

East of Eden

by John Steinbeck

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: abysmal, attribute (2), contentious, contract (2), desolate, devise, disparage, distort, eminent, function (2), immaculate (2), ornery, probe, resignation (2), vagrant



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Their customer satisfaction rating is **abysmal**.
 - A. very bad
 - B. complicated
 - C. fantastic
2. She described his physical **attributes**.
 - A. characteristics
 - B. strengths
 - C. weaknesses
3. She **attributes** her success to hard work.
 - A. gives money for
 - B. gives credit for
 - C. gives help for
4. It's a **contentious** and complicated issue that I think should be discussed at a separate meeting.
 - A. complex
 - B. controversial
 - C. philosophical
5. She **contracted** AIDS by sharing needles.
 - A. spread
 - B. risked
 - C. got
6. The cold made the aluminum rod **contract** more than the steel rod.
 - A. shorten
 - B. stick
 - C. stretch
7. She felt **desolate** when her boyfriend died in a car accident.
 - A. confused
 - B. miserable
 - C. emotional
8. This may be our last chance to devise a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
9. The victors write the history and **disparage** their enemies.
 - A. criticize
 - B. defeat
 - C. erase from history
10. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
11. Despite her **eminent** status in the art world, she remained humble and approachable.
 - A. respected and well-known
 - B. newly acquired
 - C. barely noticed
12. Scientist do not know all the **functions** that the nutrient performs.
 - A. mathematical calculations
 - B. natural activities
 - C. transitions in form

13. My brain does not function as well when I'm under stress.
A. work
B. feel
C. have fun
14. Her timing and technique were immaculate.
A. terrible
B. perfect
C. adequate
15. The apartment is immaculate.
A. messy or dirty
B. completely neat and clean
C. immense (very large)
16. He is too ornery to celebrate his birthday.
A. bad-tempered
B. old
C. ill
17. The committee will probe the cause of the failure.
A. investigate
B. make better
C. make worse
18. She said that if I don't resign, I will be fired.
A. do better
B. quit
C. renew an agreement
19. She was resigned to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
A. putting a stop
B. resistant
C. with acceptance
20. Police used to be allowed to use their discretion in deciding whether to arrest any vagrant.
A. person who used recreational drugs
B. impoverished person without a home or job
C. someone who is visiting from out-of-town

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 *And as soon as she was aware that a condition existed, she **devised** a new theology.*
 - A. not provided with investment funds
 - B. came up with (invented or created)
 - C. stopped (something from happening)
- 2 *The identity of the **distortion** came to him slowly.*
 - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. a general feeling of not being as good as others
 - C. to alter something in an unnatural or untrue way
- 3 *No crime of commission was ever **attributed** to him, and his crimes of omission were only misdemeanors.*
 - A. not made different; or shown to be different
 - B. credited (pointed to as the cause of something)
 - C. not changed directly from a solid to a vapor
- 4 *She had the inhuman **attribute** of abandoning what she could not get and of waiting for what she could get.*
 - A. characteristic (of something or someone)
 - B. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - C. normal mood, personality, or inclination
- 5 *Although the hill ranch was large it was **abysmally** poor.*
 - A. very badly
 - B. enormously
 - C. habitually
- 6 *If she did it again she found herself in jail, charged with **vagrancy** and public prostitution.*
 - A. the process of removing from recognition or memory
 - B. someone who is poor and has no regular home or job
 - C. the act of making poor; or the state of being poor
- 7 *Charles had moved into a shed where his nostrils would not be assailed by the **immaculate** but painful smells of lye and soda and ammonia and yellow soap.*
 - A. not tending to find fault
 - B. completely neat and clean
 - C. able to be disagreed with
- 8 *His picture--never really inspected--had been of clean-eyed young men and **immaculate** girls, all in academic robes and converging on a white temple on the crown of a wooded hill in the evening.*
 - A. certain
 - B. perfect (without fault or error)
 - C. outside
- 9 *By noon the coroner was able to throw wet planks down and **probe** with a crowbar among the sodden heaps of charcoal.*
 - A. to investigate; or an investigation; or an instrument used for investigation
 - B. to change to multiple areas of control or concentration (rather than just 1)
 - C. a woman who is casually playful in a way that arouses sexual interest of men
- 10 *I **contracted** pleural pneumonia, in that day a killing disease.*
 - A. understood or explained something in a particular way
 - B. not having accepted beliefs without critical question
 - C. got (became ill with)
- 11 *His stomach **contracted**.*
 - A. cramped (tightened as the muscles shortened)
 - B. not roughly calculated
 - C. influenced or effected
- 12 *Even vicariously this was an **eminence** we could hardly stand.*
 - A. famous, respected, or important within a particular field or profession
 - B. the act of finding fault and telling others; or a description of faults
 - C. the process of thinking carefully and making a judgment about something

- 13 I think I'll **resign** before I tell the sheriff, because he's sure as hell going to fire me afterward.
- A. draw
 - B. quit (from a job)
 - C. rule
- 14 He has a gift of **resigned** loyalty without hope of reward.
- A. to be or to become used to (adapted to and with an expectation of)
 - B. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - C. accept something undesired as unavoidable
- 15 You have to keep the girls well and as happy as possible, and some of them can get pretty **ornery**.
- A. easily annoyed and quick to complain and argue
 - B. a document granting permission to do something
 - C. the state or character of being bad or harmful
- 16 It was no easy thing for him to abandon Adam to his **desolation**.
- A. the state or degree of being able to be taken on as one's own
 - B. a feeling of extreme sadness or misery--often with loneliness
 - C. not trustworthy with secrets, and/or conspicuous or obtrusive
- 17 "Samuel," she said, "you're the most **contentious** man this world has ever seen."
- A. the state or degree of being absolutely sure of something
 - B. argumentative
 - C. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
- 18 "College! What do them fellas know?..." And he spat a brown **disparaging** comment on the ground.
- A. criticizing or making seem less important
 - B. moving into position to work; or starting
 - C. controlling (how something will turn out)
- 19 That is only natural, just as it is natural for a man whose life **function** is the making of money to make money out of a war.
- A. someone who expresses disapproval
 - B. purpose
 - C. the act of recognizing difference
- 20 Her mind **functioned** like a wooden mind, her body moved crookedly like a badly operated marionette, but she went steadily about her business.
- A. worked or operated
 - B. not disagreed with
 - C. decided in advance

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	C	distort	Used 6 times in this book.
3	B	attribute (<i>as in: I attribute it to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	attribute (<i>as in: It is an attribute of...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	A	abysmal (<i>as in: an abysmal lecture</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	B	vagrant	Used 5 times in this book.
7	B	immaculate (<i>as in: the housekeeper left it immaculate</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	immaculate (<i>as in: immaculate timing</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	probe	Used 8 times in this book.
10	C	contract (<i>as in: contract the disease</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
11	A	contract (<i>as in: the metal contracted in the cold</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
12	A	eminent	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
13	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
14	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	ornery (<i>as in: is ornery when she first wakes up</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
16	B	desolate (<i>as in: felt desolate</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
17	B	contentious	Used 6 times in this book.
18	A	disparage	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	B	function (<i>as in: Its main function is to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	function (<i>as in: can't function well without sleep</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.