

Beowulf

by Author Unknown

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 from 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: avenge, blithe, deemed, exile, feud, garnish, haughty, heathen, heed, hinder, hoard, loath, loathe, pact, peril, refuge, spurn, strife, valor, wrath



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Beowulf

by Author Unknown

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

Vocabulary Preview

Beowulf

by Author Unknown

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The hero set out to **avenge** the cruel treatment of his village by the bandits.
 - A. kindly forgive
 - B. quietly forget
 - C. take revenge for
2. She was her usual unworried, **blithe** self.
 - A. carefree and happy
 - B. sleepy
 - C. busy and distracted
3. The chemical was **deemed** unsafe to use in children's products.
 - A. judged
 - B. manufactured
 - C. tested
4. Napoleon was forced into exile on the island of Elba.
 - A. apologizing
 - B. living elsewhere
 - C. hard labor
5. It's time to stop this **feud**.
 - A. oppression of others
 - B. continuous complaining
 - C. long-standing fight
6. She **garnished** the soup with parsley before serving it to her guests.
 - A. thickened
 - B. reheated
 - C. decorated
7. She has that **haughty**, rich and entitled attitude.
 - A. wealthy
 - B. arrogant
 - C. optimistic
8. The Spanish colony prohibited **heathen** worship.
 - A. religious
 - B. organized
 - C. non-Christian
9. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
 - A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
10. The brace I have to wear is **hindering** my movements
 - A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult
11. She has **hoarded** so many things, you can barely step into her apartment.
 - A. gathered & stored
 - B. stacked in piles
 - C. made a mess of
12. Though they **loath** to admit it, there are serious divides splitting the party.
 - A. are eager
 - B. are reluctant
 - C. are excited

13. I loathe that man. He ruined my life.
- A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
14. Under the pact, North Korea agreed to stop producing weapons-grade uranium.
- A. agreement
 - B. threat
 - C. plan
15. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
16. She took refuge from the sun under a beautiful oak tree.
- A. protection
 - B. shade
 - C. warmth
17. She spurned both major parties in the last election.
- A. joined
 - B. rejected
 - C. founded
18. Civil strife tore the country apart for nearly a decade before reform began.
- A. joyful celebration
 - B. violent conflict
 - C. quiet agreement
19. She has served her country with valor.
- A. wisdom
 - B. enthusiasm
 - C. courage
20. She fears the wrath of God.
- A. angry punishment
 - B. power
 - C. unpredictable moods

Vocabulary in Context

Beowulf

by Author Unknown

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 {1b} Nor far was that day when father and son-in-law stood in **feud** for warfare and hatred that woke again.
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. consume or destroy completely
 - C. a bitter, long-standing fight
- 2 The mighty chief, atheling excellent, unblithe sat, labored in woe for the loss of his thanes, when once had been traced the trail of the fiend, spirit accurst: too cruel that sorrow, too long, too **loathsome**.
 - A. not aware of something
 - B. consistent or the same
 - C. disgusting or very bad
- 3 Whiles they vowed in their **heathen** fanes altar-offerings, asked with words {2e} that the slayer-of-souls would succor give them for the pain of their people.
 - A. the ability and tendency to determine what should be done and to start doing it without instruction; or to start something
 - B. the state of not being relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
 - C. someone who is not civilized or not moral OR an offensive term for a person who does not believe in a preferred religion
- 4 Almighty they knew not, Doomsman of Deeds and dreadful Lord, nor Heaven's-Helmet **heeded** they ever, Wielder-of-Wonder.
 - A. prepared food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. supported by providing money or other economic aid
 - C. paid close attention to; or did what was suggested
- 5 He was the mightiest man of **valor** in that same day of this our life, stalwart and stately.
 - A. exceedingly powerful bomb whose energy comes from the splitting of atoms
 - B. a long race that is shorter than the typical long race of about 26 miles
 - C. exceptional or heroic courage when facing danger -- especially in battle
- 6 'Tis plain that for prowess, not plunged into **exile**, for high-hearted valor, Hrothgar ye seek!
 - A. (noun) something that is lighter and draws attention -- such as an area of a painting OR (verb) making something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
 - B. to force someone to live outside of their homeland; or living in such a condition

