

Of Human Bondage

by W. Somerset Maugham

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

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

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: corpulent, elaborate (2), flippant, grotesque, irony (2), monotonous, notwithstanding, parish, prescribe, reproach, saunter, sulk, supercilious, transparent (2), uncouth, vehement, vulgar



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Many old portraits show wealthy nobles as **corpulent** figures.
 - A. heavy and stout
 - B. thin and slender
 - C. tall and lanky
2. Their culture has **elaborate** wedding ceremonies.
 - A. generous
 - B. exciting
 - C. detailed
3. He walked with an **elaborate** swagger.
 - A. exaggerated
 - B. slightly noticeable
 - C. rudely disrespectful
4. Her **flippant** joke during the serious meeting upset the group.
 - A. deeply respectful
 - B. not properly serious
 - C. carefully researched
5. The disease causes **grotesque** deformity.
 - A. hidden (internal)
 - B. as from aging
 - C. ugly or distorted
6. **Ironically**, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
 - A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
7. Her voice was dripping with irony as she said, "You look beautiful."
 - A. sincerity
 - B. sarcasm
 - C. kindness
8. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, **monotonous** roads.
 - A. dark
 - B. narrow
 - C. boring
9. The budget was approved, **notwithstanding** the loud protests from the opposition.
 - A. in spite of
 - B. as a result of
 - C. in addition to
10. Our **parish** raised funds to repair the old chapel's leaking roof and bell tower.
 - A. large city government
 - B. private school district
 - C. local church community
11. Most doctors **prescribe** simple lifestyle changes before medication.
 - A. ignore
 - B. delay
 - C. recommend
12. Don't **reproach** yourself for things beyond your control.
 - A. congratulate
 - B. criticize
 - C. accept honor for

13. She **sauntered** over to us.
A. limped painfully
B. marched quickly
C. walked leisurely
14. She **sulked** for the rest of the week when she learned she would not make the starting team.
A. worked tirelessly to improve
B. was unhappy and unsociable
C. was angry and lashed out
15. His **supercilious** tone made everyone in the room feel inferior.
A. haughty and disdainful
B. warm and welcoming
C. shy and uncertain
16. As a safety measure, the school now insists that all backpacks and school bags be **transparent**.
A. searched upon entry
B. weighed
C. easily seen through
17. It was a **transparent** lie.
A. obvious
B. clever
C. vicious
18. The **uncouth** man's behavior at the dinner party was embarrassing to his guests.
A. not bathed
B. drunken
C. rude or unpleasant
19. The politician's **vehement** speech stirred up strong emotions in the crowd.
A. calm and composed
B. forceful or intense
C. highly convincing
20. His **vulgar** jokes embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner party.
A. stale
B. crude
C. clever

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 really seemed to look upon himself as the most important person in the **parish**.
 - A. someone who abandoned their religion or separated from others with whom they used to share firmly held beliefs
 - B. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - C. a local church community

or in some places including Louisiana: a jurisdiction of government like a county
- 2 He disliked the fisher folk, who were rough, **uncouth**, and went to chapel.
 - A. related to the spreading of a disease to another part of the body
 - B. relating to a surface rather than to anything deep or penetrating
 - C. rude or unpleasant due to a lack of manners, refinement, or taste
- 3 She coughed **elaborately** at the door so that Philip should have time to compose himself, she felt that he would be humiliated if she came upon him in the midst of his tears, then she rattled the door handle.
 - A. in an exaggerated manner
 - B. in a manner that changes
 - C. in an understated manner
- 4 All his plans were suddenly overthrown, and the existence, so **elaborately** pictured, was no more than a dream which would never be realised.
 - A. in a good or beneficial manner
 - B. in a manner that does not stop
 - C. rich in detail
- 5 He was a man of middle height and of a **corpulent** figure; he had sandy hair, worn very short and now growing gray, and a small bristly moustache.
 - A. excessive body fat
 - B. good or beneficial
 - C. not representative
- 6 There was never here any of that flashing humour which made the other masters suspect him of **flippancy**.
 - A. lacking experience or sophistication
 - B. an inappropriate lack of seriousness
 - C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 7 He would **sulk** for a day, and he suffered more because Rose either did not notice his ill-humour or deliberately ignored it.
 - A. technical: center or concentration
 - B. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. dislike strongly and look down upon
- 8 Sometimes he **sauntered** through the streets of the old town.
 - A. strutted (walked in an especially confident and proud manner)
 - B. walked leisurely
 - C. walked leisurely
- 9 He was very fond of reciting poetry, his own and that of others, which he did in a **monotonous** sing-song.
 - A. increasingly more frightening and/or dangerous
 - B. interesting and/or stimulating
 - C. lacking in variety and/or boring
- 10 She was so thin that she seemed almost **transparent**, the arms she put round his neck were frail bones that reminded you of chicken bones, and her faded face was oh! so wrinkled.
 - A. relating to properties of sound or hearing
 - B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - C. capable of being seen through

