and light
 - C. loud and showy

13. Like most soldiers, I was scared before battle, but it's not like I had a premonition that something bad was going to happen to me.
- A. expectation
 - B. feeling
 - C. certainty
14. We should not permit deeply offensive words that provoke violence.
- A. stop
 - B. distract from
 - C. cause
15. Everyone was solemn at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
16. While my living conditions are not what I would like, they are far better than the kind of squalor I read of in Charles Dickens novels.
- A. slum
 - B. cruelty
 - C. confusion
17. The vexing puzzle kept her up late into the night.
- A. soothing
 - B. annoying
 - C. amusing
18. She looked wary as she reached out to pet her friend's new dog.
- A. determined
 - B. distrustful
 - C. excited
19. We will never waver in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady
20. She had a wistful, dreamy look as she thought about how life would change if she could get a good job.
- A. showing longing
 - B. showing determination
 - C. showing optimism

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 A little girl was driving home her cow, a plodding, dilatory, **provoking** creature in her behavior, but a valued companion for all that.
 - A. working or operating
 - B. artificially joining
 - C. tending to cause a reaction -- typically an emotional reaction such as anger
- 2 Though this chase had been so long that the **wary** animal herself had given an unusual signal of her whereabouts, Sylvia had only laughed when she came upon Mistress Moolly at the swamp-side, and urged her affectionately homeward with a twig of birch leaves.
 - A. able to be taken on as one's own
 - B. careful, nervous, or distrustful
 - C. indicating approval or agreement
- 3 The old cow was not **inclined** to wander farther, she even turned in the right direction for once as they left the pasture, and stepped along the road at a good pace.
 - A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 - B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 - C. in the mood
- 4 She thought often with wistful **compassion** of a wretched geranium that belonged to a town neighbor.
 - A. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - B. sympathy for another's suffering and wanting to help
 - C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 5 ...she knew by instinct that her grandmother did not **comprehend** the gravity of the situation.
 - A. understand -- especially to understand it completely
 - B. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - C. rug-like artwork -- often hung on a wall for display
- 6 But Sylvia kept an awed silence; she knew by instinct that her grandmother did not comprehend the **gravity** of the situation.
 - A. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
 - B. seriousness
 - C. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
- 7 The young man had known the horrors of its most primitive housekeeping, and the dreary **squalor** of that level of society which does not rebel at the companionship of hens.
 - A. filth -- especially a place that is extremely dirty and unpleasant
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 8 "So Sylvy knows all about birds, does she?" he exclaimed, as he looked round at the little girl who sat, very **demure** but increasingly sleepy, in the moonlight.
 - A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - B. modest, quiet, and shy
 - C. the quality of believing oneself morally superior to others
- 9 Perhaps it was only **migrating**, or had been chased out of its own region by some bird of prey.
 - A. selecting (on a computer screen)
 - B. limiting or acting as a boundary
 - C. moving from one place to another
- 10 Mrs. Tilley gave amazed attention to all this, but Sylvia still watched the toad, not **divining**, as she might have done at some calmer time, that the creature wished to get to its hole under the door-step, and was much hindered by the unusual spectators at that hour of the evening.
 - A. discovering something
 - B. taking on or adopting
 - C. suggesting indirectly

- 11 Some **premonition** of that great power stirred and swayed these young creatures who traversed the solemn woodlands with soft-footed silent care.
- A. of Athens during the Golden Age of Greece (5th century BC)
 - B. a feeling, not based on reason, that something is so or will happen
 - C. of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and sometimes Finland & Iceland
- 12 But the stately head of this old pine towered above them all and made a **landmark** for sea and shore miles and miles away.
- A. something easily recognized (such as a geographic feature) -- especially one that helps one to know where she is
 - B. suggest (say indirectly) OR something suggested indirectly; or something that can be concluded; or a result
 - C. cause to happen at the same time or in a coordinated sequence; or to set clocks/watches to show the same time
- 13 She had always believed that whoever climbed to the top of it could see the ocean; and the little girl had often laid her hand on the great rough trunk and looked up **wistfully** at those dark boughs that the wind always stirred, no matter how hot and still the air might be below.
- A. with longing or unfulfilled desire
 - B. in a manner that involves betrayal
 - C. following as a result of something
- 14 The short summer night seemed as long as the winter darkness, and at last when the whippoorwills **ceased**, and she was afraid the morning would after all come too soon, she stole out of the house and followed the pasture path through the woods,
- A. stopped or discontinued
 - B. not taken on or adopted
 - C. did in a particular way
- 15 It was like a great main-mast to the voyaging earth; it must truly have been amazed that morning through all its **ponderous** frame as it felt this determined spark of human spirit wending its way from higher branch to branch.
- A. large
 - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate -- sometimes to indicate a difference that is excellent
 - C. using passive (sometimes subtle) resistance in interpersonal or occupational situations while avoiding direct confrontation
- 16 At last the sun came up **bewilderingly** bright.
- A. to confuse someone
 - B. with strong desire
 - C. in a sloped manner
- 17 ...a company of shouting cat-birds comes also to the tree, and **vexed** by their fluttering and lawlessness the solemn heron goes away.
- A. changed
 - B. annoyed
 - C. forgave
- 18 ...and vexed by their fluttering and lawlessness the **solemn** heron goes away.
- A. dignified
 - B. indicating approval or agreement
 - C. able to be taken on as one's own
- 19 She knows his secret now, the wild, light, slender bird that floats and **wavers**, and goes back like an arrow presently to his home in the green world beneath.
- A. is most powerful, important, or noticeable
 - B. won't answer questions; or blocks progress
 - C. moving back and forth
- 20 Then Sylvia, well satisfied, makes her **perilous** way down again, not daring to look far below the branch she stands on, ready to cry sometimes because her fingers ache and her lamed feet slip.
- A. stuck out
 - B. dangerous
 - C. bent down

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	provoke	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	wary	High-utility academic word
3	C	inclined (<i>as in: I'm inclined to</i>)	High-utility academic word
4	B	compassion	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	comprehend	High-utility academic word
6	B	grave (<i>as in: Her manner was grave.</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	A	squalor	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
8	B	demure	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	C	migrate	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	A	divine (<i>as in: divined through intuition</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
11	B	premonition	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	landmark	Used 2 times in this book.
13	A	wistful	Used 2 times in this book.
14	A	cease	High-utility academic word
15	A	ponderous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	A	bewilder	Used about 15 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	vex	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	A	solemn	Used 2 times in this book.
19	C	waver	High-utility academic word
20	B	peril	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.