

# Kidnapped

by Robert Louis Stevenson

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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

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#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

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#### 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:** ballad, blithe, breech, condemn, countenance, cunning, droll, exile, factor, farce, forfeit, heed, however (2), moreover, peril, reputable, scarcity, scrupulous, sentry



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### Kidnapped

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## Kidnapped

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. The old **ballad** told the tragic tale of two lovers separated by war.
  - A. traditional short story
  - B. dramatic performance on stage
  - C. song that tells a story
2. She was her usual unworried, **blithe** self.
  - A. carefree and happy
  - B. sleepy
  - C. busy and distracted
3. The hunter cleaned the **breech** after firing several rounds at the target.
  - A. tip of an arrow
  - B. edge of a blade
  - C. back of a firearm
4. He was **condemned** to ten years in prison.
  - A. expecting punishment
  - B. spared punishment
  - C. given punishment
5. Her **countenance** grew stern.
  - A. facial expression
  - B. a method of counting
  - C. voice
6. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
  - A. stupid and impatient
  - B. clever and deceitful
  - C. strong and cruel
7. The comedian had a **droll** way of describing everyday life.
  - A. harsh and bitter
  - B. dull and serious
  - C. quirky and funny
8. Napoleon was forced into exile on the island of Elba.
  - A. apologizing
  - B. living elsewhere
  - C. hard labor
9. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
  - A. things that are unfair
  - B. things (that influence an outcome)
  - C. examples of illnesses
10. The trial was a **farce**, with witnesses who clearly lied and a judge who didn't care.
  - A. thorough investigation
  - B. complete mockery
  - C. well-run procedure
11. The team was half an hour late and had to **forfeit** the game.
  - A. rush through
  - B. give up as lost
  - C. re-schedule

12. She didn't heed the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
- A. pass through
  - B. tell others of
  - C. pay attention to
13. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
- A. but
  - B. also
  - C. and
14. However safe we make it, there will always be risk.
- A. on-the-other-hand
  - B. in addition
  - C. no matter how
15. Many graduates have high college debt. Moreover, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
- A. in contrast to that
  - B. in addition to that
  - C. as a result of that
16. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
  - B. danger
  - C. weariness
17. No reputable scientist believes that.
- A. thoughtful
  - B. trusted and respected
  - C. under the age of 30
18. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
  - B. extremely hard
  - C. in short supply
19. Lenders trust her as a scrupulous property inspector.
- A. fast and cheap
  - B. honest and careful
  - C. loud and rude
20. The sentry challenged anyone who tried to enter the camp after dark.
- A. kitchen helper
  - B. watchful guard
  - C. village healer

## Vocabulary in Context

### Kidnapped

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 *But the name of that family, Davie, boy, is the name you bear—Balfours of Shaws: an ancient, honest, **reputable** house, peradventure in these latter days decayed.*
  - A. indicating approval or agreement
  - B. respected (with good reputation)
  - C. able to be taken on as one's own
- 2 *For as poor as I appear, I have friends of my own that will be **blithe** to help me.*
  - A. happy
  - B. good or beneficial
  - C. able to get nearer
- 3 *I pitied all poor souls that were **condemned** to sail in her.*
  - A. treated in a manner that demonstrated a sense of superiority, but was supposed to seem kind OR acted like a patron (supported someone or something; or was a customer)
  - B. examined carefully for accuracy with the intent of verification -- especially an inspection of a company's accounting procedures and records by a trained accountant
  - C. forced (into an undesired activity or situation)
- 4 *I had no sooner moved, **moreover**, than one of the men brought me a drink of something healing which Mr. Riach had prepared, and bade me lie still and I should soon be well again.*
  - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
  - B. in addition to what has just been said
  - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 5 *The ship was bound for the Carolinas; and you must not suppose that I was going to that place merely as an exile.*
  - A. (noun) something that is lighter and draws attention -- such as an area of a painting OR (verb) making something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
  - B. to force someone to live outside of their homeland; or living in such a condition

