

The Bell Jar

by Sylvia Plath

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: alcove, artificial (2), cadaver, hypocrite, idiom, intuition, lapse (2), neurotic, oblong, physics, profound, protrude, scorn, seduce, simultaneous, sinister, suburban, tentative



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Bell Jar

by Sylvia Plath

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Bell Jar

by Sylvia Plath

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We shared an intimate dinner in one of the restaurant's **alcoves**.
 - A. outdoor patios
 - B. spacious rooms
 - C. recessed or secluded spaces
2. The company does not use **artificial** ingredients.
 - A. grown non-locally
 - B. containing gluten
 - C. made by humans
3. She put on an **artificial** smile for the cameras while berating my performance.
 - A. not sincere
 - B. very large
 - C. barely noticeable
4. Both Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo studied **cadavers** to advance their understanding of the human form.
 - A. unclothed models
 - B. famous sculptures
 - C. corpses
5. She may be a **hypocrite**, but at least she knows the difference between right and wrong.
 - A. ethical hero
 - B. harsh critic
 - C. moral pretender
6. She was not familiar with the **idiom**, "bite the bullet."
 - A. a type of figurative language that uses words in a non-literal way to create a vivid or imaginative description
 - B. an expression that is unique to a particular language or dialect and cannot be translated directly into another language
 - C. an expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up
7. **Intuitively**, I knew not to trust her.
 - A. logically
 - B. instinctively
 - C. conclusively
8. Her job is to assure there is no **lapse** of the high standards at their hotels.
 - A. copying
 - B. change
 - C. period of time
9. She allowed her life insurance to **lapse**.
 - A. automatically increase
 - B. automatically renew
 - C. end or terminate
10. Her **neurotic** fear of heights prevented her from enjoying the breathtaking view from the skyscraper's observation deck.
 - A. present since birth
 - B. learned from bad experience
 - C. excessive worry about
11. The table is an **oblong** shape, with curved edges.
 - A. elongated
 - B. circular
 - C. square

12. She became interested in **physics** after building a model rocket that launched using air pressure.
- A. study of living things
 - B. science of matter and energy
 - C. study of human cultures
13. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
14. She is operating to repair the muscle wall through which the hernia **protrudes**.
- A. heals over
 - B. shrinks back
 - C. sticks out
15. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
16. **Seducing** her was easy.
- A. stealing money from
 - B. persuading to have sex
 - C. increasing confidence of
17. The store provides shoppers with a **simultaneous** art/music experience.
- A. consecutive
 - B. alternating
 - C. at the same time
18. In the movie, there was a **sinister** plot to kill people and harvest their organs.
- A. complicated
 - B. evil
 - C. clever
19. They open restaurants in nice **suburban** areas.
- A. located in the center of the city
 - B. located far from any city
 - C. located outside the edge of a city
20. She took a **tentative** step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
 - B. brave
 - C. confident

Vocabulary in Context

The Bell Jar

by Sylvia Plath

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 Oh, he'd managed to get good marks all right ..., but he didn't have one speck of **intuition**.
 - A. the redirection energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - B. the ability to know instinctively rather than through reasoning
 - C. someone with a potentially life-threatening psychological eating disorder that prevents eating enough food
- 2 Buddy Willard and the other college boys I knew were usually too poor to buy hard liquor or they **scorned** drinking altogether.
 - A. disrespected or rejected
 - B. mirrored back (an image)
 - C. quoted (to make a point)
- 3 At college I had to take a required course in **physics** and chemistry.
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. the science of matter and energy
 - C. referring to any rocky mountains
- 4 I discovered quite by accident what an awful **hypocrite** he [Buddy Willard] was,
 - A. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - B. found a condition or substance to be present
 - C. someone who says one thing and does another
- 5 I hated coming downstairs sweaty-handed and curious every Saturday night and having some senior introduce me to her aunt's best friend's son and finding some pale, mushroomy fellow with **protruding** ears or buck teeth or a bad leg.
 - A. hiring again
 - B. getting near
 - C. sticking out
- 6 These **cadavers** were so unhuman-looking they didn't bother me a bit.
 - A. groups of government representatives that have the power to create laws
 - B. organizations, each of which is comprised of firms in a single industry
 - C. dead bodies of human beings -- especially in reference to medical study
- 7 He even seemed relieved to have somebody to tell about how he was **seduced**.
 - A. (verb) created, started, settled, or set in a place OR (adjective) existing, or familiar
 - B. lured or enticed to do something he would not normally do
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 8 And while Constantin and I sat in one of those hushed plush auditoriums in the UN, next to a stern muscular Russian girl with no makeup who was a **simultaneous** interpreter like Constantin, I thought how strange it had never occurred to me before that I was only purely happy until I was nine years old.
 - A. likely to change
 - B. able to be found
 - C. at the same time
- 9 For the first time in my life, sitting there in the soundproof heart of the UN building between Constantin who could play tennis as well as simultaneously interpret and the Russian girl who knew so many **idioms**, I felt dreadfully inadequate.
 - A. different ways of doing something; or routes that lead to a particular place
 - B. world's premier bicycle races – run annually for 3 weeks primarily in France
 - C. expressions whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make them up
- 10 I also remembered Buddy Willard saying in a **sinister**, knowing way that after I had children I would feel differently, I wouldn't want to write poems any more.
 - A. not able to be disagreed with
 - B. evil, harmful, or frightening
 - C. not thoughtful about the past

