

The Epic of Gilgamesh

by Author Unknown

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 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.

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: abhor, abominable, beseech, despair, divine, eminent, endure (2), establish, exult, goad, lament, meteor, perish, rouse, scorn, serpent, tempest, torrent, transgress



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. However much we **abhor** it, we must be prepared for war.
 - A. avoid
 - B. don't expect
 - C. hate
2. That was before she was trained, when her work was **abominable**.
 - A. showing early promise
 - B. incomplete
 - C. exceptionally bad
3. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
 - A. asking
 - B. demanding
 - C. instructing
4. She rescued me from **despair**.
 - A. fear
 - B. poverty
 - C. hopelessness
5. The King claimed a **divine** right.
 - A. perfect or wonderful
 - B. from birth
 - C. coming from God
6. Despite her **eminent** status in the art world, she remained humble and approachable.
 - A. respected and well-known
 - B. newly acquired
 - C. barely noticed
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. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
10. They **exulted** in the victory.
 - A. finally rested
 - B. felt extreme happiness
 - C. sang
11. She tried to **goad** the candidate into saying something extreme.
 - A. poke with a stick
 - B. provoke
 - C. prevent
12. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about

13. We were away from the city lights where meteors are easier to see.
A. low clouds
B. shooting stars
C. tall trees
14. We can work together or perish separately.
A. work
B. die
C. fail
15. The smell of freshly brewed coffee roused her from her sleep.
A. interrupted
B. deepened
C. awakened
16. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
A. disrespects
B. encourages
C. trains
17. What does the serpent represent in the Garden of Eden?
A. fig leaf
B. snake
C. apple
18. A tempest swept over the island.
A. darkness
B. fear
C. storm
19. Since she posted that tweet, she's received a torrent of abuse.
A. overwhelming amount
B. increasing amount
C. warning
20. The use of innocents as human shields transgresses "the laws of war."
A. is within
B. violates
C. expands

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 *I was full of joy, the young heroes were round me and I walked through the night under the stars of the firmament, and one, a **meteor** of the stuff of Anu, fell down from heaven.*
 - A. a solar flare
 - B. a streak of light in the sky caused by a small space rock burning up in Earth's atmosphere
 - C. a large space rock with an irregular orbit
- 2 *Then Ninsun, who is well-beloved and wise, said to Gilgamesh, "This star of heaven which descended like a meteor from the sky; which you tried to lift, but found too heavy, when you tried to move it it would not budge, and so you brought it to my feet; I made it for you, a **goad** and spur, and you were drawn as though to a woman.*
 - A. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 - B. to provoke or annoy someone into doing something—often something unwise

or:

to prod an animal to move, or the stick used to do so

- C. the act of hiding something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hiding the truth; or something that hides or deceives
- 3 *He became merry, his heart **exulted** and his face shone.*
 - A. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - B. felt or expressed extreme happiness or elation
 - C. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
- 4 *When he roars it is like the **torrent** of the storm, his breath is like fire, and his jaws are death itself.*
 - A. an overwhelming amount -- especially of quickly moving water
 - B. tile designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - C. the state of not being in danger of suffering from something
- 5 *Grant, I **beseech**, your protection, and let the omen be good.*
 - A. to ask strongly or beg for something
 - B. move into position to work; or start
 - C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 6 *Here in the city man dies oppressed at heart:, man **perishes** with despair in his heart.*
 - A. boundaries or limits
 - B. dies or is destroyed
 - C. gains advantage from
- 7 *Therefore I would enter that country: because I have not **established** my name stamped on brick as my destiny decreed, I will go to the country where the cedar is cut.*
 - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. caused to exist
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 8 *The great winds he appointed: the north wind, the whirlwind, the storm and the icy wind, the **tempest** and the scorching wind.*
 - A. a long and determined effort for a cause that is passionately believed to be important
 - B. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer
 - C. a violent commotion or disturbance -- especially a violent storm or emotional outburst
- 9 *From the day I go until I return, till I reach the cedar forest and destroy the evil which Shamash **abhors**, pray for me to Shamash.*
 - A. thinks carefully
 - B. strongly desires
 - C. hates or detests

- 10 *Let your courage be **roused** by the battle to come; forget death and follow me, a man resolute in action, but one who is not foolhardy.*
- beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - explains something in a particular way
 - to awaken, make more active, or excite
- 11 *Gilgamesh shouted, "By the life of Ninsun my mother and **divine** Lugulbanda my father, ..."*
- the quality of being sensible and careful
 - unable or difficult to meet and talk with
 - or god-like
- 12 *He slapped his thigh in **scorn**.*
- disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - not answer questions; or block progress
 - move from more general to more specific
- 13 *Enkidu cried to Gilgamesh, "My friend, we boasted that we would leave **enduring** names behind us."*
- lying or misleading
 - influencing opinion
 - continuing to exist
- 14 *my friend who was very dear to me and **endured** dangers beside me,*
- stuck out, attracted more attention than desired, or imposed on others
 - suffered through something difficult
 - not persuaded to want something (often sex or love) through temptation
- 15 *Gilgamesh is the most glorious of heroes, Gilgamesh is most **eminent** among men.*
- respected and famous or important
 - able to be stopped from happening
 - improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 16 *He dragged off his splendid robes and flung them down as though they were **abominations**.*
- acts of interacting or getting interested again
 - general feelings of not being as good as others
 - things that are exceptionally bad or detestable
- 17 *Gilgamesh **lamented**; seven days and seven nights he wept for Enkidu,*
- was abundant or plentiful
 - thought -- possibly aloud
 - expressed grief and sorrow passionately
- 18 *Despair is in my heart.*
- adjusts a lens to make an image clear
 - not creating disagreement or struggle
 - hopelessness
- 19 *Lay upon the sinner his sin, Lay upon the transgressor his **transgression**, Punish him a little when he breaks loose, Do not drive him too hard or he perishes; Would that a lion had ravaged mankind Rather than the flood, Would that a wolf had ravaged mankind Rather than the flood, Would that famine had wasted the world Rather than the flood, Would that pestilence had wasted mankind Rather than the flood.*
- the process of controlling (how something turns out)
 - an act that violates a rule, promise, or social norm
 - the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
- 20 *Gilgamesh saw a well of cool water and he went down and bathed; but deep in the pool there was lying a **serpent**, and the serpent sensed the sweetness of the flower.*
- skill
 - snake
 - story

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	meteor	Used 2 times in this book.
2	B	goad	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	B	exult	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	A	torrent	Used 4 times in this book.
5	A	beseech	Used 2 times in this book.
6	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
7	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
8	C	tempest	Used 5 times in this book.
9	C	abhor	Used 2 times in this book.
10	C	rouse	Used 5 times in this book.
11	C	divine (<i>as in: to forgive is divine</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
12	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	C	endure (<i>as in: endure through the ages</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
14	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	Used 7 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	eminent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	C	abominable	Used 3 times in this book.
17	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
18	C	despair (<i>as in: she felt despair</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
19	B	transgress	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	serpent	Used 6 times in this book.