

Oedipus King of Thebes

by Sophocles

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: abhor, afflict, anguish, assuage, banish, blasphemy, defile, exile, forsake, heed, herald, impetuous, peril, prophecy, scarcity, scorn, sinister, vex, wrath, wrest



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	C
11	B
12	A
13	B
14	B
15	C
16	A
17	B
18	B
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. However much we **abhor** it, we must be prepared for war.
 - A. avoid
 - B. don't expect
 - C. hate
2. She has been **afflicted** with migraines since childhood.
 - A. worried about
 - B. surprised by
 - C. made to suffer
3. Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - A. extreme solitude
 - B. extreme distress
 - C. extreme depression
4. The police chief made a statement that **assuaged** many people's worst fears.
 - A. made a joke of
 - B. soothed
 - C. made worse
5. I tried to **banish** the thought from my mind.
 - A. understand
 - B. collect
 - C. send away
6. Even in the 21st century, high school teachers in the country are still occasionally imprisoned and/or lashed for **blasphemy**.
 - A. disrespect of something considered sacred
 - B. a dispute where there is strong disagreement
 - C. a serious logical error
7. Vandals **defiled** the ancient temple by spray-painting the walls.
 - A. carefully restored
 - B. secretly explored
 - C. spoiled the purity of
8. Napoleon was forced into **exile** on the island of Elba.
 - A. apologizing
 - B. living elsewhere
 - C. hard labor
9. In the third year of their brutal civil war, moderates feel **forsaken** by the west.
 - A. abandoned
 - B. respected
 - C. defeated
10. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
 - A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
11. The king's **herald** announced it this morning.
 - A. lawyer
 - B. announcer
 - C. advisor

12. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
- A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
13. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
14. It was a **self-fulfilling prophecy**.
- A. profitable enterprise
 - B. prediction
 - C. explanation
15. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
16. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
17. In the movie, there was a **sinister** plot to kill people and harvest their organs.
- A. complicated
 - B. evil
 - C. clever
18. The **vexing** puzzle kept her up late into the night.
- A. soothing
 - B. annoying
 - C. amusing
19. She fears the **wrath** of God.
- A. angry punishment
 - B. power
 - C. unpredictable moods
20. They **wrested** power from the old government.
- A. gave
 - B. took
 - C. understood

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 —Children, care For this so moves me, I have **scorned** withal Message or writing: seeing 'tis I ye call, 'Tis I am come, world-honoured Oedipus.
 - A. disrespected or rejected
 - B. mirrored back (an image)
 - C. quoted (to make a point)
- 2 We had no **heed** Of distant sorrows, having death so near.
 - A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - B. adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
 - C. pay close attention to; or do what is suggested
- 3 One new as our new-come **affliction**, Or an old toil returned with the years?
 - A. worry or concern about what will happen
 - B. the study of the origin of the universe
 - C. something that causes ongoing suffering
- 4 And thou, O Golden-crown, Theban and named our own, O Wine-gleam, Voice of Joy, for ever more Ringed with thy Maenads white, Bacchus, draw near and smite, Smite with thy glad-eyed flame the God whom Gods **abhor**.
 - A. tell (a story)
 - B. lie or mislead
 - C. hate or detest
- 5 Aye, and two **Heralds** have sent ere now.
 - A. things that hold other things together, or wrap or cover or tie something
 - B. people who announce important news
 - C. international boundaries or wilderness areas at the edge of settled areas
- 6 He is an old blind man in a prophet's robe, dark, unkempt and **sinister** in appearance.
 - A. not able to be disagreed with
 - B. evil, harmful, or frightening
 - C. not thoughtful about the past
- 7 For Phoebus—thou hast heard withal His message—to our envoy hath decreed One only way of help in this great need: To find and smite with death or **banishing**, Him who smote Laius, our ancient King.
 - A. treating as if of low worth
 - B. coming together to form one
 - C. expelling or getting rid of
- 8 Question every cry Of birds, and all roads else of **prophecy** Thou knowest.
 - A. social event or ceremony
 - B. prediction of the future
 - C. a positively charged ion
- 9 Nay; the **wrath** of any stone Would rise at him.
 - A. extreme anger
 - B. determination
 - C. use of reason
- 10 Scarce thy full meaning.
 - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 11 Once gone, he will not **vex** me more.
 - A. to investigate; or an investigation; or an instrument used for investigation
 - B. to annoy, worry, or frustrate -- especially by being difficult or persistent
 - C. to change to multiple areas of control or concentration (rather than just 1)

- 12 *She will assuage it as is well.*
A. unwrap
B. soothe
C. follow
- 13 *If such there be, oh, let some doom be given Meet for his ill-starred pride, Who will not gain his gain where Justice is, Who will not hold his lips from **blasphemies**, Who hurls rash hands amid the things of heaven From man's touch sanctified.*
A. things said or done that are disrespectful of something considered sacred -- especially God or religion
B. things that are not obvious, but noticeable by someone with adequate sensitivity and relevant knowledge
C. a noticeable red (or brown) discolorations of sea water caused by excessive growth of microscopic algae
- 14 *'Tis that, hath kept thee **exiled** in this place?*
A. took (power or responsibility)
B. forced to leave one's homeland
C. developed or changed gradually
- 15 *Fear lest thou take **Defilement** from the two that gave thee birth?*
A. someone who exposes wrongdoing within an organization
B. an expert in the branch of geology that studies rocks
C. the act of spoiling the beauty or purity of something
- 16 *She passed like one who flies In very **anguish**.*
A. extreme introversion
B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress
C. extreme depression
- 17 *There is my lineage true, which none shall **wrest** From me; who then am I to fear this quest?*
A. protect something or keep it as it is
B. obtain with difficult effort or force
C. a quick look or partial understanding
- 18 *From thee in great **peril** fell peace upon my heart, In thee mine eye clouded and the dark is come apace.*
A. useful
B. danger
C. allows
- 19 *Did not thy masteries of old **forsake** thee when the end was near?*
A. abandon or give up on
B. not easily identified
C. able to be translated
- 20 *The scene serves at least to quicken the pace of the drama, to bring out the **impetuous** and somewhat tyrannical nature of Oedipus, and to prepare the magnificent entrance of Jocasta.*
A. impulsive (acting suddenly without much thought)
B. most important; or person that is most important
C. tending to have exceedingly unfavorable opinions

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
2	C	heed	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	afflict	Used 4 times in this book.
4	C	abhor	Used 3 times in this book.
5	B	herald (<i>as in: announced by herald & trumpet</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	sinister	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
7	C	banish	Used 7 times in this book.
8	B	prophecy	Used 7 times in this book.
9	A	wrath	Used 10 times in this book.
10	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
11	B	vex	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	assuage	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
13	A	blasphemy	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	exile	Used 4 times in this book.
15	C	defile	Used 2 times in this book.
16	B	anguish	Used 4 times in this book.
17	B	wrest	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	peril	Used 8 times in this book.
19	A	forsake	Used 2 times in this book.
20	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word