

The Picture of Dorian Gray

by Oscar Wilde

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: censure, discord (2), divine, grotesque, infamous, inquest, languid, listless, loathe, melancholy, opera, pallid, pathos, philanthropy, reproach, tedious, temperament, tremulous, vulgar



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
 - criticism
 - anger
 - disinterest
- There is too much **discord** in their home.
 - conflict
 - loud noise
 - uncritical agreement
- She heard the **discordant** clanging of pots in the kitchen.
 - unpleasant sound
 - attractive sound
 - loud sound
- The King claimed a **divine** right.
 - perfect or wonderful
 - from birth
 - coming from God
- The disease causes **grotesque** deformity.
 - hidden (internal)
 - as from aging
 - ugly or distorted
- She mentioned Nixon's **infamous** firing of the Attorney General.
 - famous (for something clever)
 - famous (for something bad)
 - famous (for something daring)
- A coroner's **inquest** determined that the death was from natural causes.
 - formal investigation
 - vote
 - assistant
- She greeted us with a **languid** wave of the hand.
 - quick and sharp
 - slow and relaxed
 - stiff and formal
- She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
 - unenergetic
 - frustrated
 - lonely
- I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
 - fear
 - avoid
 - hate
- This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring.
 - happy
 - sad
 - feel like singing
- We're going to the **opera** this evening.
 - musical theater performance
 - outdoor sporting event
 - casual dinner gathering

13. The patient's **pallid** complexion alarmed the nurse on duty.
- A. deeply flushed
 - B. unhealthily pale
 - C. heavily wrinkled
14. The poem captured the **pathos** of wartime loss.
- A. cheerful spirit
 - B. moving sadness
 - C. angry tone
15. The billionaire's **philanthropy** supported hospitals around the world.
- A. selfish hoarding
 - B. charitable giving
 - C. loud boasting
16. Don't **reproach** yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
 - B. criticize
 - C. accept honor for
17. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it **tedious**.
- A. stressful
 - B. punishing
 - C. boring
18. Her calm **temperament** helped her stay patient during the long delay.
- A. formal training
 - B. usual nature
 - C. sudden mistake
19. She tried to sound confident, but her voice was **tremulous**.
- A. grating (rough)
 - B. frail (weak or soft)
 - C. quivering (shaky)
20. His **vulgar** jokes embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner party.
- A. stale
 - B. crude
 - C. clever

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 "It is your best work, Basil, the best thing you have ever done," said Lord Henry, **languidly**.
 - A. in a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - B. without much energy; or moving slowly or in a relaxed manner
 - C. always; or (said in exaggeration when meaning) almost always
- 2 You are too charming to go in for **philanthropy**, Mr. Gray,--far too charming.
 - A. opinion of what is good and bad about something
 - B. helping others
 - C. the majority denomination of Islam (almost 90%)
- 3 Dorian Gray lifted his golden head from the pillow, and looked at him with **pallid** face and tear-stained eyes, as he walked over to the deal painting-table that was set beneath the large curtained window.
 - A. mental weakness caused by old age; or describing a medical condition as caused by old age
 - B. abnormally pale (lacking healthy skin color); or anything that lacks energy or liveliness
 - C. relating to a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen
- 4 They were as **grotesque** as the scenery, and that looked as if it had come out of a pantomime of fifty years ago.
 - A. clarifies (makes clear)
 - B. beautifies
 - C. distorted and unnatural in shape or size -- especially in a disturbing way

or:

ugly, gross, or very wrong
- 5 You said to me once that **pathos** left you unmoved, but that beauty, mere beauty, could fill your eyes with tears.
 - A. the study of how we know what we know
 - B. a quality that arouses pity or sorrow
 - C. a neurotransmitter found in the brain
- 6 In the garden-scene it had all the **tremulous** ecstasy that one hears just before dawn when nightingales are singing.
 - A. marvelous (wonderful)
 - B. vigorous (strong)
 - C. quivering (shaky)
- 7 ...she is absolutely and entirely **divine**.
 - A. the quality of being sensible and careful
 - B. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
 - C. wonderful
- 8 --to observe where they met, and where they separated, at what point they were in unison, and at what point they were at **discord**,
 - A. conflict (disagreement)
 - B. characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open
 - C. design based on alphabetic letters; or adding such a design to something
- 9 Their voices were horribly shrill and **discordant**.
 - A. unpleasant sounding (especially in combination)
 - B. able to be found
 - C. likely to change
- 10 Still, there are certain **temperaments** that marriage makes more complex.
 - A. things taken on or adopted
 - B. usual moods and tendencies
 - C. reason for doing something

- 11 *Yet she was curiously listless.*
A. lacking energy and normal enthusiasm
B. lacking a reason for doing something
C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 12 *Would it teach him to loathe his own soul?*
A. draw
B. quit
C. hate
- 13 *There will have to be an inquest, of course, and you must not be mixed up in it.*
A. formal investigation
B. basic rule or belief
C. the act of forgiving
- 14 *"You have done too many foolish things in your life to be entitled to give yourself that name, Dorian," answered Lord Henry, with his sweet, melancholy smile.*
A. relating to the outside
B. a sad feeling or manner
C. about (but not exactly)
- 15 *They are good husbands, or faithful wives, or something tedious.*
A. sensible and careful
B. not demonstrative of
C. boring
- 16 *He could not bear the idea of reproaching him any more.*
A. disagreeing
B. criticizing
C. translating
- 17 *There was something so crude and vulgar about everything of the kind.*
A. increasing reason or general desire to do something
B. of bad taste
C. the state of being unaware of one's mental activity
- 18 *Women who had wildly adored him, and for his sake had braved all social censure and set convention at defiance, were seen to grow pallid with shame or horror if Dorian Gray entered the room.*
A. criticism
B. find, search, or research
C. being a boundary or limit
- 19 *don't tell me that you are infamous!*
A. lacking a reason for doing something
B. have an exceedingly bad reputation
C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 20 *They ... used to be always seen together at the Opera, and wherever good music was going on.*
A. performances of classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	languid	Used 6 times in this book.
2	B	philanthropy	Used 3 times in this book.
3	B	pallid	Used 8 times in this book.
4	C	grotesque	Used 6 times in this book.
5	B	pathos	Used 4 times in this book.
6	C	tremulous	Used 6 times in this book.
7	C	divine (<i>as in: to forgive is divine</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
8	A	discord (<i>as in: discord amongst the group</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	A	discord (<i>as in: discordant music</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	B	temperament (<i>as in: it is her temperament</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
11	A	listless	Used 6 times in this book.
12	C	loathe	Used 14 times in this book.
13	A	inquest	Used 6 times in this book.
14	B	melancholy	Used 5 times in this book.
15	C	tedious	Used 7 times in this book.
16	B	reproach	Used 5 times in this book.
17	B	vulgar	Used 10 times in this book.
18	A	censure	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	B	infamous	Used 6 times in this book.
20	A	opera	Used 14 times in this book.