

The Black Cat

by Edgar Allan Poe

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 from 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: adapted, allude, atrocity, attribute, derive, disposition, docile, equivocal, establish, expedient, hideous, loathe, minute (2), moreover, perceive, perpetual, procure, remorse, rigorous



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Black Cat

by Edgar Allan Poe

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Black Cat

by Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
2. The historical record is filled with examples of **atrocities** committed in the name of high ideals.
 - A. actions that are exceptionally daring
 - B. actions that are exceptionally bad
 - C. actions that are exceptionally good
3. She **attributes** her success to hard work.
 - A. gives money for
 - B. gives credit for
 - C. gives help for
4. I **derive** pleasure from my work.
 - A. refuse
 - B. obtain
 - C. ignore
5. We'll see if her cheerful **disposition** continues when she's tired and under stress.
 - A. team
 - B. generosity
 - C. personality
6. The sleddogs are **docile** and trainable.
 - A. easily led and managed
 - B. very strong and fast
 - C. smart and competitive
7. The politician's **equivocal** statement could be taken two completely different ways.
 - A. unclear in meaning
 - B. openly honest
 - C. firmly decided
8. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
9. Borrowing chairs from next door was a useful **expedient** until the new ones arrived.
 - A. careful warning
 - B. practical solution
 - C. lasting tradition
10. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
11. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
 - A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate

12. Even a minute amount of lead can be harmful to children.
- A. large
 - B. 60 seconds
 - C. tiny
13. She thrives at sifting through that kind of minute detail.
- A. quickly eliminated
 - B. available from prior research
 - C. including even small considerations
14. Many graduates have high college debt. Moreover, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
- A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that
15. It's one thing to perceive something with the senses and another to understand its importance.
- A. become aware of
 - B. physically touch
 - C. clearly see
16. He has a perpetual fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
17. She was able to procure tickets to the sold-out concert.
- A. obtain or get
 - B. lose or misplace
 - C. destroy or ruin
18. I expressed my remorse at having let them down.
- A. frustration
 - B. worry
 - C. regret
19. The scientist conducted a rigorous study to ensure the results were reliable.
- A. thorough
 - B. speedy
 - C. expensive
20. The human spine is not as well adapted to walking upright as we would like.
- A. well suited
 - B. known widely
 - C. insured

Vocabulary in Context

The Black Cat

by Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 From my infancy I was noted for the **docility** and humanity of my disposition.
 - A. tendency to behave
 - B. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - C. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
- 2 This peculiarity of character grew with my growth, and in my manhood, I **derived** from it one of my principal sources of pleasure.
 - A. decided
 - B. got
 - C. gave
- 3 Observing my partiality for domestic pets, she lost no opportunity of **procuring** those of the most agreeable kind.
 - A. getting by special effort
 - B. requesting or challenging
 - C. doing in a particular way
- 4 In speaking of his intelligence, my wife, who at heart was not a little tinctured with superstition, made frequent **allusion** to the ancient popular notion, which regarded all black cats as witches in disguise.
 - A. supported explicitly
 - B. indirect reference
 - C. false belief
- 5 My pets, of course, were made to feel the change in my **disposition**.
 - A. impatience
 - B. absentmindedness
 - C. mood
- 6 I blush, I burn, I shudder, while I pen the damnable **atrocities**.
 - A. an action that is exceptionally daring
 - B. an action that is exceptionally bad or cruel
 - C. an action that is exceptionally good or kind
- 7 I experienced a sentiment half of horror, half of **remorse**, for the crime of which I had been guilty; but it was, at best, a feeble and equivocal feeling, and the soul remained untouched.
 - A. celebration
 - B. worry
 - C. regret
- 8 I experienced a sentiment half of horror, half of remorse, for the crime of which I had been guilty; but it was, at best, a feeble and **equivocal** feeling, and the soul remained untouched.
 - A. of doubtful significance (not clearly and strongly felt in the normal sense)
 - B. impossible to find
 - C. able to get nearer
- 9 Have we not a **perpetual** inclination, in the teeth of our best judgment, to violate that which is Law, merely because we understand it to be such?
 - A. having the characteristics of a monk (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 10 I am above the weakness of seeking to **establish** a sequence of cause and effect, between the disaster and the atrocity.
 - A. quicken
 - B. weaken or destroy
 - C. determine or understand

- 11 *The plastering had here, in great measure, resisted the action of the fire--a fact which I attributed to its having been recently spread.*
- A. learned
 - B. credited (pointed to as the cause of something)
 - C. saddened
- 12 *I had been looking steadily at the top of this hogshead for some minutes, and what now caused me surprise was the fact that I had not sooner perceived the object thereupon.*
- A. seen
 - B. forgotten
 - C. celebrated
- 13 *Whenever I sat, it would crouch beneath my chair, or spring upon my knees, covering me with its loathsome caresses.*
- A. gentle
 - B. loving
 - C. disgusting
- 14 *This hideous murder accomplished, I set myself forthwith, and with entire deliberation, to the task of concealing the body.*
- A. secret or unknown
 - B. ugly or offensive
 - C. messy or bloody
- 15 *At one period I thought of cutting the corpse into minute fragments, and destroying them by fire.*
- A. awake
 - B. exact
 - C. small
- 16 *The rubbish on the floor was picked up with the minutest care.*
- A. consume or destroy completely
 - B. treat very badly and unfairly
 - C. most careful
- 17 *Finally I hit upon what I considered a far better expedient than either of these.*
- A. most extreme as in final, best, worst, most important, or most fundamental
 - B. an action that is speedy or practical
 - C. the state or degree of having found a condition or substance to be present
- 18 *For a purpose such as this the cellar was well adapted.*
- A. well suited
 - B. restraining
 - C. surrendered
- 19 *Moreover, in one of the walls was a projection, caused by a false chimney, or fireplace, that had been filled up, and made to resemble the red of the cellar.*
- A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in addition to what has just been said
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 20 *and proceeded again to make rigorous investigation of the premises.*
- A. thorough and careful
 - B. unadvised and secret
 - C. secret

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Black Cat

by Edgar Allan Poe

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	docile	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	derive	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
3	A	procure	Used 2 times in this story.
4	B	allude	High-utility academic word
5	C	disposition (<i>as in: a kind disposition</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this story.
6	B	atrocious	Used 2 times in this story.
7	C	remorse	Used 3 times in this story.
8	A	equivocal	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word
10	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word
11	B	attribute (<i>as in: I attribute it to...</i>)	High-utility academic word
12	A	perceive (<i>as in: though blind, can perceive light</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
13	C	loathe	Used 3 times in this story.
14	B	hideous	Used 3 times in this story.
15	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	3 meanings in this story.
16	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	3 meanings in this story.
17	B	expedient	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	A	adapted (<i>as in: the species is well adapted for</i>)	High-utility academic word
19	B	moreover	High-utility academic word
20	A	rigorous (<i>as in: we follow a rigorous procedure</i>)	Used 2 times in this story.