or more rarely: voluntary absence from a place someone would rather be

  - C. recommend or require what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) give medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
- 6 *He declared it was like a **ballad**; that he would do his best to help me; that I should have paper, pen, and ink, and write one line to Mr. Campbell and another to Mr. Rankeillor; and that if I had told the truth, ten to one he would be able (with their help) to pull me through and set me in my rights.*
  - A. related to the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy
  - B. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
  - C. a song (or poem) that tells a story or expresses strong feelings -- typically slow in tempo
- 7 *My chief, let me tell you, sir, is **forfeited**, like every honest man in Scotland.*
  - A. made suitable (changed to fit a different situation)
  - B. to lose or surrender something -- often as a penalty
  - C. fought in a bitter manner over a long period of time
- 8 *But I took little **heed** at the moment, for all my mind was occupied with the generosity of these poor Highlanders.*
  - A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
  - B. adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
  - C. consideration (to pay attention or to do what was suggested)
- 9 *There would be another **factor** in his shoes, as fast as spur can drive.*
  - A. job, reservation, booking, or activity
  - B. thing that affects a result or outcome
  - C. something that is made or manufactured

- 10 *The brightness of the night showed us these **perils** as clearly as by day, which was, perhaps, the more alarming.*
- allowed
  - dangers
  - attacks
- 11 *"I have nae clear mind about his coat," said Alan **cunningly**, "but it sticks in my head that it was blue."*
- aka analytically -- in a manner that relates to a theory of psychiatry
  - in a manner that is clever and typically that includes tricking others
  - in a manner that impacts the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
- 12 *It was strange indeed to see this valley, which had lain so solitary in the hour of dawn, bristling with arms and dotted with the red coats and **breeches**.*
- views
  - names
  - pants
- 13 *A man had need of a hundred eyes in every part of him, to keep concealed in that uneven country and within cry of so many and scattered **sentries**.*
- things that stand out
  - people standing guard
  - shows or demonstrates
- 14 *Alan took the first watch; and it seemed to me I had **scarce** closed my eyes before I was shaken up to take the second.*
- the state of not being aware or concerned about something
  - a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
  - barely or hardly (by a small margin; or an amount that is less than desired)
- 15 *For long, we said nothing; marching alongside or one behind the other, each with a set **countenance**: I, angry and proud ... Alan angry and ashamed,*
- facial expression
  - the best or most important
  - a secret agreement or plot
- 16 *Their chief, Macgregor of Macgregor, was in exile; the more immediate leader of that part of them about Balquhiddar, James More, Rob Roy's eldest son, lay waiting his trial in Edinburgh Castle; they were in ill-blood with Highlander and Lowlander, with the Grahames, the Maclarens, and the Stewarts; and Alan, who took up the quarrel of any friend, **however** distant, was extremely wishful to avoid them.*
- people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
  - aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
  - regardless of how
- 17 *At last, **however**, I could hear the noise of a window gently thrust up, and knew that my uncle had come to his observatory.*
- a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless*, etc.
  - in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
  - therefore (for that reason)
- 18 *"Well," said Alan, with one of his **droll** looks, "I was rather in hopes it would maybe get us that boat."*
- able to be disagreed with
  - not tending to find fault
  - comical in an unusual way
- 19 *The scene must have been highly **farcical**.*
- 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
  - a ridiculous, exaggerated situation too absurd to be taken seriously; or a type of comedy that relies on absurd humor, using physical slapstick, unlikely situations, and deliberate misunderstandings
  - the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
- 20 *"Ye're unco **scrupulous**," sneered Alan*
- the quality of being unchanging or continuous
  - careful to behave ethically.
  - the quality of not being sensible and careful

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	reputable	Used 3 times in this book.
2	A	blithe	Used 5 times in this book.
3	C	condemn ( <i>as in: was condemned to life in prison</i> )	Used 10 times in this book.
4	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
5	B	exile	Used 7 times in this book.
6	C	ballad	Used 5 times in this book.
7	B	forfeit	Used 6 times in this book.
8	C	heed	Used 7 times in this book.
9	B	factor ( <i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
10	B	peril	Used 10 times in this book.
11	B	cunning ( <i>as in: a cunning thief</i> )	Used 6 times in this book.
12	C	breech	Used 6 times in this book.
13	B	sentry	Used 10 times in this book.
14	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 32 times in this book.
15	A	countenance ( <i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i> )	Used 6 times in this book.
16	C	however ( <i>as in: However much she tried...</i> )	3 meanings in this book.
17	A	however ( <i>as in: However, complications may...</i> )	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
18	C	droll	Used 5 times in this book.
19	B	farce	Used 3 times in this book.
20	B	scrupulous	Used 2 times in this book.