- 11 *I am neurotic.*
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. mildly mentally disturbed -- usually worrying too much about something
- 12 *I didn't know where I was, but it was somewhere in the wealthy suburbs of New York.*
A. soccer: unopposed kicks awarded to a team due an infraction by the opposing team
B. compounds best known for causing an allergic reaction after exposure to allergens
C. residential areas located near the outer edge of a city where it isn't as crowded
- 13 *Sunlight measured itself out in regular oblongs on the shabby, but soft red carpets, and a whiff of fresh-cut grass sweetened the air.*
A. an elongated shape (having more length than width) -- typically of a stretched circle that is longer than an oval, but occasionally used to describe a rectangle
B. soccer: foul kicks taken from 12 yards in front of the goal and defended only by the goalkeeper who cannot advance beyond the goal line until the shot is taken
C. the more or less continuous military expeditions in the 11th to 13th centuries when Christian powers of Europe invaded Muslims in the Holy Land in the Middle East
- 14 *Factitious, artificial, sham.*
A. not genuine
B. intentional
C. helpfulness
- 15 *People shoved and bumped by me in the artificially lit dark, hurrying after the trains that rumbled in and out of the intestinal tunnels under Scollay Square.*
A. in a manner where contact with reality is lost or highly distorted
B. in a manner that exercises privileges to which one is not entitled
C. done by humans rather than nature
- 16 *My father had been a Lutheran in Wisconsin, but they were out of style in New England, so he had become a lapsed Lutheran and then, my mother said, a bitter atheist.*
A. excessively excited
B. nervous or confused
C. no longer practicing
- 17 *In one way it seemed a small thing, starting, after a six months' lapse, where I had so vehemently left off.*
A. period of time that passes
B. temporary period of changed behavior
C. unreasonable expectation
- 18 *I strode blindly out into the hall, not to my room, because that was where they would come to get me, but to the alcove ... in a quiet corner of the hall, where Joan and Loubelle and DeeDee and Mrs. Savage would not come.*
A. a room leading to a larger or more important room
B. extensive plain without trees (associated with eastern Russia and Siberia)
C. a recessed or secluded space
- 19 *In spite of my profound reservations, I thought I would always treasure Joan.*
A. deep; or of greatest intensity
B. without a tendency to be full of thought
C. lacking a tendency to be full of thought
- 20 *Tentatively, I reached down and touched it.*
A. in an unsure or hesitant manner
B. in a manner that is not sincere
C. in comparison to something else

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Bell Jar

by Sylvia Plath

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	B	physics	Used 9 times in this book.
4	C	hypocrite	Used 5 times in this book.
5	C	protrude	Used 3 times in this book.
6	C	cadaver	Used 9 times in this book.
7	B	seduce	Used 7 times in this book.
8	C	simultaneous	Used 9 times in this book.
9	C	idiom	Used 6 times in this book.
10	B	sinister	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
11	C	neurotic	Used 7 times in this book.
12	C	suburban	Used 5 times in this book.
13	A	oblong	Used 3 times in this book.
14	A	artificial (<i>as in: an artificial smile</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	C	artificial (<i>as in: an artificial heart</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	C	lapse (<i>as in: allowed the policy to lapse</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	lapse (<i>as in: a lapse in judgement</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	alcove	Used 8 times in this book.
19	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
20	A	tentative (<i>as in: said it tentatively</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.