

Death of a Traveling Salesman

by Eudora Welty

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: anxiety, bestow, bewilder, continuous, elated, grave, indignant, inevitable, irresponsible, melancholy, mischievous, nimble, ostentatious, profound, prostrate, ravine, resent, serene, sustain, wary



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Death of a Traveling Salesman

by Eudora Welty

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

Vocabulary Preview
Death of a Traveling Salesman

by Eudora Welty

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. It is a vicious cycle in which worry leads to decreased spending and decreased spending leads to increased **anxiety**.
 - A. happiness
 - B. worry
 - C. saving
2. Our organization **bestows** honors, awards, and sometimes cash prizes to promising writers.
 - A. shows
 - B. recommends
 - C. gives
3. I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - A. confused
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
4. Alternating walk and rest was more beneficial than continuous walking for people with Type 2 diabetes.
 - A. occasional
 - B. scheduled
 - C. uninterrupted
5. The **elated** winner couldn't stop smiling.
 - A. extremely happy
 - B. newly created
 - C. exhausted or tired
6. The day after the funeral, she was in a **grave** mood.
 - A. hysterical
 - B. solemn
 - C. fearful
7. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
 - A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
8. The leaves fall each year with the **inevitable** change of the seasons.
 - A. certain to happen
 - B. complete or total
 - C. minor
9. Her **irresponsible** spending habits led to significant credit card debt.
 - A. careless
 - B. careful
 - C. thoughtful
10. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring.
 - A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
11. The **mischievous** children spilled chocolate syrup all over the kitchen.
 - A. misbehaving
 - B. careless
 - C. young

12. Her **nimble** fingers danced on the keyboard.
A. long and attractive
B. quick and agile
C. ebony-colored
13. She arrived in an **ostentatious** stretch limo.
A. expensive
B. long
C. showy
14. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
A. intense
B. common
C. traditional
15. He lay **prostrate** on the floor after collapsing from exhaustion.
A. curled up tightly
B. sitting upright
C. lying face-down
16. I was afraid that if we climbed into the **ravine**, we might be caught in a flood before we could get out.
A. a hole so deep the bottom cannot be seen
B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
C. a large, fast-moving river
17. As the war dragged on, the Thai population came to **resent** the Japanese presence.
A. appreciate
B. dislike
C. request
18. She remained **serene** even when he was yelling at her.
A. unmoved
B. calm
C. aggressive
19. She started the project with optimism, but she did not **sustain** the effort required to complete it.
A. continue
B. increase
C. suffer
20. She looked **wary** as she reached out to pet her friend's new dog.
A. determined
B. distrustful
C. excited

Vocabulary in Context

Death of a Traveling Salesman

by Eudora Welty

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *And he himself—he was a man who always wore rather wide-brimmed black hats, and in the wavy hotel mirrors had looked something like a bullfighter, as he paused for that **inevitable** instant on the landing, walking downstairs to supper.... He leaned out of the car again, and once more the sun pushed at his head.*
 - A. certain to happen
 - B. size or dimension
 - C. circular movement
- 2 *He drove through a heap of dead oak leaves, his wheels stirring their weightless sides to make a silvery **melancholy** whistle as the car passed through their bed.*
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. a sad feeling or manner
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 3 *Then he saw that he was on the edge of a **ravine** that fell away, a red erosion, and that this was indeed the road's end.*
 - A. another battle with the same foe
 - B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
 - C. describing someone as antisocial
- 4 *It shot up with great power, almost **elation**, and fell gently, like acrobats into nets.*
 - A. intense feeling of happiness and excitement
 - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
 - C. relating to where attention is concentrated
- 5 *It began to pound **profoundly**,*
 - A. intensely
 - B. in a manner that is not aware of something
 - C. in a manner that is loving, but not sexual
- 6 *It began to pound profoundly, then waited **irresponsibly**, hitting in some sort of inward mockery first at his ribs, then against his eyes, then under his shoulder blades, and against the roof of his mouth when he tried to say, "Good afternoon, madam."*
 - A. a lack of concern about consequences
 - B. in a manner that is likely to change
 - C. in a manner that does not find fault
- 7 *Stock-still in his confusion, he dropped his bags, which seemed to drift in slow bulks gracefully through the air and to cushion themselves on the gray **prostrate** grass near the doorstep.*
 - A. spend time with; or someone with whom a person spends a lot of time
 - B. an overwhelming amount; or to overwhelm -- especially said of water
 - C. lying down – typically face downward on the ground as in submission
- 8 *When she never said a word, and **sustained** her quiet pose of holding the lamp, he was convinced of the strength in her body.*
 - A. continued
 - B. influenced or effected
 - C. consistent or the same
- 9 *...In a flare of touchiness and **anxiety**, Bowman wished to avoid even mention of unknown men and their unknown farms.*
 - A. basic rule or belief
 - B. nervousness or worry
 - C. narrow water passage
- 10 *What prompted her to stay there across the room, silently **bestowing** her presence upon him?*
 - A. ruling
 - B. paying
 - C. giving

