

Declaration of Sentiments

by Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abject, consent, disfranchisement, franchise, impunity, inalienable, prerogative, prudence, tyranny, usurpation

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 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):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.



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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. After losing everything, they lived in **abject** poverty.

- A. brief and temporary
- B. shameful and hidden
- C. utterly low and hopeless

2. The doctor would not operate without the patient's **consent**.

- A. full understanding
- B. agreement or permission
- C. advance payment

3. The unfair law caused the **disfranchisement** of many poor citizens.

- A. loss of the right to vote
- B. seizure of their property
- C. removal from public office

4. In a democracy, the **franchise** is open to every adult citizen.

- A. the right to vote
- B. the right to own land
- C. the freedom to travel

5. The corrupt official broke laws with **impunity** for years.

- A. freedom from punishment
- B. total secrecy
- C. open defiance

6. Basic human freedoms should be **inalienable**.

- A. impossible to take away
- B. guaranteed by the government
- C. shared by all nations

7. Granting pardons is the **prerogative** of the president.

- A. a solemn duty
- B. an exclusive privilege
- C. a public honor

8. He invested his savings with **prudence**.

- A. strict thrift
- B. calm patience
- C. sound judgment

9. The people rose up to overthrow the king's **tyranny**.

- A. cold, distant rule
- B. overly strict rule
- C. cruel, oppressive rule

10. Historians still debate whether his rise to power was a **usurpation**.

- A. a violent abuse of power
- B. a wrongful seizure of power
- C. a bold display of power

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

civilly dead — here, having no legal rights of her own once married

"even to the wages she earns" — even money she earned herself was not legally hers to keep

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	C
10	B

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness ...”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘inalienable’ most nearly suggests that these rights...

- A. cannot be taken away or given up
- B. must be earned over time
- C. were granted by the government

2 “... that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

According to the passage, governments receive their just powers from...

- A. the authority of their rulers
- B. the agreement of those they govern
- C. the obedience of those they govern

3 “Prudence indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes ...”

In the passage, the appeal to ‘prudence’ primarily functions to...

- A. warn that change is always dangerous
- B. praise long-established governments
- C. grant that caution opposes rash change

4 “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that the ‘usurpations’ it condemns are...

- A. wrongful seizures of power
- B. honest errors of judgment
- C. gradual shifts in custom

5 “The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her.”

Which choice best describes the speaker’s attitude toward man’s treatment of woman?

- A. that it is a regrettable error
- B. that it reflects natural order
- C. that it is oppressive domination

6 “He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise.”

According to the passage, the ‘elective franchise’ that woman is denied is...

- A. the right to own property
- B. the right to vote in elections
- C. the right to hold public office

7 “... she can commit many crimes with impunity, provided they be done in the presence of her husband.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. A wife could escape punishment.
- B. A husband paid for his wife’s crimes.
- C. A wife was barred from all crime.

8 “He has usurped the prerogative of Jehovah himself, claiming it as his right to assign for her a sphere of action ...”

The author includes the charge that man ‘usurped the prerogative of Jehovah’ in order to...

- A. describe a long-shared custom
- B. accuse man of seizing a God-only right
- C. praise man’s deep religious devotion

9 “He has endeavored, in every way that he could, to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect, and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject life.”

It can reasonably be inferred that an ‘abject life,’ as the passage uses it, is one that is...

- A. degraded and stripped of dignity
- B. quiet and free of strife
- C. busy but poorly paid

10 “Now in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that the ‘entire disfranchisement’ of women refers to...

- A. their exclusion from higher education
- B. their low social and religious standing
- C. the loss of their political rights

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	C	
4	A	
5	C	
6	B	The 'elective franchise' is the right to vote — not the everyday business sense students may expect.
7	A	
8	B	
9	A	Students may link 'abject' to 'abject poverty'; here it means low and degraded in spirit, supported by 'self-respect' and 'confidence.'
10	C	Theme comprehension. 'Disfranchisement' gathers the document's catalog of denied rights into one charge — the loss of political and civic standing, not the separate grievances about schooling or social life.