

# The Crying of Lot 49

by Thomas Pynchon

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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.

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#### 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:** adversary, ambiguous, anarchist, anonymous, continuity, correlate, exile, forgery, legacy, metaphor, molecule, monopoly, poignant, precede, relevant, revelation, secular, sinister, tacit, vary



#### More Vocabulary Printables

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### The Crying of Lot 49

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

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## Vocabulary Preview

### The Crying of Lot 49

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Their **adversaries** outsmarted them.
  - A. sub-groups
  - B. replacements
  - C. opponents
2. Her **ambiguous** smile left him wondering whether she was amused or annoyed.
  - A. open to interpretation
  - B. easy to read clearly
  - C. obviously sarcastic
3. She didn't call herself an **anarchist**, but she refused to follow rules she saw as unfair.
  - A. someone with anxiety
  - B. someone against authority
  - C. someone who gives advice
4. Everyone wonders who made the **anonymous** donation.
  - A. nameless
  - B. generous
  - C. surprising
5. There was a thread of continuity **my** in nightmares.
  - A. impossibility
  - B. consistency
  - C. danger
6. Scientists **correlate** carbon emissions with rising global temperatures.
  - A. associate
  - B. contrast
  - C. replace
7. Napoleon was forced into exile on the island of Elba.
  - A. apologizing
  - B. living elsewhere
  - C. hard labor
8. Experts proved the painting was a clever **forgery**, not the real masterpiece.
  - A. original work of art
  - B. early rough draft
  - C. fake passed off as real
9. Her parents left her a small **legacy**.
  - A. inheritance
  - B. meal
  - C. "todo" list
10. Jefferson used a **wall** as a metaphor to describe the separation of church and state.
  - A. clever strategy
  - B. exaggeration
  - C. figure of speech
11. A water **molecule** is made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.
  - A. tiny chemical unit
  - B. large living cell
  - C. kind of heavy metal
12. Critics warned that the tech giant's **monopoly** over online search could limit innovation and competition.
  - A. minor stake
  - B. shared market
  - C. complete control

13. Have you read MLK's poignant "Letter from Birmingham Jail"?
- A. arousing deep emotion
  - B. logically compelling
  - C. long
14. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
  - B. describe
  - C. go before
15. It is easier to learn things that seem relevant to your life.
- A. understandable
  - B. repeated
  - C. important
16. I was leaning toward voting for her, but her stance on education policy was a revelation to me.
- A. something surprising and previously unknown
  - B. something that made a decision easy
  - C. something that reversed a previous decision
17. Sweden's population is more secular than populations of most countries.
- A. non-religious
  - B. similar
  - C. blonde
18. In the movie, there was a sinister plot to kill people and harvest their organs.
- A. complicated
  - B. evil
  - C. clever
19. We have a tacit agreement.
- A. reasonable
  - B. clear
  - C. implied
20. McDonald's menu options vary by location.
- A. are consistent
  - B. are different
  - C. are known

## Vocabulary in Context

### The Crying of Lot 49

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 Its quiet **ambiguity** shifted over, in the months after the call, to what had been revived: memories of his face, body, things he'd given her, things she had now and then pretended not to've heard him say.
  - A. lack of clarity -- unclear because there could be two or more interpretations
  - B. a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
  - C. a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen
- 2 As things developed, she was to have all manner of **revelations**.
  - A. something that was previously unknown (and typically surprising); or making such a thing known
  - B. compounds consisting of large molecules made up of linked series of repeated smaller molecules
  - C. members of the Religious Society of Friends (the Friends have never called themselves Quakers)
- 3 She could carry the sadness of the moment with her that way forever, see the world refracted through those tears, those specific tears, as if indices as yet unfound **varied** in important ways from cry to cry.
  - A. took on as one's own
  - B. differed; or changed
  - C. began fighting again
- 4 "How **poignant**," Oedipa said.
  - A. sharp or intense
  - B. able to be found
  - C. likely to change
- 5 Delivering the mail is a government **monopoly**.
  - A. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
  - B. in the manner of someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much
  - C. complete control over a product, service, or resource -- usually by a single person, company, or group
- 6 So began, for Oedipa, the languid, **sinister** blooming of The Tristero.
  - A. not able to be disagreed with
  - B. evil, harmful, or frightening
  - C. not thoughtful about the past
- 7 Heretofore the naming of names has gone on either literally or as **metaphor**.
  - A. a melody that, after a short interval, is exactly repeated by a different instrument or voice to create competing melodic lines (a strict counterpoint)
  - B. law: an alternative to pleading guilty or not guilty, which says that even if the facts listed in charges are correct, they do not constitute a crime
  - C. a figure of speech in which a similarity between two things is highlighted by using a word to refer to something that it does not *literally* mean
- 8 Certain things, it is made clear, will not be spoken aloud; certain events will not be shown onstage; though it is difficult to imagine, given the excesses of the **preceding** acts, what these things could possibly be.
  - A. beginning to fight again
  - B. influencing or effecting
  - C. prior (in time or space)
- 9 The Demon could sit in a box among air **molecules** that were moving at all different random speeds, and sort out the fast molecules from the slow ones.
  - A. chemical substance comprised of the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
  - B. soccer players who play in the middle third of the field and who assist with both defense and offense
  - C. aka natural rights -- rights that are naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
- 10 He did, but not about their dark **adversaries**.
  - A. loyalties
  - B. made holy
  - C. opponents

