

The Birthmark

by Nathaniel Hawthorne

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, countenance, distill, endure (2), immortal, induce (2), kindred, materialistic, minute (2), mortal, perceptible, proficiency, profound (2), resolve (2), superficial



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
3. It is illegal and dangerous to **distill** whisky without a license.
 - A. drink
 - B. make
 - C. distribute
4. As a soldier, she was prepared to **endure** hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
 - A. risk
 - B. suffer through
 - C. cause
5. Over the years, the stories my grandmother told me have **endured** as a source of wisdom in my life.
 - A. stopped acting
 - B. brought suffering
 - C. continued to exist
6. She believes we have an **immortal** soul.
 - A. conflicted
 - B. perfect in every way
 - C. lasting forever
7. The doctor intentionally **induced** a coma.
 - A. ended
 - B. caused
 - C. prolonged
8. I don't know what **induced** her to get a ride from someone who was so drunk.
 - A. forced
 - B. persuaded
 - C. tricked
9. They became quick friends, finding in each other a **kindred** spirit.
 - A. lively
 - B. thoughtful
 - C. similar
10. I wouldn't describe myself as **materialistic**, but I would like some financial security.
 - A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
 - B. too afraid of risk and uncertainty
 - C. unwilling to spend any money
11. Even a **minute** amount of lead can be harmful to children.
 - A. large
 - B. 60 seconds
 - C. tiny
12. She thrives at sifting through that kind of **minute** detail.
 - A. quickly eliminated
 - B. available from prior research
 - C. including even small considerations

13. In the story, she was neither a mortal nor a god. She was a demi-god.
- A. type of bird
 - B. lucky survivor
 - C. human
14. She's walking with a barely perceptible limp.
- A. painful
 - B. new
 - C. noticeable
15. After months of practice, she gained enough proficiency in Spanish to hold a simple conversation.
- A. interest
 - B. permission
 - C. skill
16. She is a profound thinker.
- A. shallow
 - B. deep
 - C. quick
17. It was a profound spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
18. I resolved to never drink again.
- A. was forced
 - B. was encouraged
 - C. firmly decided
19. She is testing my resolve to keep a good attitude.
- A. determination
 - B. ability
 - C. optimism
20. Her thinking was superficial.
- A. deep
 - B. shallow
 - C. creative

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 THE BIRTHMARK *In the latter part of the last century there lived a man of science, an eminent **proficient** in every branch of natural philosophy, who not long before our story opens had made experience of a spiritual affinity more attractive than any chemical one.*
 - A. absolute
 - B. pleasing
 - C. skillful
- 2 *The crimson hand expressed the ineludible gripe in which mortality clutches the highest and purest of earthly mould, degrading them into **kindred** with the lowest, and even with the very brutes, like whom their visible frames return to dust.*
 - A. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
 - B. aka natural right -- a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. similar in quality or character

or:

closely related -- such as family or things with shared origin
- 3 *He had fancied himself with his servant Aminadab, attempting an operation for the removal of the birthmark; but the deeper went the knife, the deeper sank the hand, until at length its tiny grasp appeared to have caught hold of Georgiana's heart; whence, however, her husband was inexorably **resolved** to cut or wrench it away.*
 - A. determined (having firm purpose)
 - B. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - C. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
- 4 *"It is **resolved**, then," said Georgiana, faintly smiling.*
 - A. changed
 - B. adapted
 - C. decided
- 5 *Georgiana assented; but, on looking at the result, was affrighted to find the features of the portrait blurred and indefinable; while the **minute** figure of a hand appeared where the cheek should have been.*
 - A. awake
 - B. exact
 - C. small
- 6 *In his interviews with Georgiana, Aylmer generally made **minute** inquiries as to her sensations and whether the confinement of the rooms and the temperature of the atmosphere agreed with her.*
 - A. having the characteristics of a monk (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
 - C. detailed
- 7 *a philosopher who should go deep enough to **acquire** the power would attain too lofty a wisdom to stoop to the exercise of it.*
 - A. obtain (come into possession of)
 - B. something that is necessary for something else
 - C. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
- 8 *"Oh, no," hastily replied her husband; "this is merely **superficial**."*
 - A. comprehensive (thorough)
 - B. relating to a surface rather than to anything deep or serious
 - C. deep and creative
- 9 *He handled physical details as if there were nothing beyond them; yet spiritualized them all, and redeemed himself from **materialism** by his strong and eager aspiration towards the infinite.*
 - A. overly concerned with wealth and possessions at the expense of other interests
 - B. the passage food and drink follow between the back of the mouth and the stomach
 - C. blood poisoning or poisoning of other tissues by microorganisms or their toxins

