How to Read Literature Like a Professor

by Thomas C. Foster

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: analysis, canon (2), contemporary (2), convey (2), correspond, correspondent, differentiate (2), establish (2), implicit (2), insulate (2), narrative, narrator, signify

More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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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. The police are waiting for an **analysis** of the DNA.
   A. psychiatric treatment
   B. sample
   C. detailed examination

2. Truth-telling is a **canon** of journalistic ethics.
   A. core principle
   B. common myth
   C. minor habit

3. Pride and Prejudice is firmly part of the English literary **canon**.
   A. accepted works
   B. rejected drafts
   C. modern reviews

4. We're visiting the Museum of **Contemporary** Art.
   A. belonging to the present time
   B. deserving contemplation
   C. using contrasting colors

5. The composer Salieri was **contemporary** with Mozart.
   A. of similar talent
   B. of the same time
   C. often in disagreement

6. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
   A. express
   B. accept
   C. understand

7. We hired a carriage to **convey** us to the city.
   A. give service of
   B. explain
   C. transport

8. The bones in a bat's wing exactly **correspond** to those in a human forearm.
   A. are equivalent
   B. are opposite
   C. are unrelated

9. Our **correspondent** in Iran was kidnapped.
   A. reporter
   B. worker
   C. witness

10. The software does a good job of **differentiating** between real messages and spam.
    A. including everything
    B. recognizing difference
    C. rapidly switching

11. Her view of this issue **differentiates** her from most progressives in Congress.
    A. unites
    B. makes unpopular
    C. makes different

12. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
    A. avoid
    B. create
    C. increase

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13. The sixth paragraph (lines 67-68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.

A. minimizing
B. exaggerating
C. showing

14. The policy helps to reduce the us-versus-them mentality that is **implicit** in human nature.

A. encouraging insensitivity to others
B. exists as an inseparable characteristic
C. harmful to the advancement of civilization

15. I trust her **implicitly**.

A. guardedly
B. with concern
C. without question

16. A piece of ice fell and damaged the space shuttle's **insulating** tiles.

A. preventing heat transfer
B. decorative
C. adding structural strength

17. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life to try to **insulate** them from outside pressure.

A. allow experience
B. educate
C. separate

18. It's an interesting **narrative** about her first year in college.

A. story
B. joke
C. theatrical play

19. One of the more popular **narrators** in movie history is Morgan Freeman. I especially liked him in *The Shawshank Redemption* where in addition to playing a major role, he narrated the film.

A. producer who works closest with the actors
B. actor who talks directly to the audience
C. script writer

20. Her silence seemed to **signify** that she disagreed.

A. indicate
B. delay
C. repeat

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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 *Once you've* established *that a book—a man's book at that, a war book—is borrowing a situation from Lewis Carroll's Alice books, anything is possible.*

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. shown

2 *But irony typically depends on an* established *pattern on which it can work its inversions.*

A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
B. existing
C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another

3 *You don't encounter her directly, you've only heard of her through* narrative *of one sort or another.*

A. story
B. snake
C. skill

4 *The more we become aware of the possibility that our text is speaking to other texts,— the more similarities and* correspondences *we begin to notice, and the more alive the text becomes.*

A. alignments
B. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: people of low income, education, and social standing -- especially those who raise crops or livestock
C. members of an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms

5 *Jake Barnes, newspaper* correspondent *and wounded war veteran.*

A. reporter
B. disorder
C. marriage

6 *West Side Story famously reworks Romeo and Juliet, which resurfaces again in the 1990s, in a movie featuring* contemporary *teen culture and automatic pistols.*

A. belonging to the present time
B. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
C. deserving no respect (worthless or of bad quality)

7 *G. K. Chesterton, a mystery writer and* contemporary *of Arthur Conan Doyle, has a story, "The Arrow of Heaven" (1926), in which a man is killed by an arrow.*

A. influenced by personal belief, feelings, or preferences (rather than being based purely upon fact)
B. living or working at the same time
C. the state or quality of expressing or displaying sexual activity or violence with detailed clarity

8 *Being in early adolescence, the* narrator *has no way of dealing with the object of his desire, or even the wherewithal to recognize what he feels as desire.*

A. translation
B. a character in a story who tells the story to the reader
C. quiet voice

9 *A name has to sound right for a character—Oil Can Harry, Jay Gatsby, Beetle Bailey—but it also has to carry whatever message the writer want to* convey *about the character or the story.*

A. communicate or express
B. create dramatic change
C. mirror back (an image)

10 *The river is both danger and safety, since the relative isolation from land and detection is offset by the perils of river travel on a makeshift* conveyance.

