

The Devil and Tom Walker

by Washington Irving

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

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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: accustom, censure, clamor, conflict, contradict, earnest, elapse, eminent, forbearance, fortitude, indifferent, moreover, mortgage, ostentatious, persecution, preside, resolute, scarcity, strenuous, surmise



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
The Devil and Tom Walker
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Actors and politicians are **accustomed** to less privacy than the rest of us.
 - A. used to
 - B. happy with
 - C. paid for
2. In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
 - A. criticism
 - B. anger
 - C. disinterest
3. Noisy **clamor** gave way to reasoned dialogue.
 - A. demands
 - B. insults
 - C. whining
4. The Israeli–Palestinian **conflict** flared up again in Jerusalem.
 - A. agreement
 - B. border
 - C. struggle
5. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
6. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
 - A. frivolous attitude
 - B. seriousness
 - C. falseness
7. Three hours had **elapsed** before the search team returned with news.
 - A. passed by
 - B. raced ahead
 - C. stood still
8. Despite her **eminent** status in the art world, she remained humble and approachable.
 - A. respected and well-known
 - B. newly acquired
 - C. barely noticed
9. I appreciate your **forbearance**.
 - A. patience or tolerance
 - B. financial loan
 - C. family concerns
10. She showed **fortitude** by staying calm and determined during the long recovery.
 - A. physical speed
 - B. mental courage
 - C. sudden anger
11. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
 - A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger
12. Many graduates have high college debt. **Moreover**, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
 - A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that

13. 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
14. She arrived in an **ostentatious** stretch limo.
- A. expensive
 - B. long
 - C. showy
15. In that country people who are gay are **persecuted** by law.
- A. forced to leave
 - B. ignored
 - C. treated badly
16. The student body president **presides** over student council meetings.
- A. regularly attends
 - B. officially leads
 - C. casually observes
17. Despite the criticism, she remained **resolute** in her decision to speak out.
- A. hopeful
 - B. determined and unwavering
 - C. out of touch with reality
18. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
19. Landscaping is **strenuous** work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot
20. Sophia **surmised** that Isabella had spread the rumor.
- A. learned
 - B. spread the news
 - C. formed an opinion

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- The old stories add, **moreover**, that the devil presided at the hiding of the money, and took it under his guardianship; but this, it is well known, he always does with buried treasure, particularly when it has been ill-gotten.

 - despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - in addition to what has just been said
 - even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- The old stories add, moreover, that the devil **presided** at the hiding of the money, and took it under his guardianship; but this, it is well known, he always does with buried treasure, particularly when it has been ill-gotten.

 - interacted, interested, or attracted
 - chaired; or headed; or was in charge
 - made strips of hair lighter in color
- Her voice was often heard in wordy warfare with her husband; and his face sometimes showed signs that their **conflicts** were not confined to words.

 - is attractive or desirable
 - requires (to do something)
 - struggles or disagreements
- The lonely wayfarer shrank within himself at the horrid **clamor** and clapper-clawing; eyed the den of discord askance; and hurried on his way, rejoicing, if a bachelor, in his celibacy.

 - loud noise and/or persistent demands
 - move into position to work; or start
 - to spread to other parts of the body
- The rust on the weapon showed the time that had **elapsed** since this death-blow had been given.

 - of time: to pass by
 - took on as one's own
 - began fighting again
- On the bark of the tree was scored the name of Deacon Peabody, an **eminent** man who had waxed wealthy by driving shrewd bargains with the Indians.

 - respected and famous or important
 - able to be stopped from happening
 - improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- Since the red men have been exterminated by you white savages, I amuse myself by **presiding** at the persecutions of Quakers and Anabaptists; I am the great patron and prompter of slave-dealers and the grand-master of the Salem witches.

 - relating to properties of sound or hearing
 - substances that causes a chemical reaction
 - instances of very bad and unfair treatment
- It is said that after this commencement they had a long and **earnest** conversation together, as Tom returned homeward.

