

Lord Jim

by Joseph Conrad

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: abject, abominable, allude, appalling, approach (2), disdain, infernal, inflexible, inquiry, magistrate, mistrust, recollect, scorn, shirk, somber, vagabond, vengeance, with a vengeance, wretched



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	A
9	B
10	C
11	C
12	B
13	C
14	A
15	A
16	C
17	B
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. She grew up in **abject** poverty; though she didn't know it.
 - A. beneficial
 - B. extreme
 - C. moderate
2. That was before she was trained, when her work was **abominable**.
 - A. showing early promise
 - B. incomplete
 - C. exceptionally bad
3. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
4. She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
 - A. false
 - B. horrible
 - C. foolish
5. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
6. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
7. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. humility
 - C. intense anger
8. That **infernal** alarm clock kept going off every five minutes.
 - A. annoying
 - B. expensive
 - C. antique
9. Things have changed, but she remains **inflexible**.
 - A. unimportant
 - B. unbending (not able to adjust well to different conditions)
 - C. not skilled
10. The official **inquiry** has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
 - A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
11. The **magistrate** set bail at \$10,000.
 - A. attorney
 - B. queen or king
 - C. judge

12. Years of broken promises taught the team to mistrust anything he said.
- A. not remember
 - B. not trust
 - C. not question
13. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
14. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
15. He always tries to **shirk** his responsibilities at work.
- A. get out of doing
 - B. speed through
 - C. argue about
16. She exhibited a **somber** mood.
- A. happy
 - B. curious
 - C. cheerless
17. After losing everything, he lived as a **vagabond** for nearly five years.
- A. wealthy landowner
 - B. wandering drifter
 - C. settled farmer
18. Her evolutionary benefit theory of **vengeance** is supported by studies showing that a person's desire for revenge increases when others see their mistreatment.
- A. fairness
 - B. status
 - C. revenge
19. She threw herself into work with a **vengeance**.
- A. with reluctance
 - B. with intensity
 - C. with careful thought
20. The photograph showed poor people in a **wretched** village in East Africa.
- A. irresponsible
 - B. in terrible condition
 - C. foolish or thoughtless

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 In time, beside the original **disdain** there grew up slowly another sentiment; and suddenly, giving up the idea of going home, he took a berth as chief mate of the Patna.
 - A. a lack of respect
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. influence opinion
- 2 'Drink!' repeated the engineer with amiable **scorn**: he was hanging on with both hands to the rail, a shadowy figure with flexible legs.
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific
- 3 The illustration was good: the questions were aiming at facts, and the official **Inquiry** was being held in the police court of an Eastern port.
 - A. small quantity or indication
 - B. reason (for doing something)
 - C. questioning or investigating
- 4 The face of the presiding **magistrate**, clean shaved and impassible, looked at him deadly pale between the red faces of the two nautical assessors.
 - A. someone who shows
 - B. people who attack
 - C. judicial official
- 5 They are tramps, **vagabonds**, knocking at the back-door of your mind, each taking a little of your substance, each carrying away some crumb of that belief in a few simple notions you must cling to if you want to live decently and would like to die easy!
 - A. shows fear by positioning the body as though afraid of being hit
 - B. a person who wanders from town to town with no fixed home or job
 - C. degrades (decreases) the purity, quality, or status of something
- 6 He looked as genuine as a new sovereign, but there was some **infernal** alloy in his metal.
 - A. very bad; or very annoying; or characteristic of hell or the underworld
 - B. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - C. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
- 7 The howl pursued me like a **vengeance**.
 - A. something that stands out
 - B. something made from parts
 - C. the act of taking revenge
- 8 I could make him a solemn promise that it would be shut behind him with a **vengeance**.
 - A. available cash
 - B. with intensity
 - C. very important
- 9 'Of course the **recollection** of my last conversation with Brierly is tinged with the knowledge of his end that followed so close upon it.
 - A. battle
 - B. result
 - C. memory
- 10 Can't he see that **wretched** skipper of his has cleared out?
 - A. not easily identified
 - B. miserable or very bad
 - C. exactness or accuracy

- 11 *The verandah was empty by then, the noise and movement in court had ceased: a great silence fell upon the building, in which, somewhere far within, an oriental voice began to whine **abjectly**.*
- A. in a straightforward manner (uncomplicated or simple -- perhaps also indicating openness and honesty)
 - B. in an extremely negative manner -- often implying extreme hopelessness, misery, shame, or desperation
 - C. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
- 12 *The stupidity of the phrase **appalled** me while I was trying to finish it, but the power of sentences has nothing to do with their sense or the logic of their construction.*
- A. with an unadjusted lens so the image isn't clear
 - B. shocked by how terrible or horrible something is
 - C. gave an opinion of what was wrong with something
- 13 *I marvelled greatly at this expression: he might have been **alluding** to some trifling occurrence.*
- A. gradually adding or removing
 - B. making an indirect reference
 - C. thinking about or discussing
- 14 *The skipper was ordering, "Get under and try to lift"; and the others naturally **shirked**.*
- A. avoided
 - B. changed
 - C. forgave
- 15 *No doubt he wanted to be done with that **abomination** as quickly as possible.*
- A. people who do not believe in the existence of god
 - B. an impressive country house (or castle) in France
 - C. something that is exceptionally bad or detestable
- 16 *He was a youngster of the sort you like to see about you; of the sort you like to imagine yourself to have been; of the sort whose appearance claims the fellowship of these illusions you had thought gone out, extinct, cold, and which, as if rekindled at the **approach** of another flame, give a flutter deep, deep down somewhere, give a flutter of light of heat!*
- A. coming
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 17 *I was thinking how I had best **approach** him (I did not want to be flung off again) when he gave a little laugh.*
- A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. way of doing something
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 18 *That, to tell you the truth, was the only danger I could see for him and for me; but I also **mistrusted** my want of imagination.*
- A. fruit cooked with sugar (like jam)
 - B. didn't trust or have confidence in
 - C. past-tense of the verb *lead*
- 19 *He had shown a desire, I continued **inflexibly**, to go out and shut the door after him...."Did I?" he interrupted in a strange access of gloom that seemed to envelop him from head to foot like the shadow of a passing cloud.*
- A. in an artificial manner to make an impression
 - B. in a manner that is not bendable or adaptable
 - C. to almost be so, but not so strictly speaking
- 20 *His gaze was bent on the ground at his feet; the girl, erect and slight on his arm, stared **sombrely** beyond my shoulder with black, clear, motionless eyes.*
- A. in a manner that influences reason or general desire to do something
 - B. with disbelief; or with difficulty accepting something so unexpected
 - C. solemnly (in a manner that is serious--not cheerful or lighthearted)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
2	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 16 times in this book.
3	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 23 times in this book.
4	C	magistrate	Used 12 times in this book.
5	B	vagabond	Used 8 times in this book.
6	A	infernal	Used 19 times in this book.
7	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	with a vengeance (<i>as in: with a vengeance</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
10	B	wretched	Used 16 times in this book.
11	B	abject	Used 18 times in this book.
12	B	appalling	Used 13 times in this book.
13	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
14	A	shirk	Used 7 times in this book.
15	C	abominable	Used 11 times in this book.
16	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 22 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	mistrust	Used 8 times in this book.
19	B	inflexible	Used 8 times in this book.
20	C	somber (<i>as in: a somber mood</i>)	Used 31 times in this book.