

Main Street

by Sinclair Lewis

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: advocate (2), amiable, anarchist, assert, cynical, diffident, flippant, impersonal, minute, minutes, perceive (2), positive (2), socialism, stolid, supercilious, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	B
9	B
10	C
11	A
12	B
13	A
14	C
15	A
16	B
17	A
18	A
19	A
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 **advocates** giving all students the opportunity to attend school in the summer too.
 - A. is against
 - B. researches
 - C. supports
2. Privacy **advocates** want the law changed.
 - A. opponents
 - B. sufferers
 - C. supporters
3. It was an **amiable** gathering of old friends.
 - A. friendly
 - B. rare
 - C. emotional
4. She didn't call herself an **anarchist**, but she refused to follow rules she saw as unfair.
 - A. someone with anxiety
 - B. someone against authority
 - C. someone who gives advice
5. She **asserts** that her opponent lacks managerial experience.
 - A. says
 - B. proves
 - C. demonstrates
6. Over the years, she has grown **cynical** and unhappy.
 - A. distrustful of others
 - B. trusting of strangers
 - C. envious of friends
7. She is so **diffident**; I can't imagine her as president of the organization.
 - A. young
 - B. unassertive
 - C. argumentative
8. Her **flippant** joke during the serious meeting upset the group.
 - A. deeply respectful
 - B. not properly serious
 - C. carefully researched
9. Hospitals can be **impersonal** places, despite the caring staff.
 - A. difficult to truly understand
 - B. lacking warmth or personal connection
 - C. highly efficient and organized
10. She thrives at sifting through that kind of **minute** detail.
 - A. quickly eliminated
 - B. available from prior research
 - C. including even small considerations
11. I always review the **minutes** to make sure there are no errors.
 - A. written record of what happened at a meeting
 - B. plans that detail how something will be done
 - C. time that has just passed
12. Researchers **perceive** a clear pattern in how the disease spreads through families.
 - A. carefully measure
 - B. view or understand
 - C. actively prevent

13. It's one thing to **perceive** something with the senses and another to understand its importance.
- A. become aware of
 - B. physically touch
 - C. clearly see
14. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
15. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
16. Societies calling themselves **socialist** range from Western-style democracies to dictatorships.
- A. with an economic system that has a complete absence of political authority
 - B. with an economic system based on government control of all important companies
 - C. with an economic system based on private ownership of property and businesses
17. Her face showed nothing but **stolid** indifference.
- A. emotionless
 - B. confused
 - C. bitter
18. His **supercilious** tone made everyone in the room feel inferior.
- A. haughty and disdainful
 - B. warm and welcoming
 - C. shy and uncertain
19. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 But so few of these **stolid** worlds wanted to be moved.
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
- 2 But the **advocate** of freedom in marriage was as much disappointed as a drooping bride at the alacrity with which he took that freedom and escaped to the world of men's affairs.
A. a type of small portable radio
B. a change; or a changed version
C. public supporter
- 3 Doctor, have the medical societies in Minnesota ever **advocated** legislation for help to nursing mothers?
A. was overly unhappy and unsociable
B. not limited or without boundaries
C. publicly supported
- 4 He presented his idols **diffidently**, but he expanded in Carol's bookishness, in Miss Sherwin's voluminous praise, in Kennicott's tolerance of any one who amused his wife.
A. following as a result of something
B. with hesitancy and unassertiveness
C. indiscriminately (non-selectively)
- 5 Carol apologized for her **superciliousness**.
A. arrogant (acting as if better, more important, and superior in ideas than others)
B. not having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
C. able to qualify for regular payments that permit having an income without working
- 6 She had studied the boys pityingly, but **impersonally**.
A. in a manner that surpasses others in status, ability, or possession of a notable characteristic
B. not influenced by personal feelings -- often indicating a lack of warmth of personal connection
C. in a manner like a "rogue" (someone who doesn't behave like others; often dangerous or immoral)
- 7 She **asserted** that it proved him to be a man of the bold free West.
A. said (something is true)
B. encouraged growth or excitement, or caused something to happen
C. ignored someone's wishes or caused inconvenience or discomfort
- 8 She wasn't going to **yield** to the village and let down; she was going to keep up a belief in the rite of tea, to which she had always looked forward as the symbol of a leisurely fine existence.
A. select (on a computer screen)
B. give in, give way, or give up
C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 9 He asked the veterinarian about the value of different breeds of stock; he inquired of Lyman Cass whether or not Einar Gyseldson really had had a **yield** of forty bushels of wheat to the acre.
A. production
B. stop (something from happening)
C. think deeply or carefully about
- 10 I'm the town badman, Mrs. Kennicott: town atheist, and I suppose I must be an **anarchist**, too.
A. involvement in or the suggestion that someone was involved
B. someone who favors eliminating all government or authority
C. of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and sometimes Finland & Iceland

