

Much Ado About Nothing

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 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: allegiance, bestow, commend, constrained, cunning, deceive, devise, disdain, forswear, melancholy, moreover, revere, scorn, slander, tedious, transgress, unrequited, valor, writ (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We owe no **allegiance** to the outdated ideas of our political party.
 - A. hatred
 - B. money
 - C. loyalty
2. Our organization **bestows** honors, awards, and sometimes cash prizes to promising writers.
 - A. shows
 - B. recommends
 - C. gives
3. I **commend** her dedication.
 - A. praise
 - B. envy
 - C. miss
4. Congressional power is **constrained** by the court.
 - A. restricted
 - B. enforced
 - C. threatened
5. The worst mix -- **greedy, cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
6. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
7. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
8. 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
9. She should **forswear** contributions from special interest groups.
 - A. make public
 - B. stop (taking)
 - C. take advantage of
10. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring.
 - A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
11. Many graduates have high college debt. **Moreover**, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
 - A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that

12. She **reveres** nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
 - B. deeply respects
 - C. thoroughly enjoys
13. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
14. Check your sources or you could be sued for **slander**.
- A. selling a product that is not suitable for its purpose
 - B. hurting someone's reputation by lying
 - C. injuring others with outdated scientific information
15. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it **tedious**.
- A. stressful
 - B. punishing
 - C. boring
16. The use of innocents as human shields **transgresses** "the laws of war."
- A. is within
 - B. violates
 - C. expands
17. She suffers the despair of **unrequited** love.
- A. loss (through death)
 - B. unreturned
 - C. beyond normal limits
18. She has served her country with **valor**.
- A. wisdom
 - B. enthusiasm
 - C. courage
19. She had a writ of habeas corpus, but the right was temporarily suspended in the troubled country.
- A. order
 - B. plot
 - C. type
20. The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on:
- A. written
 - B. moved
 - C. changed

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 I find here that Don Pedro hath **bestowed** much honour on a young Florentine called Claudio.
 - A. drew
 - B. quit
 - C. gave
- 2 Courtesy itself must convert to **disdain** if you come in her presence.
 - A. a lack of respect
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. influence opinion
- 3 If you swear, my lord, you shall not be **forsworn**.
 - A. constraining in some way -- such as tying up, requiring, or obligating
 - B. to decide to stop doing something; or to renounce or disavow something
 - C. the profession of assisting women in childbirth without being a doctor
- 4 I would your Grace would **constrain** me to tell.
 - A. restrict
 - B. disagree
 - C. subtract
- 5 I charge thee on thy **allegiance**.
 - A. thought
 - B. payment
 - C. loyalty
- 6 He is of a very **melancholy** disposition.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. sad
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 7 Wilt thou make a trust a **transgression**?
 - A. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
 - B. an act in violation of rules, promises, or social norms
 - C. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
- 8 Thus far can I praise him; he is of a noble strain, of approved **valour**, and confirmed honesty.
 - A. exceedingly powerful bomb whose energy comes from the splitting of atoms
 - B. a long race that is shorter than the typical long race of about 26 miles
 - C. exceptional or heroic courage when facing danger -- especially in battle
- 9 *knavery* cannot, sure, hide itself in such **reverence**.
 - A. interfere (in another's affairs or business); or handle (something that shouldn't be handled)
 - B. respectful attitude
 - C. separate two things to prevent passage of something such as heat, cold, noise, or electricity
- 10 This says she now when she is beginning to write to him; for she'll be up twenty times a night, and there will she sit in her smock till she have **writ** a sheet of paper: my daughter tells us all.
 - A. written
 - B. the main building (or buildings) of government
 - C. two successive lines of poetry; usually rhymed
- 11 **Writ** in my cousin's hand,
 - A. written
 - B. a type of fish
 - C. start (a fire)
- 12 if she should make tender of her love, 'tis very possible he'll **scorn** it;
 - A. reject or disrespect
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific

- 13 *why, it must be requited.*
- A. influenced opinion
 - B. repaid or returned
 - C. not disagreed with
- 14 *such carping is not commendable.*
- A. deserving of praise
 - B. not done on purpose
 - C. not straightforward
- 15 *And, truly, I'll devise some honest slanders To stain my cousin with.*
- A. stop (something from happening)
 - B. come up with (invent or create)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 16 *Neighbours, you are tedious.*
- A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. boring
- 17 *she is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone.*
- A. made suitable (changed to fit a different situation)
 - B. things falsely said that damaged the reputation of another
 - C. fought in a bitter manner over a long period of time
- 18 *All, all; and moreover, God saw him when he was hid in the garden.*
- A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in addition to what has just been said
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 19 *this learned constable is too cunning to be understood.*
- 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
- 20 *Why, then, your uncle and the prince and Claudio Have been deceived; for they swore you did.*
- A. told (a story)
 - B. began fighting
 - C. lied or misled

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	bestow	Used 5 times in this play.
2	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this play.
3	B	forswear (<i>as in: forswear my country of birth</i>)	Used 2 times in this play.
4	A	constrained	Used 2 times in this play.
5	C	allegiance	Used 4 times in this play.
6	B	melancholy	Used 7 times in this play.
7	B	transgress	Used 4 times in this play.
8	C	valor	Used 4 times in this play.
9	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this play.
10	A	writ (<i>as in: writ from the court</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
11	A	writ (<i>as in: writ in her own hand</i>)	Used 6 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
12	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this play.
13	B	unrequited	Used 3 times in this play.
14	A	commend (<i>as in: I commend her work</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
15	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this play.
16	C	tedious	Used 3 times in this play.
17	B	slander	Used 15 times in this play.
18	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
19	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
20	C	deceive	Used 3 times in this play.