

The Divine Comedy – Volume 1 (The Inferno or Hell)

by Dante Alighieri

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

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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: abyss, assail, attain, avarice, correspond, discern, discord, disdain, dismal, fraud, heed, hinder, impetuous, infamy, lament, prophecy, purgatory, scorn, serpent, vengeance



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	C
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	A
8	A
9	C
10	A
11	C
12	C
13	A
14	C
15	C
16	B
17	C
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. Our foot is stuck on the accelerator, and we are headed towards an **abyss**.
 - A. turning point
 - B. dangerous situation
 - C. major opportunity
2. She took every opportunity to **assail** the policy.
 - A. study
 - B. attack
 - C. understand
3. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
 - A. openly oppose
 - B. carefully describe
 - C. successfully gain
4. She was doomed to an empty life motivated by **avarice**.
 - A. selfishness
 - B. greed
 - C. laziness
5. The bones in a bat's wing exactly correspond to those in a human forearm.
 - A. are equivalent
 - B. are opposite
 - C. are unrelated
6. In the novel, she sees through his friendly facade and **discerns** his evil intent.
 - A. understands
 - B. overcomes
 - C. avoids
7. There is too much **discord** in their home.
 - A. conflict
 - B. loud noise
 - C. uncritical agreement
8. 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
9. When she graduated from college the job market was **dismal**.
 - A. especially good
 - B. promising but unusual
 - C. terrible or depressing
10. The company was shut down after investigators uncovered a massive tax **fraud** scheme.
 - A. deception to get something illegally
 - B. foolish
 - C. unsuccessful
11. 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

12. The brace I have to wear is **hindering** my movements
- A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult
13. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
- A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
14. a date which will live in **infamy**
- A. fame for something good
 - B. fame for something exciting
 - C. fame for something bad
15. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
- A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about
16. It was a **self-fulfilling prophecy**.
- A. profitable enterprise
 - B. prediction
 - C. explanation
17. After hours of sitting in the airport with no updates, the stranded travelers described the experience as pure **purgatory**.
- A. a state of excitement
 - B. a state of ignorance
 - C. a state of suffering
18. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
19. What does the **serpent** represent in the Garden of Eden?
- A. fig leaf
 - B. snake
 - C. apple
20. 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

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 Fourth Circle: the **Avaricious** and the Prodigal.*
 - A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. having or showing excessive desire for wealth
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 2 –*Prophecies of misfortune to Dante.*
 - A. interactions or interests
 - B. predictions of the future
 - C. things easily set on fire
- 3 –*The cord thrown into the **abyss**.*
 - A. of the American Indian civilization of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala that reached its peak between AD 300 and 900
 - B. a hole or dropoff so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply a frightening bottomless pit
 - C. removal and examination of tissues or liquids from the living body to determine the existence or cause of a disease
- 4 –*Seventh pit: **Fraudulent** Thieves.*
 - A. dishonest
 - B. thoughtlessly foolish
 - C. carelessly unsuccessful
- 5 *This end was **attained** through that knowledge of God of which the soul was capable, and through love which was in proportion to knowledge.*
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
 - C. gained or reached something with effort
- 6 *The fall of man had made him a just object of the **vengeance** of God; but the elect were to be redeemed, and for their redemption the history of the world from the beginning was directed.*
 - A. something that stands out
 - B. something made from parts
 - C. the act of taking revenge
- 7 [2] *These three beasts **correspond** to the triple division of sins into those of incontinence, of violence, and of fraud*
 - A. connect or fit together by being equivalent, proportionate, or matched
 - B. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
 - C. speak in a manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
- 8 *I am made by God, thanks be to Him, such that your misery toucheth me not, nor doth the flame of this burning **assail** me.*
 - A. hire again or occupy again
 - B. to attack or cause trouble
 - C. learn, discover, or decide
- 9 *Fame of them the world permitteth not to be; mercy and justice **disdain** them.*
 - A. a lack of respect
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. influence opinion
- 10 *And I, who was gazing, saw a banner, that whirling ran so swiftly that it seemed to me to **scorn** all repose, and behind it came so long a train of folk, that I could never have believed death had undone so many.*
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific

- 11 [1] [1] *The boat that bears the souls to Purgatory*
- A. treatment with extra kindness or tolerance OR (more rarely) a special pleasure (typically something done in excess of what is thought good -- such as eating too much cake, or being too lazy)
 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. a place or state of temporary suffering while waiting
- or in Roman Catholic theology: the place where those who have died in a state of grace undergo limited suffering to pay for their sins
- 12 *Dark, profound it was, and cloudy, so that though I fixed my sight on the bottom I did not discern anything there.*
- A. notice or understand something
 - B. made by taking on as one's own
 - C. a sensible view of a situation
- 13 *Hinder not his fated going; thus is it willed there where is power to do that which is willed; and ask thou no more.*
- A. make different; or show difference
 - B. to cause something to move forward
 - C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 14 *Now the woeful notes begin to make themselves heard; now am I come where much lamentation smites me.*
- A. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - B. a range of things between two boundaries
 - C. passionate expression of grief or sorrow
- 15 *...tell me the reason why such great discord has assailed it.*
- A. conflict
 - B. characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open
 - C. design based on alphabetic letters; or adding such a design to something
- 16 *Two men are just, but there they are not heeded; Pride, Envy, Avarice are the three sparks that have inflamed their hearts.*
- 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
- 17 *Little serpents and cerastes they had for hair, wherewith their savage brows were bound.*
- A. copies
 - B. snakes
 - C. enters
- 18 *Not otherwise it was than of a wind, impetuous through the opposing heats, that strikes the forest, and without any stay shatters the branches, beats down and carries them away; forward, laden with dust, it goes superb, and makes the wild beasts and the shepherds fly.*
- A. impulsive (acting suddenly without much thought)
 - B. most important; or person that is most important
 - C. tending to have exceedingly unfavorable opinions
- 19 *And on the edge of the broken chasm lay stretched out the infamy of Crete, that was conceived in the false cow.*
- A. the process or result of learning, discovering, or deciding
 - B. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
 - C. famous for something that is bad; or an extremely bad event
- 20 *Amid this cruel and most dismal store were running people naked and in terror, without hope of hole or heliotrope.*
- A. irrelevant or unimportant
 - B. important or significant
 - C. depressing or gloomy

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	avarice	Used 7 times in this book.
2	B	prophecy	Used 8 times in this book.
3	B	abyss	Used 15 times in this book.
4	A	fraud	Used 20 times in this book.
5	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
6	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	Used 12 times in this book.
7	A	correspond (<i>as in: corresponding time period</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
8	B	assail	Used 4 times in this book.
9	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
10	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
11	C	purgatory	Used 7 times in this book.
12	A	discern	Used 13 times in this book.
13	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
14	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 18 times in this book.
15	A	discord (<i>as in: discord amongst the group</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
16	C	heed	Used 13 times in this book.
17	B	serpent	Used 15 times in this book.
18	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	C	infamy	Used 4 times in this book.
20	C	dismal	Used 16 times in this book.