

The Brothers Karamazov

by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

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: attain, contrary to, conviction, debauchery, establish (2), inquiry, malice, metropolis, minute (2), monastery, monk, on the contrary, peasant, penitent, peremptory, reproach, scoundrel, supercilious



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Brothers Karamazov

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
 - A. openly oppose
 - B. carefully describe
 - C. successfully gain
2. We will not allow members to act **contrary** to our code of ethics.
 - A. without understanding
 - B. prior to creating
 - C. in opposition to
3. I will not pay you for the work. **On the contrary**, I may sue you for damages.
 - A. not only that (strengthening denial of payment)
 - B. in spite of that (even though not paying)
 - C. regardless of that (unrelated to not paying)
4. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
5. The novel describes a night of **debauchery** that leaves the guests ashamed.
 - A. wild immoral behavior
 - B. quiet reflection
 - C. careful planning
6. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
7. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
8. The official **inquiry** has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
 - A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
9. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
 - A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
10. The town has become a 21st century **metropolis**.
 - A. small village
 - B. rural area
 - C. large city
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. During her travels, she found peace and tranquility in the serene surroundings of the ancient **monastery** nestled high in the mountains.
- A. religious residence
 - B. secure castle
 - C. remote cabin
14. Each **monk** in the order leads a simple life without luxury.
- A. a female member of a religious order
 - B. a male member of a religious order
 - C. a member of a religious order
15. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
 - B. young person
 - C. poor farmer
16. After breaking the window, the **penitent** boy apologized to his neighbor.
- A. proud of one's actions
 - B. confused about the rules
 - C. feeling regret for wrongdoing
17. Her tone was **peremptory**, preventing argument or disagreement.
- A. not allowing contradiction or refusal
 - B. not in line with her usual manner
 - C. more rushed than usual
18. Don't **reproach** yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
 - B. criticize
 - C. accept honor for
19. He is the most intolerable **scoundrel** on the face of the earth.
- A. person without moral principles
 - B. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - C. without pattern or planning
20. His **supercilious** tone made everyone in the room feel inferior.
- A. haughty and disdainful
 - B. warm and welcoming
 - C. shy and uncertain

Vocabulary in Context

The Brothers Karamazov

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 Fyodor Pavlovitch made her an offer; **inquiries** were made about him and he was refused.
 - A. social events or ceremonies
 - B. reasons for doing something
 - C. questions or investigations
- 2 In the end, however, the institution of elders has been retained and is becoming **established** in Russian monasteries.
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. set in place
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 3 But man seeks to worship what is **established** beyond dispute, so that all men would agree at once to worship it.
 - A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. demonstrated or proved
- 4 "To all appearances a **malicious** soul, full of petty pride," thought Muiessov.
 - A. exceedingly important, serious, or dangerous
 - B. designed to be useful; or capable of working
 - C. the intention or desire to see others suffer
- 5 If you are **penitent**, you love.
 - A. having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. suffering from too few red blood cells
 - or (less commonly): lacking vitality
 - C. feeling or expressing sorrow for having done wrong; or a person who does such
- 6 Never be frightened at your own faint-heartedness in **attaining** love.
 - A. moving into position to work; or starting
 - B. saying (or making a sound) with the voice
 - C. gaining or reaching something with effort
- 7 A **supercilious** and condescending smile played on his lips.
 - A. arrogant
 - B. pleasing
 - C. absolute
- 8 The whole town is echoing with his **debaucheries**.
 - A. extreme indulgence in pleasures -- especially those considered immoral or harmful, such as drinking, partying, or other reckless behavior
 - B. (noun) people who like sexual practices considered unacceptable by society OR (verb) converts something so it is not what it should be
 - C. non-governmental organizations (private, non-profit organizations working for member goals at the international level)
- 9 The old man who has **reproached** me with what never happened does not even know of this fact; I never told any one about it.
 - A. translated
 - B. criticized
 - C. subtracted
- 10 "Wait a little, Varvara!" cried her father, speaking **peremptorily** but looking at her quite approvingly.
 - A. in a manner that does not allow contradiction or refusal
 - B. with low spirits (sadness, disappointment, hopelessness)
 - C. in a manner that gradually destroys an established order

- 11 *He is not at all angry, I assure you; **on the contrary**, he is surprised that you could suppose so.*
- A. an expression used to intensify denial of an idea
 - B. an expression used to introduce a creative idea
 - C. an expression used to introduce a statement that might be thought impolite
- 12 *But before three o'clock in the afternoon that something took place to which I alluded at the end of the last book, something so unexpected by all of us and so **contrary** to the general hope, that, I repeat, this trivial incident has been minutely remembered to this day in our town and all the surrounding neighborhood.*
- A. decisive defeat
 - B. produce or show
 - C. in opposition to
- 13 *Can a Russian **peasant** be said to feel, in comparison with an educated man?*
- 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: people of low income, education, and social standing -- especially those who raise crops or livestock
- 14 *And this was terrible, for their words had great influence on young **monks** who were not yet firm in their convictions.*
- A. inhabitants of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq
 - B. male members of a religious order living together and devoting themselves to contemplation, prayer and work
 - C. amounts of the value of homes that some states and local jurisdictions deduct from the value that is taxed
- 15 *And this was terrible, for their words had great influence on young monks who were not yet firm in their convictions.*
- A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 16 *This Korneplodov, after questioning him **minutely**, and inspecting the documents he was able to bring...*
- A. in a manner that does not change
 - B. in a manner that deserves praise
 - C. with careful attention to detail
- 17 *The captain, as a military man, undertook to load it, putting in a **minute** quantity of powder.*
- A. awake
 - B. exact
 - C. small
- 18 *One paper had even stated that he had gone into a **monastery** and become a monk, in horror at his brother's crime.*
- A. the residence of a religious community
 - B. dense, rainy forest with many species
 - C. island (that is made of a coral reef)
- 19 *I don't know whether he saw her, but in the evening he was at the "**Metropolis**," where he got thoroughly drunk.*
- A. tourist attraction
 - B. ghetto
 - C. city
- 20 *Dmitri Karamazov is a **scoundrel**, but not a thief.*
- A. someone without good moral principles
 - B. the condition of being different
 - C. important, serious, or dangerous

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 38 times in this book.
2	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 25 times in this book.
5	C	penitent	Used 13 times in this book.
6	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 22 times in this book.
7	A	supercilious	Used 11 times in this book.
8	A	debauchery	Used 12 times in this book.
9	B	reproach	Used 39 times in this book.
10	A	peremptory	Used 9 times in this book.
11	A	on the contrary (<i>as in: on the contrary</i>)	Used 62 times in this book; 4 meanings in this book.
12	C	contrary to (<i>as in: contrary to</i>)	4 meanings in this book.
13	C	peasant	Used 150 times in this book.
14	B	monk	Used 180 times in this book.
15	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 30 times in this book.
16	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
17	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
18	A	monastery	Used 140 times in this book.
19	C	metropolis	Used 11 times in this book.
20	A	scoundrel	Used 90 times in this book.