

The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams

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: acquaint, allude, audible, bewilder, convention, deception, discreet, fiasco, jeopardy, martyr, menagerie, narrator, ominous, optimistic, primarily, transparent, tumult (2), vary, vivacious



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- One of the objectives in my literature class is to **acquaint** my students with different cultures.
 - make surprised
 - make a list for
 - make familiar
- She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - being discouraging
 - indirectly referring
 - not talking
- It was so quiet; our breathing was the only thing **audible** in the room.
 - making too much noise
 - that was comforting
 - capable of being heard
- I am trying to understand her, but I am **bewildered**.
 - confused
 - bored
 - distracted
- In most countries, the convention is to shake the head to indicate "no", but in Bulgaria that indicates "yes".
 - movement
 - agreement
 - normal behavior
- The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
 - kindness
 - trickery
 - praise
- I will be **discreet** in my investigation.
 - thorough
 - quick
 - subtle
- The production was a **fiasco**.
 - success
 - failure
 - challenge
- She put herself in **jeopardy** by getting a ride from him after he had drunk too much.
 - confusion
 - dependence
 - danger
- Although **ruthless**, they did not want to create a martyr, so rather than execute her, they imprisoned her.
 - news story
 - deceased hero
 - bad example
- The eccentric millionaire kept a sprawling **menagerie** at his country estate.
 - collection of animals
 - row of empty cages
 - patch of garden plants

12. One of the more popular narrators in movie history is Morgan Freeman. I especially liked him in *The Shawshank Redemption* where in addition to playing a major role, he narrated the film.
- A. producer who works closest with the actors
 - B. actor who talks directly to the audience
 - C. script writer
13. With the clouds looking so ominous, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
14. She keeps telling me her chances of dying in a car accident are 1 in 150, but I keep telling her that's too optimistic if she drives after drinking.
- A. hopeful
 - B. gloomy
 - C. simplistic
15. The second paragraph is primarily concerned with showing how the colleges are different.
- A. barely
 - B. mainly
 - C. secretly
16. As a safety measure, the school now insists that all backpacks and school bags be transparent.
- A. searched upon entry
 - B. weighed
 - C. easily seen through
17. I couldn't hear her over the tumult.
- A. loud disorderly noise
 - B. loud unpleasant music
 - C. loud machinery
18. I was lucky to survive the tumultuous years of my youth.
- A. strict
 - B. innocent
 - C. turbulent
19. McDonald's menu options vary by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known
20. She's a vivacious high school senior who has captured the nation's heart.
- A. kind and attractive
 - B. engaging and lively
 - C. smart and well-spoken

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 In an old-fashioned whatnot in the living room are seen scores of **transparent** glass animals.
 - A. relating to properties of sound or hearing
 - B. mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - C. able to be seen through
- 2 The **narrator** is an undisguised convention of the play.
 - A. translation
 - B. storyteller
 - C. quiet voice
- 3 The narrator is an undisguised **convention** of the play.
 - A. reason (for doing something)
 - B. small quantity or indication
 - C. something treated as normal
- 4 Amanda leans against the shut door and stares at Laura with a **martyred** look.
 - A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - B. like someone who has suffered for the sake of principle
 - C. not controlled, prevented, or made less intense
- 5 AMANDA [*faintly, almost inaudibly*]: –No.
 - A. in a manner that is not easily noticed
 - B. in a disrespectful or rejecting manner
 - C. unhearable (because she speaks so softly)
- 6 AMANDA: You did all this to deceive me, just for **deception**?
 - A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
 - B. the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
 - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 7 When people have some slight disadvantage like that, they cultivate other things to make up for it—develop charm—and **vivacity**—and—charm!
 - A. firmness of purpose
 - B. engaging liveliness
 - C. wrong understanding
- 8 After the **fiasco** at Rubicam's Business College, the idea of getting a gentleman caller for Laura began to play a more and more important part in Mother's calculations.
 - A. the act of taking something on as one's own
 - B. something that was a complete failure
 - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
- 9 An evening at home rarely passed without some **allusion** to this image, this specter, this hope.
 - A. a nerve or brain cell
 - B. indirect reference
 - C. long eventful journey
- 10 What right have you got to **jeopardize** your job?
 - A. express strong regret
 - B. to strongly criticize
 - C. put in danger of loss
- 11 The only way to find out about those things is to make **discreet** inquiries at the proper moment.
 - A. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
 - B. showing a lack of respect for things respected by most people
 - C. unobtrusively (in a manner that doesn't attract attention)
- 12 Then vitality and **optimism** return and she turns from the door, crossing to the portieres.
 - A. a tendency to expect and see the best in all things
 - B. a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
 - C. collection of star systems held together by gravity

- 13 *The music becomes **ominous**.*
- A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
 - B. huge
 - C. comforting
- 14 *JIM: **Primarily** it amounts to-social poise!*
- A. really
 - B. mainly
 - C. wisely
- 15 *To **vary** that old, old saying a little bit-I married no planter!*
- A. influence opinion
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. show or represent
- 16 *You see, I wasn't **acquainted** with many-people.*
- A. not having taken power or responsibility
 - B. compensated for a loss; or paid a reward
 - C. a friend or associate; or familiar with
- 17 *She remains by the table, picks up a piece from the glass menagerie collection, and turns it in her hands to cover her **tumult**.*
- A. deep emotional impact
 - B. support or favor given
 - C. turmoil (confusion)
- 18 *...as the music swells **tumultuously**.*
- A. in a loud, unrestrained manner
 - B. of a guitar or other musical instrument: not using electricity to amplify sound
 - C. done so as to not represent or imitate external reality or the objects of nature
- 19 *Mother calls them a glass **menagerie**! Here's an example of one, if you'd like to see it! This one is one of the oldest.*
- A. a collection of wild animals in captivity
 - B. someone who emphasizes a person's capacity for self-realization through reason rather than through religion and the supernatural
 - C. an inhabitant of Assyria -- an ancient kingdom centered in northern Mesopotamia which is in present-day Iraq; or their language
- 20 *She looks at it with a tender, **bewildered** expression.*
- A. confused
 - B. restored
 - C. collided

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	transparent (<i>as in: transparent shower door</i>)	Used 9 times in this play.
2	B	narrator	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
3	C	convention (<i>as in: conventional behavior</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
4	B	martyr	Used 5 times in this play.
5	C	audible (<i>as in: barely audible</i>)	Used 2 times in this play.
6	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
7	B	vivacious	Used 2 times in this play.
8	B	fiasco	Used 3 times in this play.
9	B	allude	High-utility academic word
10	C	jeopardy	Used 2 times in this play.
11	C	discreet (<i>as in: discreet-- not showy or gossipy</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
12	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
13	A	ominous	Used 3 times in this play.
14	B	primarily	High-utility academic word
15	B	vary	High-utility academic word
16	C	acquaint	Used 4 times in this play.
17	C	tumult (<i>as in: tumult in financial markets</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
18	A	tumult (<i>as in: couldn't hear over the tumult</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
19	A	menagerie	Used 11 times in this play.
20	A	bewilder	Used 2 times in this play.