

The Pearl

by John Steinbeck

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: appraise (2), baptism, contempt, deft, diffuse, disparage, essence, glimmer, lethargic, nevertheless, patron, petulant, probe, recede, strenuous, subjugate, subsequent, waver, writhe



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Pearl

by John Steinbeck

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Pearl

by John Steinbeck

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She hired a specialist to **appraise** the antique jewelry before selling it.
 - A. add detail to
 - B. assign a value to
 - C. take inventory of
2. I want to **appraise** the competition before I settle on a strategy.
 - A. evaluate
 - B. test
 - C. weaken
3. The baby's **baptism** took place at the local church on Sunday.
 - A. religious ceremony
 - B. first birthday party
 - C. doctor's appointment
4. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
5. She chopped the vegetables with **deft**, sure movements.
 - A. quick & skillful
 - B. small and firm
 - C. rotating
6. She helped **diffuse** his ideas throughout the school.
 - A. improve
 - B. discourage
 - C. spread
7. The victors write the history and **disparage** their enemies.
 - A. criticize
 - B. defeat
 - C. erase from history
8. The **essence** of friendship is trust, even more than shared interests.
 - A. most common activity
 - B. least noticeable detail
 - C. most important quality
9. In the pitch-black cave, the faint **glimmer** from our torch was the only source of light.
 - A. reddish-yellow
 - B. undependable
 - C. dim, wavering light
10. Large lunches make me feel **lethargic** in the afternoon.
 - A. sluggish
 - B. upset
 - C. energetic
11. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
12. A wealthy **patron** donated millions to fund young artists in the city.
 - A. critic
 - B. supporter
 - C. neighbor

13. The **petulant** child threw his toys whenever he didn't get his way.
- A. cheerful
 - B. cranky
 - C. hungry
14. The committee will **probe** the cause of the failure.
- A. investigate
 - B. make better
 - C. make worse
15. The pain is beginning to **recede**.
- A. get worse
 - B. return again
 - C. diminish (decrease)
16. Landscaping is **strenuous** work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot
17. The Taliban wants total **subjugation** to their religious law.
- A. body temperature that is dangerously low
 - B. forced submission
 - C. gullibility (being too willing to believe)
18. The results of the initial investigation were unclear, but a **subsequent** investigation concluded that she used good judgment.
- A. thorough
 - B. official
 - C. following
19. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
- A. speak forcefully
 - B. grow rapidly
 - C. be unsteady
20. She **writhed** on the sidewalk begging that someone call an ambulance.
- A. cried and whimpered
 - B. yelled loudly
 - C. twisted and turned

Vocabulary in Context

The Pearl

by John Steinbeck

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 Behind him Juana's fire leaped into flame and threw spears of light through the chinks of the brush-house wall and threw a **wavering** square of light out the door.
 - A. thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - B. returning to an undesirable previous condition
 - C. moving back and forth; or being unsure or weak
- 2 They made a quick soft-footed procession into the center of the town, first Juana and Kino, and behind them Juan Tomas and Apolonia, her big stomach jiggling with the **strenuous** pace, then all the neighbours with the children trotting on the flanks.
 - A. able to be stopped from happening
 - B. difficult (requiring much effort)
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 3 looked quickly at Juana's old blue skirt, saw the tears in her shawl, **appraised** the green ribbon on her braids, read...
 - A. considered in a comprehensive way
 - B. donated a portion of one's income to a church
 - C. caused to happen or occurred as a consequence
- 4 I am only an **appraiser**.
 - A. someone who grants a favor to someone
 - B. one who places a value on things
 - C. someone who believes in multiple gods
- 5 The doctor had once for a short time been a part of the great world and his whole **subsequent** life was memory and longing for France.
 - A. able to take on or adopt
 - B. the state of being awake
 - C. following something else
- 6 Kino **deftly** slipped his knife into the edge of the shell.
 - A. quick and skillful
 - B. with strong desire
 - C. in a sloped manner
- 7 The lip-like flesh **writhed** up and then subsided.
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
 - C. moved in a twisting or contorted motion
- 8 The news came to these men, and their eyes squinted and their finger-tips burned a little, and each one thought how the **patron** could not live forever and someone had to take his place.
 - A. someone who speaks in an ambiguous manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - B. a regular customer; or someone who gives money or support to an organization, cause, or person
 - C. someone with delusions of grandeur (the belief that they are much more important than they are)
- 9 The **essence** of pearl mixed with essence of men and a curious dark residue was precipitated.
 - A. any of the military expeditions in the 11th to 13th centuries when Christian powers of Europe invaded Muslims in the Holy Land in the Middle East
 - B. one who believes in an economic system based on voluntary exchange in a competitive environment with private ownership of property and businesses
 - C. the defining or most important quality of something

