

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster

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: accompany (2), accustom, adept, anguish, assortment, banish, confide, continuous, controversy, disdain, indignant, inquire, macabre, malice, monotonous, ominous, strenuous, trivia, unkempt



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Will you **accompany** her to the party?
 - A. follow
 - B. precede
 - C. go with
2. The exact numbers are shown in the **accompanying** table.
 - A. provided together
 - B. informative
 - C. previously published
3. Actors and politicians are **accustomed** to less privacy than the rest of us.
 - A. used to
 - B. happy with
 - C. paid for
4. She is **adept** with a soccer ball.
 - A. clumsy
 - B. surprising
 - C. skillful
5. Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - A. extreme solitude
 - B. extreme distress
 - C. extreme depression
6. An **assortment** of students gathered after school—some studying, others just chatting.
 - A. small group
 - B. variety
 - C. large group
7. I tried to **banish** the thought from my mind.
 - A. understand
 - B. collect
 - C. send away
8. She **confided** in her parents.
 - A. trusted
 - B. didn't trust
 - C. was proud
9. Alternating walk and rest was more beneficial than continuous walking for people with Type 2 diabetes.
 - A. occasional
 - B. scheduled
 - C. uninterrupted
10. She withdrew from nomination due to the **controversy** surrounding her taxes.
 - A. quiet meeting
 - B. minor question
 - C. public dispute
11. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. humility
 - C. intense anger

12. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
- A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
13. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
- A. answer questions
 - B. ask about
 - C. perform a task
14. The story had a **macabre** ending, with ghosts gathering beside the grave.
- A. cheerful and playful
 - B. grim and death-related
 - C. plain and realistic
15. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
16. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, **monotonous** roads.
- A. dark
 - B. narrow
 - C. boring
17. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
18. Landscaping is **strenuous** work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot
19. The pub night featured **trivia** about movies from the 1980s.
- A. obscure little facts
 - B. deeply held secrets
 - C. wildly bold claims
20. The feral cat had an **unkempt** appearance.
- A. dangerous or frightening
 - B. hungry or pitiful
 - C. not neat or cared for

Vocabulary in Context

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 "What kind of a place is Expectations'?" **inquired** Milo, unable to see the humor and feeling very doubtful of the little man's sanity.
 - A. limited or with boundaries
 - B. asked about or looked into
 - C. gradually added or removed
- 2 The sky became quite gray and, along with it, the whole countryside seemed to lose its color and assume the same **monotonous** tone.
 - A. increasingly more frightening and/or dangerous
 - B. interesting and/or stimulating
 - C. lacking in variety and/or boring
- 3 "That's a ridiculous law," said Milo, quite **indignantly**.
 - A. with anger or annoyance at something unjust or wrong
 - B. with surprise as something unexpected
 - C. with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 4 Milo and Tock wandered up and down the aisles looking at the wonderful **assortment** of words for sale.
 - A. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
 - B. a collection containing a variety of a sort of a thing
 - C. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
- 5 Then one day I realized that I'd never amount to anything without an education and, being naturally **adept** at spelling, I decided that—
 - A. absolute
 - B. pleasing
 - C. skillful
- 6 "I'm Faintly **Macabre**, the not-so-wicked Which," she continued, "and I'm certainly not going to harm you."
 - A. acceptance of what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly
 - B. disturbing and related to death or horror -- especially in a grim or eerie way
 - C. the state of being a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance
- 7 Everyone loved the princesses because of their great beauty, their gentle ways, and their ability to settle all **controversies** fairly and reasonably.
 - A. psychiatrists
 - B. fat compounds
 - C. disagreements
- 8 People with problems or grievances or arguments came from all over the land to seek advice, and even the two brothers, who by this time were fighting **continuously**, often called upon them to help decide matters of state.
 - A. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
 - B. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
 - C. continuing in time or space without interruption or irregularity
- 9 We'll **banish** them from the kingdom forever.
 - A. gain advantage from
 - B. influence or effect
 - C. expel or get rid of
- 10 Tock growled **ominously**; for he hated even the thought of demons.
 - A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
 - B. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
 - C. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
- 11 Milo and Tock stood blinking in the bright light and, as their eyes became **accustomed** to it, the first things they saw were the king's advisers again rushing toward them.
 - A. used to (adapted to something, so it seems normal)
 - B. the ability to be taken up or received into heaven
 - C. the state or character of being good or beneficial

- 12 "You will, of course, need a guide," said the king, "and, since he knows the obstacles so well, the Humbug has cheerfully volunteered to **accompany** you."
- A. differ; or change
 - B. influence opinion
 - C. travel with
- 13 "AS LOUD AS POSSIBLE," bellowed the doctor and two screeches and a bump **accompanied** his response.
- A. occurred at the same time as
 - B. exercised privileges to which one is not entitled
 - C. having multiple areas of control or concentration
- 14 Over the Humbug's **strenuous** objections, Milo and Tuck decided to swim, and, protesting loudly, the bug was dragged along with them toward the sea.
- A. able to be stopped from happening
 - B. difficult (requiring much effort)
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 15 "I usually use one at a time," he **confided**, as all but the smiling one disappeared again.
- A. placed trust (in someone) by talking about private things
 - B. viewed in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
 - C. made a decision or voiced an opinion by formal group vote
- 16 "FAMINE!" roared the **anguished** Humbug, who suddenly realized that that was exactly what he'd eaten twenty-three bowls of.
- A. not having begun speaking with someone about something
 - B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress (of body or mind)
 - C. entered another's property without right or permission
- 17 "Here are your sights, here are your sounds, and here," he said, handing Milo the last of them **disdainfully**, "are your words."
- A. with a lack of respect; or with a sense of superiority
 - B. in a manner that is aware or concerned about something
 - C. without concern for what others might think of oneself
- 18 He had a sharp, dangerous beak, and the one eye he chose to open stared down **maliciously**.
- A. in a manner that makes someone excited about getting something
 - B. in a brave manner -- especially when adventurous or determined
 - C. with a desire to see others suffer; or in a threatening manner
- 19 I am the Terrible **Trivium**, demon of petty tasks and worthless jobs, ogre of wasted effort, and monster of habit.
- A. a fact or bit of information that is generally considered unimportant
 - B. highly contagious respiratory disease commonly called *the flu*
 - C. a psychological disorder characterized by excessive distrust of others
- 20 He was an incredible size even sitting down, with long **unkempt** hair, bulging eyes, and a shape hardly worth speaking of.
- A. completely or totally
 - B. exactly or accurately
 - C. not neat or cared for

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	inquire	Used 14 times in this book.
2	C	monotonous	Used 2 times in this book.
3	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
4	B	assortment	Used 8 times in this book.
5	C	adept	High-utility academic word
6	B	macabre	Used 3 times in this book.
7	C	controversy	High-utility academic word
8	C	continuous	Used 3 times in this book.
9	C	banish	Used 7 times in this book.
10	A	ominous	Used 10 times in this book.
11	A	accustom	Used 3 times in this book.
12	C	accompany (<i>as in: accompany on the journey</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	accompany (<i>as in: the accompanying chart</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	strenuous	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	confide	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	B	anguish	Used 4 times in this book.
17	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	A	trivia	Used 7 times in this book.
20	C	unkempt	Used 2 times in this book.