

Fences

by August Wilson

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

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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: accommodate, archangel, destitute, dubious, eloquent, emulate, establish, flourish, guile, immigrate, integral, liable, profound, rein, ridicule, scarcity, scrutiny, succession, taunt, turbulent



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. They had to **accommodate** various interests to get a majority.
 - A. adjust to
 - B. force
 - C. understand
2. The story describes an **archangel** descending from the heavens.
 - A. a small demon
 - B. a lost spirit
 - C. a chief angel
3. She died **destitute** in Paris at the age of 38.
 - A. too young
 - B. extremely poor
 - C. among family
4. She gave a **dubious** look when he claimed to have met the president.
 - A. doubtful
 - B. polite
 - C. joyful
5. She is the most **eloquent** speaker at the school.
 - A. well-spoken
 - B. experienced
 - C. popular
6. The young artist tried to **emulate** the style of her favorite painter without directly copying it.
 - A. imitate
 - B. criticize
 - C. eliminate
7. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
8. The business **flourished** from day one.
 - A. grew or developed well
 - B. struggled to make a profit
 - C. was a dangerous place
9. She had the **guile** to lie directly to his face.
 - A. necessity
 - B. cunning and deceit
 - C. ambition
10. At that time, most of the people who **immigrated** to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
 - A. relocated
 - B. exported goods
 - C. visited
11. The National Guard is an **integral** part of U.S. armed services.
 - A. essential
 - B. unimportant
 - C. additional

12. She's not **liable** to forget something that important.
- A. the state or degree of being less than zero
 - B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
 - C. likely
13. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
14. She is committed to **reining in** excessive government infringement of personal freedom.
- A. exposing
 - B. restraining
 - C. discovering
15. The other children **ridiculed** him for wearing mismatched socks to school.
- A. warmly praised
 - B. completely ignored
 - C. mocked or made fun of
16. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
17. The new policy faced **scrutiny** from independent reviewers.
- A. strong support
 - B. quick approval
 - C. careful examination
18. The team won five games in **succession**, ending their losing streak.
- A. secret
 - B. panic
 - C. sequence
19. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
 - B. insulted
 - C. surrounded
20. The plane jerked as it went through some **turbulence**.
- A. irregular wind
 - B. acceleration
 - C. climb in altitude

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 One or two chairs of **dubious** value sit at one end where the kitchen window opens onto the porch.
 - A. doubtful
 - B. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
 - C. relating to realities beyond scientific understanding OR inspiring a sense of wonder or mystery; or beyond human comprehension
- 2 Near the turn of the century, the **destitute** of Europe sprang on the city with tenacious claws and an honest and solid dream.
 - A. restrain
 - B. extremely poor
 - C. surrender
- 3 It nourished itself and offered each man a partnership limited only by his talent, his **guile**, and his willingness and capacity for hard work.
 - A. prepare food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. cunning (shrewdness and cleverness)
 - C. treat as a particular type that is considered bad
- 4 For the **immigrants** of Europe, a dream dared and won true.
 - A. people who came to live in a new country
 - B. acts of taking something on as one's own
 - C. oxygen-carrying parts of red blood cells
- 5 That they could breathe free, finally, and stand to meet life with the force of dignity and whatever **eloquence** the heart could call upon.
 - A. powerful use of language
 - B. lowering moral standards
 - C. changing or not reliable
- 6 Life was rich, full, and **flourishing**.
 - A. growing or developing well
 - B. stopping a battle or fight
 - C. changing through evolution
- 7 The Milwaukee Braves won the World Series, and the hot winds of change that would make the sixties a **turbulent**, racing, dangerous, and provocative decade had not yet begun to blow full.
 - A. disorderly
 - B. terrible (vile; disgusting) -- worthy of being strongly disliked and looked down upon
 - C. not easily influenced or harmed OR not capable of being treated in a particular way
- 8 Troy is fifty-three years old, a large man with thick, heavy hands; it is this largeness that he strives to fill out and make an **accommodation** with.
 - A. arrangement
 - B. aka natural right -- a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
- 9 His commitment to their friendship of thirty-odd years is rooted in his admiration of Troy's honesty, capacity for hard work, and his strength, which bono seeks to **emulate**.
 - A. imitate (copy or match)
 - B. gradually add or remove
 - C. feel sadness and regret
- 10 Troy is usually the most talkative and at times he can be crude and almost vulgar, though he is capable of rising to **profound** heights of expression.
 - A. intense (or deep and far-reaching)
 - B. without a tendency to be full of thought
 - C. lacking a tendency to be full of thought

- 11 *a **succession** of abusive men and their babies,*
- A. thing that affects a result or outcome
 - B. job, reservation, booking, or activity
 - C. series (one after another)
- 12 *Though she doesn't drink, her presence is an **integral** part of the Friday night rituals.*
- A. an essential part or characteristic
 - B. extra
 - C. unimportant
- 13 *He has come to borrow money from Troy, and while he knows he will be successful, he is uncertain as to what extent his lifestyle will be held up to **scrutiny** and ridicule.*
- A. the best or most important
 - B. a secret agreement or plot
 - C. careful examination
- 14 *He has come to borrow money from Troy, and while he knows he will be successful, he is uncertain as to what extent his lifestyle will be held up to scrutiny and **ridicule**.*
- A. provide investment funds for something -- such as a business
 - B. ignore someone's wishes or cause inconvenience or discomfort
 - C. made fun of
- 15 *He carries an old trumpet tied around his waist and believes with every fiber of his being that he is the Archangel Gabriel.*
- A. untied or released
 - B. easily set on fire
 - C. an angel of high rank
- 16 *I picked up them **reins** and commenced to whupping on him.*
- A. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - B. straps used to control a horse
 - C. injures the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 17 *She's **liable** to say anything.*
- A. devices that convert light into electricity
 - B. temperature scale used in most of the world
 - C. likely to; or maybe going to; or subject to
- 18 *Jobs are **scarce**.*
- A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. available less than desired
- 19 *You grown ... we done **established** that.*
- A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. accepted as true
- 20 *Troy **taunts** him. He sticks out his head and offers him a target.*
- A. items characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open -- such as a door or musical instrument with that characteristic
 - B. angers or challenges
 - C. a means of control -- most commonly the straps attached to a bit in a horse's mouth that are used to control it OR restrains or controls

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	dubious	High-utility academic word
2	B	destitute	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	B	guile	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	A	immigrate	Used 2 times in this play.
5	A	eloquent	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	flourish (<i>as in: the business is flourishing</i>)	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	A	turbulent	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	A	accommodate (<i>as in: moved to accommodate her</i>)	High-utility academic word
9	A	emulate	High-utility academic word
10	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	C	succession (<i>as in: a succession of events</i>)	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	A	integral (<i>as in: integral part</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
13	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word
14	C	ridicule	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	C	archangel	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
16	B	rein (<i>as in: to rein in their activities</i>)	Used 2 times in this play.
17	C	liable (<i>as in: she is liable to</i>)	Used 2 times in this play.
18	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word
19	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word
20	B	taunt	Used 2 times in this play.