

Billy Budd

by Herman Melville

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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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: allude, antipathy, condemn, deemed, deference, evince, malice, martial, mutiny, narrate, obscure (2), opine, prudent, satire, scruples, sequel, spontaneous, subordinate, visage



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
2. A mutual **antipathy** prevented them from working well together.
 - A. attraction
 - B. sympathy
 - C. strong dislike
3. He was **condemned** to ten years in prison.
 - A. expecting punishment
 - B. spared punishment
 - C. given punishment
4. The chemical was **deemed** unsafe to use in children's products.
 - A. judged
 - B. manufactured
 - C. tested
5. Out of **deference** to the Hindu visitors, they did not serve beef.
 - A. open dislike
 - B. loud praise
 - C. polite respect
6. She loves singing and **evinces** a natural gift.
 - A. shows
 - B. craves
 - C. lacks
7. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
 - A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
8. The army practiced **martial** drills before the inspection.
 - A. related to war
 - B. related to music
 - C. related to farming
9. The largest **mutiny** in modern military history occurred during the first world war when an estimated 40,000 French soldiers, probably wisely, ignored the command to advance on German troops entrenched in hilltop positions.
 - A. open rebellion against authority
 - B. turnaround in a battle
 - C. defeat in battle
10. She avoided eye contact as she **narrated** the story of how she ended up in prison.
 - A. told (a story)
 - B. discouraged
 - C. urged strongly
11. Our view was **obscured** by the smoke.
 - A. enhanced
 - B. blocked
 - C. made frightening

12. She left instructions for us, but they are so **obscure** we can't agree on what they are.
- A. unrelated to the subject at hand
 - B. controversial
 - C. not clearly expressed or understood
13. She **opined** that popular sentiment will change when people learn more about the issue.
- A. expressed an opinion
 - B. surveyed people in the room
 - C. challenged the opinion
14. Courage is dangerous without **prudence**.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
15. Through **satire**, the cartoon exposed how ridiculous the new policy looked in practice.
- A. literal description
 - B. factual reporting
 - C. humorous criticism
16. Her **scruples** were not so strong as to withstand her friend's arguments.
- A. principles that discourage certain kinds of action
 - B. known facts
 - C. firmness of purpose
17. They were so confident *Lord of the Rings* would be successful, they filmed some of the **sequels** with the first film.
- A. movies that continued the story
 - B. interviews of actors expected to become famous
 - C. expensive promotional scenes
18. The group broke into **spontaneous** laughter.
- A. quiet and polite
 - B. sudden and unplanned
 - C. loud and bothersome
19. Every officer under the rank of Captain, shall be **subordinate** to the Officer of the Watch in regard to the performance of the duties with which he is charged.
- A. subservient
 - B. in charge of
 - C. considerate
20. She gazed at her reflection in the mirror, studying her own **visage** with a critical eye.
- A. body
 - B. clothing
 - C. face

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 ...with the off-hand unaffectedness of natural regality, he seemed to accept the **spontaneous** homage of his shipmates.
 - A. fascinate so much that awareness of other surrounding things is partially lost and too much trust is granted
 - B. natural (happening or arising without plan)
 - C. related to a government official whose job is to represent their country in discussions with other countries
- 2 And yet, more likely, if satire it was in effect, it was hardly so by intention, for Billy, tho' happily endowed with the gayety of high health, youth, and a free heart, was yet by no means of a **satirical** turn.
 - A. full of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
 - B. relating to expert judgement of what is good and bad about something
 - C. a way of making fun of people or ideas -- often through exaggeration
- 3 And yet his mention is less a **narration** than a reference, having to do hardly at all with details.
 - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. a general feeling of not being as good as others
 - C. the center (or most important part) of something
- 4 With minds less stored than his and less earnest, some officers of his rank, with whom at times he would necessarily consort, found him lacking in the companionable quality, a dry and bookish gentleman, as they **deemed**.
 - A. believed or judged
 - B. wrongly understood
 - C. not disagreed with
- 5 He seemed unmindful of the circumstance that to his bluff company such remote **allusions**, however pertinent they might really be, were altogether alien to men whose reading was mainly confined to the journals.
 - A. outward appearances
 - B. indirect references
 - C. agreements to marry
- 6 As one of a boarding-party from the Agamemnon he had received a cut slantwise along one temple and cheek, leaving a long scar like a streak of dawn's light falling athwart the dark **visage**.
 - A. a basic building block for proteins
 - B. someone who believe in a single God
 - C. someone's face or facial expression
- 7 Years, and those experiences which befall certain shrewder men **subordinated** life-long to the will of superiors, all this had developed in the Dansker the pithy guarded cynicism that was his leading characteristic.
 - A. less important or subservient; or to rank as such
 - B. left a place, job or position previously occupied
 - C. having multiple areas of control or concentration
- 8 Coke and Blackstone hardly shed so much light into **obscure** spiritual places as the Hebrew prophets.
 - A. the state of doing something intentionally
 - B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - C. difficult to understand
- 9 There was no moon as yet; a haze **obscured** the star-light.
 - A. emphasized (called attention to something)
 - B. made less visible
 - C. not fit for service to humans or home life
- 10 Now envy and **antipathy**, passions irreconcilable in reason, nevertheless in fact may spring conjoined like Chang and Eng in one birth.
 - A. a fat compound
 - B. a hoofed mamma
 - C. strong dislike

