

The Piano Lesson

by August Wilson

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: abide, baptism, brash, congregation, dominate, empower, fervor, fraught, genuine, harmonious, liable, pawn shop, peril, portent, prominent, refuge, render, righteous, sparse, vigor



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The song is called "Abide With Me."
A. tolerate
B. live
C. grow
2. The baby's **baptism** took place at the local church on Sunday.
A. religious ceremony
B. first birthday party
C. doctor's appointment
3. His **brash** comments impressed some people but offended others.
A. quiet and careful
B. sad and lonely
C. bold and rude
4. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
A. people who agree
B. people who worship together
C. people who meet periodically
5. She completely **dominates** her boyfriend.
A. worships
B. obeys
C. controls
6. The commission was **empowered** to redraw voting districts.
A. not allowed
B. allowed
C. ordered
7. She spoke about her cause with great **fervor**.
A. calm boredom
B. strong passion
C. mild dislike
8. The work is **fraught** with difficulty.
A. preceded
B. filled
C. followed
9. She has a **genuine** interest in each of her students.
A. sincere (real)
B. fake
C. generous (giving)
10. The band's practice sessions don't sound very **harmonious**.
A. pleasing
B. impressive
C. loud
11. She's not **liable** to forget something that important.
A. the state or degree of being less than zero
B. the state or degree of being bad or harmful
C. likely
12. The **pawn shop** wanted to charge too much interest.
A. a lender that does all business over the internet
B. a lender that holds personal property as collateral
C. a shop that sells household goods via monthly payments

13. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
A. fame
B. danger
C. weariness
14. The sudden appearance of dark clouds served as a **portent** of the impending storm.
A. darkness
B. sign
C. beginning
15. The most **prominent** feature of the new building is its height.
A. easily noticed
B. expensive
C. hard-to-see
16. She took **refuge** from the sun under a beautiful oak tree.
A. protection
B. shade
C. warmth
17. The face of the child is **rendered** with much tenderness in this painting.
A. depicted or created with more detail than normal
B. created in a manner that will always be remembered
C. portrayed or created in a particular way
18. Our cause is **righteous**.
A. morally correct
B. logically correct
C. emotionally pleasing
19. The desert had **sparse** vegetation, with only a few hardy plants scattered about.
A. lush and thick
B. thinly scattered
C. neatly arranged
20. The scientist pursued her research with **vigor**, determined to make a breakthrough discovery.
A. outside help
B. energy and strength
C. persistent patience

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 The house is **sparsely** furnished, and although there is evidence of a woman's touch, there is a lack of warmth and vigor.
 - A. in a manner that is not aware of something
 - B. in a manner that is not dense or is few in number
 - C. in a manner that is loving, but not sexual
- 2 The house is **sparsely** furnished, and although there is evidence of a woman's touch, there is a lack of warmth and vigor.
 - A. lacking things most people enjoy
 - B. strength, energy, or good health
 - C. opposed to people who are Jewish
- 3 Doaker's room is **prominent** and opens onto the kitchen.
 - A. central
 - B. representative
 - C. very important
- 4 **Dominating** the parlor is an old upright piano.
 - A. speaking in an ambiguous manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - B. pausing to change how something is done -- often while reducing the use of resources
 - C. most conspicuous in
- 5 The carvings are **rendered** with a grace and power of invention that lifts them out of the realm of craftsmanship and into the realm of art.
 - A. changed the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening
 - B. directed energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - C. portrayed or created (in a particular way)
- 6 A stillness that is a **portent**, a gathering, a coming together of something akin to a storm.
 - A. a basic building block for proteins
 - B. a sign of something about to happen
 - C. someone who believe in a single God
- 7 He is **brash** and impulsive, talkative and somewhat crude in speech and manner.
 - A. the quality or degree of straightness, or absence of anything in between
 - B. made by humans -- often to replace something that can be found in nature
 - C. bold or self-confident in a manner that seems disrespectful or tasteless
- 8 They sing in **harmony** with great fervor and style.
 - A. in a pleasing manner (through the combination of different notes)
 - B. of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
 - C. a streak of light in the sky caused by a small space rock burning up in Earth's atmosphere
- 9 They sing in **harmony** with great fervor and style.
 - A. chaotic disorder
 - B. intense feelings
 - C. risky investment
- 10 I thought you took that suit to the **pawnshop**?
 - A. a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies to protect against a disease
 - B. a shop that offers loans to individuals who use their personal property as collateral
 - C. the amount of money paid as earnings for each share of stock (usually paid quarterly)
- 11 That's one hundred percent **genuine** silk.
 - A. real
 - B. city
 - C. lazy
- 12 The Bible say, "The Lord is my **refuge** . . . and my strength!"
 - A. something giving protection
 - B. a ceiling designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - C. a person (often a writer or artist) living an unconventional life

- 13 *She been baptized.*
A. "spiritually renewed" in a Christian ceremony
B. expressed personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work
C. directed energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
- 14 *I'm getting more people in my congregation every day.*
A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
B. people who worship together in the same building
C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 15 *May this vial of water be empowered with thy spirit.*
A. not allowed
B. given power
C. commanded or ordered
- 16 *May each drop of it be a weapon and a shield against the presence of all evil and may it be a cleansing and blessing of this humble abode.*
A. didn't trust or have confidence in
B. a place where one lives
C. fruit cooked with sugar (like jam)
- 17 *Get thee behind the face of Righteousness as we Glorify His Holy Name!*
A. morally correct behavior
B. social event or ceremony
C. Islamic religious leader
- 18 *It is a life-and-death struggle fraught with perils and faultless terror.*
A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
B. full of negative things; or marked by or causing distress
C. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
- 19 *It is a life-and-death struggle fraught with perils and faultless terror.*
A. allowed
B. dangers
C. attacks
- 20 *BOY WILLIE: Hey Bernieceif you and Maretha don't keep playing on that piano ...ain't no telling ...me and Sutter both liable to be back.*
A. devices that convert light into electricity
B. temperature scale used in most of the world
C. likely to; or maybe going to; or subject to

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	sparse	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	B	vigor	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	A	prominent (<i>as in: a prominent place on the shelf</i>)	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	C	dominate	High-utility academic word
5	C	render (<i>as in: rendered interpretation</i>)	High-utility academic word
6	B	portent	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
7	C	brash (<i>as in: brash behavior</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
8	A	harmonious (<i>as in: soothing, harmonious music</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	B	fervor	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	pawn shop	Used 2 times in this play.
11	A	genuine	High-utility academic word
12	A	refuge	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	A	baptism	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
15	B	empower	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	abide (<i>as in: abide in the forest</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	A	righteous (<i>as in: a righteous cause</i>)	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	fraught	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
19	B	peril	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	C	liable (<i>as in: she is liable to</i>)	Used 12 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.