- 11 Philip knew very little about women, or he would have been aware that one should accept their most transparent lies.
- obvious
 - indicating approval or agreement
 - the condition of being different
- 12 As he limped along the high street of Blackstable he looked with a tinge of superciliousness at the people he passed.
- arrogant (acting as if better, more important, and superior in ideas than others)
 - not having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - able to qualify for regular payments that permit having an income without working
- 13 Sometimes, **notwithstanding** the cold, a couple came on to the balcony and stood for a moment to get some fresh air; and Philip, imagining that they were in love with one another, turned away and limped along the street with a heavy hurt.
- despite
 - in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - therefore (for that reason)
- 14 Before the American could answer someone else broke in **vehemently**.
- the manner in which things have generally been done in the past
 - marked by extreme intensity -- especially emotion such as anger
 - in a manner that shows a lack of integrity and money motivation
- 15 That knee, it's **grotesque**.
- clarifies (makes clear)
 - beautifies
 - distorted and unnatural in shape or size -- especially in a disturbing way
- or:
- ugly, gross, or very wrong
- 16 With a blank face Philip offered his congratulations, and Flanagan was so busy congratulating himself that he did not catch the note of **irony** which Philip could not prevent from coming into his voice.
- soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - saying one thing while meaning the opposite
 - belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 17 It was a triumph of **irony** for that outcast poet to die amid the trappings of vulgar respectability;
- lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - when what happened was very different than what might have been expected
 - someone who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often with the implication that the person is unrealistic
- 18 He **reproached** Philip for laziness, asked him when he was going to start work,
- translated
 - criticized
 - subtracted
- 19 He wrote a **prescription**, gave instructions, and left.
- lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
 - submissiveness -- often an attitude of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
 - a recommendation or requirement OR (from a medical doctor) an instruction -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
- 20 It was a triumph of irony for that outcast poet to die amid the trappings of **vulgar** respectability;
- increasing reason or general desire to do something
 - common (and so thought to be of unsophisticated)
 - the state of being unaware of one's mental activity

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	parish	Used 17 times in this book.
2	C	uncouth	Used 9 times in this book.
3	A	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate wink</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
4	C	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate design</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
5	A	corpulent	Used 9 times in this book.
6	B	flippant	Used 7 times in this book.
7	B	sulk	Used 24 times in this book.
8	C	saunter	Used 16 times in this book.
9	C	monotonous	Used 14 times in this book.
10	C	transparent (<i>as in: transparent shower door</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	A	transparent (<i>as in: transparent lie</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	A	supercilious	Used 8 times in this book.
13	A	notwithstanding	High-utility academic word; used 32 times in this book.
14	B	vehement	Used 17 times in this book.
15	C	grotesque	Used 17 times in this book.
16	B	irony (<i>as in: verbal irony</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 11 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	reproach	Used 27 times in this book.
19	C	prescribe	Used 14 times in this book.
20	B	vulgar	Used 56 times in this book.