

The Crucible

by Arthur Miller

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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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: condemn (2), conjure, contempt (2), contend (2), contradict, critical, deposition, direct, dispute (2), establish (2), fraud, pretense, vengeance, warrant (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The United Nations **condemned** North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.
 - A. criticized
 - B. delayed
 - C. ended
2. He was **condemned** to ten years in prison.
 - A. expecting punishment
 - B. spared punishment
 - C. given punishment
3. The song **conjures** memories of good times.
 - A. brings to mind
 - B. is about
 - C. drives away
4. He was **impolite**. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
5. The reporter refused to identify her source and the judge had her imprisoned for **contempt** of court.
 - A. lying
 - B. disrespect
 - C. an unpaid fine
6. She **contends** that they quoted her out of context.
 - A. proves
 - B. offers proof
 - C. claims
7. Politicians have to **contend** with false attacks.
 - A. struggle
 - B. campaign
 - C. raise money
8. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
9. Ants play a **critical** role in the ecosystem.
 - A. small
 - B. important
 - C. confusing
10. She lied during her **deposition**.
 - A. trial
 - B. parole hearing
 - C. pre-trial questioning
11. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
12. We have a procedure for handling these kinds of **disputes**.
 - A. surprises
 - B. disagreements
 - C. opportunities

13. She **disputes** his claim.
- A. supports
 - B. accepts
 - C. challenges
14. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
- A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
15. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
- A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
16. The company was shut down after investigators uncovered a massive tax **fraud** scheme.
- A. deception to get something illegally
 - B. foolish
 - C. unsuccessful
17. The country maintains a **pretense** of a free press.
- A. strong presence
 - B. false appearance
 - C. diverse presence
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. The judge signed an **arrest warrant**.
- A. document authorizing arrest
 - B. document to stop an arrest
 - C. document explaining an arrest
20. She believes the invasion of privacy is **warranted** to assist in the battle against terrorists.
- A. not justified
 - B. worthy of consideration
 - C. justified

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 Salem had been **established** hardly forty years before.
 - A. demonstrated
 - B. founded
 - C. damaged
- 2 DANFORTH—(his first real outburst, in which his contempt for Parris is clear): Mr. Parris, I bid you be silent! (He stands in silence, looking out the window. Now, having **established** that he will set the gait.) Mr. Cheever, will you go into the court and bring the children here?
 - A. questioned
 - B. founded (started)
 - C. demonstrated
- 3 Long-held hatreds of neighbors could now be openly expressed, and **vengeance** taken,
 - A. apologies
 - B. notes
 - C. revenge
- 4 PARRIS, to Abigail: Then you were **conjuring** spirits last night.
 - A. summoning
 - B. arguing with
 - C. dancing with
- 5 I have had enough **contention** since I came; I want no more.
 - A. argument
 - B. claims
 - C. confusion
- 6 Do you know, Mr. Proctor, that the entire **contention** of the state in these trials is that the voice of Heaven is speaking through the children?
 - A. concern
 - B. something proved
 - C. something claimed
- 7 Proctor, respected and even feared in Salem, has come to regard himself as a kind of **fraud**.
 - A. dishonest person
 - B. honest person
 - C. cruel person
- 8 He was called upon to arbitrate **disputes** as though he were an unofficial judge, and Rebecca also enjoyed the high opinion most people had for him.
 - A. surprises
 - B. disagreements
 - C. opportunities
- 9 ELIZABETH: I cannot **dispute** with you, sir; I lack learning for it.
 - A. confirm or support
 - B. make an imitation
 - C. argue
- 10 You people seem not to comprehend that a minister is the Lord's man in the parish; a minister is not to be so lightly crossed and **contradicted**—
 - A. disagreed with
 - B. fired or replaced
 - C. carelessly quoted
- 11 But this is a snobbish objection and not at all **warranted** by the facts.
 - A. made worse
 - B. described
 - C. justified

- 12 Mr. Cheever, have **warrants** drawn for all of these—arrest for examination.
- A. documents authorizing something
 - B. carefully painted pictures
 - C. baths with hot water
- 13 PROCTOR: Why'd you let her? You heard me forbid her to go to Salem any more!
ELIZABETH: I couldn't stop her.
PROCTOR, holding back a full **condemnation** of her: It is a fault, it is a fault, Elizabeth—you're the mistress here, not Mary Warren.
- A. complete disapproval
 - B. complete approval
 - C. complete understanding
- 14 DANFORTH: And seventy-two **condemned** to hang by that signature?
- A. unfairly punished
 - B. misled
 - C. sentenced
- 15 PROCTOR—he knows this is **critical**, and is striving against his disgust with Hale and with himself for even answering:
- A. negative
 - B. important
 - C. mean
- 16 GILES, pointing at his **deposition**: The proof is there! I have it from an honest man who heard Putnam say it!
- A. eyewitness
 - B. physical evidence
 - C. recorded interview
- 17 DANFORTH: In that case, I have no choice but to arrest you for **contempt** of this court, do you know that?
- A. interruption
 - B. disrespect
 - C. sabotage
- 18 ...his **contempt** for Parris is clear:
- A. great annoyance
 - B. disrespect and dislike
 - C. impatience
- 19 ...and confess your **pretense**, for a quick confession will go easier with you.
- A. crimes
 - B. lie
 - C. mistake
- 20 He is steeped in sorrow, exhausted, and more **direct** than he ever was.
- A. straightforward
 - B. exaggerated
 - C. strong-willed

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
2	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
3	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	Used 10 times in this play.
4	A	conjure	Used 10 times in this play.
5	A	contend (<i>as in: She contended with it</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
6	C	contend (<i>as in: She contended that...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
7	A	fraud	Used 10 times in this play.
8	B	dispute (<i>as in: their border dispute</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
9	C	dispute (<i>as in: She disputes his claim.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
10	A	contradict	High-utility academic word
11	C	warrant (<i>as in: serious enough to warrant surgery</i>)	Used 3 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
12	A	warrant (<i>as in: has a warrant to...</i>)	Used 12 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
13	A	condemn (<i>as in: She condemned their plan</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
14	C	condemn (<i>as in: was condemned to life in prison</i>)	Used 9 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
15	B	critical (<i>as in: a critical problem</i>)	High-utility academic word
16	C	deposition (<i>as in: gave her deposition</i>)	Used 13 times in this play.
17	B	contempt (<i>as in: held in contempt of court</i>)	Used 7 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
18	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 4 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
19	B	pretense	Used 9 times in this play.
20	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.