- 11 *And they can really form no conception of an unreciprocated malice.*
 A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer
- 12 *But it was only a partial and anonymous account that Billy gave, the unfounded scruples above referred to preventing full disclosure to anybody.*
 A. principles that discourage certain kinds of action
 B. moves again into position to work; or starts again
 C. prepares food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
- 13 *No sooner did the Commander observe who it was that deferentially stood awaiting his notice, than a peculiar expression came over him.*
 A. not done on purpose
 B. in a specific order
 C. with polite respect
- 14 *The perplexity he evinced proceeded less from aught touching the man informed against—as Claggart doubtless opined—than from considerations how best to act in regard to the informer.*
 A. expressed an opinion
 B. took on as one's own
 C. differed; or changed
- 15 *Was he absorbed in taking in all the bearings of the event and what was best not only now at once to be done, but also in the sequel?*
 A. something that follows and continues something else -- especially a film or book
 or more rarely: something that follows as a result of something else
 B. a math value that tells how many times a number is multiplied by itself to reach another number -- often used to describe very big or very small quantities
 C. a diplomat appointed by a government to live in a foreign country and help its citizens visiting that country; or the offices of that person and assistants
- 16 *Disturbed by the excited manner he had never before observed in the Indomitable's Captain, and as yet wholly ignorant of the affair, the prudent Surgeon nevertheless held his peace, only again looking an earnest interrogation as to what it was that had resulted in such a tragedy.*
 A. sensible and careful
 B. not demonstrative of
 C. sincerity (realness)
- 17 *To resist him would be mutiny.*
 A. open rebellion against authority
 B. a legal order requiring witnesses to appear, or documents related to an appeal be provided
 C. utter obscenities or profanities; or to speak disrespectfully of something considered sacred
- 18 *And before a court less arbitrary and more merciful than a martial one,*
 A. military
 B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 C. without involvement of anything in between
- 19 *...had been already tried by a summary court and condemned to death;*
 A. treated in a manner that demonstrated a sense of superiority, but was supposed to seem kind OR acted like a patron (supported someone or something; or was a customer)
 B. examined carefully for accuracy with the intent of verification -- especially an inspection of a company's accounting procedures and records by a trained accountant
 C. legally sentenced someone to punishment
- 20 *It was noted at the time and remarked upon afterwards, that in this final scene the good man evinced little or nothing of the perfunctory.*
 A. showed
 B. traded
 C. copied

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	spontaneous	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
2	C	satire (<i>as in: wrote a satire</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
3	A	narrate	Used 9 times in this book.
4	A	deemed	Used 9 times in this book.
5	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
6	C	visage	Used 7 times in this book.
7	A	subordinate	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
8	C	obscure (<i>as in: the view or directions are obscure</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
9	B	obscure (<i>as in: it obscured my view</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	C	antipathy	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
12	A	scruples	Used 7 times in this book.
13	C	deference	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
14	A	opine	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	A	sequel	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
17	A	mutiny	Used 18 times in this book.
18	A	martial	Used 11 times in this book.
19	C	condemn (<i>as in: was condemned to life in prison</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	evince	Used 11 times in this book.