

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman

by Ernest J. Gaines

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: beckon, chastise, competent, conscience, contract, contradict, exodus, gospel (3), narrate, narrative, Old Testament, parish, rein, republic, squabble, stallion, vex, wean



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The police officer **beckoned** me to come over.
A. considered asking
B. called
C. prohibited
2. She **chastised** him for his insensitive remarks.
A. avoided
B. fired
C. criticized
3. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
A. below average
B. sufficiently capable
C. outstanding
4. I will vote as my **conscience** demands.
A. sense of right and wrong
B. memory of past events
C. fear of public ridicule
5. A lot of people get into trouble by signing **contracts** they don't understand.
A. written agreement with much small print
B. written agreements that is enforceable by law
C. written agreements with terms that are not specified
6. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
A. disagree with
B. reinforce
C. expand upon
7. There was a large **exodus** of Jews from Arab countries to Israel in the mid-20th century.
A. departure
B. visitation
C. expelling
8. The pastor read aloud from the **gospel** during Sunday morning service.
A. Bible book about Jesus
B. ancient family record
C. list of church donors
9. She takes it as **gospel**.
A. a feeling of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
B. an unquestionable truth
C. Hitler's fanatical and oppressive political party in World War II Germany
10. She grew up singing **gospel** in the choir at her grandmother's church.
A. lively jazz music
B. soulful church music
C. classical opera music
11. She avoided eye contact as she **narrated** the story of how she ended up in prison.
A. told (a story)
B. discouraged
C. urged strongly
12. It's an interesting **narrative** about her first year in college.
A. story
B. joke
C. theatrical play

13. The story of David and Goliath may be the most popular in the Old Testament.
- A. Greek mythology
 - B. Roman histories
 - C. Hebrew scriptures
14. Our **parish** raised funds to repair the old chapel's leaking roof and bell tower.
- A. large city government
 - B. private school district
 - C. local church community
15. She is committed to **reining in** excessive government infringement of personal freedom.
- A. exposing
 - B. restraining
 - C. discovering
16. A **republic** is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
 - B. representative government
 - C. oligarchy
17. They **squabble** all the time.
- A. sing
 - B. play
 - C. quarrel
18. The powerful **stallion** galloped across the open field.
- A. wild deer
 - B. young calf
 - C. male horse
19. The **vexing** puzzle kept her up late into the night.
- A. soothing
 - B. annoying
 - C. amusing
20. She **weaned** her baby when he was three months old and started him on cow's milk.
- A. adapted to the removal of breastmilk
 - B. to make fit for service to humans or home life -- by breeding or taming
 - C. broke the law by telling lies after formally promising to tell the truth

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 I should mention here that even though I have used only Miss Jane's voice throughout the **narrative**, there were times when others carried the story for her.
 - A. story
 - B. snake
 - C. skill
- 2 When she was tired, or when she just did not feel like talking any more, or when she had forgotten certain things, someone else would always pick up the **narration**.
 - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. a general feeling of not being as good as others
 - C. the center (or most important part) of something
- 3 The other person would not **contradict** her, because, after all, this was her story.
 - A. disagree
 - B. subtract
 - C. continue
- 4 I had been sitting there on the end of a log listening to them **squabbling** over new names, but I didn't have to get in the squabbling because I already had a new name.
 - A. emphasizing (drawing attention to something)
 - B. a non-doctor assisting a women in childbirth
 - C. arguing -- typically over unimportant things
- 5 He **held back** on the reins and the horse stopped.
 - A. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - B. straps used to control a horse
 - C. injures the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 6 The Democrats said that was strange coming from a **Republican** when a dirty scalawag had one of the biggest plantations in the parish.
 - A. relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
 - B. of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
 - C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
- 7 That schoolhouse up there go'n be shut down till I can find y'all a **competent** teacher.
 - A. sincerity (realness)
 - B. sufficiently capable
 - C. sensible and careful
- 8 EXODUS (chapter title): Then the people started leaving.
 - A. departure by a lot of people
 - B. small quantity or indication
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 9 When the white people found out she was telling lies and refused to fire the servants Molly **vexed** them and ... till they quit them-self.
 - A. changed
 - B. annoyed
 - C. forgave
- 10 When we came up even with the corral, a black **stallion** ran long the fence whinnying and bobbing his head.
 - A. a large, elongated gland located behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and insulin
 - B. of the philosophical & religious system based on the teachings of Laozi (also spelled Taoist)
 - C. a male horse that has not been castrated (gelded) -- especially one used for breeding purposes

- 11 *...just like you get **contracts** to cut wood.*
A. moves out of an interacting position; or stops
B. written agreements that are enforceable by law
C. moves to a worse or less prestigious situation
- 12 *The children had ridden from all over the **parish** to attend classes.*
A. someone who abandoned their religion or separated from others with whom they used to share firmly held beliefs
B. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
C. in Louisiana: a jurisdiction of government that is like a county
- 13 *Don't tell me **conscience** was catching up with him.*
A. feeling or appraisal of having personally behaved in a morally right or wrong manner
B. a complex carbohydrate that is the chief constituent of all plant tissues and fibers
C. not planning to kill a person, but then intentionally killing in the heat of passion
- 14 *I looked back over my shoulder, and there was Joe and Ned on the other bank **beckoning** for me to come back to them.*
A. providing evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
B. calling (to come by using a hand gesture or a nod)
C. convincing (someone) that an idea previously believed is not correct
- 15 *"And that makes it **gospel** truth," he said.*
A. a feeling of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
B. an unquestionable truth
C. Hitler's fanatical and oppressive political party in World War II Germany
- 16 *We didn't like for him to listen to the radio, either; 'less he was listening to **gospel** music on Sundays.*
A. a type of sad music originated by slaves in the United States
B. a type of vocal music that originated in African-American churches in the United States
C. a type of jazz band dance music popular in the 1930s and 1940s
- 17 *Listening to his travels we knowed he was close to God, and now we wanted him to pick up the **gospel**.*
A. the religious teachings of Jesus
B. a book that Scientologists believe explains the nature of humankind and its place in the universe
C. a type of vocal music that originated in African-American churches in the United States
- 18 *Go to the **Old Testament**; go to the New.*
A. a statement of fundamental rights and privileges listed in the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution
B. Austen's novel of romantic heartbreak faced by two sisters -- one with sense, one with excessive sensibility (1811)
C. the collection of books comprising the sacred scripture of the Hebrews (Jews) which is the first half of the Christian Bible
- 19 *Shirley went to New Orleans soon after she **weaned** him, and now it was just him and Lena in the house down there.*
A. adapted
B. changed
C. forgave
- 20 *If we saw him fighting, we **chastised** him no matter who was wrong.*
A. gained advantage from
B. marked important text
C. scolded or criticized

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	narrative (<i>as in: Narrative of the Life of...</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
2	A	narrate	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	A	contradict	High-utility academic word
4	C	squabble	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	rein (<i>as in: to rein in their activities</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
6	B	republic (<i>as in: the country is a republic</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
7	B	competent	High-utility academic word
8	A	exodus	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
9	B	vex	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	stallion	Used 11 times in this book.
11	B	contract (<i>as in: legal contract</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
12	C	parish	Used 19 times in this book.
13	A	conscience	Used 2 times in this book.
14	B	beckon	Used 2 times in this book.
15	B	gospel (<i>as in: they consider it gospel</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
16	B	gospel (<i>as in: gospel music</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
17	A	gospel (<i>as in: gospel of the Bible</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
18	C	Old Testament	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	A	wean	Used 2 times in this book.
20	C	chastise	Used 3 times in this book.