

Moby Dick

by Herman Melville

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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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: aggregate, allude, archangel, contrast (2), convey (2), endure (2), evince, longitude, malice, profound (2), sagacious, strait, yield (2), yoke (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- The team's victory depended on the **aggregate** of every player's contributions.
 - single key effort
 - total combined sum
 - final desperate push
- She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - being discouraging
 - indirectly referring
 - not talking
- The story describes an **archangel** descending from the heavens.
 - a small demon
 - a lost spirit
 - a chief angel
- Contrast** typical underlying beliefs of pro-life and pro-choice supporters.
 - study
 - compare
 - describe
- There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - notable similarity
 - covering of all styles
 - notable difference
- Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
 - express
 - accept
 - understand
- We hired a carriage to **convey** us to the city.
 - give service of
 - explain
 - transport
- As a soldier, she was prepared to endure hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
 - risk
 - suffer through
 - cause
- Over the years, the stories my grandmother told me have **endured** as a source of wisdom in my life.
 - stopped acting
 - brought suffering
 - continued to exist
- She loves singing and **evinces** a natural gift.
 - shows
 - craves
 - lacks
- For a long time, sailors could not accurately determine **longitude** at sea.
 - depth of water
 - east-west position
 - distance to shore
- Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
 - carelessly
 - mockingly
 - evilly

13. She is a **profound** thinker.
- A. shallow
 - B. deep
 - C. quick
14. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
15. She's been making **sagacious** business decisions for more than 30 years.
- A. careless
 - B. impatient
 - C. wise
16. Chile's **Strait of Magellan** is the most important natural passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.
- A. a deep, narrow and long sea or lake with steep land on three sides
 - B. a narrow water way that joins two larger bodies of water
 - C. a land bridge that reaches across a larger body of water
17. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
18. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced
19. The **yoke** of oppression weighed heavily on the people, causing them to rise up in rebellion.
- A. framing tool
 - B. oppressive burden
 - C. poor diet
20. A **yoke** was used to connect the horses, so they could pull the carriage together.
- A. wood framework
 - B. tied rope
 - C. connecting chain

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 *Mad with the agonies he **endures** from these fresh attacks, the infuriated Sperm Whale rolls over and over;*
 - A. provides evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - B. suffers through
 - C. (noun) causes of dissatisfaction OR (verb) causes dissatisfaction
- 2 *...this Starbuck seemed prepared to **endure** for long ages to come,*
 - A. differ; or change
 - B. influence opinion
 - C. survive or continue to exist
- 3 *Do you think the **archangel** Gabriel thinks anything the less of me, because I promptly and respectfully obey that old hunk in that particular instance?*
 - A. untied or released
 - B. easily set on fire
 - C. angel of high rank
- 4 *I cherished no **malice** towards him, though he had been skylarking with me not a little in the matter of my bedfellow.*
 - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer
- 5 *The more so, I say, because truly to enjoy bodily warmth, some small part of you must be cold, for there is no quality in this world that is not what it is merely **by contrast**.*
 - A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. in a comparison that shows differences
 - C. injured muscles or tendons in the back
- 6 *The schools composing none but young and vigorous males, previously mentioned, offer a strong **contrast** to the harem schools.*
 - A. come to terms with
 - B. block or interfere
 - C. something notably different compared (to something)
- 7 *Alone in his canoe, he paddled off to a distant **strait**, which he knew the ship must pass through when she quitted the island.*
 - A. a deep, narrow and long sea or lake with steep land on three sides
 - B. narrow water passage
 - C. a long, narrow area of water that continues into land from a larger body of water
- 8 *...a **profound** desire to learn...*
 - A. intense
 - B. without a tendency to be full of thought
 - C. lacking a tendency to be full of thought
- 9 *...many **profound** thoughts were incidentally suggested to me, capable of a transcendental and Platonic application;*
 - A. foolish or showing ignorance of important circumstances
 - B. deep and far-reaching
 - C. quick or efficient
- 10 *It was the whaleman who first broke through the jealous policy of the Spanish crown, touching those colonies; and, if space permitted, it might be distinctly shown how from those whalemen at last eventuated the liberation of Peru, Chili, and Bolivia from the **yoke** of Old Spain, and the establishment of the eternal democracy in those parts.*
 - A. not concentrating
 - B. oppressive control
 - C. restarts (a fire)

- 11 Think you not then that brains, like yoked cattle, should be put to this leviathan, to make him at all budge to any landsman's imagination?
- A. connected by a wooden framework to pull together
 - B. Henry David Thoreau, U.S. writer best remembered for his book, *Walden* and his essay *Civil Disobedience*
 - C. computers that use subatomic particles to tackle some problems that would take ordinary computers thousands of years
- 12 By some tacit consent, throughout the voyage little or no allusion was made to it, especially by the mates.
- A. a nerve or brain cell
 - B. an indirect reference
 - C. long eventful journey
- 13 It may seem unwarrantable to couple in any respect the mast-head standers of the land with those of the sea; but that in truth it is not so, is plainly evinced by an item for which Obed Macy, the sole historian of Nantucket, stands accountable.
- A. showed
 - B. traded
 - C. copied
- 14 How many barrels will thy vengeance yield thee even if thou gettest it, Captain Ahab? it will not fetch thee much in our Nantucket market.
- A. provide or give
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 15 ...his two comrades would not yield, the one to the other, in the matter; and both of them could not be first, for the ladder would but admit one man at a time.
- A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. give in
 - C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 16 Of the Right Whale, the best outline pictures are in Scoresby; but they are drawn on too small a scale to convey a desirable impression.
- A. communicate or express
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 17 Now, the spouting canal of the Sperm Whale, chiefly intended as it is for the conveyance of air, and for several feet laid along, horizontally, just beneath the upper surface of his head, and a little to one side; this curious canal is very much like a gas-pipe laid down in a city on one side of a street.
- A. collision
 - B. translate
 - C. transport
- 18 At one time the greatest whaling people in the world, the Dutch and Germans are now among the least; but here and there at very wide intervals of latitude and longitude, you still occasionally meet with their flag in the Pacific.
- A. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - B. a measure of east/west (relative to the Prime Meridian) on the earth
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 19 To this aggregation of the Sperm Whale into such immense caravans, may be imputed the circumstance that even in the best cruising grounds, you may now sometimes sail for weeks and months together, without being greeted by a single spout; and then be suddenly saluted by what sometimes seems thousands on thousands.
- A. tile designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - B. a combination of different, but related quantities or things
 - C. the state of not being in danger of suffering from something
- 20 But if these suspicions were really his, he sagaciously refrained from verbally expressing them,
- A. mainly
 - B. really
 - C. wisely

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	Used 14 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
2	C	endure (<i>as in: endure through the ages</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	C	archangel	Used 11 times in this book.
4	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 22 times in this book.
5	B	contrast (<i>as in: contrast their writing styles</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	strait (<i>as in: Strait of Hormuz</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
8	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	B	profound (<i>as in: profound idea</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	yoke (<i>as in: the yoke of bondage</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
11	A	yoke (<i>as in: oxen yoke</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
12	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 22 times in this book.
13	A	evince	Used 26 times in this book.
14	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	convey (<i>as in: convey her thoughts</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	convey (<i>as in: convey her safely to</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
18	B	longitude	Used 9 times in this book.
19	B	aggregate	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
20	C	sagacious	Used 9 times in this book.