- 11 *There's no way to trace it, unless you want to follow up an accidental **correlation**, like you got from the old man.*
- A. relationship such that a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
  - B. something exclusive to (someone or some group) -- such as an activity or place
  - C. related to DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
- 12 *Afterward it is only this signal, really dross, this **secular** announcement, and never what is revealed during the attack, that he remembers.*
- A. not religious
  - B. not important
  - C. inappropriate
- 13 *And **Tacit** lies the gold once-knotted horn, Oedipa remembered.*
- A. certain
  - B. outside
  - C. implied
- 14 *The other forgeries run back to 1893.*
- A. laws developed by governmental groups in contrast to common law (based on custom and precedent)
  - B. someone who was bound by a signed or forced contract to work without wages for a period of time
  - C. things that are represented as real even though they are fake; or the making of such fake items
- 15 *Despair came over her, as it will when nobody around has any sexual **relevance** to you.*
- A. Palestinian uprising or rebellion against Israeli control
  - B. the study of dinosaurs and other prehistoric ancient life
  - C. importance (meaningful relation to the issue in question)
- 16 *Like the church we hate, **anarchists** also believe in another world.*
- A. people who share professional opinions in a specific field
  - B. someone who favors eliminating all government or authority
  - C. unborn children (or other unborn or unhatched vertebrates)
- 17 *Now, drinking thick lukewarm coffee from a clay pot on the back burner of the yucateco's stove and listening to Jesus talk conspiracy, she wondered if, without the miracle of Pierce to reassure him, Jesus might not have quit his CIA eventually and gone over like everybody else to the majority priistas, and so never had to go into **exile**.*
- A. (noun) something that is lighter and draws attention -- such as an area of a painting OR (verb) making something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
  - B. to force someone to live outside of their homeland; or living in such a condition
- or more rarely: voluntary absence from a place someone would rather be
- C. recommend or require what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) give medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
- 18 *"The artist is **anonymous**," Bortz said,*
- A. unknown (people don't know who created the art)
  - B. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
  - C. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things seem incongruous together
- 19 *There was the true **continuity**, San Narciso had no boundaries.*
- A. translation
  - B. consistency
  - C. storyteller
- 20 *What would the probate judge have to say about spreading some kind of a **legacy** among them all, all those nameless, maybe as a first installment?*
- A. gift left after death
  - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
  - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

### The Crying of Lot 49

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| #  | KEY | WORD                                             | NOTE                                                   |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | A   | ambiguous                                        | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book. |
| 2  | A   | revelation                                       | Used 8 times in this book.                             |
| 3  | B   | vary                                             | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book. |
| 4  | A   | poignant                                         | Used 3 times in this book.                             |
| 5  | C   | monopoly                                         | High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book. |
| 6  | B   | sinister                                         | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book. |
| 7  | C   | metaphor                                         | Used 8 times in this book.                             |
| 8  | C   | precede                                          | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book. |
| 9  | A   | molecule                                         | Used 6 times in this book.                             |
| 10 | C   | adversary                                        | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book. |
| 11 | A   | correlate                                        | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book. |
| 12 | A   | secular ( <i>as in: a secular organization</i> ) | Used 4 times in this book.                             |
| 13 | C   | tacit                                            | Used 3 times in this book.                             |
| 14 | C   | forgery                                          | Used 4 times in this book.                             |
| 15 | C   | relevant                                         | High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book. |
| 16 | B   | anarchist                                        | Used 7 times in this book.                             |
| 17 | B   | exile                                            | Used 7 times in this book.                             |
| 18 | A   | anonymous ( <i>as in: an anonymous author</i> )  | Used 6 times in this book.                             |
| 19 | B   | continuity                                       | Used 4 times in this book.                             |
| 20 | A   | legacy                                           | High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book. |