

Selected Essays

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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: antagonism, attribute (2), bard, conform, cultivate, doctrine, essence, external, grandeur, intrinsic, omnipotent, omnipresent, prudent, signify, subordinate, trifle, trifle with, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	C
8	C
9	B
10	B
11	C
12	B
13	C
14	A
15	A
16	A
17	C
18	A
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. I don't understand her **antagonism** toward me.
 - A. kindness
 - B. hostility
 - C. positive attitude
2. She described his physical **attributes**.
 - A. characteristics
 - B. strengths
 - C. weaknesses
3. She **attributes** her success to hard work.
 - A. gives money for
 - B. gives credit for
 - C. gives help for
4. He calls himself a **bard** from Brooklyn.
 - A. someone who protects the weak and delivers justice to those who are evil
 - B. someone who composes and shares poems about important events and people
 - C. someone who knows everything about everyone
5. The Asche experiment showed the influence of the desire to **conform**.
 - A. fit in
 - B. have independence
 - C. be honorable
6. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
7. She challenges accepted **doctrine**.
 - A. champions
 - B. authority
 - C. beliefs
8. The **essence** of friendship is trust, even more than shared interests.
 - A. most common activity
 - B. least noticeable detail
 - C. most important quality
9. **External** pressure from competitors forced the company to lower its prices.
 - A. located inside
 - B. coming from outside
 - C. happening before
10. The palace was famous for its **grandeur** and ornate decoration.
 - A. shabby plainness
 - B. majestic splendor
 - C. tiny size
11. Curiosity is an **intrinsic** part of learning.
 - A. recently added
 - B. easily removed
 - C. built-in
12. His book was called *Omnipotent Government*.
 - A. knowing everything
 - B. all powerful
 - C. present everywhere

13. Reagan made "God bless America" the **omnipresent** political slogan that it is today.
- A. not having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. able to qualify for regular payments that permit having an income without working
 - C. widespread
14. Courage is dangerous without **prudence**.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
15. Her silence seemed to **signify** that she disagreed.
- A. indicate
 - B. delay
 - C. repeat
16. Every officer under the rank of Captain, shall be **subordinate** to the Officer of the Watch in regard to the performance of the duties with which he is charged.
- A. subservient
 - B. in charge of
 - C. considerate
17. Don't waste my time with **trifling** matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
18. The European Parliament refuses to be trifled with.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with
19. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 [25] In its **essence** it is *progressive*

- A. any of the military expeditions in the 11th to 13th centuries when Christian powers of Europe invaded Muslims in the Holy Land in the Middle East
- B. one who believes in an economic system based on voluntary exchange in a competitive environment with private ownership of property and businesses
- C. the defining or most important quality of something

or:

a extract that concentrates important qualities of something such as smell or taste

2 [30] *Undoubtedly there is a right way of reading, so it be sternly* **subordinated**

- A. less important or subservient; or to rank as such
- B. left a place, job or position previously occupied
- C. having multiple areas of control or concentration

3 *Let the* **grandeur** *of justice shine in his affairs.*

- A. interaction or interest
- B. impressive magnificence
- C. a drawing or photograph

4 *Each philosopher, each* **bard**, *each actor has only done for me, as by a delegate, what one day I can do for myself.*

- A. of the American Indian civilization of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala that reached its peak between AD 300 and 900
- B. someone who composes and recites or sings poems about important events and people; or (as a proper noun) Shakespeare
- C. a hole or dropoff so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply a frightening bottomless pit

5 *The blindness of the preacher consisted in deferring to the base estimate of the market of what constitutes a manly success, instead of confronting and convicting the world from the truth; announcing the presence of the soul; the* **omnipotence** *of the will: and so establishing the standard of good and ill, of success and falsehood.*

- A. because of a basic rule or belief
- B. the quality of being all powerful
- C. interacts, interests, or attracts

6 *I find a similar base tone in the popular religious works of the day, and the same* **doctrines** *assumed by the literary men when occasionally they treat the related topics.*

- A. private, non-profit organizations working for member goals at the international level
- B. tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuades
- C. a belief (or system of beliefs or principles) accepted as authoritative by some group

7 *The true doctrine of* **omnipresence** *is, that God reappears with all his parts in every moss and cobweb.*

- A. thinks of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
- B. the state of being significantly overweight (due to the accumulation of body fat)
- C. widespread (seemingly everywhere)

or:

of God: being present everywhere at once

8 *Our property is timid, our laws are timid, our* **cultivated** *classes are timid.*

- A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
- B. developed, grown, or prepared for growing crops
- C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation

- 9 *Cheapest, say the **prudent**, is the dearest labor.*
A. sensible and careful
B. not demonstrative of
C. sincerity (realness)
- 10 *There can be no excess to love; none to knowledge; none to beauty, when these **attributes** are considered in the purest sense.*
A. characteristics (of something or someone)
B. dreamlike states of altered consciousness
C. piles of wood or other burnable materials
- 11 *Frivolous and fantastic additions have got associated with the name, but the steady interest of mankind in it must be **attributed** to the valuable properties which it designates.*
A. not made different; or shown to be different
B. credited (pointed to as the cause of something)
C. not changed directly from a solid to a vapor
- 12 *I do not wish more **external** goods,—neither possessions, nor honors, nor powers, nor persons.*
A. certain
B. outside
C. various
- 13 *I cannot consent to pay for a privilege where I have **intrinsic** right.*
A. meticulousness (care for small details)
B. the state or degree of being very large
C. belonging to a thing by its very nature
- 14 *[172] The objection to **conforming** to usages that have become dead to you is, that it scatters your force*
A. complying, fitting in, or being similar to what is normal
B. understanding or explaining something in a particular way
C. making something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
- 15 *At times the whole world seems to be in conspiracy to importune you with emphatic **trifles**.*
A. struggles or disagreements
B. is attractive or desirable
C. things of small importance
- 16 *The world still wants its poet-priest, a reconciler, who shall not **trifle with** Shakspeare the player, nor shall grope in graves with Swedenborg the mourner; but who shall see, speak, and act, with equal inspiration.*
A. treat thoughtlessly or without respect
B. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
C. injured muscles or tendons of the back
- 17 *I am equally balked by **antagonism** and by compliance.*
A. kindness
B. hostility or opposition
C. positive attitude
- 18 *For there is nothing settled in manners, but the laws of behavior **yield** to the energy of the individual.*
A. select (on a computer screen)
B. give in, give way, or give up
C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 19 *There is in woods and waters a certain enticement and flattery, together with a failure to **yield** a present satisfaction.*
A. produce or give
B. stop (something from happening)
C. think deeply or carefully about
- 20 *A third class live above the beauty of the symbol to the beauty of the thing **signified**; these are wise men.*
A. to indicate (to show or to mean)
B. lacking things most people enjoy
C. of the Netherlands or its people

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	essence	Used 13 times in this book.
2	A	subordinate	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
3	B	grandeur	Used 10 times in this book.
4	B	bard (<i>as in: written by the bard</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
5	B	omnipotent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
6	C	doctrine	Used 19 times in this book.
7	C	omnipresent	Used 8 times in this book.
8	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 14 times in this book.
9	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 46 times in this book.
10	A	attribute (<i>as in: It is an attribute of...</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
11	B	attribute (<i>as in: I attribute it to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	B	external	Used 10 times in this book.
13	C	intrinsic	Used 4 times in this book.
14	A	conform	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
15	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 11 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	antagonism	Used 4 times in this book.
18	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	signify	Used 9 times in this book.