

Othello, the Moor of Venice

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 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: adieu, beguile, beseech, bestow, censure, chaste, chide, citadel, cunning, denotes, devise, divine (2), doting, entreat, malice, repent, subdue, trifle, trifle with



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
Othello, the Moor of Venice
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We waved **adieu** to our friends at the train station.
A. goodbye
B. hello
C. greetings
2. She was wined, dined, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
A. forced
B. tricked
C. encouraged
3. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
A. asking
B. demanding
C. instructing
4. Our organization **bestows** honors, awards, and sometimes cash prizes to promising writers.
A. shows
B. recommends
C. gives
5. In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
A. criticism
B. anger
C. disinterest
6. Jacob remained **chaste** until he met his future spouse.
A. a virgin
B. disillusioned
C. unfaithful to anyone
7. She gently **chides** her friends who run up credit card debt unnecessarily.
A. avoids
B. celebrates with
C. criticizes
8. The **citadel** stood on a high hill, overlooking the town like a watchful guardian.
A. fortified stronghold
B. wooden farmhouse
C. outdoor marketplace
9. The worst mix -- **greedy, cunning**, and without morals.
A. stupid and impatient
B. clever and deceitful
C. strong and cruel
10. In algebra, letters often **denote** unknown numbers in equations.
A. scatter
B. represent
C. confuse
11. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
A. consider
B. create
C. save
12. The King claimed a **divine** right.
A. perfect or wonderful
B. from birth
C. coming from God

13. She wouldn't talk about it, but I was able to **divine** that the project isn't going well.
- A. figure out
 - B. state
 - C. share
14. She **dotes** upon her children.
- A. criticizes
 - B. worries
 - C. adores
15. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
- A. bribed (with gifts)
 - B. asked earnestly
 - C. threatened
16. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
17. She said the U.S. should **repent** for the sins of fossil fuels.
- A. reimburse
 - B. apologize
 - C. suffer
18. The government **subdued** the uprising.
- A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 - B. put down or brought it under control
 - C. made appropriate in size, amount, or degree
19. Don't waste my time with **trifling** matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
20. The European Parliament refuses to be **trifled** with.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with

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 Do not believe That, from the sense of all civility, I thus would play and **trifle with** your reverence: Your daughter,—if you have not given her leave,—I say again, hath made a gross revolt; Tying her duty, beauty, wit, and fortunes In an extravagant and wheeling stranger Of here and everywhere.
A. treat thoughtlessly or without respect
B. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
C. injured muscles or tendons of the back
- 2 Trifles light as air Are to the jealous confirmations strong As proofs of holy writ: this may do something.
A. struggles or disagreements
B. is attractive or desirable
C. things of small importance
- 3 Something from Cyprus, as I may **divine**:
A. guess (discover through intuition or reflection)
B. a rough calculation or guess of a value, quantity, or extent of something
C. add fuel or stir a fire to make it burn hotter; or make feelings stronger
- 4 The **divine** Desdemona
A. the quality of being sensible and careful
B. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
C. wonderful
- 5 —Lay hold upon him: if he do resist, **Subdue** him at his peril.
A. move out of an interacting position; or stop
B. control or put down by force or intimidation
C. say something or make a sound with the voice
- 6 So let the Turk of Cyprus us **beguile**;
A. to think of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
B. charm and/or deceive
C. give authority, power, knowledge, or confidence to someone so they can do something
- 7 Adieu, brave Moor; use Desdemona well.
A. goodbye
B. hello
C. greetings
- 8 They give their greeting to the **citadel**: This likewise is a friend.
A. a stronghold or fortress
B. island (that is made of a coral reef)
C. dense, rainy forest with many species
- 9 Sir, would she give you so much of her lips As of her tongue she oft **bestows** on me, You'd have enough.
A. draws
B. quits
C. gives
- 10 She puts her tongue a little in her heart,
And **chides** with thinking.
A. gains advantage from
B. boundaries or limits
C. tells someone they have done wrong
- 11 O my sweet, I prattle out of fashion, and I **dote** In mine own comforts.
A. stop interacting; or stop having interest
B. to spoil something so it is not desirable
C. demonstrate love and uncritical affection

- 12 *I'll send her to you presently; And I'll **devise** a mean to draw the Moor Out of the way, that your converse and business May be more free.*
 A. stop (something from happening)
 B. come up with (invent or create)
 C. think deeply or carefully about
- 13 *I humbly do **beseech** you of your pardon For too much loving you.*
 A. beg
 B. move into position to work; or start
 C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 14 *I see, sir, you are eaten up with passion: I do **repent** me that I put it to you.*
 A. mark important text; or the text that is marked
 B. to express or feel regret for having done wrong
 C. give an opinion of what is wrong with something
- 15 *But this **denoted** a foregone conclusion: 'Tis a shrewd doubt, though it be but a dream.*
 A. with rises and falls in pitch
 B. stand for or symbolize literally; or be a sign or indicator of
 C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 16 *Thus credulous fools are caught; And many worthy and **chaste** dames even thus, All guiltless, meet reproach.*
 A. not having sexual intercourse (ever, outside of marriage, or for a long time); or not involving sexual desire
 B. a citizen of Rome between the founding of the city (753 BC) and the fall of the Western Roman Empire (476 AD)
 C. able to be portrayed or created in a particular way OR able to be interpreted, translated, or extracted from
- 17 *I will be found most **cunning** in my patience;*
 A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 B. clever
 C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 18 *I do **entreat** that we may sup together:*
 A. stop fighting
 B. ask
 C. make possible
- 19 *what **malice** was between you?*
 A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 C. ill will (wanting to see others suffer)
- 20 *...To you, lord governor,
 Remains the **censure** of this hellish villain;
 The time, the place, the torture. O, enforce it!*
 A. harsh or formal criticism
 B. find, search, or research
 C. being a boundary or limit

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
2	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
3	A	divine (<i>as in: divined through intuition</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
4	C	divine (<i>as in: to forgive is divine</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
5	B	subdue (<i>as a verb as in: subdued the opposition</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
6	B	beguile	Used 5 times in this play.
7	A	adieu	Used 4 times in this play.
8	A	citadel	Used 5 times in this play.
9	C	bestow	Used 4 times in this play.
10	C	chide	Used 5 times in this play.
11	C	doting	Used 4 times in this play.
12	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
13	A	beseech	Used 13 times in this play.
14	B	repent	Used 4 times in this play.
15	B	denotes	Used 2 times in this play.
16	A	chaste (<i>as in: remained chaste</i>)	Used 5 times in this play.
17	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 6 times in this play.
18	B	entreat	Used 6 times in this play.
19	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this play.
20	A	censure	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.