

Invisible Man

by Ralph Ellison

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: anguish, contradict, denounce, distort, eloquent, eviction, expel, inhibit, integrity, malice, nevertheless, pawn shop, profound (2), sensuous, stolid, sublime (2), subtle, taut



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	B
10	C
11	B
12	B
13	B
14	A
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. Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - A. extreme solitude
 - B. extreme distress
 - C. extreme depression
2. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
3. She bravely stepped forward to **denounce** the corruption within her company.
 - A. openly condemn
 - B. warmly praise
 - C. quietly ignore
4. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
5. She is the most **eloquent** speaker at the school.
 - A. well-spoken
 - B. experienced
 - C. popular
6. I was served an **eviction** notice.
 - A. legal demand to pay
 - B. legal demand to appear
 - C. legal demand to move
7. If her behavior does not improve, she could face **expulsion** from school.
 - A. having to repeat a grade
 - B. serious punishment
 - C. being forcing to leave
8. Cold weather can **inhibit** the growth of many tropical plants.
 - A. slow down
 - B. monitor
 - C. describe
9. Real **integrity** is doing the right thing when nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.
 - A. sacrifice
 - B. morality
 - C. foolishness
10. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
 - A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
11. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
12. The **pawn shop** wanted to charge too much interest.
 - A. a lender that does all business over the internet
 - B. a lender that holds personal property as collateral
 - C. a shop that sells household goods via monthly payments

13. She is a **profound** thinker.
- A. shallow
 - B. deep
 - C. quick
14. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
15. I made the bed with **sensuous** silk sheets.
- A. smooth to the touch
 - B. pleasing to touch
 - C. cool to the touch
16. Her face showed nothing but **stolid** indifference.
- A. emotionless
 - B. confused
 - C. bitter
17. We found a **sublime** seaside bed and breakfast.
- A. wonderful
 - B. shabby
 - C. old
18. With **sublime** stubbornness, she refused to see that the project could not succeed.
- A. newly developed
 - B. pure or extreme
 - C. optimistic
19. She has a good eye for **subtle** differences in color.
- A. contrasting
 - B. complementary
 - C. minor
20. The clothesline was **taut** between the two trees in the yard.
- A. shiny
 - B. tight
 - C. noisy

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 *Like the bodiless heads you see sometimes in circus sideshows, it is as though I have been surrounded by mirrors of hard, **distorting** glass.*
 - A. rising and falling pitch; or cheerful and lively
 - B. is present with at the same time and/or location
 - C. to alter something in an unnatural or untrue way
- 2 *Nevertheless, I know now that few really listen to this music.*
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 3 *I accepted their answers too, though they were often in contradiction and even self-contradictory.*
 - A. in disagreement
 - B. relative amount
 - C. dramatic change
- 4 *A clarinet was vibrating **sensuously** and the men were standing up and moving eagerly forward.*
 - A. in a manner that is not aware of something
 - B. in a way that relates to physical pleasure
 - C. in a manner that is loving, but not sexual
- 5 *I stood beneath his photograph with my brief case in hand and smiled triumphantly into his **stolid** black peasant's face.*
 - A. having or revealing little emotion -- sometimes indicating qualities of not changing or being dependable
or (much more rarely):
of an object: not interesting -- often large and unmoving
 - B. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
 - C. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
- 6 *Sometimes it appeared as though they played some vast and complicated game with me and the rest of the school folk, a game whose goal was laughter and whose rules and **subtleties** I could never grasp.*
 - A. a noticeable red (or brown) discolorations of sea water caused by excessive growth of microscopic algae
 - B. things said or done that are disrespectful of something considered sacred -- especially God or religion
 - C. distinctions that are hard to notice
- 7 *I thought of the glee certain folks at home would feel if I were **expelled**.*
 - A. translated
 - B. subtracted
 - C. forced out
- 8 *The dozen white-gloved hands waiting **taut** upon the silken ropes.*
 - A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. pulled or drawn tight;
or: subjected to great tension
 - C. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
- 9 *For, despite my **anguish** and anger, I knew of no other way of living,*
 - A. extreme introversion
 - B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress
 - C. extreme depression
- 10 *Somehow I felt that Bledsoe and Norton were behind it, and all day I was **inhibited** in both speech and conduct, for fear that I might say or do something scandalous.*
 - A. limited
 - B. governed
 - C. encouraged

- 11 *Heretofore all the campus gossip had seemed merely **malicious** and disrespectful; now I could see the advantage for Dr. Bledsoe.*
- A. exceedingly important, serious, or dangerous
 - B. designed to be useful; or capable of working
 - C. the intention or desire to see others suffer
- 12 *You were legally **evicted**.*
- A. did in a particular way
 - B. requested or challenged
 - C. forced to move from your home
- 13 *THE district offices were located in a converted church structure, the main floor of which was occupied by a **pawn shop**, its window crammed with loot that gleamed dully in the darkened street.*
- A. a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies to protect against a disease
 - B. a shop that offers loans to individuals who use their personal property as collateral
 - C. the amount of money paid as earnings for each share of stock (usually paid quarterly)
- 14 *with **profound** respect*
- A. of great intensity
 - B. without a tendency to be full of thought
 - C. lacking a tendency to be full of thought
- 15 *what **profound** conclusions were they drawing?*
- A. foolish or showing ignorance of important circumstances
 - B. deep or far-reaching in intellect or insight
 - C. quick or efficient
- 16 *My **ambition** and **integrity** were nothing to them*
- A. support
 - B. having strong moral principles
 - C. evidence collection
- 17 *...they **denounced** the American scene as corrupt and degenerate,*
- A. strongly and publicly criticized
 - B. thought of something as true or likely, even though it was not known with certainty
 - C. paused to change how something is done -- often while reducing the use of resources
- 18 *Was she calling me beautiful or boogieful, beautiful or **sublime***
- A. impressively wonderful
 - B. mirror back (an image)
 - C. create dramatic change
- 19 *No indeed, the world is just as concrete, ornery, vile and **sublimely** wonderful as before, only now I better understand my relation to it and it to me.*
- A. done on purpose
 - B. extremely
 - C. with steadiness
- 20 *I had no words and no **eloquence**, and when Ras thundered, "Hang him!" I stood there facing them, and it seemed unreal.*
- A. powerful use of language
 - B. lowering moral standards
 - C. changing or not reliable

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	distort	Used 9 times in this book.
2	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
3	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
4	B	sensuous	Used 5 times in this book.
5	A	stolid	Used 5 times in this book.
6	C	subtle (<i>as in: a subtle difference or thinker</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
7	C	expel	Used 11 times in this book.
8	B	taut	Used 8 times in this book.
9	B	anguish	Used 13 times in this book.
10	A	inhibit (<i>as in: inhibited the growth of...</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
12	C	eviction	Used 24 times in this book.
13	B	pawn shop	Used 5 times in this book.
14	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	Used 18 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
15	B	profound (<i>as in: profound idea</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	B	integrity (<i>as in: a person of high integrity</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
17	A	denounce	Used 11 times in this book.
18	A	sublime (<i>as in: she is sublime</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	B	sublime (<i>as in: sublime ignorance</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
20	A	eloquent	Used 9 times in this book.