

All the King's Men

by Robert Penn Warren

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: ambiguous, askew, bemused, chronicle, consequence (2), gossamer, incline, inclined, irrelevant, legislature, mortgage, peevish, recollect, resignation (2), squalor, superfluous, vengeance, with a vengeance



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

All the King's Men

by Robert Penn Warren

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

Vocabulary Preview

All the King's Men

by Robert Penn Warren

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Her **ambiguous** smile left him wondering whether she was amused or annoyed.
 - A. open to interpretation
 - B. easy to read clearly
 - C. obviously sarcastic
2. The earthquake left our pictures hanging **askew**.
 - A. crooked
 - B. alone
 - C. covered in dust
3. She is **bemused** by the way he views the world.
 - A. disapproving
 - B. puzzled
 - C. unconcerned
4. The book is a **chronicle** of the family's struggles during the Great Depression.
 - A. fictional story
 - B. detailed record
 - C. brief mention
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. A **gossamer** curtain softened the sunlight in the room.
 - A. thick and heavy
 - B. brightly colored
 - C. thin and delicate
8. I was **inclined** to laugh, but I overcame the urge.
 - A. disinclined
 - B. afraid
 - C. tending
9. The boat ramp has a steep **incline**.
 - A. slope
 - B. price
 - C. danger
10. The writer should delete the sentence because it provides background information that is **irrelevant** to the paragraph.
 - A. confusing
 - B. unimportant
 - C. too wordy
11. She is running for the state **legislature**.
 - A. highest court
 - B. police department
 - C. lawmaking body

12. The site has a **mortgage** payment calculator that calculates the loan payment based on the interest rate and length of the loan.
- A. unsecured loan
 - B. real estate loan
 - C. credit card loan
13. After a frustrating day, she was **peevish** and snapped at everyone who spoke to her.
- A. very tired
 - B. easily annoyed
 - C. very demanding
14. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
15. She said that if I don't **resign**, I will be fired.
- A. do better
 - B. quit
 - C. renew an agreement
16. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
17. 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
18. Everyone liked the idea. The arguments I prepared to support it were **superfluous**.
- A. appreciated
 - B. important
 - C. unnecessary
19. 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
20. She threw herself into work **with a vengeance**.
- A. with reluctance
 - B. with intensity
 - C. with careful thought

Vocabulary in Context

All the King's Men

by Robert Penn Warren

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 The remark was **superfluous**.
 - A. the quality of being sensible and careful
 - B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 - C. more than is needed, desired, or required
- 2 Get in there busting some sense into that **Legislature**, and it leaves a man worse'n the summer complaint.
 - A. something that serves as evidence -- especially a statement at a trial or hearing
 - B. an atom that has acquired an electrical charge by the loss or gain of an electron
 - C. a group, made up of government representatives, that has the power to create laws
- 3 You could hear one insane and **irrelevant** July fly sawing away up in one of the catalpa trees in the square.
 - A. a person who works from within to destroy an established order; or relating to such destructive efforts
 - B. not relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
 - C. the character or degree of bouncing back light (or more rarely: heat, sound, electromagnetic waves...)
- 4 At least, he knew that I worked for the **Chronicle**, which at that time was supporting the Joe Harrison outfit.
 - A. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer
 - B. a record of events; or the act of creating such a record or telling others of the events
 - C. persuade someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
- 5 "Name of Jeffers," Mr. Pillsbury said **peevishly**, as at an unpleasant recollection.
 - A. in a manner that is not clearly seen, expressed or understood
 - B. annoyed or easily annoyed -- especially by unimportant things
 - C. not in a manner intended to attract notice and impress others
- 6 He was not only **bemused** by the voice he had heard.
 - 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)
- 7 He was paying his way, he said, even if he had to put another **mortgage** on his pappy's farm and the last one it would hold.
 - A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - B. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
 - C. enter another's property without right or permission
- 8 Then I **recollected** how he'd done right well in his law practice.
 - A. translated
 - B. subtracted
 - C. remembered
- 9 A Governor can succeed himself in our state, and the Boss succeeded himself **with a vengeance**.
 - A. available cash
 - B. with intensity
 - C. very important
- 10 Then I was traveling through the part where the crook-legged, high-heeled, gun-wearing, spick-killing, callous-rumped sons of the range live and crowd the drugstore on Saturday night and then all go round the corner to see episode three of "**Vengeance** on Vinegar Creek," starring Gene Autry as Borax Pete.
 - A. something that stands out
 - B. something made from parts
 - C. the act of taking revenge
- 11 He even took a relish in the **squalor**, in the privilege of letting a last crust of buttered toast fall to the floor to be undisturbed until the random heel should grind it into the mud-colored carpet, in the spectacle of the fat roach moving across the cracked linoleum of the bathroom floor while he steamed in the tub.
 - A. extremely dirty and unpleasant living conditions
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others

- 12 She stood in the middle of the room pressing her hair into place, and I stumblingly ventured some remark about our future, a remark very vague for my being was still confused, but she responded, 'Oh, let us not think about it now,' as though I had broached a subject of no consequence.
- A. translates
 - B. importance
 - C. sticks out
- 13 So, I observed, my nobility (or whatever it was) had had in my world almost as dire a consequence as Cass Mastern's sin had had in his.
- A. result
 - B. battle
 - C. memory
- 14 He **resigned** as Attorney General to become counsel and vice-president for the American Electric Power Company,
- A. drew
 - B. quit (a job)
 - C. paid
- 15 I am **resigned** to it all now, Jack.
- 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. having accepted something undesired as unavoidable or the lesser of evils
- 16 It was a very **ambiguous** contract.
- A. unclear -- because there could be two or more interpretations
 - B. trustworthy with secrets or subtle (not attracting attention)
 - C. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
- 17 The cord is so **gossamer** that it breaks every day, but the marks get there finally, and finally one day the gossamer cord doesn't break and is enough.
- A. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - B. characteristic (of something or someone)
 - C. extremely light, delicate, airy, or thin
- 18 Adam **inclined** his head in acceptance, and went out.
- A. bent
 - B. told (a story)
 - C. lied or misled
- 19 And the skin will be **inclined** to break down.
- A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 - B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 - C. with a tendency
- 20 Then, with the faces in place and only a little **askew**, they crowded around the Boss and shook his hand.
- A. not straight; or not right
 - B. opposed to "globalization"
 - C. rain, snow, hail, or sleet

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

All the King's Men

by Robert Penn Warren

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	superfluous	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
2	C	legislature	Used 15 times in this book.
3	B	irrelevant	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
4	B	chronicle	Used 21 times in this book.
5	B	peevish	Used 6 times in this book.
6	B	bemused	Used 10 times in this book.
7	B	mortgage	Used 12 times in this book.
8	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 19 times in this book.
9	B	with a vengeance (<i>as in: with a vengeance</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	A	squalor	Used 4 times in this book.
12	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	Used 20 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	ambiguous	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
17	C	gossamer	Used 4 times in this book.
18	A	incline (<i>as in: on an incline or incline his head</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	inclined (<i>as in: I'm inclined to</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	askew	Used 6 times in this book.