

Song of Solomon

by Toni Morrison

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: acquire, agitate, alternative (2), begrudge, congenial, consternation, contradict, contrast (2), despise, devious, fervor, indifferent, interpret, jut, midwife, nevertheless, protagonist, yearn



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Song of Solomon

by Toni Morrison

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

Vocabulary Preview

Song of Solomon

by Toni Morrison

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 gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
3. Can anyone think of a better **alternative**?
 - A. job
 - B. reason
 - C. possibility
4. The Amish lead an **alternative** lifestyle that limits the use of technology.
 - A. non-standard
 - B. oriental or East Asian
 - C. traditional or standard
5. I don't **begrudge** her success. She's earned it.
 - A. resent
 - B. experience surprise at
 - C. hope for luck for
6. She found her new colleagues to be quite **congenial**, making her transition to the new job much easier.
 - A. friendly
 - B. unfamiliar
 - C. challenging
7. 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
8. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
9. **Contrast** typical underlying beliefs of pro-life and pro-choice supporters.
 - A. study
 - B. compare
 - C. describe
10. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
11. She **despises** his lifestyle.
 - A. admires
 - B. wants
 - C. hates

12. She is a **devious** opponent.
A. widely respected
B. deceitful and clever
C. not very challenging
13. She spoke about her cause with great **fervor**.
A. calm boredom
B. strong passion
C. mild dislike
14. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
A. without interest
B. with fear
C. with anger
15. How will a court **interpret** the word *careless* if there is a lawsuit?
A. understand
B. insist on
C. ignore
16. She tripped on a thick tree root that **jutted out** across the muddy path.
A. washed away
B. curled up
C. stuck out
17. She is a **licensed midwife**.
A. non-doctor who assists in childbirth
B. not the 1st or most recent wife
C. best friend of a married woman
18. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
A. also
B. despite that
C. in addition
19. We are all **protagonists** of our own story.
A. the main characters
B. the strongest adversaries
C. the most concerned
20. I **yearn** for more independence.
A. fear
B. desire
C. work

Vocabulary in Context

Song of Solomon

by Toni Morrison

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *Opening the novel with the suicidal leap of the insurance agent, ending it with the **protagonist's** confrontational soar into danger, was meant to enclose the mystical but problematic one taken by the Solomon of the title.*
A. the main character in a work of fiction

or more rarely:

an important supporter or main figure of someone or something
B. a member of the 1960's counterculture associated with long hair, illegal drugs, casual sex, and opposition to violence.
C. someone or something that changes to fit a different situation, or that changes something to fit a different situation
- 2 *He hopes his flight, like that of the character in the title, toward asylum (Canada, or freedom, or the company of the welcoming dead), or home, is interpreted as a radical gesture demanding change, an **alternative** way, a cessation of things as they are.*
A. non-standard or non-traditional
B. poor ability to make a decision
C. relating to a period of testing
- 3 *And if marriage was not achieved, there were **alternative** roles: teacher, librarian, or...well, something intelligent and public-spirited.*
A. a mental disorder characterized by alternating episodes of major depression and abnormally elevated mood
B. acts to tendency to engage in acts that resist government authority or attempt to overthrow a government
C. other possible
- 4 *In that way, the name **acquired** a quasi-official status.*
A. obtaining (coming into possession of)
B. not provided with investment funds
C. not interacting; or not interested
- 5 *Freddie looked the boy up and down, taking in the steady but secretive eyes and the startling **contrast** between Ruth's lemony skin and the boy's black skin.*
A. come to terms with
B. block or interfere
C. difference
- 6 *More unsettling than the darkness, however, was the fact that **in contrast** to the heat outside ..., it was as cold as ice in Pilate's house.*
A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
B. in a comparison that shows differences
C. injured muscles or tendons in the back
- 7 *But the plate-glass window **contradicted** him.*
A. disagreed
B. separated
C. satisfied
- 8 *It was a less ambitious ritual for Ruth, but a way, **nevertheless**, for her to display her family.*
A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 9 *Silently they ambled down Tenth Street until they reached a stone bench that **jutted** from the sidewalk near the curb.*
A. expressed strong hatred or loathing for
B. expresses strong hatred or loathing for
C. to stick out; or a part that sticks out

- 10 *I tried to get a midwife for her, but the doctor said **midwives** were dirty.*
- A. a woman skilled in aiding the delivery of babies
 - B. dark, suspenseful stories that often include mystery or the supernatural
 - C. those involved in challenging, arguing about, or fighting over something
- 11 *Ruth was a pale but complicated woman given to **deviousness** and ultra-fine manners.*
- A. of a guitar or other musical instrument: not using electricity to amplify sound
 - B. deceit (not honest and straightforward) -- often in a complicated, clever manner
 - C. relating to the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
- 12 *She was as tranquil as he was **agitated**, as monosyllabic as he was garrulous.*
- A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 - B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - C. not calm; or stirred up (often emotionally)
- 13 *I don't **begrudge** you a thing.*
- A. resent; or give unwillingly
 - B. pessimistic or disagreeable
 - C. develop or change gradually
- 14 *Her teeth were on edge with the **yearning**.*
- A. changing to fit a different situation
 - B. strongly desiring; or a strong desire
 - C. charging (with having broken the law)
- 15 *They are as **indifferent** as rain.*
- A. unsympathetic or unconcerned
 - B. likely to change
 - C. able to be found
- 16 *His denials, accompanied by a wistful smile which she **interpreted** as a sly one, only aggravated her suspicions.*
- A. understood (in a particular way)
 - B. not having accepted beliefs without critical question
 - C. made more attractive or interesting through additions
- 17 *"Not yet," she said, and when she saw his **consternation** she explained that farm kids drove early—they had to.*
- 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
- 18 *He left cursing Milkman, but his **fervor** was gone.*
- A. chaotic disorder
 - B. intense feelings
 - C. risky investment
- 19 *Calvin seemed to be the most **congenial** of them, and followed the introductions with a command to King Walker to "get this city boy some shoes for his feet."*
- A. agreeable (friendly)
 - B. unable to get closer to
 - C. not sensible or careful
- 20 *Eager to find fault and **despise** any outsider.*
- A. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
 - B. technical: center or concentration
 - C. dislike strongly and look down upon

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Song of Solomon

by Toni Morrison

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	protagonist	Used 2 times in this book.
2	A	alternative (<i>as in: alternative medicine</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	alternative (<i>as in: an alternative plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	acquire	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
5	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	contrast (<i>as in: contrast their writing styles</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
8	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
9	C	jut	Used 5 times in this book.
10	A	midwife	Used 10 times in this book.
11	B	devious (<i>as in: a devious plan</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
13	A	begrudge	Used 2 times in this book.
14	B	yearn	Used 5 times in this book.
15	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
16	A	interpret (<i>as in: her interpretation of the data</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
17	B	consternation	Used 2 times in this book.
18	B	fervor	Used 3 times in this book.
19	A	congenial	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	despise	Used 6 times in this book.