

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

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: censure, discord (2), grotesque, inquest, languid, listless, loathe, opera, paradox, pathos, peril, philanthropy, subtle (2), tedious, temperament, tremulous, vulgar, wrought



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY
Vocabulary Preview
The Picture of Dorian Gray
by Oscar Wilde

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

Vocabulary Preview
The Picture of Dorian Gray

by Oscar Wilde

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
 - A. criticism
 - B. anger
 - C. disinterest
2. There is too much **discord** in their home.
 - A. conflict
 - B. loud noise
 - C. uncritical agreement
3. She heard the **discordant** clanging of pots in the kitchen.
 - A. unpleasant sound
 - B. attractive sound
 - C. loud sound
4. The disease causes **grotesque** deformity.
 - A. hidden (internal)
 - B. as from aging
 - C. ugly or distorted
5. A coroner's **inquest** determined that the death was from natural causes.
 - A. formal investigation
 - B. vote
 - C. assistant
6. She greeted us with a **languid** wave of the hand.
 - A. quick and sharp
 - B. slow and relaxed
 - C. stiff and formal
7. She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
 - A. unenergetic
 - B. frustrated
 - C. lonely
8. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
 - A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
9. We're going to the **opera** this evening.
 - A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
10. Her life was a **paradox**: she was both incredibly private and a bestselling memoirist.
 - A. something that seems self-contradictory
 - B. something that went as expected
 - C. something that is too short
11. The poem captured the **pathos** of wartime loss.
 - A. cheerful spirit
 - B. moving sadness
 - C. angry tone
12. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
 - A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness

13. The billionaire's philanthropy supported hospitals around the world.
- A. selfish hoarding
 - B. charitable giving
 - C. loud boasting
14. It is a **subtle** poison. In small doses, it might never be detected, but eventually your heart will fail.
- A. hard to notice
 - B. powerful
 - C. painless
15. She has a good eye for **subtle** differences in color.
- A. contrasting
 - B. complementary
 - C. minor
16. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it **tedious**.
- A. stressful
 - B. punishing
 - C. boring
17. Her calm **temperament** helped her stay patient during the long delay.
- A. formal training
 - B. usual nature
 - C. sudden mistake
18. She tried to sound confident, but her voice was **tremulous**.
- A. grating (rough)
 - B. frail (weak or soft)
 - C. quivering (shaky)
19. His **vulgar** jokes embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner party.
- A. stale
 - B. crude
 - C. clever
20. She wore a hand-wrought silver bracelet.
- A. worked
 - B. size
 - C. encircling

Vocabulary in Context
The Picture of Dorian Gray
by Oscar Wilde

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *In the grass, white daisies were **tremulous**.*
 - A. marvelous (wonderful)
 - B. vigorous (strong)
 - C. quivering (shaky)
- 2 *the loveliness and **subtleties** of certain colours*
 - A. a noticeable red (or brown) discolorations of sea water caused by excessive growth of microscopic algae
 - B. things said or done that are disrespectful of something considered sacred -- especially God or religion
 - C. slightly noticeable differences
- 3 *There were poisons so **subtle** that to know their properties one had to sicken of them.*
 - A. hidden in the way they work
 - B. lacking a reason for doing something
 - C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 4 *The two men sauntered **languidly** to the table*
 - A. in a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - B. moving slowly
 - C. always; or (said in exaggeration when meaning) almost always
- 5 *Philanthropic people lose all sense of humanity.*
 - A. unable to find
 - B. those who help others -- especially by donating money
 - C. representative
- 6 *"Paradoxes are all very well in their way..." rejoined the Baronet.*
 - A. situations or statements that may be true but are surprising or seem impossible because parts of them seem to contradict each other
 - B. classical musical forms in which a theme is introduced and then extended and developed through some number of successive imitations
 - C. diplomats appointed by their government to protect the government's commercial interests and help its citizens in a foreign country
- 7 *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
- 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 *The waving of crooked, false-jewelled fingers gave **grotesqueness** to the words.*
 - A. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - B. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
 - C. distorted and unnatural in shape or size -- especially in a disturbing way

or:

ugly, gross, or very wrong

- 11 He was conscious also of the shallowness and vanity of his mother's nature, and in that saw infinite **peril** for Sibyl and Sibyl's happiness.
- A. useful
 - B. danger
 - C. allows
- 12 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
- 13 Would it teach him to **loathe** his own soul?
- A. draw
 - B. quit
 - C. hate
- 14 The screen was an old one, of gilt Spanish leather, stamped and **wrought** with a rather florid Louis-Quatorze pattern.
- A. worked (decoratively crafted)
 - B. provided investment funds for something -- such as a business
 - C. wanting to do something; or made someone want to do something
- 15 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
- 16 "I don't feel up to it," said Dorian, **listlessly**.
- A. with a lack of energy and normal enthusiasm
 - B. in a manner that stops or hinders something
 - C. in a manner involving only one part or side
- 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 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
- 20 it was certainly a **tedious** party.
- A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. boring

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Picture of Dorian Gray

by Oscar Wilde

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