

The Iliad

by Homer

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: beguile, brazen, bronze, epic, formidable, harangue, heed, immortal, impetuous, lament, mane, mêlée, perish, plunder, portent, pyre, rampart, rancor, valor, whet



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Iliad

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She was **wined**, **dined**, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
 - A. forced
 - B. tricked
 - C. encouraged
2. The **brazen** thief walked right into the store and stole a diamond necklace in broad daylight.
 - A. silent and smart
 - B. disguised
 - C. bold and improper
3. She approached the impressive **bronze** doors.
 - A. made of a high-quality wood
 - B. notably large and appearing heavy
 - C. made of a type of high-quality metal
4. *The Odyssey* is an ancient **epic** about a hero struggling to return home.
 - A. long heroic story
 - B. brief private letter
 - C. ordinary news report
5. The challenge is **formidable**.
 - A. trivial
 - B. understood
 - C. intimidating
6. The class was subjected to a ten-minute **harangue** for not taking their homework more seriously.
 - A. assignment
 - B. lecture
 - C. delay
7. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
 - A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
8. She believes we have an **immortal** soul.
 - A. conflicted
 - B. perfect in every way
 - C. lasting forever
9. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
10. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about
11. She brushed the horse's tangled **mane** until it flowed smoothly down its neck.
 - A. long curved tail
 - B. thick neck hair
 - C. sharp pointed hoof
12. She was caught up in the resulting **melee**.
 - A. arrest
 - B. report
 - C. mob

13. We can work together or **perish** separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
14. The pirates **plundered** small towns on that part of the coast.
- A. threatened
 - B. stole from
 - C. burned down
15. The sudden appearance of dark clouds served as a **portent** of the impending storm.
- A. darkness
 - B. sign
 - C. beginning
16. In 1829 India banned the Hindu custom of a widow's suicide on her husband's funeral **pyre**.
- A. coffin
 - B. fire
 - C. gravestone
17. Guards patrolled the **ramparts**, keeping watch for approaching enemies.
- A. open fields
 - B. royal gardens
 - C. defensive walls
18. Even after years apart, the **rancor** between the brothers had not faded at all.
- A. warm affection
 - B. mild curiosity
 - C. deep bitterness
19. She has served her country with **valor**.
- A. wisdom
 - B. enthusiasm
 - C. courage
20. The first chapter **whets** the reader's curiosity about the mystery.
- A. stimulates
 - B. diminishes
 - C. confuses

Vocabulary in Context

The Iliad

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 When Greece fell under the sway of Rome in the third and second centuries, The Iliad began its metamorphosis from great national **epic** into the first poem of Europe.
 - A. an outstanding work of literature or film
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. meticulousness (care about small details)
- 2 His chief councilor is Nestor from Pylos, an aged king given to **lamenting** that he no longer has the strength of his youth.
 - A. stopping a battle or fight
 - B. changing through evolution
 - C. expressing grief or regret
- 3 The treacherous shot finally causes the anticipated **melee** to break out late in Book IV.
 - A. result or predictable value
 - B. the highest-ranking manager
 - C. disorganized mass of people
- 4 Pack animals were his target first, and dogs, but soldiers, too, soon felt transfixing pain from his hard shots, and **pyres** burned night and day.
 - A. dreamlike states of altered consciousness
 - B. piles of wood or other burnable materials
 - C. works of fiction depicting a bleak future
- 5 A great man in his rage is **formidable** for underlings: though he may keep it down, he cherishes the burning in his belly until a reckoning day.
 - A. the quality of disagreeing
 - B. the quality of being Dutch
 - C. intimidating or impressive
- 6 Calamity is all you care about, or see, no happy **portents**; and you bring to pass nothing agreeable.
 - A. drugs that calm or put to sleep
 - B. signs of things about to happen
 - C. other battles with the same foe
- 7 Then I shall be there to cross his **bronze** doorsill and take his knees.
 - A. examine in detail to better understand
 - B. appropriate in size, amount, or degree
 - C. made of a type of high-quality metal
- 8 He would riot enter the assembly of emulous men, nor ever go to war, but felt his **valor** staling in his breast with idleness, and missed the cries of battle.
 - A. exceedingly powerful bomb whose energy comes from the splitting of atoms
 - B. a long race that is shorter than the typical long race of about 26 miles
 - C. exceptional or heroic courage when facing danger -- especially in battle
- 9 From many Asian cities came these lances, and it is they who hedge me out and hinder me from **plundering** the fortress town of Troy.
 - A. fighting
 - B. stealing
 - C. changing
- 10 Let every man be sure his point is **whetted**, his shield well slung.
 - A. to increase a sense or desire
 - or: to sharpen a knife or other cutting edge
 - B. not having been assigned a value, or not having been considered as to worth
 - C. hid something by making it blend in with its surroundings; or hid the truth