A. collision
B. translate
C. means of transportation

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11 *But let's think in terms of slightly more* canonical *sources.*

A. established
B. a member of the Religious Society of Friends (the Friends have never called themselves Quakers)
C. a large, elongated gland located behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin

12 *The "literary* canon*," by the way, is a master list of works that everyone pretends doesn't exist (the list, not the works) but that we all know matters in some important way.*

A. recognized list of important works
B. a ductless glandular organ at the base of the neck that produces lymphocytes and aids in producing immunity
C. someone with a potentially life-threatening psychological eating disorder that prevents eating enough food

13 *No writer in the West can employ a rainbow without being aware of its* signifying *aspect, its biblical function.*

A. to indicate (to show or to mean)
B. lacking things most people enjoy
C. of the Netherlands or its people

14 *Snow is clean, stark, severe, warm (as an* insulating *blanket, paradoxically), inhospitable, inviting, playful, suffocating, filthy (after enough time has elapsed).*

A. keeping the inside warm
B. recommending or requiring what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) giving medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
C. expressing of feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR squirting or giving off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)

15 *Birds and Flight Mansfield uses the metaphor of birds and flight as a strategy to show how the Sheridan* insulate *themselves from the lower classes.*

A. something that is necessary for something else
B. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
C. separate

16 *Eliot uses his essay on Joyce to defend* implicitly *his own masterpiece, The Waste Land, which also builds around ancient myths, in this case fertility myths associated with the Fisher King.*

A. in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
B. by the nature of the argument
C. in a manner that is not attractive or desirable

17 *Still, he* implicitly *believes that what Europe represents is degraded and decaying (and these are not the only examples).*

A. not exactly or accurately
B. in a manner like a "monk"
C. without question or doubt

18 *The great thing about Lawrence, from my point of view, is that you can never go wrong bringing sex into the* analysis.

A. the state or character of being absolutely sure of something
B. to again think carefully and make a judgment about something
C. detailed thinking to better understand

19 *So what's going on here? Character* differentiation*, certainly. The missing member sets Jake apart from everyone else in the novel, or any other novel I know of, for that matter.*

A. surrealist artist known for melting clocks and eccentric personality
B. an unquestionable truth; or a sacred writing -- especially the Bible
C. making different than others

20 *Both of these first two readings have picked up what is most central to the story, namely the growing awareness of the main character to class* differentiation *and snobbery.*

A. someone who expresses disapproval
B. differences or treatment as different
C. purpose, job, or natural activity

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	establish *(as in: establish that there is a need)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	B	establish *(as in: establish a positive tone)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	narrative *(as in: Narrative of the Life of…)*	Used 27 times in this book.
4	A	correspond *(as in: corresponding time period)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	correspondent *(as in: foreign correspondent of the paper)*	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	contemporary *(as in: contemporary design)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	contemporary *(as in: they are contemporaries)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	narrator	High-utility academic word; used 35 times in this book.
9	A	convey *(as in: convey her thoughts)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	C	convey *(as in: convey her safely to)*	2 meanings in this book.
11	A	canon *(as in: a canonical requirement)*	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	canon *(as in: the Shakespearean canon)*	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	signify	Used 24 times in this book.
14	A	insulate *(as in: insulate the attic)*	2 meanings in this book.
15	C	insulate *(as in: insulate her from harm)*	2 meanings in this book.
16	B	implicit *(as in: implicit problem with the design)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	implicit *(as in: I trust her implicitly.)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	analysis *(as in: analysis of relevant data)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	differentiate *(as in: differentiate our product)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	B	differentiate *(as in: differentiate between right/wrong)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.

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