or more rarely: voluntary absence from a place someone would rather be

 - C. recommend or require what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) give medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
- 7 This boon they seek, that they, my master, may with thee have speech at will: nor **spurn** their prayer to give them hearing, gracious Hrothgar!
 - A. find, search, or research
 - B. reject as not good enough
 - C. being a boundary or limit
- 8 I' the waves I slew nicors {6a} by night, in need and peril **avenging** the Weders, {6b} whose woe they sought, --crushing the grim ones.
 - A. briefly seeing
 - B. making fearful
 - C. taking revenge
- 9 Oft minstrels sang **blithe** in Heorot.
 - A. carefree and happy
 - B. good or beneficial
 - C. able to get nearer

- 10 No living man, or lief or loath, from your labor dire could you dissuade, from swimming the main.
 A. able to be protected or kept unchanged
 B. reluctant or unwilling to do something
 C. able to accept as true (without proof)
- 11 XI THEN from the moorland, by misty crags, with God's wrath laden, Grendel came.
 A. extreme anger
 B. determination
 C. use of reason
- 12 XII NOT in any wise would the earls'—defence {12a} suffer that slaughterous stranger to live, useless deeming his days and years to men on earth.
 A. believing or judging
 B. working or operating
 C. trying or attempting
- 13 Full oft for less have I largess showered, my precious hoard, on a punier man, less stout in struggle.
 A. gathers something valuable and stores it
 B. the difference between tones of an image
 C. hold together (connect or unite) or wrap
- 14 Him I might not — the Maker willed not —hinder from flight, and firm enough hold the life-destroyer: too sturdy was he, the ruthless, in running!
 A. make different; or show difference
 B. to cause something to move forward
 C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 15 XV THERE was hurry and hest in Heorot now for hands to bedeck it, and dense was the throng of men and women the wine-hall to cleanse, the guest-room to garnish.
 A. feel angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked
 B. accept something undesired as unavoidable or the lesser of evils
 C. to decorate or adorn something; or the item added for decoration
- 16 Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings!
 A. someone who interferes in other people's affairs or business
 B. arrogant or condescending (acting superior or self-important)
 C. someone who is asking a question or looking for information
- 17 O'er the roof of the helmet high, a ridge, wound with wires, kept ward o'er the head, lest the relict-of-files {15c} should fierce invade, sharp in the strife, when that shielded hero should go to grapple against his foes.
 A. thing that affects a result or outcome
 B. violent conflict or angry disagreement
 C. job, reservation, booking, or activity
- 18 To Beowulf over them both then gave the refuge-of-Ingwines right and power, o'er war-steeds and weapons: wished him joy of them.
 A. something giving protection or comfort -- especially a safe place
 B. a ceiling designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 C. a person (often a writer or artist) living an unconventional life
- 19 Pact of peace they plighted further on both sides firmly.
 A. an agreement between parties
 B. reason (for doing something)
 C. small quantity or indication
- 20 XL A PERILOUS path, it proved, he {40a} trod who heinously hid, that hall within, wealth under wall!
 A. stuck out
 B. dangerous
 C. bent down

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Beowulf

by Author Unknown

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	feud	Used 32 times in this book.
2	C	loathe	Used 9 times in this book.
3	C	heathen	Used 8 times in this book.
4	C	heed	Used 5 times in this book.
5	C	valor	Used 10 times in this book.
6	B	exile	Used 8 times in this book.
7	B	spurn	Used 5 times in this book.
8	C	avenge	Used 17 times in this book.
9	A	blithe	Used 10 times in this book.
10	B	loath	Used 5 times in this book.
11	A	wrath	Used 13 times in this book.
12	A	deemed	Used 8 times in this book.
13	A	hoard	Used 50 times in this book.
14	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
15	C	garnish (<i>as in: garnished with parsley</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
16	B	haughty	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
17	B	strife	Used 13 times in this book.
18	A	refuge	Used 7 times in this book.
19	A	pact	Used 7 times in this book.
20	B	peril	Used 8 times in this book.