

# The Devil and Daniel Webster

by Stephen Vincent Benét

## 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 from the Resources menu.

#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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#### 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:** abide, contempt, defendant, denounce, foal, glower, indivisible, legacy, liable, mortgage, nevertheless, preside, prosper, prosperous, Puritans, repent, twinge, vary, vex, wry



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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

**Vocabulary Preview**  
**The Devil and Daniel Webster**

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

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

1. He couldn't **abide** their religious intolerance.
  - A. put up with
  - B. criticize
  - C. understand
2. 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
3. The jury did not know the **defendant** had a long criminal history.
  - A. person who is on trial
  - B. person who is a witness
  - C. person filing a complaint
4. She bravely stepped forward to **denounce** the corruption within her company.
  - A. openly condemn
  - B. warmly praise
  - C. quietly ignore
5. The mare gave birth to a healthy foal in the spring meadow.
  - A. young horse
  - B. metal gate
  - C. wooden saddle
6. She **glowered** at the ref, but she held her tongue.
  - A. winked happily
  - B. stared angrily
  - C. smiled briefly
7. The two friends were **indivisible** from the day they met in kindergarten.
  - A. in constant disagreement
  - B. rarely seen together
  - C. impossible to separate
8. Her parents left her a small **legacy**.
  - A. inheritance
  - B. meal
  - C. "todo" list
9. She's not **liable** to forget something that important.
  - A. the state or degree of being less than zero
  - B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
  - C. likely
10. The site has a **mortgage** payment calculator that calculates the loan payment based on the interest rate and length of the loan.
  - A. unsecured loan
  - B. real estate loan
  - C. credit card loan
11. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
  - A. also
  - B. despite that
  - C. in addition

12. The student body president **presides** over student council meetings.
- A. regularly attends
  - B. officially leads
  - C. casually observes
13. She is **prospering** in business.
- A. struggling
  - B. starting
  - C. doing well
14. That part of the city is especially **prosperous**.
- A. financially successful
  - B. dangerous
  - C. crowded and noisy
15. The Puritans banned Christmas because they associated it with drunkenness and other misbehavior.
- A. sect of French Catholics
  - B. sect of English Protestants
  - C. sect of Spanish Catholics
16. She said the U.S. should **repent** for the sins of fossil fuels.
- A. reimburse
  - B. apologize
  - C. suffer
17. Sometimes I get a **twinge** in my knee that makes me think I may be getting arthritis.
- A. sudden, short-lived heat
  - B. sudden, short-lived pain
  - C. sudden, short-lived numbness
18. McDonald's menu options **vary** by location.
- A. are consistent
  - B. are different
  - C. are known
19. The **vexing** puzzle kept her up late into the night.
- A. soothing
  - B. annoying
  - C. amusing
20. Her **wry** comment made the bad news sound almost funny.
- A. openly cheerful
  - B. dryly humorous
  - C. deeply serious

# 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 Then you better answer the Union stands as she stood, rock-bottomed and copper sheathed, one and **indivisible**, or he's liable to rear right out of the ground.
  - A. not relating to practice or belief that is long-established or was previously long-established
  - B. relating to a residential area located near the outer edge of a city where it isn't as crowded
  - C. impossible to separate

or:

in math: impossible to divide evenly without leaving a remainder
- 2 Then you better answer the Union stands as she stood, rock-bottomed and copper sheathed, one and indivisible, or he's **liable** to rear right out of the ground.
  - A. devices that convert light into electricity
  - B. temperature scale used in most of the world
  - C. likely to; or maybe going to; or subject to
- 3 He had good enough land, but it didn't **prosper** him; he had a decent wife and children, but the more children he had, the less there was to feed them.
  - A. restore
  - B. examine
  - C. do well
- 4 Well, Jabez told his family it was a lawyer, come to see him about a **legacy**.
  - A. gift left in a will
  - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
  - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
- 5 Pretty soon, he was one of the **prosperous** people of the county; they asked him to stand for selectman, and he stood for it; there began to be talk of running him for state senate.
  - A. successful or good -- especially with regard to finances or wealth
  - B. not having the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...
  - C. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
- 6 True, every now and then, especially in rainy weather, the little white scar on his finger would give him a **twinge**.
  - A. control in advance (how something will turn out)
  - B. a sudden, short-lived feeling of pain
  - C. cheerful and lively music, or to play such music
- 7 So when--ahem--the **mortgage** falls due next year, you shouldn't have any regrets.
  - A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
  - B. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
  - C. enter another's property without right or permission
- 8 Why, they **vary**.
  - A. influence opinion
  - B. differ; or change
  - C. show or represent
- 9 "And now," said the stranger, smiling and showing his teeth, "I shall call upon you, as a **law-abiding** citizen, to assist me in taking possession of my property."
  - A. law-obeying
  - B. well suited
  - C. a last name
- 10 There was Morton of Merry Mount, who so **vexed** the Plymouth Colony, with his flushed, loose, handsome face and his hate of the godly.
  - A. changed
  - B. annoyed
  - C. forgave

- 11 "Benedict Arnold is engaged upon other business," said the stranger, with a **glower**.
- A. stop fighting
  - B. stare angrily
  - C. make possible
- 12 He pointed his finger once more, and a tall man, soberly clad in **Puritan** garb, with the burning gaze of the fanatic, stalked into the room and took his judge's place.
- A. intangible (non-touchable) property that is the result of creativity (such as patents or trademarks or copyrights)
  - B. an English Protestant who in the 16th and 17th centuries who wanted simpler worship and strict, hard-working lives
  - C. someone who objects to fulfilling a requirement because they think it is wrong--typically to serve in the military
- 13 He **presided** at certain witch trials once held in Salem.
- A. interacted, interested, or attracted
  - B. chaired; or headed; or was in charge
  - C. made strips of hair lighter in color
- 14 "Repent of such notable wonders and undertakings?" said the stern old justice.
- A. mark important text; or the text that is marked
  - B. to express or feel regret for having done wrong
  - C. give an opinion of what is wrong with something
- 15 He didn't care if it was **contempt** of court or what would happen to him for it.
- A. growth hormone -- a hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that promotes growth in humans
  - B. the crime of willful disobedience to or disrespect for the authority
  - C. gland located near the base of the neck that, amongst other things, regulates growth and metabolism
- 16 Till, finally, it was time for him to get up on his feet, and he did so, all ready to bust out with lightnings and denunciations.
- A. criticisms or accusations
  - B. things easily set on fire
  - C. interactions or interests
- 17 And no demon that was ever **foaled** could know the inwardness of it--it took a man to do that.
- A. a young horse; or giving birth to a young horse
  - B. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
  - C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation
- 18 We find for the **defendant**, Jabez Stone.
- A. a person or institution legally accused or sued in court
  - B. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
  - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 19 The stranger turned to Dan'l Webster, smiling wryly.
- A. adequately (in a manner that provides enough -- often without being more than is needed)
  - B. humor -- often understated, sarcastic, or ironic -- often expressed by twisting the face
  - C. in a manner that relates to questions that cannot be answered with the scientific method
- 20 Nevertheless, my congratulations, as between two gentlemen.
- A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
  - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
  - C. therefore (for that reason)

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	indivisible	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
2	C	liable ( <i>as in: she is liable to</i> )	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	C	prosper	Used 2 times in this story.
4	A	legacy	High-utility academic word
5	A	prosperous	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	B	twinge	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	B	mortgage	Used 5 times in this story.
8	B	vary	High-utility academic word
9	A	abide ( <i>as in: abide by her decision</i> )	Used 2 times in this story.
10	B	vex	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	B	glower	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
12	B	Puritans	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	B	preside	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	repent	Used 2 times in this story.
15	B	contempt ( <i>as in: held in contempt of court</i> )	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
16	A	denounce	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	A	foal	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
18	A	defendant	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	wry	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word