

The Life and Death of King Richard III

by William Shakespeare

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: adieu, adversary, beseech, censure, dissemble, divine (2), entreat, grievous, infer, kindred, lament, peevish, reprove, scarcity, scorn, usurp, wretched, yield (2)



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	B
11	C
12	C
13	B
14	A
15	C
16	A
17	A
18	B
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. We waved **adieu** to our friends at the train station.
A. goodbye
B. hello
C. greetings
2. Their **adversaries** outsmarted them.
A. sub-groups
B. replacements
C. opponents
3. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
A. asking
B. demanding
C. instructing
4. In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
A. criticism
B. anger
C. disinterest
5. She's doing what she can to change the subject and **dissemble**.
A. change reality
B. disguise the truth
C. re-think beliefs
6. The King claimed a **divine** right.
A. perfect or wonderful
B. from birth
C. coming from God
7. She wouldn't talk about it, but I was able to **divine** that the project isn't going well.
A. figure out
B. state
C. share
8. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
A. bribed (with gifts)
B. asked earnestly
C. threatened
9. It is a **grievous** offense against morality.
A. serious
B. minor
C. foolish
10. The meaning of the word can be **inferred** based on context clues.
A. different
B. figured out
C. converted
11. They became quick friends, finding in each other a **kindred** spirit.
A. lively
B. thoughtful
C. similar
12. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
A. made worse
B. improved
C. expressed grief about

13. After a frustrating day, she was **peevish** and snapped at everyone who spoke to her.
- A. very tired
 - B. easily annoyed
 - C. very demanding
14. I don't want to spoil her, but I don't have the heart to **reprove** her.
- A. criticize
 - B. compliment
 - C. instruct
15. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
16. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
17. The lawsuit claims that the President is **usurping** constitutional powers of Congress.
- A. wrongfully seizing
 - B. legally exercising
 - C. publicly defending
18. The photograph showed poor people in a **wretched** village in East Africa.
- A. irresponsible
 - B. in terrible condition
 - C. foolish or thoughtless
19. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 *By heaven, I think there is no man is secure But the queen's **kindred**, and night-walking heralds That trudge betwixt the king and Mistress Shore.*
 - A. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
 - B. aka natural right -- a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. similar in quality or character

or:

closely related -- such as family or things with shared origin
- 2 *I do **beseech** your grace to pardon me; and, withal, Forbear your conference with the noble duke.*
 - 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
- 3 *O, he hath kept an evil diet long, And overmuch consum'd his royal person: 'Tis very **grievous** to be thought upon.*
 - A. very serious; or very bad
 - B. not tending to find fault
 - C. not able to be translated
- 4 *—Cannot be quiet **scarce** a breathing while, But you must trouble him with lewd complaints.*
 - 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)
- 5 *I had rather be a country servant-maid Than a great queen with this condition,—To be so baited, **scorn'd**, and stormed at.*
 - A. disrespected or rejected
 - B. mirrored back (an image)
 - C. quoted (to make a point)
- 6 *Ere you were queen, ay, or your husband king, I was a pack-horse in his great affairs; A weeder-out of his proud **adversaries**, A liberal rewarder of his friends; To royalize his blood I spilt mine own.*
 - A. loyalties
 - B. made holy
 - C. opponents
- 7 *Did York's dread curse prevail so much with heaven That Henry's death, my lovely Edward's death, Their kingdom's loss, my woeful banishment, Should all but answer for that **peevish** brat?*
 - A. trustworthy with secrets or subtle (not attracting attention)
 - B. annoyed or easily annoyed -- especially by unimportant things
 - C. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
- 8 *Thyself a queen, for me that was a queen, Outlive thy glory, like my **wretched** self!*
 - A. not easily identified
 - B. miserable or very bad
 - C. exactness or accuracy
- 9 *Think you my uncle did **dissemble**, grandam?*
 - A. change reality
 - B. hide or disguise the truth
 - C. re-think beliefs
- 10 *I am your sorrow's nurse,
And I will pamper it with **lamentation**.*
 - A. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - B. a range of things between two boundaries
 - C. passionate expression of grief or sorrow

- 11 By a **divine** instinct men's minds mistrust
Ensuing danger; as, by proof, we see
The water swell before a boisterous storm.
A. the quality of being sensible and careful
B. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
C. coming from God
- 12 And with all speed post with him toward the north,
To shun the danger that his soul **divines**.
A. to discover something through intuition or reflection
B. differs; or changes
C. predicts or reveals
- 13 And to that end we wished your Lordship here
To avoid the **censures** of the carping world.
A. criticisms
B. numbers that are less than zero
C. takes (power or responsibility)
- 14 Doubt not, my lord, I'll play the orator As if the golden fee for which I plead Were for myself: and so, my lord,
adieu.
A. goodbye
B. hello
C. greetings
- 15 Do, good my lord; your citizens **entreat** you.
A. stop fighting
B. ask
C. make possible
- 16 I am unfit for state and majesty:—I do beseech you, take it not amiss: I cannot nor I will not **yield** to you.
A. select (on a computer screen)
B. give in, give way, or give up
C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 17 Ah, that thou wouldst as soon afford a grave As thou canst **yield** a melancholy seat!
A. produce or give
B. stop (something from happening)
C. think deeply or carefully about
- 18 Thou didst **usurp** my place,
A. seize or take control without authority
B. move from more general to more specific
C. not answer questions; or block progress
- 19 Madam, I have a touch of your condition
That cannot brook the accent of **reproof**.
A. criticism
B. main road
C. hard work
- 20 Infer fair England's peace by this alliance.
A. take up or receive into heaven
B. conclude or guess by reasoning
C. hire, reserve, book, or occupy

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	kindred	Used 8 times in this play.
2	A	beseech	Used 9 times in this play.
3	A	grievous	Used 8 times in this play.
4	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this play.
5	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 14 times in this play.
6	C	adversary	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this play.
7	B	peevish	Used 4 times in this play.
8	B	wretched	Used 9 times in this play.
9	B	dissemble	Used 5 times in this play.
10	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this play.
11	C	divine (<i>as in: to forgive is divine</i>)	3 meanings in this play.
12	A	divine (<i>as in: divined through intuition</i>)	3 meanings in this play.
13	A	censure	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
14	A	adieu	Used 4 times in this play.
15	B	entreat	Used 12 times in this play.
16	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
17	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
18	A	usurp	Used 9 times in this play.
19	A	reprove	Used 3 times in this play.
20	B	infer	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.