- 11 *I've failed at every **positive** thing I've tried.*
A. good
B. not representative
C. impossible to find
- 12 *The woman was **positively** known to have worn handkerchiefs in her bodice as padding—oh, the town had simply roared at her.*
A. without regret
B. with hard work
C. absolutely (used for emphasis)
- 13 *The clerk was **flippant** and urban.*
A. the state or degree of agreeing or approving
B. showing an inappropriate lack of seriousness
C. designed to be useful; or capable of working
- 14 *She hinted that they ought to have (as at the committee-meetings of the Thanatopsis) a "regular order of business," and "the reading of the **minutes**," but as there were no minutes to read, and as no one knew exactly what was the regular order of the business of being literary, they had to give up efficiency.*
A. formal notes (from a meeting)
B. results or predictable values
C. things not easily set on fire
- 15 *Carol understood that Vida believed herself to have recited **minutely** and brazenly a story of intimate love;*
A. in a manner that does not change
B. in a manner that deserves praise
C. in a detailed manner
- 16 *Ella Stowbody, the professional, **perceiving** that it was because of a conspiracy of jealousy that she had been given a small part, alternated between lofty amusement and Christian patience.*
A. showing, demonstrating, determining, or causing acceptance
B. viewing things in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
C. placing trust (in someone) by talking about private things
- 17 *As they reached the picnic ground she **perceived** that it was dark,*
A. saw
B. said indirectly
C. greatly annoyed
- 18 *The inhabitants of the Humble Home were supposed to be **amiable** and intelligent.*
A. friendly, agreeable, and likable
B. important, serious, or dangerous
C. not clear or easily identifiable
- 19 *She was **cynical** about the joys of a simple laborious life.*
A. someone who expects the worst -- especially of people (such as expecting them to be selfish and lie)
B. characterized by recurrent and persistent thoughts and feelings and repetitive, ritualized behaviors
C. related to the change of a light wave (or other wave) when it passes an opaque edge or narrow opening
- 20 *You'll be mixing in **socialism** next!*
A. history: breaking of the law by a Catholic for refusing to attend services of the Church of England between the 16th and 18th centuries
B. an economic system based on government ownership or control of all important companies -- with the ideal of equal benefits to all people
C. history: the act of a Catholic breaking the law by refusing to attend services of the Church of England between the 16th and 18th centuries

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	stolid	Used 9 times in this book.
2	C	advocate (<i>as in: an advocate supporting</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	advocate (<i>as in: to advocate</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	B	diffident	Used 5 times in this book.
5	A	supercilious	Used 5 times in this book.
6	B	impersonal	Used 18 times in this book.
7	A	assert (<i>as in: asserted her opinion that...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	anarchist	Used 6 times in this book.
11	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	flippant	Used 6 times in this book.
14	A	minutes (<i>as in: keep the minutes</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
15	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
16	B	perceive (<i>as in: perceive the system as unfair</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	perceive (<i>as in: though blind, can perceive light</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	amiable	Used 20 times in this book.
19	A	cynical	Used 17 times in this book.
20	B	socialism	Used 19 times in this book.