

The Bridge of San Luis Rey

by Thornton Wilder

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

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: allude, anecdote, ballad, congenial, contradict, cultivate, derive, diligent, divine (2), farce, furtive, impudent, inquisition, obstinate, peasant, precede, resignation, resolve, somber



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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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. 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. The old **ballad** told the tragic tale of two lovers separated by war.
 - A. traditional short story
 - B. dramatic performance on stage
 - C. song that tells a story
4. She found her new colleagues to be quite **congenial**, making her transition to the new job much easier.
 - A. friendly
 - B. unfamiliar
 - C. challenging
5. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
6. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
7. I **derive** pleasure from my work.
 - A. refuse
 - B. obtain
 - C. ignore
8. A **diligent** detective investigates all clues.
 - A. lazy and careless
 - B. rude and dishonest
 - C. careful and hardworking
9. The King claimed a **divine** right.
 - A. perfect or wonderful
 - B. from birth
 - C. coming from God
10. She wouldn't talk about it, but I was able to **divine** that the project isn't going well.
 - A. figure out
 - B. state
 - C. share
11. The trial was a **farce**, with witnesses who clearly lied and a judge who didn't care.
 - A. thorough investigation
 - B. complete mockery
 - C. well-run procedure

12. 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
13. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
- A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet
14. The reporter's questions felt more like an inquisition than an interview.
- A. friendly chat
 - B. formal apology
 - C. harsh questioning
15. He is **obstinate** as a mule and refuses to change his mind.
- A. cheerful
 - B. stubborn
 - C. graceful
16. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
 - B. young person
 - C. poor farmer
17. In English, most adjectives **precede** the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
18. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
19. I **resolved** to never drink again.
- A. was forced
 - B. was encouraged
 - C. firmly decided
20. She exhibited a **somber** mood.
- A. happy
 - B. curious
 - C. cheerless

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 result of all this **diligence** was an enormous book,
A. restarted (a fire)
B. calm state of mind
C. hard work and care in tasks
- 2 She had been denounced three times before the **Inquisition**.
A. secret political organizations of spies
B. military court in a country ruled by the military
C. harsh and unfair historical religious investigations
- 3 At last she **resigned** all pretense.
A. to be or to become used to (adapted to and with an expectation of)
B. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
C. gave up
- 4 During the week that **preceded** the making of the packet she observed a strict regimen and cultivated the city assiduously for material.
A. wrongly understood
B. influenced opinion
C. went or was before
- 5 During the week that preceded the making of the packet she observed a strict regimen and **cultivated** the city assiduously for material.
A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
B. developed, grown, or prepared for growing crops
C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation
- 6 Camila had intended to be perfunctory and if possible **impudent**, but now she was struck for the first time with the dignity of the old woman.
A. alternative medicine using extremely diluted doses of a substance to treat the same symptoms larger doses cause
B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
C. working against psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 7 Such persons are raised up in every age; they obstinately insist on transporting their grains of wheat and they **derive** a certain exhilaration from the sneers of the bystanders.
A. pay
B. get
C. cut
- 8 There was an etiquette of propitiation which generations of **peasant** women had found comforting.
A. relating to an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
B. someone who walks slowly without definite direction OR someone who writes or talks without definite direction (changing subjects or rambling rather than in a purposeful direct way)
C. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: a person of low income, education, and social standing -- especially one who raises crops or livestock
- 9 She **resolved** to write a letter to the Abbess.
A. changed
B. adapted
C. decided
- 10 Straight, **somber** and impersonal, he entered the actress's room and stood waiting.
A. the state of being unaware of one's mental activity
B. increasing reason or general desire to do something
C. serious--without humour or fun

- 11 *To Esteban in the shadows the picture of Camila leaning over his brother's hand and whispering into his ear was complete evidence that a new **congeniality** had formed such as he would never know.*
A. agreeableness (friendliness)
B. aka analyst -- psychiatrist
C. something taken on or adopted
- 12 *I shall give him that old bent salad fork with the turquoise in it, and he will bring me a copy of the new **ballad** that everyone is singing about the d-q-a of Ol-v-s.*
A. related to the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy
B. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
C. a song (or poem) that tells a story or expresses strong feelings -- typically slow in tempo
- 13 *But what **divine** Spanish he speaks and what exquisite things he says in it!*
A. the quality of being sensible and careful
B. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
C. wonderful
- 14 *She would **divine** his attitude at once and...*
A. discover (figure out)
B. a rough calculation or guess of a value, quantity, or extent of something
C. add fuel or stir a fire to make it burn hotter; or make feelings stronger
- 15 *Each one poured into the conversation his store of wise sad **anecdotes** and his dry regret about the race of men.*
A. short, true stories
B. sizes or dimensions
C. outward appearances
- 16 *They only put on the Old Comedy twice a week; all the other nights there are these new **farces** in prose.*
A. forces into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR finds guilty -- especially in court OR provides the means of finding guilty
B. a ridiculous, exaggerated situation too absurd to be taken seriously; or a type of comedy that relies on absurd humor, using physical slapstick, unlikely situations, and deliberate misunderstandings
C. treats in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (supports someone or something; or is a customer)
- 17 *But new rumors that all was fury and despair on the little farm **contradicted** the old.*
A. disagreed
B. separated
C. satisfied
- 18 *Her **allusions** to her son were few and...*
A. outward appearances
B. indirect references
C. agreements to marry
- 19 *Even then, even then, there remained in his heart an **obstinate** nerve insisting that at least St. Francis would not utterly have condemned him,*
A. not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
B. stubbornly unyielding
C. able to be delayed until a later time
- 20 *He knew that the crowd was **furtively** glancing at him,*
A. while taking pains to avoid being observed
B. in a manner that provokes, excites, or stimulates -- especially controversy, sexual desire, or anger
C. in a straightforward manner (uncomplicated or simple -- perhaps also indicating openness and honesty)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	diligent (<i>as in: she is diligent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
2	C	inquisition	Used 4 times in this book.
3	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
4	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
5	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
6	B	impudent	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	derive	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
8	C	peasant	Used 5 times in this book.
9	C	resolve (<i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
10	C	somber (<i>as in: a somber mood</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
11	A	congenial	Used 3 times in this book.
12	C	ballad	Used 4 times in this book.
13	C	divine (<i>as in: to forgive is divine</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	divine (<i>as in: divined through intuition</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	A	anecdote	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
16	B	farce	Used 3 times in this book.
17	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
19	B	obstinate	Used 5 times in this book.
20	A	furtive	Used 4 times in this book.