King Lear

by William Shakespeare

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: amity, banish, beseech, censure, cunning, diligent, disposition, endure (2), entreat, forbearance, herald, infirm, ingratitude, reprove, scarcity, superfluous, sustain, tithe, treason

More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

King Lear

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

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Vocabulary Preview

King Lear

by William Shakespeare

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. John Adams was asked to create a "treaty of peace, **amity** and commerce."
   A. a state of friendly relations
   B. a state where everyone profits financially
   C. a state where those in disagreement are separated

2. I tried to **banish** the thought from my mind.
   A. understand
   B. collect
   C. send away

3. She closed the prayer by **beseeching** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
   A. asking
   B. demanding
   C. instructing

4. In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
   A. criticism
   B. anger
   C. disinterest

5. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
   A. stupid and impatient
   B. clever and deceitful
   C. strong and cruel

6. A **diligent** detective investigates all clues.
   A. lazy and careless
   B. rude and dishonest
   C. careful and hardworking

7. We'll see if her cheerful **disposition** continues when she's tired and under stress.
   A. team
   B. generosity
   C. personality

8. As a soldier, she was prepared to **endure** hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
   A. risk
   B. suffer through
   C. cause

9. Over the years, the stories my grandmother told me have **endured** as a source of wisdom in my life.
   A. stopped acting
   B. brought suffering
   C. continued to exist

10. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
    A. bribed (with gifts)
    B. asked earnestly
    C. threatened

11. I appreciate your **forbearance**.
    A. patience or tolerance
    B. financial loan
    C. family concerns

12. The king's **herald** announced it this morning.
    A. lawyer
    B. announcer
    C. advisor

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13. The city was conquered, the **infirm** slaughtered, and the rest enslaved.
   A. weak
   B. fighters
   C. children

14. The **ingratitude** shown by those who benefited from her kindness was a bitter reminder of the world's indifference.
   A. lack of success
   B. lack of gratefulness
   C. lack of ability

15. I don't want to spoil her, but I don't have the heart to **reprove** her.
   A. criticize
   B. compliment
   C. instruct

16. Work is **scarce** in the region.
   A. easily found
   B. extremely hard
   C. in short supply

17. Everyone liked the idea. The arguments I prepared to support it were **superfluous**.
   A. appreciated
   B. important
   C. unnecessary

18. The donation will **sustain** our efforts to help the homeless.
   A. disrupt
   B. finalize
   C. support

19. After saving 10% of my income, paying taxes and **tithing**, I don't have that much to spend.
   A. paying for housing
   B. paying insurance charges
   C. donating 10% of income to a church

20. Benedict Arnold was not captured after he committed **treason**.
   A. committing acts of sabotage
   B. war crimes against civilians
   C. betrayal of one's own country

Vocabulary in Context

King Lear

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

1 *Dear sir,* **forbear**!
A. refrain (hold back) from acting
B. the ability to take on or adopt
C. where attention is concentrated

2 *Fare thee well, king: sith thus thou wilt appear, Freedom lives hence, and* **banishment** *is here.*
A. way of doing something
B. not easily set on fire
C. to expel or get rid of

3 *'Tis the* **infirmity** *of his age: yet he hath ever but slenderly known himself.*
A. weakness from old age or disease
B. another battle with the same foe
C. describing someone as antisocial

4 *I* **beseech** *you, sir, pardon me.*
A. ask strongly or beg
B. move into position to work; or start
C. to spread to other parts of the body

5 *It was not brought me, my lord, there's the* **cunning** *of it; I found it thrown in at the casement of my closet.*
A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
B. good at achieving goals through cleverness and deception
C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding

6 *I'll not* **endure** *it*
A. call -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
B. suffer through
C. communication through gestures and body movements (without words)

7 *The wonder is, he hath* **endur'd** *so long:*
A. took on or adopted
B. previously created
C. lasted (continued to survive)

8 —**Ingratitude**, *thou marble-hearted fiend, More hideous when thou show'st thee in a child Than the sea-monster!*
A. the ability to take or adopt power or responsibility
B. lack of gratefulness -- typically inappropriately so
C. the process of excessive encouragement or excitement

9 *If your* **diligence** *be not speedy, I shall be there afore you.*
A. restarted (a fire)
B. calm state of mind
C. hard work and care

10 *I am* **scarce** *in breath, my lord.*
A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
C. barely (an amount that is less than desired)

11 *How in one house Should many people, under two commands, Hold* **amity**?
A. a state of friendly relations
B. aka analysist -- psychiatrist
C. something taken on or adopted

12 *Our basest beggars are in the poorest thing* **superfluous**.
A. the quality of being sensible and careful
B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
C. (having) more than is needed

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13 *neither to speak of him,* entreat *for him, nor any way sustain him.*

A. stop fighting
B. ask earnestly
C. make possible

14 *When I desired their leave that I might pity him, they took from me the use of mine own house; charged me on pain of perpetual displeasure, neither to speak of him, entreat for him, nor any way* sustain *him.*

A. accept as true (without proof)
B. take (power or responsibility)
C. provide support

15 *Poor Tom; that eats the swimming frog, the toad, the todpole, the wall-newt and the water; that in the fury of his heart, when the foul fiend rages, eats cow-dung for sallets; swallows the old rat and the ditch-dog; drinks the green mantle of the standing pool; who is whipped from* tithing *to tithing, and stocked, punished, and imprisoned; who hath had three suits to his back, six shirts to his body, horse to ride, and weapons to wear;— But mice and rats, and such small deer, Have been Tom's food for seven long year.*

A. learning, discovering, or deciding in advance
B. interacting again or getting interested again
C. donating a potion of one's income to a church

16 *I now perceive it was not altogether your brother's evil* disposition *made him seek his death;*

A. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
B. someone who is intolerant and prejudiced
C. normal mood, personality, or inclination

17 *that this* treason *were not—or not I the detector!*

A. easily set on fire
B. untied or released
C. an act of betrayal

18 *he's full of alteration And self-*reproving*:*

A. criticism
B. attractive or desirable
C. predicting or revealing

19 *to* censure *them*

A. criticize
B. find, search, or research
C. being a boundary or limit

20 *Enter a* herald.

A. the four-dimensional combination of space and time where everything happens
B. a person whose job is to announce important news
C. a connection or relationship by being equivalent, proportionate, or matched

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	forbearance	Used 4 times in this play.
2	C	banish	Used 11 times in this play.
3	A	infirm	Used 5 times in this play.
4	A	beseech	Used 8 times in this play.
5	B	cunning *(as in: a cunning thief)*	Used 5 times in this play.
6	B	endure *(as in: endured the pain)*	Used 8 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
7	C	endure *(as in: endure through the ages)*	2 meanings in this play.
8	B	ingratitude	Used 3 times in this play.
9	C	diligent *(as in: she is diligent)*	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
10	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this play.
11	A	amity	Used 2 times in this play.
12	C	superfluous	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
13	B	entreat	Used 7 times in this play.
14	C	sustain *(as in: sustained by her faith)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
15	C	tithe	Used 2 times in this play.
16	C	disposition *(as in: a kind disposition)*	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this play.
17	C	treason	Used 7 times in this play.
18	A	reprove	Used 2 times in this play.
19	A	censure	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
20	B	herald *(as in: announced by herald & trumpet)*	Used 6 times in this play.

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