

The Bluest Eye

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: acquisition, anecdote, coherent, consequence (2), contempt, contradict, cultivate, fastidious, furtive, indolent, indulge, melancholy, narrator, pervasive, recollect, vengeance, with a vengeance, yearn, yield



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Her primary focus is on the **acquisition** of money and the things it can buy.
 - A. getting
 - B. spending
 - C. fearing
2. She is good at making a point in an interesting and memorable way with an **anecdote**.
 - A. short true story
 - B. long boring lecture
 - C. detailed research report
3. Her argument is **coherent**.
 - A. unreasonable
 - B. fragmented
 - C. sensible and clear
4. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - A. result
 - B. unimportant part
 - C. important part
5. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
 - A. unethical
 - B. important
 - C. harmful
6. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
7. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
8. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
9. She was **fastidious** about keeping her desk perfectly organized.
 - A. careless and disorganized
 - B. loud and outgoing
 - C. extremely attentive to detail
10. Later she said she was just trying to figure out whose phone it was, but she looked around **furtively** before she began reading my text messages.
 - A. nervously
 - B. eagerly
 - C. with curiosity
11. She is too **indolent** for med school.
 - A. calm
 - B. lazy
 - C. kind

12. I indulge my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
A. give in to
B. hold back from
C. complain about
13. This weather makes me melancholy. I can't wait for spring,
A. happy
B. sad
C. feel like singing
14. One of the more popular narrators in movie history is Morgan Freeman. I especially liked him in *The Shawshank Redemption* where in addition to playing a major role, he narrated the film.
A. producer who works closest with the actors
B. actor who talks directly to the audience
C. script writer
15. It is a country where corruption pervades their government at every level.
A. is stopped by
B. is spread in
C. is remembered by
16. I don't recollect her name, but I'd recognize her.
A. pronounce properly
B. spell properly
C. remember
17. Her evolutionary benefit theory of vengeance is supported by studies showing that a person's desire for revenge increases when others see their mistreatment.
A. fairness
B. status
C. revenge
18. She threw herself into work with a vengeance.
A. with reluctance
B. with intensity
C. with careful thought
19. I yearn for more independence.
A. fear
B. desire
C. work
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
A. added
B. gave in
C. produced

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 A little examination and much less **melancholy** would have proved to us that our seeds were not the only ones that did not sprout; nobody's did.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. a sad feeling or manner
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 2 When I took it to bed, its hard **unyielding** limbs resisted my flesh—the tapered fingertips on those dimpled hands scratched.
 - A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - B. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
 - C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 3 They had looked about themselves and saw nothing to **contradict** the statement; saw, in fact, support for it leaning at them from every billboard, every movie, every glance.
 - A. disagree
 - B. subtract
 - C. continue
- 4 This family, on a Saturday morning in October, began, one by one, to stir out of their dreams of affluence and **vengeance** into the anonymous misery of their storefront.
 - A. something that stands out
 - B. something made from parts
 - C. the act of taking revenge
- 5 They would sleep with their husbands, and take their money, but always **with a vengeance**.
 - A. available cash
 - B. with intensity
 - C. very important
- 6 She never had to search for anybody to eat with in the cafeteria—they flocked to the table of her choice, where she opened **fastidious** lunches, shaming our jelly-stained bread with egg-salad sandwiches cut into four dainty squares, pink-frosted cupcakes, sticks of celery and carrots, proud, dark apples.
 - A. a person who works from within to destroy an established order; or relating to such destructive efforts
 - B. not relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
 - C. giving careful attention to detail

or:

excessively concerned with cleanliness or matters of taste
- 7 When she was assigned a locker next to mine, I could **indulge** my jealousy four times a day.
 - A. enjoy to excess
 - B. work or operate
 - C. think carefully
- 8 It was their **contempt** for their own blackness that gave the first insult its teeth.
 - A. frustration at being treated unfairly
 - B. disrespect and dislike
 - C. prejudice or unfair treatment
- 9 Restricted, as a child, to this cocoon of her family's spinning, she **cultivated** quiet and private pleasures.
 - A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - B. enhanced the growth or development of
 - C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation
- 10 I don't **recollect** trying to get pregnant that first time.
 - A. disagree
 - B. subtract
 - C. remember

- 11 *It was time to put all of the pieces together, make **coherence** where before there had been none.*
 A. "spiritually renews" in a Christian ceremony OR initiates or purifies by a challenging experience
 B. growth hormone -- a hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that promotes growth in humans
 C. clear sense (fitting the parts together in a logical manner)
- 12 *He could go to jail and not feel imprisoned, for he had already seen the **furtiveness** in the eyes of his jailer, free to say, "No, suh," and smile, for he had already killed three white men.*
 A. nervousness
 B. intended for an entire religion rather than for a selected group with distinct beliefs -- typically the Christian religion
 C. involving an unwelcome intrusion -- possibly a physical attack into another's territory or involvement in personal matters
- 13 *He believed that since decay, vice, filth, and disorder were **pervasive**, they must be in the Nature of Things.*
 A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 B. existing everywhere
 C. not capable of surviving; or not capable of being done
- 14 *The most exquisite-looking ladies sat on toilets, and the most dreadful-looking had pure and holy yearnings.*
 A. gets closer to
 B. strong desires
 C. hoofed mammals
- 15 *Consequently we were not royal but snobbish, not aristocratic but class-conscious; we believed authority was cruelty to our inferiors, and education was being at school.*
 A. resultantly (as a result)
 B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 16 *Of itself it is of no **consequence** to one's major scheme.*
 A. translates
 B. importance
 C. sticks out
- 17 *We mistook violence for passion, **indolence** for leisure, and thought recklessness was freedom.*
 A. not real
 B. laziness
 C. allowing
- 18 *Our manhood was denned by acquisitions.*
 A. things possessed
 B. relative amounts
 C. acts of betrayal
- 19 *The extremity of Pecola's case stemmed largely from a crippled and crippling family--unlike the average black family and unlike the **narrator's**.*
 A. translation
 B. storyteller
 C. quiet voice
- 20 *First, it was a familiar phrase, familiar to me as a child listening to adults; to black women conversing with one another, telling a story, an **anecdote**, gossip about some one or event within the circle, the family, the neighborhood.*
 A. a short story that is true -- often told for amusement or to make a point
 B. a feeling of anger or unhappiness at having to accept something not liked
 C. Hitler's fanatical and oppressive political party in World War II Germany

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	melancholy	Used 5 times in this book.
2	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
3	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	B	with a vengeance (<i>as in: with a vengeance</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	C	fastidious	Used 5 times in this book.
7	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
8	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
9	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
10	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
11	C	coherent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
12	A	furtive	Used 5 times in this book.
13	B	pervasive	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
14	B	yearn	Used 9 times in this book.
15	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	indolent (<i>as in: she is naturally indolent</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
18	A	acquisition	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	B	narrator	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	A	anecdote	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.