

Equus

by Peter Shaffer

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

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: agitate, antiseptic, belligerent, contemplate, convention, earnest, furtive, genealogy, hysteria, imply, indulge, mane, pagan, pallid, perforate, proficiency, rein, relentless, resume, revere



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Equus

by Peter Shaffer

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

Vocabulary Preview

Equus

by Peter Shaffer

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
2. The nurse always wipes the skin with an **antiseptic** swab before administering a shot.
 - A. a substance used to clean wounds because it makes the pain go away
 - B. a pain killer
 - C. a substance used to clean wounds because it prevents infection by killing harmful bacteria
3. She likes to make people lose their cool by starting **belligerent** political arguments.
 - A. hostile or combative
 - B. clever or intelligent
 - C. ridiculous or absurd
4. The philosopher **contemplated** the meaning of life, pondering the big questions of existence.
 - A. wrote about
 - B. read about
 - C. thought about
5. In most countries, the convention is to shake the head to indicate "no", but in Bulgaria that indicates "yes".
 - A. movement
 - B. agreement
 - C. normal behavior
6. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
 - A. frivolous attitude
 - B. seriousness
 - C. falseness
7. Later she said she was just trying to figure out whose phone it was, but she looked around **furtively** before she began reading my text messages.
 - A. nervously
 - B. eagerly
 - C. with curiosity
8. The researcher is utilizing a database that combines **genealogy** records with vital statistics including cause-of-death.
 - A. medical information
 - B. blood test
 - C. family history
9. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of **hysteria**.
 - A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
10. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied
11. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about

12. She brushed the horse's tangled mane until it flowed smoothly down its neck.
- A. long curved tail
 - B. thick neck hair
 - C. sharp pointed hoof
13. The museum displayed pagan statues from ancient Europe.
- A. highly religious
 - B. ancient political
 - C. non-mainstream religious
14. The patient's pallid complexion alarmed the nurse on duty.
- A. deeply flushed
 - B. unhealthily pale
 - C. heavily wrinkled
15. The factory machines perforate paper to make easy tear-off coupons.
- A. puncture or pierce
 - B. smooth and flatten
 - C. fold and stack
16. After months of practice, she gained enough proficiency in Spanish to hold a simple conversation.
- A. interest
 - B. permission
 - C. skill
17. She is committed to reining in excessive government infringement of personal freedom.
- A. exposing
 - B. restraining
 - C. discovering
18. Her parents criticize her relentlessly.
- A. subtly (in a non-obvious way)
 - B. constantly and oppressively
 - C. with an excessive sense of superiority
19. She decided to resume her studies after taking a year off to travel.
- A. finish
 - B. begin
 - C. begin again
20. She reveres nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
 - B. deeply respects
 - C. thoroughly enjoys

Vocabulary in Context

Equus

by Peter Shaffer

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 It is **perforated** on each side by an opening.
 - A. to make a hole or holes in something
 - B. made different; or showed difference
 - C. interacted again or interested again
- 2 Of course, I **redouble** my efforts to look professional—cutting and snipping for all I'm worth: mainly because I know that if ever those two assistants so much as glimpse my distress—and the **implied** doubt that this repetitive and smelly work is doing any social good at all—I will be the next across the stone.
 - A. suggested (said indirectly)
 - B. not wanting to do something
 - C. was attractive or desirable
- 3 ALAN [**belligerently**, standing up]:
 - A. with an attitude of one eager to fight
 - B. in a manner that is not easily noticed
 - C. in a disrespectful or rejecting manner
- 4 Did you know that when Christian cavalry first appeared in the New World, the **pagans** thought horse and rider was one person?
 - A. instances of having found a condition or substance to be present
 - B. ceilings designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - C. an offensive term for people who follow non-mainstream religions
- 5 **Indulging** in equitation, he called it.
 - A. enjoying to excess
 - B. leaping or jumping
 - C. thinking carefully
- 6 Now all you do is hold onto his **mane**.
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. long coarse hair growing on the back of the neck of a horse
 - C. exchange, convert, or pay off
- 7 He **reins** the horse round, and wheels to face the parents.
 - A. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - B. forces (the horse) in a direction by pulling on straps that are attached to the bit in its mouth
 - C. injures the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 8 **Genealogy**.
 - A. small quantity or indication
 - B. reason (for doing something)
 - C. family ancestry or its study
- 9 FRANK **resumes** his seat.
 - A. fights again
 - B. bounces back
 - C. begins again to take (goes back to)
- 10 Lost in wonder, he starts almost involuntarily to kneel on the floor in **reverence**—but is sharply interrupted by...
 - A. interfere (in another's affairs or business); or handle (something that shouldn't be handled)
 - B. deep respect with a mixture of wonder
 - C. separate two things to prevent passage of something such as heat, cold, noise, or electricity

- 11 **Antiseptic proficiency.**
 A. a point on a curve where the concavity changes to convexity or vice versa
 or more generally: a time of significant change (a turning point)
 B. part of the brain responsible for hormone levels which influence such things as appetite, digestion, sexuality, circulation, emotions, and sleep
 C. a substance that prevents infection by killing harmful micro-organisms; or (as an adjective) describing something very clean and free of germs
- 12 **Antiseptic proficiency.**
 A. snake
 B. story
 C. skill
- 13 *I settled for being pallid and provincial, out of my own eternal timidity.*
 A. mental weakness caused by old age; or describing a medical condition as caused by old age
 B. abnormally pale (lacking healthy skin color); or anything that lacks energy or liveliness
 C. relating to a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king of queen
- 14 *Too conventional, for him. Finding a religion in Psychiatry is really for very ordinary patients.*
 A. complete or total
 B. able to challenge
 C. normal or typical
- 15 **DYSART [earnestly]:** *You'll feel nothing.*
 A. in a self-aware manner
 B. sincerely or seriously
 C. finally; or in the end
- 16 **ALAN is very agitated.**
 A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 C. stirred up emotionally (not calm)
- 17 *Furtively ALAN enters the square from the top end,*
 A. in a manner indicating nervousness
 B. in a manner that provokes, excites, or stimulates -- especially controversy, sexual desire, or anger
 C. in a straightforward manner (uncomplicated or simple -- perhaps also indicating openness and honesty)
- 18 *She contemplates him for a moment.*
 A. restarted (a fire)
 B. wrongly translates
 C. consider or ponder
- 19 *Relentlessly, as this happens, three more horses appear in cones of light: not naturalistic animals like the first three, but dreadful creatures out of nightmare.*
 A. in a pessimistic or disagreeable manner
 B. in an extreme manner that does not stop
 C. enthusiastically or with great interest
- 20 *The noise dies abruptly, and all we hear is ALAN yelling in hysteria as he collapses on the ground—stabbing at his own eyes with the invisible pick.*
 A. a state of excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 B. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 C. found a condition or substance to be present

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Equus

by Peter Shaffer

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	perforate	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
2	A	imply	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
3	A	belligerent	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	C	pagan	Used 3 times in this play.
5	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
6	B	mane	Used 4 times in this play.
7	B	rein (<i>as in: to rein in their activities</i>)	Used 6 times in this play.
8	C	genealogy	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
9	C	resume (<i>as in: resume the meeting</i>)	Used 7 times in this play.
10	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
11	C	antiseptic	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	C	proficiency	High-utility academic word
13	B	pallid	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	C	convention (<i>as in: conventional behavior</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
15	B	earnest	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
16	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
17	A	furtive	Used 3 times in this play.
18	C	contemplate	Used 3 times in this play.
19	B	relentless	Used 3 times in this play.
20	A	hysteria	Used 3 times in this play.