

Six Characters in Search of an Author

by Luigi Pirandello

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

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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: acquire, allude, aspiration, consternation, contempt, contradict, culminate, disdain, diverse, equivocal, exasperated, fleeting, impudent, indifferent, indignant, perplex, pretense, remorse, scorn, torment



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. They are working to **acquire** nuclear weapons.
 - A. obtain (get)
 - B. eliminate (get rid of)
 - C. disguise or hide
2. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
3. Her **aspiration** to travel the world was finally realized when she received a job offer from an international company.
 - A. reason
 - B. payment
 - C. desire
4. She is a natural athlete, but to the coach's **consternation**, she tends to forget the play in the heat of the moment.
 - A. prediction
 - B. dismay
 - C. blame
5. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
6. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
7. The year-long investigation **culminated** in several high-profile arrests.
 - A. resulted from confusion
 - B. started slowly
 - C. reached a peak or end
8. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. humility
 - C. intense anger
9. She is a person of **diverse** talents.
 - A. varied (different)
 - B. deeply specialized
 - C. amazing
10. The politician's **equivocal** statement could be taken two completely different ways.
 - A. unclear in meaning
 - B. openly honest
 - C. firmly decided
11. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - A. very active
 - B. endearing (lovable)
 - C. greatly annoying

12. Youth is **fleeting**.
A. short-lived
B. reckless
C. troubled
13. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
A. thoughtfully kind
B. disrespectfully bold
C. extremely quiet
14. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
A. without interest
B. with fear
C. with anger
15. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
A. annoyed at something unjust
B. surprised at the unexpected
C. defensive about being suspected
16. I am **perplexed** by her sudden change of mind on this important issue.
A. amused
B. annoyed
C. confused
17. The country maintains a **pretense** of a free press.
A. strong presence
B. false appearance
C. diverse presence
18. I expressed my **remorse** at having let them down.
A. frustration
B. worry
C. regret
19. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
A. disrespects
B. encourages
C. trains
20. Bullies made his school days a constant torment he could not escape.
A. severe suffering
B. great enjoyment
C. simple confusion

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 She shows **contempt** for the timid half-frightened manner of the wretched BOY.
 - A. frustration at being treated unfairly
 - B. disrespect and dislike
 - C. prejudice or unfair treatment
- 2 THE SON (22) tall, severe in his attitude of contempt for THE FATHER, supercilious and **indifferent** to THE MOTHER.
 - A. without interest
 - B. likely to change
 - C. able to be found
- 3 The Manager [losing patience at last and almost **indignant**].
 - A. angered or annoyed at something unjust or wrong
 - B. surprised as something unexpected
 - C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 4 The Step-Daughter [**disdainful**, alluring, treacherous, full of impudence].
 - A. full of disrespect
 - B. good or beneficial
 - C. impossible to find
- 5 The Step-Daughter [disdainful, alluring, treacherous, full of **impudence**].
 - A. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 6 Even in the case of **remorse**.
 - A. two successive lines of poetry; usually rhymed
 - B. the main building (or buildings) of government
 - C. deep regret for doing something that was wrong
- 7 And this, believe me, was just about enough of itself to keep me in a constant rage, to **exasperate** me beyond measure.
 - A. stop fighting
 - B. make possible
 - C. greatly annoy
- 8 All my life I have had these confounded **aspirations** towards a certain moral sanity.
 - A. battles
 - B. results
 - C. desires
- 9 This seeming **contradiction**, gentlemen, is the strongest proof that I stand here a live man before you.
 - A. something (typically a statement) that disagrees with itself; or (more rarely) the act of disagreeing
 - B. something made of the brownish metal with the same name -- such as a sculpture or a third place medal
 - C. nerve cells running from the base of the skull to the lower back and enclosed by vertebrae in adults
- 10 I wanted to think of her as fortunate and happy because far away from the complicated **torments** of my spirit.
 - A. causes great mental or physical suffering
 - B. emphasizes (calls attention to something)
 - C. controls, prevents, or makes less intense
- 11 But the drama **culminated** unforeseen and violent on their return, when I was impelled by my miserable flesh that still lives...Ah!
 - A. moved again into position to work; or started again
 - B. not examined in an attempt to improve understanding
 - C. reached the highest or most decisive or final stage

- 12 **Diverse consciences.**
A. varied or (having differences amongst things of the same kind) -- especially with regard to ideas or members of a population group
B. submissiveness -- often behavior of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
C. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
- 13 *She surprised me in a place, where she ought not to have known me, just as I could not exist for her; and she now seeks to attach to me a reality such as I could never suppose I should have to assume for her in a shameful and **fleeting** moment of my life.*
A. lasting a short time
B. sensible and careful
C. not demonstrative of
- 14 *And the drama, you will see, **acquires** a tremendous value from this point.*
A. obtains (comes into possession of)
B. interacts again or interests again
C. makes someone want to do something
- 15 *You may have noticed, Mr. Manager, that I fix him now and again with a look of **scorn** while he lowers his eyes -- for he knows the evil he has done me.*
A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
B. not answer questions; or block progress
C. move from more general to more specific
- 16 *He is obliged to watch her treat his father in an **equivocal** and confidential manner.*
A. unclear in meaning
B. impossible to find
C. able to get nearer
- 17 *I should like to know who they are...[**Alludes** to CHARACTERS].*
A. draws pictures to accompany
B. makes an indirect reference
C. covers up (to hide a wrong)
- 18 *It's all **pretence** you know.*
A. a general feeling of not being as good as others
B. a false appearance or action to help one pretend
C. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
- 19 *The Manager [in **consternation**].*
A. related to the smallest part of any material that cannot be broken up by chemical means
B. dismay (unhappiness, worry, and often confusion) -- typically over something unexpected
C. a type of vocal music that originated in African-American churches in the United States
- 20 *The Manager [**perplexed**, half smiling].*
A. excessively excited
B. nervous or confused
C. confused or puzzled

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 5 times in this play.
2	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
3	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this play.
4	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
5	B	impudent	Used 3 times in this play.
6	C	remorse	Used 7 times in this play.
7	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
8	C	aspiration	Used 3 times in this play.
9	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
10	A	torment	Used 9 times in this play.
11	C	culminate	Used 2 times in this play.
12	A	diverse	High-utility academic word
13	A	fleeting	Used 3 times in this play.
14	A	acquire	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
15	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
16	A	equivocal	Used 2 times in this play.
17	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
18	B	pretense	Used 5 times in this play.
19	B	consternation	Used 3 times in this play.
20	C	perplex	Used 5 times in this play.