- 10 loved him more **profoundly** than ever
- intensely
 - in a manner that is not aware of something
 - in a manner that is loving, but not sexual
- 11 Yet, had Alymer reached a **profounder** wisdom, he need not thus have flung away the happiness which...
- someone who rejects something as not good enough
 - deeper
 - someone who dislikes strongly and looks down upon
- 12 ...he with a smile, though his **countenance** was uneasy and displeased.
- facial expression
 - the best or most important
 - a secret agreement or plot
- 13 He then took his leave with a boyish exuberance of gayety, assuring her that her seclusion would **endure** but a little longer,
- differ; or change
 - influence opinion
 - continue to exist
- 14 Were I stronger, it might be **endured** hopefully.
- stuck out, attracted more attention than desired, or imposed on others
 - suffered through
 - not persuaded to want something (often sex or love) through temptation
- 15 It was a sensation in the fatal birthmark, not painful, but which **induced** a restlessness throughout her system.
- traded
 - caused
 - copied
- 16 "I submit," replied she calmly. "And, Aylmer, I shall quaff whatever draught you bring me; but it will be on the same principle that would **induce** me to take a dose of poison if offered by your hand."
- gain advantage from
 - persuade (convince)
 - influence or effect
- 17 He was pale as death, anxious and absorbed, and hung over the furnace as if it depended upon his utmost watchfulness whether the liquid which it was **distilling** should be the draught of immortal happiness or misery.
- expressing of feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR squirting or giving off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - purifying or concentrating
 - injuring the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
- 18 ...whether the liquid which it was distilling should be the draught of **immortal** happiness or misery.
- (adjective) of low quality, or of lower quality or rank than something else OR (more rarely as a noun) a person of lower rank or status
 - relating to existentialism -- a philosophical movement that assumes each person is free to determine what is essential in their existence
 - eternal
- 19 A faint smile flitted over her lips when she recognized how barely **perceptible** was now that crimson hand which had once blazed forth with such disastrous brilliancy as to scare away all their happiness.
- the state of being awake
 - able to take on or adopt
 - capable of being noticed
- 20 The fatal hand had grappled with the mystery of life, and was the bond by which an angelic spirit kept itself in union with a **mortal** frame.
- someone who provides start-up money to new companies
 - someone who combines components into a complex whole
 - merely human

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	proficiency	High-utility academic word
2	C	kindred	Used 2 times in this story.
3	A	resolve (<i>as in: Her resolve weakened.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this story.
4	C	resolve (<i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this story.
5	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
6	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
7	A	acquire	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this story.
8	B	superficial	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
9	A	materialistic	High-utility academic word
10	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
11	B	profound (<i>as in: profound idea</i>)	Used 3 times in this story; 2 meanings in this story.
12	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 4 times in this story.
13	C	endure (<i>as in: endure through the ages</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
14	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
15	B	induce (<i>as in: induce symptoms</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
16	B	induce (<i>as in: induce her to</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
17	B	distill (<i>as in: distill the whisky</i>)	Used 2 times in this story.
18	C	immortal	Used 5 times in this story.
19	C	perceptible	Used 2 times in this story.
20	C	mortal (<i>as in: mortal body</i>)	Used 5 times in this story.