

MS. Found in a Bottle

by Edgar Allan Poe

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

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: abyss, aghast, agitate, apathy, appalling, enable, ensue, entity, impetuous, infirm, novel, obsolete, peevish, perish, recollect, reverse, sumptuous, supposition, tempest, tremulous



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Our foot is stuck on the accelerator, and we are headed towards an **abyss**.
 - A. turning point
 - B. dangerous situation
 - C. major opportunity
2. Her employer looked **aghast** and fired her on the spot.
 - A. confident
 - B. shocked
 - C. angry
3. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
4. Until she learned to motivate herself, **apathy** led to bad grades.
 - A. lack of interest
 - B. lack of ability
 - C. distraction
5. She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
 - A. false
 - B. horrible
 - C. foolish
6. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
7. The storm ended by noon, and a quiet afternoon **ensued**.
 - A. decreasing
 - B. prior
 - C. following
8. The corporation is treated as a separate legal **entity** from its owners.
 - A. type of legal document
 - B. form of financial debt
 - C. distinct thing or being
9. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
10. The city was conquered, the **infirm** slaughtered, and the rest enslaved.
 - A. weak
 - B. fighters
 - C. children
11. It is a **novel** idea and just might work.
 - A. original
 - B. important
 - C. valuable
12. That old phone is **obsolete**.
 - A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken

13. After a frustrating day, she was peevish and snapped at everyone who spoke to her.
- A. very tired
 - B. easily annoyed
 - C. very demanding
14. We can work together or perish separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
15. I don't recollect her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
16. She reveres nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
 - B. deeply respects
 - C. thoroughly enjoys
17. She wore a sumptuous gown made of the finest silk and adorned with sparkling jewels.
- A. flattering
 - B. magnificent
 - C. long
18. It is an unsupportable supposition.
- A. expense
 - B. computer program
 - C. belief
19. A tempest swept over the island.
- A. darkness
 - B. fear
 - C. storm
20. She tried to sound confident, but her voice was tremulous.
- A. grating (rough)
 - B. frail (weak or soft)
 - C. quivering (shaky)

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 *Hereditary wealth afforded me an education of no common order, and a contemplative turn of mind **enabled** me to methodize the stores which early study very diligently garnered up.*
 - A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 2 *Although completely water-logged, yet, as her masts had gone by the board, she rose, after a minute, heavily from the sea, and, staggering awhile beneath the immense pressure of the **tempest**, finally righted.*
 - A. a long and determined effort for a cause that is passionately believed to be important
 - B. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer
 - C. a violent commotion or disturbance -- especially a violent storm or emotional outburst
- 3 *All on deck, with the exception of ourselves, had been swept overboard;—the captain and mates must have **perished** as they slept, for the cabins were deluged with water.*
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - C. moved into position to work; or started
- 4 *We were at the bottom of one of these **abysses**, when a quick scream from my companion broke fearfully upon the night.*
 - A. removals and examination of tissues or liquids from the living body to determine the existence or cause of diseases
 - B. holes or dropoffs so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply frightening bottomless pits
 - C. people characterized by withdrawal, an inability to form close relationships, and taking pleasure in few activities
- 5 *As I fell, the ship hove in stays, and went about; and to the confusion **ensuing** I attributed my escape from the notice of the crew.*
 - A. gradually adding or removing
 - B. thinking about or discussing
 - C. subsequent (happening later)
- 6 *There was about it an evidence of great age and **infirmity**.*
 - A. weakness from old age or disease
 - B. another battle with the same foe
 - C. describing someone as antisocial
- 7 *His manner was a wild mixture of the **peevishness** of second childhood, and the solemn dignity of a God.*
 - A. trustworthy with secrets or subtle (not attracting attention)
 - B. annoyed or easily annoyed -- especially by unimportant things
 - C. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
- 8 *Yet it is not wonderful that these conceptions are indefinite, since they have their origin in sources so utterly **novel**.*
 - A. new and original
 - B. important and valuable
 - C. traditional (having withstood the test of time)
- 9 *A new sense—a new **entity** is added to my soul.*
 - A. the act of taking someone up or receiving someone in heaven
 - B. an agreement to marry; or relating to an agreement to marry
 - C. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
- 10 *Her rigging, build, and general equipment, all negative a **supposition** of this kind.*
 - A. nerve cells running from the base of the skull to the lower back and enclosed by vertebrae in adults
 - B. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
 - C. something supposed (rather than something known to be so) -- such as a disputed belief or assumption

- 11 In reading the above sentence a curious apothegm of an old weather-beaten Dutch navigator comes full upon my **recollection**.
- battle
 - result
 - memory
- 12 Around them, on every part of the deck, lay scattered mathematical instruments of the most quaint and **obsolete** construction.
- no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - surprise -- often so much so that one doesn't know what to say or do
 - an appropriate size, amount, or degree in relation to something else
- 13 --I must suppose the ship to be within the influence of some strong current, or **impetuous** under-tow.
- impulsive (acting suddenly without much thought)
 - most important; or person that is most important
 - tending to have exceedingly unfavorable opinions
- 14 Although in his appearance there is, to a casual observer, nothing which might bespeak him more or less than man--still a feeling of irrepressible **reverence** and awe mingled with the sensation of wonder with which I regarded him.
- interfere (in another's affairs or business); or handle (something that shouldn't be handled)
 - feelings of deep respect and admiration -- sometimes with a mixture of wonder and awe or fear
 - separate two things to prevent passage of something such as heat, cold, noise, or electricity
- 15 If I trembled at the blast which has hitherto attended us, shall I not stand **aghast** at a warring of wind and ocean, to convey any idea of which the words tornado and simoom are trivial and ineffective?
- holds together (connects or unites) or wraps
 - shocked with feelings of surprise and dismay
 - the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
- 16 * * * * * The crew pace the deck with unquiet and **tremulous** step; but there is upon their countenances an expression more of the eagerness of hope than of the apathy of despair.
- marvelous (wonderful)
 - vigorous (strong)
 - quivering (shaky)
- 17 * * * * * The crew pace the deck with unquiet and tremulous step; but there is upon their countenances an expression more of the eagerness of hope than of the **apathy** of despair.
- lack of interest and enthusiasm
 - poor ability to make a decision
 - non-traditional or non-standard
- 18 We established ourselves in one of the smallest and least **sumptuously** furnished apartments.
- with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable or the lesser of evils
 - magnificent (impressively wonderful) -- often indicating something expensive
 - in a manner that uses extreme or violent methods to achieve a political goal
- 19 I had found the spell of the picture in an absolute life-likeness of expression, which, at first startling, finally confounded, subdued, and **appalled** me.
- with an unadjusted lens so the image isn't clear
 - shocked by how terrible or horrible something is
 - gave an opinion of what was wrong with something
- 20 The cause of my deep **agitation** being thus shut from view, I sought eagerly the volume which discussed the paintings and their histories.
- officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
 - formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
 - the act of stirring up (emotionally or physically); or a state of emotional unrest

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	C	tempest	Used 5 times in this book.
3	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	B	abyss	Used 2 times in this book.
5	C	ensue	Used 2 times in this book.
6	A	infirm	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	peevish	Used 2 times in this book.
8	A	novel (<i>as in: a novel situation</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	entity	High-utility academic word
10	C	supposition	Used 2 times in this book.
11	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word
14	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	B	aghast	Used 2 times in this book.
16	C	tremulous	Used 3 times in this book.
17	A	apathy	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	sumptuous	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
19	B	appalling	Used 3 times in this book.
20	C	agitate	High-utility academic word