

Sister Carrie

by Theodore Dreiser

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: accord (2), affable, contrast, deception, demeanor, diffident, elated, foreman, indulge, invariably, matinée, opera, pathos, perfunctory, shrewd, stolid, tact, trifle, trifle with



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Sister Carrie

by Theodore Dreiser

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

Vocabulary Preview

Sister Carrie

by Theodore Dreiser

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She dresses in **accordance** with the latest fashions.
 - A. opposition
 - B. keeping
 - C. ignorance
2. His lawyers demand he be **accorded** the status of a captured soldier rather than a spy.
 - A. given
 - B. denied
 - C. told about
3. He's an **affable** guy with a good sense of humor.
 - A. impulsive or unpredictable
 - B. incapable of being undone
 - C. good natured and sociable
4. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
5. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
 - A. kindness
 - B. trickery
 - C. praise
6. Despite her nervousness, her professional **demeanor** never wavered.
 - A. words
 - B. manner
 - C. work
7. She is so **diffident**; I can't imagine her as president of the organization.
 - A. young
 - B. unassertive
 - C. argumentative
8. The **elated** winner couldn't stop smiling.
 - A. extremely happy
 - B. newly created
 - C. exhausted or tired
9. If you want to leave early, you have to ask the **foreman**.
 - A. supervisor
 - B. owner
 - C. customer
10. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
11. **Invariably**, she arrives at the office ten minutes before her shift starts.
 - A. only rarely
 - B. without fail
 - C. with hesitation
12. We bought tickets for the **matinée** because the evening show was sold out.
 - A. opening speech
 - B. final rehearsal
 - C. daytime performance

13. We're going to the **opera** this evening.
- A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
14. The poem captured the **pathos** of wartime loss.
- A. cheerful spirit
 - B. moving sadness
 - C. angry tone
15. Her **perfunctory** apology did little to ease my annoyance.
- A. sincere
 - B. superficial
 - C. written
16. She watched him with a **shrewd** eye.
- A. nearby
 - B. outside
 - C. smart
17. Her face showed nothing but **stolid** indifference.
- A. emotionless
 - B. confused
 - C. bitter
18. She means well, but she lacks **tact**.
- A. a plan
 - B. sensitivity
 - C. ability
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

Sister Carrie

by Theodore Dreiser

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 "Why, Sister Carrie!" she began, and there was a **perfunctory** embrace of welcome.
 - A. (adjective) designed to stop something OR (noun) something that stops something else
 - B. done without much interest or effort -- especially as when dispensing with a formality
 - C. related to intelligence -- such as requiring, appealing to, or possessing intelligence
- 2 Then some word was sent around, and a **foreman**, in an apron and shirt sleeves, the latter rolled up to his shoulders, approached.
 - A. a person chosen to lead and speak for a group, especially at work or in a courtroom
 - B. someone who roughly calculates or guesses a value, quantity, or extent of something
 - C. someone responsible for making a judgment after thinking carefully about something
- 3 On every hand, to her fatigued senses, the great business portion grew larger, harder, more **stolid** in its indifference.
 - A. having or revealing little emotion -- sometimes indicating qualities of not changing or being dependable

or (much more rarely):

of an object: not interesting -- often large and unmoving

 - B. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
 - C. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
- 4 Chapter IV THE SPENDINGS OF FANCY: FACTS ANSWER WITH SNEERS For the next two days Carrie **indulged** in the most high flown speculations.
 - A. enjoyed to excess
 - B. guided or managed
 - C. thought carefully
- 5 When Hanson came home at seven o'clock, he was inclined to be a little crusty-his usual **demeanor** before supper.
 - A. lacking experience or sophistication
 - B. the manner in which a person behaves
 - C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 6 They were the serious reflections of a mind which **invariably** adjusted itself, without much complaining, to such surroundings as its industry could make for it.
 - A. in a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - B. always; or (said in exaggeration when meaning) almost always
 - C. without much energy; or moving slowly or in a relaxed manner
- 7 She followed him **diffidently** through the clattering automatons, keeping her eyes straight before her, and flushing slightly.
 - A. following as a result of something
 - B. with hesitancy and unassertiveness
 - C. indiscriminately (non-selectively)
- 8 He was **shrewd** and clever in many little things, and capable of creating a good impression.
 - A. exact
 - B. awake
 - C. smart
- 9 Minnie worked with less **elation** than she had just before Carrie arrived.
 - A. intense feeling of happiness and excitement
 - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
 - C. relating to where attention is concentrated

- 10 *Carrie had none of the small **deception** which could feel one thing and say something directly opposed.*
A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
B. the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 11 *She was **affable**, vain, subject to flattery, and this combination, he knew quite well, might produce a tragedy in a woman of her home position.*
A. not able to be translated
B. able to be disagreed with
C. good natured and sociable
- 12 *By this **tact** he made Drouet feel that he admired his choice.*
A. having good judgment or good taste and/or perceiving things not easily perceived by most people
B. the ability or act of saying or handling things in such a way that others feel good about them
C. measles -- a highly contagious viral disease marked by distinct red spots followed by a rash
- 13 *Not long after this Mrs. Hurstwood came with a similar proposition, only it was to a **matinee** this time.*
A. act of hiring again
B. wrong understanding
C. daytime performance
- 14 *That is, his feelings and his voice were colored with that seeming repression and **pathos** which is the essence of eloquence.*
A. the study of how we know what we know
B. a quality that arouses pity or sorrow
C. a neurotransmitter found in the brain
- 15 *He had stopped his **trifling** before the mirror now and crossed over to her.*
A. moving out of an interacting position; or stopping
B. canceling or annulling a formal ruling or contract
C. something of small importance; or a small quantity
- 16 *Each waiter added an air of exclusiveness and elegance by the manner in which he bowed, scraped, touched, and **trifled with** things.*
A. treated thoughtlessly or without respect
B. injury to muscles or tendons of the knee
C. limit light vibrations to a single plane
- 17 *A noted comic **opera** comedian was holding forth that week, and the air of distinction and prosperity overawed her.*
A. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
- 18 *...she was listened to with more consideration than was usually **accorded** to young women applicants, owing to her neat and attractive appearance.*
A. given (special treatment)
B. found, sought, or researched
C. not judged in a negative way
- 19 *It would have **accorded** with her expectations if nothing had been said,*
A. not learned, discovered, or decided
B. been in keeping
C. walked in an awkward, shuffling way
- 20 *The actor whom they had gone to see had achieved his popularity by presenting a mellow type of comedy, in which sufficient sorrow was introduced to lend **contrast** and relief to humor.*
A. come to terms with
B. block or interfere
C. something notably different

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Sister Carrie

by Theodore Dreiser

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	perfunctory	Used 7 times in this book.
2	A	foreman	Used 16 times in this book.
3	A	stolid	Used 5 times in this book.
4	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
5	B	demeanor	Used 12 times in this book.
6	B	invariably	Used 13 times in this book.
7	B	diffident	Used 8 times in this book.
8	C	shrewd	Used 13 times in this book.
9	A	elated	Used 13 times in this book.
10	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
11	C	affable	Used 10 times in this book.
12	B	tact	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
13	C	matinée	Used 11 times in this book.
14	B	pathos	Used 7 times in this book.
15	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 7 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	A	opera	Used 19 times in this book.
18	A	accord (<i>as in: accord her the respect deserved</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	B	accord (<i>as in: according to, or in accord with</i>)	Used 28 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.