

The Odyssey

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 via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: afflict, ballad, beguile, deemed, devise, grievous, guile, harangue, heed, immortal, lament, mentor, moreover, perish, rouse, shamle, steadfast, unrequited, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Odyssey

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Odyssey

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She has been **afflicted** with migraines since childhood.
 - A. worried about
 - B. surprised by
 - C. made to suffer
2. The old **ballad** told the tragic tale of two lovers separated by war.
 - A. traditional short story
 - B. dramatic performance on stage
 - C. song that tells a story
3. She was wined, dined, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
 - A. forced
 - B. tricked
 - C. encouraged
4. The chemical was **deemed** unsafe to use in children's products.
 - A. judged
 - B. manufactured
 - C. tested
5. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
6. It is a **grievous** offense against morality.
 - A. serious
 - B. minor
 - C. foolish
7. She had the **guile** to lie directly to his face.
 - A. necessity
 - B. cunning and deceit
 - C. ambition
8. The class was subjected to a ten-minute **harangue** for not taking their homework more seriously.
 - A. assignment
 - B. lecture
 - C. delay
9. 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
10. She believes we have an **immortal** soul.
 - A. conflicted
 - B. perfect in every way
 - C. lasting forever
11. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about
12. The famous professor **mentored** her during her years in graduate school.
 - A. graded essays by
 - B. personally advised
 - C. lectured to

13. 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
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. After the long hike, he **shambled** into camp, shoulders slumped and feet dragging.
- A. walked in a proud way
 - B. walked in a shuffling way
 - C. walked in a quick way
17. Through years of friendship, her loyalty remained **steadfast**.
- A. occasionally wavering
 - B. firmly consistent
 - C. intensely enthusiastic
18. She suffers the despair of **unrequited** love.
- A. loss (through death)
 - B. unreturned
 - C. beyond normal limits
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 *There was some excuse for the error of critics who asked for a Homer in **ballad** rhyme.*
 - A. related to the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy
 - B. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
 - C. a song (or poem) that tells a story or expresses strong feelings -- typically slow in tempo
- 2 *For through the blindness of their own hearts they **perished**, fools, who devoured the oxen of Helios Hyperion: but the god took from them their day of returning.*
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - C. moved into position to work; or started
- 3 *Thinking upon him he spake out among the **Immortals**: 'Lo you now, how vainly mortal men do blame the gods!*
 - A. tiles designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - B. instances of taking on or adopting of power or responsibility
 - C. people who live forever OR people famous throughout history
- 4 *His daughter it is that holds the hapless man in sorrow: and ever with soft and **guileful** tales she is wooing him to forgetfulness of Ithaca.*
 - A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 - B. full of cunning (shrewdness and cleverness, and perhaps deceit)
 - C. capable of being better understood through detailed examination
- 5 *And he marked the thing and was amazed, for he **deemed** that it was a god; and anon he went among the wooers, a godlike man.*
 - A. believed or judged
 - B. wrongly understood
 - C. not disagreed with
- 6 *Then Antinous, son of Eupeithes, answered him: 'Telemachus, in very truth the gods themselves instruct thee to be proud of speech and boldly to **harangue**.*
 - A. removal of false belief that something is better than it is; or the disappointment from removal of such a belief
 - B. to try to persuade, or to criticize in an impassioned and often annoying manner; or a speech with such an intent
 - C. a deal where the accused pleads guilty to a lesser crime in return for a lighter punishment or dropped charges
- 7 *Moreover it is hard for me to make heavy restitution to Icarius, as needs I must, if of mine own will I send my mother away.*
 - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in addition to what has just been said
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 8 *I said that after sore **affliction**, with the loss of all his company, unknown to all, in the twentieth year he should come home.*
 - A. worry or concern about what will happen
 - B. the study of the origin of the universe
 - C. something that causes ongoing suffering
- 9 *So with that word he sat him down; then in the midst uprose **Mentor**, the companion of noble Odysseus.*
 - A. to gradually destroy or change the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
 - B. someone who guides and advises another who is less experienced; or the act of providing such guidance
 - C. a beam, bracket, or other structure supported only on one side; or to support something in that manner
- 10 *For nine whole years we were busy about them, **devising** their ruin with all manner of craft; and scarce did Cronion bring it to pass.*
 - A. making strips of hair lighter in color
 - B. coming up with (inventing or creating)
 - C. requiring (obligating) to do something

- 11 Who knows but that Odysseus may some day come and **requite** their violence, either himself alone or all the host of the Achaeans with him?
- A. think carefully
 - B. repay or return
 - C. strongly desire
- 12 So all the morning we waited with **steadfast** heart, and the seals came forth in troops from the brine, and then they couched them all orderly by the sea-beach.
- A. intensely enthusiastic
 - B. firmly consistent
 - C. occasionally wavering
- 13 'So spake he, but my spirit within me was broken, for that he bade me again to go to Aegyptus over the misty deep, a long and **grievous** way.
- A. very serious; or very bad
 - B. not tending to find fault
 - C. not able to be translated
- 14 And she sent it to the house of divine Odysseus to bid Penelope, amid her sorrow and **lamenting**, to cease from her weeping and tearful lamentation.
- A. stopping a battle or fight
 - B. changing through evolution
 - C. expressing grief or regret
- 15 So spake he, nor **heedless** was the messenger, the slayer of Argos.
- A. capable of thought, self-reflection, and will
 - B. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - C. ignorant or ignoring; or not following advice
- 16 And Odysseus of many counsels answered him saying: 'Thou too, my friend, all hail; and may the gods vouchsafe thee happiness, and mayst thou never miss this sword which thou hast given me, thou that with soft speech hast **yielded** me amends.'
- A. produced or gave
 - B. was attractive or desirable
 - C. not wanting to do something
- 17 But whensoever we Achaeans did battle on the plain of Troy, he never tarried behind in the throng or the press of men, but ran out far before us all, **yielding** to none in that might of his.
- A. showing, demonstrating, determining, or causing acceptance
 - B. giving in, giving up, or giving way (easily moved or soft)
 - C. placing trust (in someone) by talking about private things
- 18 There was much wine still a drinking, and still they slew many flocks of sheep by the seashore and kine with trailing feet and **shambling** gait.
- A. suggesting that someone was involved
 - B. walking in an awkward, shuffling way
 - C. blending three or more musical notes
- 19 First as she was washing clothes, one of them lay with her in love by the hollow ship, for love **beguiles** the minds of womankind, even of the upright.
- A. speaks in an ambiguous manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - B. to charm, enchant, or entertain someone; or to deceive -- especially through charm
 - C. designs based on alphabetic letters; or the addition of such a design to something
- 20 Therewith he **roused** Athene to yet greater eagerness, and from the peaks of Olympus she came glancing down.
- A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. explains something in a particular way
 - C. to awaken, make more active, or excite

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	ballad	Used 9 times in this book.
2	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 63 times in this book.
3	C	immortal	Used 33 times in this book.
4	B	guile	Used 24 times in this book.
5	A	deemed	Used 34 times in this book.
6	B	harangue	Used 16 times in this book.
7	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 37 times in this book.
8	C	afflict	Used 30 times in this book.
9	B	mentor	High-utility academic word; used 21 times in this book.
10	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 45 times in this book.
11	B	unrequited	Used 7 times in this book.
12	B	steadfast	Used 62 times in this book.
13	A	grievous	Used 30 times in this book.
14	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 42 times in this book.
15	C	heed	Used 35 times in this book.
16	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	shamble (<i>as in: she shambled along</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
19	B	beguile	Used 13 times in this book.
20	C	rouse	Used 28 times in this book.