 - impossible to find
 - sincere or serious
 - good or beneficial
- What these conditions were may be easily **surmised**, though Tom never disclosed them publicly.

 - (verb) drew pictures to accompany OR (adjective) accompanied by pictures
 - not justified or explained as an understandable reaction to another action
 - to guess something is true or form an opinion based on incomplete evidence
- However Tom might have felt disposed to sell himself to the devil, he was determined not to do so to oblige his wife; so he flatly refused, out of the mere spirit of **contradiction**.

 - something (typically a statement) that disagrees with itself; or (more rarely) the act of disagreeing
 - something made of the brownish metal with the same name -- such as a sculpture or a third place medal
 - nerve cells running from the base of the skull to the lower back and enclosed by vertebrae in adults

- 11 *He was sulky, however, and would not come to terms; she was to go again with a propitiatory offering, but what it was she **forbore** to say.*
- A. refrained (held back) from acting
 - B. because of a basic rule or belief
 - C. interacts, interests, or attracts
- 12 *She had probably attempted to deal with the black man as she had been **accustomed** to deal with her husband; but though a female scold is generally considered a match for the devil, yet in this instance she appears to have had the worst of it.*
- A. used to (adapted to something, so it seems normal)
 - B. the ability to be taken up or received into heaven
 - C. the state or character of being good or beneficial
- 13 *Tom consoled himself for the loss of his property, with the loss of his wife, for he was a man of **fortitude**.*
- A. unconstrained in some way -- such as untied or no longer obligated
 - B. strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage
 - C. the highest degree awarded in universities in many fields of study
- 14 *He affected to receive Tom's advances with great **indifference**, made brief replies, and went on humming his tune.*
- A. without interest
 - B. risky investment
 - C. chaotic disorder
- 15 *This, however, Tom **resolutely** refused; he was bad enough in all conscience, but the devil himself could not tempt him to turn slave-trader.*
- A. in a strongly biased manner
 - B. with firm purpose or belief
 - C. in a morally correct manner
- 16 *You shall extort bonds, foreclose **mortgages**, drive the merchants to bankruptcy—*
- A. moves again into position to work; or starts again
 - B. real estate loans; or pledges something for a loan
 - C. prepares food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
- 17 *Everybody remembers the time of Governor Belcher, when money was particularly scarce.*
- A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 18 *He built himself, as usual, a vast house, out of **ostentation**, but left the greater part of it unfinished and unfurnished, out of **parsimony**.*
- A. a power plant that produces energy by splitting atoms
 - B. an unsettled state of mind (nervous or uncomfortable)
 - C. actions intended to attract notice and impress others
- 19 *He prayed loudly and **strenuously**, as if heaven were to be taken by force of lungs.*
- A. with sympathy for another's suffering
 - B. in a manner that requires much effort
 - C. in a manner that is worthy of respect
- 20 *Tom was as rigid in religious as in money matters; he was a stern supervisor and **censurer** of his neighbors, and seemed to think every sin entered up to their account became a credit on his own side of the page.*
- A. harsh criticism; or formal criticism from an organization -- such as the U.S. Senate
 - B. a doctor who tests eyesight and provides glasses or contact lenses to improve vision
 - C. one who corrupts, debases, or makes impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	moreover	High-utility academic word
2	B	preside	Used 2 times in this story.
3	C	conflict	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
4	A	clamor	Used 3 times in this story.
5	A	elapse	Used 2 times in this story.
6	A	eminent	High-utility academic word
7	C	persecution	Used 2 times in this story.
8	B	earnest	High-utility academic word
9	C	surmise	Used 2 times in this story.
10	A	contradict	High-utility academic word
11	A	forbearance	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
12	A	accustom	Used 3 times in this story.
13	B	fortitude	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word
15	B	resolute	Used 2 times in this story.
16	B	mortgage	Used 6 times in this story.
17	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word
18	C	ostentatious	High-utility academic word
19	B	strenuous	Used 2 times in this story.
20	A	censure	High-utility academic word