

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

by Maya Angelou

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: abide (2), accord (2), afflict, approach (2), contend, convey (2), correspond, correspondence, impartial, impudent, indulge, interpret (2), tedious, volley (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The song is called "Abide With Me."
A. tolerate
B. live
C. grow
2. Our love is deep and **abiding**.
A. growing
B. tolerant
C. long-lasting
3. She dresses in **accordance** with the latest fashions.
A. opposition
B. keeping
C. ignorance
4. After the fight, he turned himself in of his own **accord**.
A. own fear
B. own safety
C. own mind
5. She has been **afflicted** with migraines since childhood.
A. worried about
B. surprised by
C. made to suffer
6. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
A. gets nearer
B. is remembered
C. continues
7. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
A. avoid
B. think about
C. assign
8. The teams are in fierce **contention** for first place.
A. surrender
B. confidence
C. competition
9. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
A. express
B. accept
C. understand
10. We hired a carriage to **convey** us to the city.
A. give service of
B. explain
C. transport
11. Do either of you have copies of your **correspondence**?
A. instructions
B. letters or emails
C. pictures or drawings
12. I don't live in Los Angeles yet, but I joined the organization as a **corresponding** member.
A. visiting
B. founding
C. done from afar

13. They trusted her to be impartial.
- A. unbiased
 - B. smart
 - C. forgiving
14. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
- A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet
15. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
- A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
16. She will stand to his left and **interpret** his speech into sign language.
- A. refute (prove false)
 - B. elaborate upon
 - C. translate
17. How will a court **interpret** the word *careless* if there is a lawsuit?
- A. understand
 - B. insist on
 - C. ignore
18. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it **tedious**.
- A. stressful
 - B. punishing
 - C. boring
19. She fired off a **volley** of questions at the nervous witness.
- A. a long pause
 - B. a rapid burst
 - C. a calm reply
20. He scored the winning point with a perfect **volley** at the net.
- A. loud cheer
 - B. midair hit
 - C. lucky guess

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 His nonchalance was meant to **convey** his authority and power over even dumb animals.
A. communicate or express
B. create dramatic change
C. mirror back (an image)
- 2 Her awareness of life's perils convinced her that while I would be safe on the public conveyances, she "wasn't about to trust a taxi driver with her baby."
A. takes on or adopts
B. influences opinion
C. means of transport
- 3 But Reverend Thomas didn't intend to wait for that eventuality, so as Sister Monroe **approached** the pulpit from the right he started descending from the left.
A. moved toward
B. made possible
C. not satisfied
- 4 He continued speaking directly to the dead woman, and I half wished she would rise up and answer him, offended by the coarseness of his **approach**.
A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
B. technique (way of doing something)
C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 5 When I refused to be the child they knew and accepted me to be, I was called **impudent**...
A. alternative medicine using extremely diluted doses of a substance to treat the same symptoms larger doses cause
B. improperly bold or disrespectful towards elders
C. working against psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 6 When Bailey tried to **interpret** the words with: "Whitefolks use 'by the way' to mean while we're on the subject," Momma reminded us that "whitefolks' mouths were most in general loose and their words were an abomination before Christ."
A. collision
B. stick out
C. translate
- 7 She looked at me closely, and only a person who knew her face well could have perceived the muscles relaxing and **interpreted** this as an indication of concern.
A. understood (in a particular way)
B. not having accepted beliefs without critical question
C. made more attractive or interesting through additions
- 8 And now I repeat the words of the Apostle Paul, and 'now **abideth** faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.'
A. a device that turns light into electricity
B. the degree of not being easily set on fire
C. endures
- 9 The pass allowed a reduction in her fare only, and even that had to be approved, so we were made to **abide** in a kind of limbo until white people we would never see, in offices we would never visit, signed and stamped and mailed the pass back to Momma.
A. draw
B. live (figuratively)
C. quit

- 10 *Another right to the body, it looks like it was low ... Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the referee is signaling but the **contender** keeps raining the blows on Louis.*
- someone who takes great pleasure from
 - someone who becomes aware of something
 - competitor
- 11 *But it was a shared if seldom voiced knowledge that all movements fitted, and worked **according to** a larger plan.*
- idiom meaning "won the day"
 - in keeping with
 - U.S. history: pre-Civil War period
- 12 *It was always possible that the teeth would quiet down and maybe drop out of their own accord.*
- the achievement of 3 positive feats in a sport
 - tropical viral disease transmitted by a mosquito
 - own mind (i.e., on their own)
- 13 *We spent **tedious** hours teaching ourselves the Tut language.*
- sensible and careful
 - not demonstrative of
 - long, monotonous (boring)
- 14 *Their remarks and responses were like a Ping-Pong game with each **volley** clearing the net and flying back to the opposition.*
- formally not vote either "yes" or "no"; or to voluntarily not do something -- such as not drink alcohol
 - return of the ball
 - change in a light (or other wave) when it passes an obstacle such as an opaque edge or a narrow opening
- 15 *The crash of scraping metal was followed immediately by a **volley** of Spanish hurled at me from all directions.*
- direct energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - barrage or outpouring
 - express personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work
- 16 *Bailey was obviously always going to be too small to be an athlete, so which concrete angel glued to what country seat had decided that if my brother wanted to become a lawyer he had to first pay penance for his skin by picking cotton and hoeing corn and studying **correspondence** books at night for twenty years?*
- small kitchens
 - leaps or jumps
 - done from afar (by mailing letters, reports, etc.)
- 17 *Daddy Bailey had a girl friend, who had begun **corresponding** with me some months before, and she was to meet me at the train.*
- considering (the affect on a result or outcome)
 - exchanging letters or messages
 - controlling, preventing, or making less intense
- 18 *I slept with Grandmother Baxter, who was **afflicted** with chronic bronchitis and smoked heavily.*
- not judged in a negative way
 - told someone about something
 - stricken (suffered from)
- 19 *She had the **impartiality** of nature, with the same lack of indulgence or clemency.*
- lack of favoritism or bias
 - requires (to do something)
 - rain, snow, hail, or sleet
- 20 *she spent no time in **indulging** the frivolous.*
- enjoying (to excess)
 - leaping or jumping
 - thinking carefully

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	convey (as in: convey her thoughts)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	C	convey (as in: convey her safely to)	2 meanings in this book.
3	A	approach (as in: approached the city)	Used 11 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
4	B	approach (as in: use the best approach)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
5	B	impudent	Used 7 times in this book.
6	C	interpret (as in: interpret Spanish to English)	2 meanings in this book.
7	A	interpret (as in: her interpretation of the data)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	C	abide (as in: an abiding desire to)	2 meanings in this book.
9	B	abide (as in: abide in the forest)	2 meanings in this book.
10	C	contend (as in: She contended for the gold medal)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
11	B	accord (as in: according to, or in accord with)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
12	C	accord (as in: done of her own accord)	2 meanings in this book.
13	C	tedious	Used 5 times in this book.
14	B	volley (in sports)	2 meanings in this book.
15	B	volley (as in: a volley of...)	2 meanings in this book.
16	C	correspondence (as in: a correspondence course)	3 meanings in this book.
17	B	correspond (as in: corresponding by email)	3 meanings in this book.
18	C	afflict	Used 7 times in this book.
19	A	impartial	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.