or:

a extract that concentrates important qualities of something such as smell or taste

- 10 *And this is said in **disparagement**, whereas it is one of the greatest talents the species has and one that has made it superior to animals that are satisfied with what they have.*
- A. the act of criticizing
 - B. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 11 *His eyes and his mind **probed** for danger before it appeared.*
- A. searched (investigated)
 - B. concentrated
 - C. bounced back
- 12 *Kino stood in the door, filling it, and hatred raged and flamed in back of his eyes, and fear too, for the hundreds of years of **subjugation** were cut deep in him.*
- A. to express strong hatred or loathing for
 - B. forced submission to another's dominance
 - C. devices that turn light into electricity
- 13 *the tone of the **diffused** green light of the sea bottom.*
- A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 - B. began speaking with someone about something
 - C. faintly dispersed (spread without being concentrated or bright in any one area)
- 14 *...and she dressed Coyotito in the clothes she had prepared for his **baptism**,*
- A. a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth
 - B. one of two defensive players who line up closest to the sideline to defend against passes -- especially to the wide receivers
 - C. something created -- typically a work of music or writing; or the act of creating such a work; or the structure of such a work
- 15 *The first dealer, dry and stringy, seemed now to see the pearl for the first time. He took it up, rolled it quickly between thumb and forefinger, and then cast it **contemptuously** back into the tray.*
- A. done on purpose
 - B. showing disrespect and dislike for it
 - C. in a sad manner
- 16 *A **lethargy** had settled on him, and a little gray hopelessness.*
- A. lack of energy
 - B. not appropriate or not properly related in size, amount, or degree
 - C. the quality or degree of the involvement of other people or things
- 17 *And he could smell the sharp odour of exposed kelp from the **receding** tide.*
- A. opposing (struggling against each other)
 - B. examining in detail to better understand
 - C. retreating (moving away)
- 18 *And the baby was weary and **petulant**, and he cried softly until Juana gave him her breast,*
- A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 - B. unreasonably upset
 - C. not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention
- 19 *Everyone in La Paz remembers the return of the family; there may be some old ones who saw it, but those whose fathers and whose grandfathers told it to them remember it **nevertheless**.*
- A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 20 *Kino and Juana watched it go, winking and **glimmering** under the setting sun.*
- A. making strips of hair lighter in color
 - B. requiring (obligating) to do something
 - C. shining (with a dim or wavering light)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Pearl

by John Steinbeck

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	B	strenuous	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	A	appraise (<i>as in: appraise the situation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
4	B	appraise (<i>as in: appraise value or worth</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	C	subsequent	High-utility academic word
6	A	deft	Used 2 times in this book.
7	C	writhe	Used 2 times in this book.
8	B	patron (<i>as in: a patron of the arts</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
9	C	essence	Used 2 times in this book.
10	A	disparage	High-utility academic word
11	A	probe	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	subjugate	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
13	C	diffuse	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	baptism	Used 3 times in this book.
15	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
16	A	lethargic	High-utility academic word
17	C	recede	Used 4 times in this book.
18	B	petulant	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
20	C	glimmer (<i>as in: glimmering lights</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.