- 11 *Mischievously*, at the suggestion of those sounds, Bowman's heart leapt again.
- A. in a manner that playfully causes minor trouble
 - B. in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
 - C. in a manner that is not attractive or desirable
- 12 Bowman averted his head and saw the woman looking **serenely** back at the mule, with only satisfaction in her face.
- A. in a pessimistic or disagreeable manner
 - B. in a manner that is calm and untroubled
 - C. enthusiastically or with great interest
- 13 He stared at the woman while the frantic **nimbleness** of his feeling made his head sway.
- A. not easily identified
 - B. quickness and agility
 - C. able to be translated
- 14 But instead of getting up, he listened.... His breathing restrained, his eyes powerless in the growing dark, he listened uneasily for a warning sound, forgetting in **wariness** what it would be.
- A. not done on purpose
 - B. caution or distrust
 - C. not straightforward
- 15 Before long he heard something-soft, **continuous**, insinuating.
- A. the state of being capable of thought, self-reflection, and will
 - B. pertaining to the working together of different religious groups
 - C. continuing in time or space without interruption or irregularity
- 16 I'll sleep in the dark, he thought, in his **bewilderment** pitying himself.
- A. a feeling of extreme confusion
 - B. a type of small portable radio
 - C. a change; or a changed version
- 17 He felt strangely helpless and **resentful**.
- A. relating to expert judgement of what is good and bad about something
 - B. full of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
 - C. unable to be thought through (typically because too much is unknown)
- 18 He made a **grave** answer.
- A. impossible to find
 - B. serious and solemn
 - C. not representative
- 19 Somehow he felt unable to be **indignant** or protest, although some sort of joke had certainly been played upon him.
- A. angered or annoyed at something unjust or wrong
 - B. surprised as something unexpected
 - C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 20 On some impulse he put all the money from his billfold under its fluted glass base, almost **ostentatiously**.
- A. in a manner that is supposed (rather than known to be so)
 - B. not in a manner that is able to be promised or guaranteed
 - C. in a manner intended to attract notice and impress others

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Death of a Traveling Salesman

by Eudora Welty

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	inevitable	High-utility academic word
2	B	melancholy	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	B	ravine	Used 3 times in this story.
4	A	elated	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	irresponsible	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	C	prostrate	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	A	sustain (<i>as in: sustained through the ages</i>)	High-utility academic word
9	B	anxiety	High-utility academic word
10	C	bestow	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	A	mischievous	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	B	serene	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	B	nimble	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	wary	High-utility academic word
15	C	continuous	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	A	bewilder	Used about 15 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	resent	Used about 20 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	grave (<i>as in: Her manner was grave.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this story.
19	A	indignant	High-utility academic word
20	C	ostentatious	High-utility academic word