

As I Lay Dying

by William Faulkner

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: begrudge, caricature, cessation, deceive, engender, gaudy, gaunt, inert, irrevocable, mortal, mortgage, muse, obliged, poise, prescribe, rapt, rein, sacrilege, sullen, twilight



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. I don't **begrudge** her success. She's earned it.
 - A. resent
 - B. experience surprise at
 - C. hope for luck for
2. The movie portrayed the villain as a **caricature**, lacking depth and complexity.
 - A. complex human being
 - B. silly clown
 - C. exaggerated representation
3. She estimates that your probability of lung cancer will drop to that of a non-smoker if you haven't already got it 10 to 15 years after **cessation** of smoking.
 - A. the reducing
 - B. the ending
 - C. the beginning
4. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
5. Her sincere apology **engendered** forgiveness from the people she had hurt.
 - A. refused to accept
 - B. caused to develop
 - C. tried to hide
6. The actor wore a **gaudy** jacket covered with bright sequins and gold trim.
 - A. tastelessly showy
 - B. plain and modest
 - C. old and worn
7. Don Quixote looked **gaunt** and tired.
 - A. very worried
 - B. very thin
 - C. very bored
8. She considers our political system **inert** and calls for violent revolution as the path to change.
 - A. corrupt
 - B. unmoving
 - C. energetic
9. If you agree to the terms, you give them **irrevocable** permission to share your comments with others on their site.
 - A. easy to reverse later
 - B. unable to be undone
 - C. needing court approval
10. In the story, she was neither a mortal nor a god. She was a **demi-god**.
 - A. type of bird
 - B. lucky survivor
 - C. human
11. 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

12. Let me **muse** on it on a while and I'll get back to you.
- A. research
 - B. think
 - C. ask
13. I'd be **obliged** if you could help me lift this.
- A. surprised
 - B. grateful
 - C. paying
14. The once self-conscious girl is now a woman with considerable **poise**.
- A. style
 - B. education
 - C. composure
15. Most doctors **prescribe** simple lifestyle changes before medication.
- A. ignore
 - B. delay
 - C. recommend
16. We all listened with **rapt** attention as she described the accident.
- A. divided
 - B. disciplined
 - C. interested
17. She is committed to **reining in** excessive government infringement of personal freedom.
- A. exposing
 - B. restraining
 - C. discovering
18. Many people considered it **sacrilege** to joke loudly inside the sacred temple.
- A. respect for old customs
 - B. fear of religious rules
 - C. disrespect for the sacred
19. A **sullen** crowd watched the execution.
- A. excited
 - B. unhappy
 - C. celebrating
20. I awakened to a **twilight** sky but did not know if the sun was setting or rising.
- A. the light from the sky just before sunrise
 - B. the light from the sky just after sunset
 - C. the light from the sky between daylight and darkness

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 *The horse snorts, then Jewel sees him, glinting for a **gaudy** instant among the blue shadows.*
 - A. tastelessly showy
 - B. not demonstrating
 - C. able to challenge
- 2 *For a while yet she looks at him, without reproach, without anything at all, as if her eyes alone are listening to the irrevocable **cessation** of his voice.*
 - A. difference
 - B. a stopping
 - C. thigh bone
- 3 *He looks up at the gaunt face framed by the window in the **twilight**.*
 - A. black sky
 - B. western wall
 - C. light from the time of day between daylight and darkness
- 4 *Pa leans above the bed in the twilight, his humped silhouette partaking of that owl-like quality of awry-feathered, disgruntled **outrage** within which lurks a wisdom too profound or too **inert** for even thought.*
 - A. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
 - B. unmoving, inactive, or unable to move

or:

slow, lethargic, or without interest

or (in chemistry/medicine):

chemically inactive (not having an effect)

 - C. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
- 5 *...from behind his slack-faced astonishment he **muses** as though from beyond time, upon the ultimate outrage.*
 - A. goes, does, or is before
 - B. thinks (reflects deeply)
 - C. originates or comes from
- 6 *He sits lightly, **poised**, upright, wooden-faced in the saddle, the broken hat raked at a swaggering angle.*
 - A. removed or suppressed something considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable
 - B. without a personal preference; or without any tendency to move in a particular direction
 - C. in control and prepared to move as needed
- 7 *...holding the horse **reined** back.*
 - A. mirrored back (an image)
 - B. restrained
 - C. quoted (to make a point)
- 8 *Payed off that **mortgage** with it, I hear tell.*
 - 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
- 9 *It would be **sacrilege** to try to.*
 - A. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
 - B. the process or result of learning, discovering, or deciding
 - C. disrespectful of something others consider sacred

- 10 *watching Vernon with **rapt** absorption.*
A. noisy and unrestrained
B. accidental or unintentional
C. deep interest and focus
- 11 *He looms tall above us as we squat; he looks like a figure carved clumsily from tough wood by a drunken caricaturist.*
A. a melody that, after a short interval, is exactly repeated by a different instrument or voice to create competing melodic lines (a strict counterpoint)
B. a figure of speech in which a similarity between two things is highlighted by using a word to refer to something that it does not *literally* mean
C. a representation that exaggerates or highlights certain aspects -- especially of a person for comic effect; or creating a drawing with such exaggeration
- 12 *I know that I deserve my punishment. I do not **begrudge** it.*
A. resent
B. pessimistic or disagreeable
C. develop or change gradually
- 13 *It is our **mortal** lot to suffer and...*
A. someone who provides start-up money to new companies
B. someone who combines components into a complex whole
C. human
- 14 *I tried to **deceive** no one.*
A. tell (a story)
B. bad or harmful
C. lie or mislead
- 15 *her soul faced the awful and **irrevocable** judgment*
A. not tending to find fault
B. final (incapable of being undone)
C. able to be disagreed with
- 16 *sullenly willing to be disappointed all at the same time.*
A. in a manner that involves betrayal
B. with a gloomy (or bad) mood
C. in a manner that calls or attracts
- 17 *I'm **obliged** to you.*
A. differed; or changed
B. grateful or indebted
C. began fighting again
- 18 *...sparks rain on it in scattering bursts as though they **engendered** other sparks from the contact.*
A. traded
B. gave rise to
C. copied
- 19 *He too has lost flesh; like ours, his face has an expression strained, dreamy and **gaunt**.*
A. not having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
B. thin and bony
C. able to qualify for regular payments that permit having an income without working
- 20 *I stopped at the glass and smoothed my hair, then I went behind the **prescription** case, where she was waiting.*
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. a recommendation or requirement OR (from a medical doctor) an instruction -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	gaudy	Used 4 times in this book.
2	B	cessation	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	twilight (<i>as in: pink clouds in a twilight sky</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
4	B	inert	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	muse (<i>as in: her musings</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
6	C	poise	Used 4 times in this book.
7	B	rein (<i>as in: to rein in their activities</i>)	Used 12 times in this book.
8	B	mortgage	Used 4 times in this book.
9	C	sacrilege	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	rapt (<i>as in: rapt attention</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
11	C	caricature	Used 2 times in this book.
12	A	begrudge	Used 11 times in this book.
13	C	mortal (<i>as in: mortal body</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
14	C	deceive	Used 3 times in this book.
15	B	irrevocable	Used 3 times in this book.
16	B	sullen (<i>as in: a sullen mood</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
17	B	obliged (<i>as in: I'm much obliged for your kindness</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
18	B	engender	Used 3 times in this book.
19	B	gaunt	Used 7 times in this book.
20	C	prescribe	Used 6 times in this book.