

Cyrano de Bergerac

by Edmond Rostand

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: acclaim, adieu, apprentice, besiege, constrained, disdain, droll, eloquent, haughty, hinder, novel, paltry, peril, prudent, rampart, sentinel, siege, sonnet, swagger, valor



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	C
8	A
9	B
10	C
11	A
12	A
13	B
14	A
15	C
16	B
17	B
18	A
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. The book was released to great **acclaim**.
 - A. criticism
 - B. praise
 - C. curiosity
2. We waved **adieu** to our friends at the train station.
 - A. goodbye
 - B. hello
 - C. greetings
3. Although she was still an **apprentice**, Clara already had a natural talent for woodworking and carved beautiful details into her projects.
 - A. employee with seniority
 - B. learner on the job
 - C. licensed professional
4. Helicopters dropped food and medicine into the **besieged** city.
 - A. hungry
 - B. surrounded
 - C. flooded
5. Congressional power is **constrained** by the court.
 - A. restricted
 - B. enforced
 - C. threatened
6. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. humility
 - C. intense anger
7. The comedian had a **droll** way of describing everyday life.
 - A. harsh and bitter
 - B. dull and serious
 - C. quirky and funny
8. She is the most **eloquent** speaker at the school.
 - A. well-spoken
 - B. experienced
 - C. popular
9. She has that **haughty**, rich and entitled attitude.
 - A. wealthy
 - B. arrogant
 - C. optimistic
10. The brace I have to wear is **hindering** my movements.
 - A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult
11. It is a **novel** idea and just might work.
 - A. original
 - B. important
 - C. valuable

12. They offered her a **paltry** amount for the rare book, hoping she didn't know its real value.
- A. insignificant
 - B. unfair
 - C. confusing
13. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
14. Courage is dangerous without **prudence**.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
15. Guards patrolled the **ramparts**, keeping watch for approaching enemies.
- A. open fields
 - B. royal gardens
 - C. defensive walls
16. The cell is like an immunological **sentinel** that looks out for dangerous pathogens.
- A. medical professional
 - B. someone standing guard
 - C. biological structure
17. The castle was under **siege** for months, with the enemy forces relentlessly attacking its walls.
- A. fortified defense
 - B. prolonged attack
 - C. passionate negotiation
18. *Romeo and Juliet* opens with a **sonnet**.
- A. poem of a particular form
 - B. narrator introduction
 - C. moralizing song
19. The cowboy **swaggered** into the saloon with his holster unstrapped.
- A. limped with difficulty
 - B. walked confidently
 - C. snuck
20. She has served her country with **valor**.
- A. wisdom
 - B. enthusiasm
 - C. courage

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 CUIGY: He can not **hinder** that.
 - A. make different; or show difference
 - B. to cause something to move forward
 - C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 2 The color speaks truth, for, thanks to your **valor**, things will soon go ill for Spain in Flanders.
 - 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
- 3 If you go on, I Shall feel myself **constrained** to cuff your face!
 - A. restricted; or lacking spontaneity
 - B. not provided with investment funds
 - C. stopped (something from happening)
- 4 THE VISCOUNT DE VALVERT (*shrugging his shoulders*): **Swaggerer**!
 - A. someone with an irrational fear of foreigners or strangers
 - B. someone who walks and behaves in a highly confident manner
 - C. someone who formally rejects, gives up, or turns away from
- 5 THE APPRENTICE: 'Tis of **brioche** pastry.
 - A. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - B. person who learns a trade or skill through hands-on experience under a skilled worker; or (as a verb) performance of that kind of work
 - C. the act of hiding something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hiding the truth; or something that hides or deceives
- 6 (*Lise, who is talking tenderly to the musketeer, starts, and comes down toward Cyrano*): So this fine captain is **laying siege** to you
 - A. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
 - B. a military tactic in which a fortified place is surrounded and isolated while it is attacked over time

or:

any prolonged attack, effort, or period of trouble

C. a workplace where people do scientific or medical research, or produce drugs or chemicals (also used figuratively) OR (as an adjective) related to such a place
- 7 See you these two **sonnets** of Monsieur Beuserade... THE DUENNA: Hey?
 - A. a poem consisting of 14 lines with a fixed rhyme scheme
 - B. members of Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - C. extremely dense collapsed stars made mostly of neutrons
- 8 How **droll** the stains one sees on fine-laced doublets, From gall of envy, or the poltroon's drivel!
 - A. able to be disagreed with
 - B. not tending to find fault
 - C. comical in an unusual way
- 9 CYRANO: He hath an **eloquent** tongue in telling his love?
 - A. powerful use of language
 - B. able to take on or adopt
 - C. the state of being awake
- 10 (*Correcting himself—contemptuously*): —They are **paltry** enough
 - A. insignificant in amount or quality
 - B. degree to which things are related
 - C. able to be understood or explained

- 11 We are to **besiege** Arras.
- A. keep busy thinking about or doing something
 - B. surround and cut-off supplies; or overwhelm
 - C. return to an undesirable previous condition
- 12 Adieu.
- A. goodbye
 - B. hello
 - C. greetings
- 13 ROXANE (**disdainfully**): Oh!
- A. with a lack of respect; or with a sense of superiority
 - B. in a manner that is aware or concerned about something
 - C. without concern for what others might think of oneself
- 14 CYRANO (*coming nearer, passionately*):
Ay, a new tone! In the tender, sheltering dusk
I dare to be myself for once,--at last!
(He stops, falters):
What say I? I know not!--Oh, pardon me--
It thrills me,--'tis so sweet, so novel. . .
- A. pleasantly new and original
 - B. important and valuable
 - C. traditional (having withstood the test of time)
- 15 ROXANE: *But swear he shall be prudent?*
- A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 16 **Sentinels** *at different points.*
- A. produces (something desired); or the amount produced
 - B. a person who stands guard or looks out for something
 - C. complains or verbally attacks in a loud, excited way
- 17 (**Acclamations**): Oh, oh
- A. members of Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - B. choices made without opposition or without formal votes
 - C. extremely dense collapsed stars made mostly of neutrons
- 18 DE GUICHE (*controlling himself, haughtily*): *Do you think I will eat your leavings?*
- A. in a manner that is clear, so it is easily understood
 - B. condescendingly (in a superior or self-important manner)
 - C. in a manner that is able to be promised or guaranteed
- 19 CHRISTIAN (*taking her hands*): *Now tell me why-- Why, by these fearful paths so perilous-- Across these ranks of ribald soldiery, You have come?*
- A. stuck out
 - B. dangerous
 - C. bent down
- 20 The **rampart** is covered instantly by a formidable row of enemies
- A. think carefully and make a judgment about something again
 - B. to promise, guarantee, or indicate certainty of something
 - C. a defensive wall or barrier -- built for military defense

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
2	C	valor	Used 5 times in this play.
3	A	constrained	Used 3 times in this play.
4	B	swagger	Used 5 times in this play.
5	B	apprentice	Used 6 times in this play.
6	B	siege	Used 6 times in this play.
7	A	sonnet	Used 4 times in this play.
8	C	droll	Used 2 times in this play.
9	A	eloquent	Used 5 times in this play.
10	A	paltry	Used 2 times in this play.
11	B	besiege	Used 6 times in this play.
12	A	adieu	Used 4 times in this play.
13	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
14	A	novel (<i>as in: a novel situation</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
15	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
16	B	sentinel	Used 6 times in this play.
17	B	acclaim	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
18	B	haughty	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this play.
19	B	peril	Used 5 times in this play.
20	C	rampart	Used 12 times in this play.