

Murder in the Cathedral

by T. S. Eliot

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

Vocabulary in Context	5	
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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: conciliatory, concur, deception, defile, deprive, desecrate, dispel, engrossed, enmity, grandeur, infer, martyr, mirth, parched, perpetual, precede, pretense, refute, scorn, subsist



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Murder in the Cathedral

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

Vocabulary Preview

Murder in the Cathedral

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She sent a **conciliatory** note after the argument, hoping they could talk calmly.
 - A. meant to restore peace
 - B. meant to assign blame
 - C. meant to delay action
2. She could not bring herself to concur publicly, but she honored her promise by not discussing her concerns.
 - A. criticize
 - B. agree
 - C. help
3. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
 - A. kindness
 - B. trickery
 - C. praise
4. Vandals **defiled** the ancient temple by spray-painting the walls.
 - A. carefully restored
 - B. secretly explored
 - C. spoiled the purity of
5. The court ruling **deprived** him of custody of his children.
 - A. granted
 - B. stripped
 - C. delayed
6. In the U.S., the protected right of free speech makes it legal to **desecrate** the flag and other sacred symbols.
 - A. disrespect
 - B. oppose
 - C. burn
7. The explanation helped **dispel** her fears about starting the new job.
 - A. confirm
 - B. drive away
 - C. intensify
8. She was so **engrossed** in a conversation that she didn't see me.
 - A. interested
 - B. bored
 - C. angry
9. She harbors no **enmity** towards her ex-husband.
 - A. love
 - B. disrespect
 - C. hatred
10. The palace was famous for its **grandeur** and ornate decoration.
 - A. shabby plainness
 - B. majestic splendor
 - C. tiny size
11. The meaning of the word can be **inferred** based on context clues.
 - A. different
 - B. figured out
 - C. converted

12. Although ruthless, they did not want to create a martyr, so rather than execute her, they imprisoned her.
- A. news story
 - B. deceased hero
 - C. bad example
13. It was an evening of many stories and great mirth.
- A. warm friendship
 - B. fun and laughter
 - C. fond memories
14. Cactus is about all that will grow in this parched soil.
- A. dried out
 - B. sandy
 - C. rocky
15. He has a perpetual fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
16. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
17. The country maintains a pretense of a free press.
- A. strong presence
 - B. false appearance
 - C. diverse presence
18. He refuted the argument.
- A. avoided
 - B. complained about
 - C. argued against
19. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
20. Many people in the world have to subsist on \$1 a day.
- A. thrive
 - B. survive
 - C. grow

Vocabulary in Context

Murder in the Cathedral

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *Who has stretched out his hand to the fire and remembered the Saints at All Hallows, Remembered the **martyrs** and saints who wait?*
 - A. pauses to change how something is done -- often while reducing the use of resources
 - B. dies or suffers due to upholding principle; or people who have suffered such a fate
 - C. speaks in an ambiguous manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
- 2 *Shall the Son of Man be born again in the litter of **scorn**?*
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific
- 3 *We can lean on a rock, we can feel a firm foothold Against the **perpetual** wash of tides of balance of forces of barons and land holders.*
 - A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 4 *And when the Archbishop returns Our doubts are **dispelled**.*
 - A. spoke in an ambiguous manner that did not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - B. to drive away or put an end to something -- especially a feeling, idea, or doubt
 - C. proposed that someone be offered a position, be a candidate, or receive an honor
- 5 *But both are fixed In an eternal action, an eternal patience To which all must consent that it may be willed And which all must suffer that they may will it, That the pattern may **subsist**, for the pattern is the action And the suffering, that the wheel may turn and still Be forever still.*
 - A. restore
 - B. survive
 - C. examine
- 6 *My Lord, forgive me, I did not see you coming, **Engrossed** by the chatter of these foolish women.*
 - A. with all attention focused
 - B. gradually added or removed
 - C. limited or with boundaries
- 7 *For a little time the hungry hawk Will only soar and hover, circling lower, Waiting excuse, **pretence**, opportunity.*
 - A. a general feeling of not being as good as others
 - B. a false appearance or action to help one pretend
 - C. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
- 8 *Now that the King and you are in amity, Clergy and laity may return to gaiety, **Mirth** and --sportfulness need not walk warily, Thomas.*
 - A. restart (a fire)
 - B. fun and laughter
 - C. started (a fire)
- 9 *Sooner shall **enmity** turn to alliance.*
 - A. battle
 - B. memory
 - C. hatred
- 10 *I always **precede** expectation.*
 - A. notable difference
 - B. come to terms with
 - C. to go or do before
- 11 *What earthly glory, of king or emperor, What earthly pride, that is not poverty Compared with richness of heavenly **grandeur**?*
 - A. interaction or interest
 - B. impressive magnificence
 - C. a drawing or photograph

- 12 *Ambition fortifies the will of man to become ruler over other men: it operates with **deception**, cajolery, and violence, it is the action of impurity upon impurity.*
- A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
 - B. the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
 - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 13 *And war among men **defiles** this world, but death in the Lord renews it, And the world must be cleaned in the winter, or we shall have only A sour spring, a parched summer, an empty harvest.*
- A. learns, discovers, or decides in advance
 - B. compensates for a loss; or pays a reward
 - C. spoils the beauty or purity of something
- 14 *And war among men defiles this world, but death in the Lord renews it, And the world must be cleaned in the winter, or we shall have only A sour spring, a **parched** summer, an empty harvest.*
- A. dried out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight; or very thirsty
 - B. not with energy redirected from a negative impulse to a positive one
 - C. convinced (someone) that an idea previously believed was not correct
- 15 *If you make charges, Then in public I will **refute** them.*
- A. find, search, or research
 - B. being a boundary or limit
 - C. disprove or argue against
- 16 *Why should he wish To **deprive** my people of me and keep me from my own And bid me sit in Canterbury, alone?*
- A. of the Netherlands or its people
 - B. to take away or keep from having
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 17 *Had Becket **concurred** with the King's wishes, we should have had an almost ideal State: a union of spiritual and temporal administration, under the central government.*
- A. traded
 - B. agreed
 - C. copied
- 18 *Every means that had been tried to **conciliate** him, to restore him to reason, had failed* Now I have unimpeachable evidence to the effect that before he left France he clearly prophesied, in the presence of numerous witnesses, that he had not long to live, and that he would be killed in England.*
- A. attempt to end bad feelings or build trust
 - B. read, listen, or watch with eager interest
 - C. provide better understanding or make clear
- 19 *He used every **tneane** of provocation; from his conduct, step by step, there can be no **inference** except that he had determined upon a death by martyrdom.*
- A. someone who expresses disapproval
 - B. conclusion (reached by reasoning)
 - C. purpose, job, or natural activity
- 20 *The Church lies bereft', Alone, **desecrated**, desolated, and the hea then shall build on the ruins, Their world without God, I see it.*
- A. violated the sacred nature of something
 - B. examined in detail to better understand
 - C. moved into position to work; or started

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	martyr	Used 29 times in this book.
2	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	B	dispel	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	subsist	Used 2 times in this book.
6	A	engrossed (<i>as in: engrossed in the book</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
7	B	pretense	Used 5 times in this book.
8	B	mirth	Used 3 times in this book.
9	C	enmity	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
11	B	grandeur	Used 4 times in this book.
12	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
13	C	defile	Used 3 times in this book.
14	A	parched	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	C	refute	High-utility academic word
16	B	deprive	Used 3 times in this book.
17	B	concur (<i>as in: I concur</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	A	conciliatory	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	infer	High-utility academic word
20	A	desecrate	Used 2 times in this book.