

O Pioneers!

by Willa Cather

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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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: conceit, conspicuous, cordial, deceive, earnest, impetuous, indignant, indulge, melancholy, mortgage, nevertheless, perplex, persist, proficiency, prudent, rancor, resolute, scythe, skeptical, wistful



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	A
9	B
10	B
11	B
12	C
13	B
14	C
15	A
16	C
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. Her **conceit** showed in the way she interrupted others and assumed she was always the smartest person in the room.
 - A. ignorance
 - B. arrogance
 - C. encouragement
2. She is the most **conspicuous** person on the President's cabinet, often appearing on television.
 - A. easy to notice
 - B. hard to trust
 - C. quick to argue
3. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
 - A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a friendly manner
 - C. in a clumsy manner
4. The **fake** article was written to attract attention and deceive readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
5. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
 - A. frivolous attitude
 - B. seriousness
 - C. falseness
6. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
7. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
 - A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
8. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
9. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring,
 - A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
10. The site has a **mortgage** payment calculator that calculates the loan payment based on the interest rate and length of the loan.
 - A. unsecured loan
 - B. real estate loan
 - C. credit card loan
11. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition

12. I am perplexed by her sudden change of mind on this important issue.
- A. amused
 - B. annoyed
 - C. confused
13. We expect the conditions to persist into next year.
- A. grow worse
 - B. continue
 - C. go away
14. After months of practice, she gained enough proficiency in Spanish to hold a simple conversation.
- A. interest
 - B. permission
 - C. skill
15. Courage is dangerous without prudence.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
16. Even after years apart, the rancor between the brothers had not faded at all.
- A. warm affection
 - B. mild curiosity
 - C. deep bitterness
17. Despite the criticism, she remained resolute in her decision to speak out.
- A. hopeful
 - B. determined and unwavering
 - C. out of touch with reality
18. The painting is called *Peasant Woman with a Scythe*.
- A. (noun) a strip of hair made lighter in color OR (verb) making strips of hair lighter in color
 - B. to mix different things that maintain their difference in the mixture; or the resulting mixture
 - C. grass-cutting tool
19. She is skeptical about the project.
- A. doubtful
 - B. keeping silent
 - C. excited
20. She had a wistful, dreamy look as she thought about how life would change if she could get a good job.
- A. showing longing
 - B. showing determination
 - C. showing optimism

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 He was a little country boy, and this village was to him a very strange and **perplexing** place, where people wore fine clothes and had hard hearts.
 - A. treating as if of low worth
 - B. delaying until a later time
 - C. confusing
- 2 His sister was a tall, strong girl, and she walked rapidly and **resolutely**, as if she knew exactly where she was going and what she was going to do next.
 - A. in a strongly biased manner
 - B. with firm purpose
 - C. in a morally correct manner
- 3 **Nevertheless**, when one considered that his chief business was horse-doctoring, it seemed rather short-sighted of him to live in the most inaccessible place he could find.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 4 He felt that it made them **conspicuous** and gave people a chance to talk about them.
 - A. easily noticed -- typically attracting attention such as by being large, flashy, or unusual
 - B. the quality or degree of being in a crosswise direction (at a right angle to the long axis)
 - C. relating to an acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of contaminated water or food
- 5 "But, Alexandra," he said sadly and **wistfully**, "I've never been any real help to you, beyond sometimes trying to keep the boys in a good humor."
 - A. with longing or unfulfilled desire
 - B. in a manner that involves betrayal
 - C. following as a result of something
- 6 "I'll write as long as I live," cried the boy **impetuously**.
 - A. impulsively (without much thought)
 - B. in the manner of a logical, systematic examination
 - C. in a manner that shows care or concern for someone
- 7 All the time I was a boy we had a **mortgage** hanging over us.
 - A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - B. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
 - C. enter another's property without right or permission
- 8 The space between his two front teeth, which were unusually far apart, gave him the **proficiency** in whistling for which he was distinguished at college.
 - A. snake
 - B. story
 - C. skill
- 9 Alexandra asked Signa whether she thought Nelse was **in earnest**,
 - A. seven wise men of ancient Greece
 - B. serious
 - C. real (genuine, true, or sincere)
- 10 Lou looked **skeptical**.
 - A. doubtful (unbelieving)
 - B. the quality of being characterized by fantastic imagery, or combinations of things and events that don't go together
 - C. related to the branch of medicine that deals with the diseases of women -- especially those of the reproductive organs
- 11 "I expect you'll be wanting to see your old place," Lou observed more **cordially**.
 - A. in a pleasing way
 - B. in a friendly way
 - C. in a skillful way

- 12 I waste a lot of time pretending to people, and the joke of it is, I don't think I ever **deceive** any one.
- A. tell (a story)
 - B. bad or harmful
 - C. lie or mislead
- 13 He had a way of drawing out his cambric handkerchief slowly, by one corner, from his breast-pocket, that was **melancholy** and romantic in the extreme.
- A. relating to the outside
 - B. a sad feeling or manner
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 14 When he heard his daughter's announcement, he first **prudently** corked his beer bottle and then leaped to his feet and had a turn of temper.
- A. with good sense and caution
 - B. in a strongly biased manner
 - C. in a manner that challenges
- 15 he began to swing his **scythe** with that long, even stroke that few American boys ever learn.
- A. (noun) a strip of hair made lighter in color OR (verb) making strips of hair lighter in color
 - B. to mix different things that maintain their difference in the mixture; or the resulting mixture
 - C. a tool for cutting grass that has a curved blade and a long handle that is held with both hands
- 16 Alexandra looked from one to the other, her eyes full of **indignation**.
- A. anger at something unjust or wrong
 - B. surprise as something unexpected
 - C. acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 17 It makes women **conceited** to meddle in business.
- A. not judged in a negative way
 - B. excessively proud of oneself
 - C. calculated or judged too low
- 18 She had never been in love, she had never **indulged** in sentimental reveries.
- A. enjoyed to excess
 - B. guided or managed
 - C. thought carefully
- 19 There was one fancy indeed, which **persisted** through her girlhood.
- A. disagreed
 - B. continued
 - C. stuck out
- 20 It might be the last time that he would see her alone, and today he could leave her without **rancor**, without bitterness.
- A. measure of general intelligence
 - B. a firm decision to do something
 - C. deep and bitter anger or hatred

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	perplex	Used 6 times in this book.
2	B	resolute	Used 4 times in this book.
3	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
4	A	conspicuous	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
5	A	wistful	Used 4 times in this book.
6	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word
7	B	mortgage	Used 7 times in this book.
8	C	proficiency	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	B	earnest	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
10	A	skeptical	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	B	cordial (<i>as in: a cordial reception</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	deceive	Used 3 times in this book.
13	B	melancholy	Used 3 times in this book.
14	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	C	scythe	Used 12 times in this book.
16	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
17	B	conceit (<i>as in: confident, but not conceited</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
18	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	B	persist	Used 4 times in this book.
20	C	rancor	High-utility academic word