- 11 *Men do, that is; the immortals know, the place to be the Amazon Myrine's tomb.*
- tiles designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - instances of taking on or adopting of power or responsibility
 - people who live forever OR people famous throughout history
- 12 *Nothing brazen broke— no, but the point of bronze at impact bent in that hard armor.*
- to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - make one's home in; or live in; or stay (in a place)
 - bold and unrestrained by what others consider proper
- 13 *You should have perished there, brought down by that strong soldier, once my husband.*
- examined in detail to better understand
 - died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - moved into position to work; or started
- 14 *This dispute should not leave rancor afterward between us.*
- measure of general intelligence
 - a firm decision to do something
 - deep and bitter anger or hatred
- 15 *Like a wild boar, with his great heart, this captain in the van harangued his companies, and in the rear Meriones did likewise.*
- not happening at the same time or in a coordinated sequence; or (of watches/clocks) not set to show the same time
 - to try to persuade, or to criticize in an impassioned and often annoying manner; or a speech with such an intent
 - lively (enthusiastic, excited, or moving a lot) OR (as a verb) to inspire, make more lively, or bring to life
- 16 *Aphrodite likes to beguile the women of Akhaia to elope with Trojans, whom she so adores: now, fondling some Akhaian girl, I fear, she scratched her slim white hand on a golden pin.*
- to think of something as true or likely, even though it is not known with certainty
 - to charm, enchant, or entertain someone; or to deceive -- especially through charm
 - give authority, power, knowledge, or confidence to someone so they can do something
- 17 *Silent under his polished helmet, Hektor, dazzling and impetuous, passed on to drive the Argives back with general slaughter,*
- impulsive (acting suddenly without much thought)
 - most important; or person that is most important
 - tending to have exceedingly unfavorable opinions
- 18 *Well, he killed her, by taking heed of omens from the gods.*
- a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
 - pay close attention to; or do what is suggested
- 19 *Head held high with mane over his shoulders flying, his dazzling work of finely jointed knees takes him around the pasture haunts of horses.*
- select (on a computer screen)
 - long coarse hair on an animal
 - exchange, convert, or pay off
- 20 *BOOK SEVEN A Combat and a Rampart As Hektor spoke he came out through the gateway running, with Alexandras beside him, both resolved on battle.*
- think carefully and make a judgment about something again
 - to promise, guarantee, or indicate certainty of something
 - a defensive wall or barrier -- built for military defense

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	epic	Used 42 times in this book.
2	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 15 times in this book.
3	C	mêlée	Used 24 times in this book.
4	B	pyre	Used 29 times in this book.
5	C	formidable	Used 22 times in this book.
6	B	portent	Used 9 times in this book.
7	C	bronze (<i>as in: bronze won't corrode in salt water</i>)	Used 168 times in this book.
8	C	valor	Used 35 times in this book.
9	B	plunder	Used 27 times in this book.
10	A	whet	Used 22 times in this book.
11	C	immortal	Used 87 times in this book.
12	C	brazen	Used 26 times in this book.
13	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 35 times in this book.
14	C	rancor	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
15	B	harangue	Used 8 times in this book.
16	B	beguile	Used 6 times in this book.
17	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
18	C	heed	Used 17 times in this book.
19	B	mane	Used 20 times in this book.
20	C	rampart	Used 27 times in this book.