

The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer

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: assent, beguile, countenance, devise, diligent, dwell, endure (2), heed, ire, ordinance, penance, penitent, prudent, repent, reprove, sundry, vengeance, wrought (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The singer **assented** to the request for an encore.
 - A. declined or refused
 - B. dislike or resented
 - C. consented or agreed
2. She was wined, dined, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
 - A. forced
 - B. tricked
 - C. encouraged
3. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
4. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
5. A **diligent** detective investigates all clues.
 - A. lazy and careless
 - B. rude and dishonest
 - C. careful and hardworking
6. Their family has **dwelled** in that valley for ten generations.
 - A. visited
 - B. looked
 - C. lived
7. As a soldier, she was prepared to **endure** hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
 - A. risk
 - B. suffer through
 - C. cause
8. 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
9. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
 - A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
10. She has a way of arousing his **ire**.
 - A. curiosity
 - B. anger
 - C. guilt
11. The Chicago **ordinance** required that new streets be laid out with eight streets per mile in one direction and sixteen in the other direction.
 - A. custom
 - B. suggestion
 - C. law

12. As **penance** for lying, she apologized and spent the afternoon helping her sister.
- A. act of making amends
 - B. plan for gaining praise
 - C. way of blaming others
13. 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
14. Courage is dangerous without **prudence**.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
15. She said the U.S. should **repent** for the sins of fossil fuels.
- A. reimburse
 - B. apologize
 - C. suffer
16. I don't want to spoil her, but I don't have the heart to **reprove** her.
- A. criticize
 - B. compliment
 - C. instruct
17. Power in the city is divided amongst the mayor, city council, and sundry city commissions.
- A. skillful
 - B. various
 - C. elected
18. 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
19. She wore a hand-wrought silver bracelet.
- A. worked
 - B. size
 - C. encircling
20. The revolt **wrought** havoc through the region.
- A. caused
 - B. ended
 - C. complicated

Vocabulary in Context

The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

1 *the man was* **repentant**.

- A. the state or degree of being greater than zero
- B. felt regret for having done something wrong
- C. mental activity of which one is not self-aware

2 *After the* **sundry** *seasons of the year,*
So changed he his meat and his soupere.

- A. certain
- B. various
- C. outside

3 *with silver* **wrought** *full clean and well*

- A. worked
- B. provided investment funds for something -- such as a business
- C. wanting to do something; or made someone want to do something

4 *Together met and* **wrought** *each other woe:*

- A. brought (caused to happen)
- B. donated a portion of one's income to a church
- C. returned to an undesirable previous condition

5 *Y-clothed was she fresh for to* **devise**;
Her yellow hair was braided in a tress,
Behind her back, a yarde long I guess.

- A. stop (something from happening)
- B. come up with (invent or create)
- C. think deeply or carefully about

6 *We must* **endure**; *this is the short and plain.*

- A. call -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
- B. suffer through
- C. communication through gestures and body movements (without words)

7 *But worldly joy may not always* **endure**

- A. differ; or change
- B. influence opinion
- C. continue to exist

8 **secret*

"Nay, thereof care thee nought," quoth Nicholas:
*"A clerk had *litherly beset his while*, *ill spent his time**
But if* he could a carpenter **beguile."*

- A. to think of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
- B. to charm, enchant, or entertain someone; or to deceive -- especially through charm
- C. give authority, power, knowledge, or confidence to someone so they can do something

9 **no matter though*

Women are born to thraldom and **penance**, *I perish**
And to be under mannes governance.

- A. an act that shows sorrow for wrongdoing -- such as expressing regret, asking for forgiveness, or trying to make up for the harm done
- B. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
- C. the act of hiding something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hiding the truth; or something that hides or deceives

- 10 * *denied Mahomet our belief*
But, lordes, will ye maken assurance,
As I shall say, **assenting** to my lore*?
A. making gestures (hand or body movements) while speaking or to express something
B. releasing from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
C. to express agreement -- especially with a statement or proposal to do something
- 11 *Beware from ire that in thy bosom sleeps,*
A. allow
B. strong anger
C. quits
- 12 *And eke when I say Yea, ye say not Nay,
Neither by word, nor frowning countenance?*
A. facial expression
B. the best or most important
C. a secret agreement or plot
- 13 *Of study took he most care and heed.*
A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
B. adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
C. paid attention to
- 14 *Great swearing is a thing abominable,
And false swearing is more reprobable.*
A. worthy of criticism
B. not easily identified
C. able to be translated
- 15 *he was a man of high prudence,*
A. good sense and caution
B. not easily set on fire
C. surrounding conditions
- 16 *Meliboeus answers, that he should do vengeance on his enemies, who had done him wrong.*
A. something that stands out
B. something made from parts
C. take revenge
- 17 *Meliboeus should proceed with great diligence and deliberation,*
A. restarted (a fire)
B. calm state of mind
C. hard work and care
- 18 *"Dame," quoth Meliboeus, "do your will and
your liking, for I put me wholly in your disposition and
ordinance."*
A. an expert in the branch of geology that studies rocks
B. someone who exposes wrongdoing within an organization
C. a rule or law -- typically enacted by city government
- 19 *dwelling in a poor cottage*
A. heating beyond the temperature where state normally changes
B. adjusting something to provide for a need; or being helpful
C. living
- 20 *Penitence is described ... as the bewailing of sin that has been wrought, with the purpose never again to do
that thing, or any other thing which a man should bewail;*
A. a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
B. a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king of queen
C. feeling or expressing sorrow for having done wrong

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	repent	Used 31 times in this book.
2	B	sundry	Used 31 times in this book.
3	A	wrought (<i>as in: wrought iron</i>)	Used 40 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	wrought (<i>as in: the damage she has wrought</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 58 times in this book.
6	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	Used 37 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	C	endure (<i>as in: endure through the ages</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
8	B	beguile	Used 16 times in this book.
9	A	penance	Used 29 times in this book.
10	C	assent	Used 41 times in this book.
11	B	ire	Used 34 times in this book.
12	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 29 times in this book.
13	C	heed	Used 29 times in this book.
14	A	reprove	Used 13 times in this book.
15	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 47 times in this book.
16	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	Used 34 times in this book.
17	C	diligent (<i>as in: she is diligent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 24 times in this book.
18	C	ordinance (<i>as in: passed the ordinance</i>)	Used 14 times in this book.
19	C	dwell (<i>as in: It dwells in the forest.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
20	C	penitent	Used 25 times in this book.