

The Prairie

by James Fenimore Cooper

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: abstracted (2), allude, countenance, cunning, denotes, endeavor, establish (2), indolent, manifest, notwithstanding, precede, prudent, recollect, remonstrate, squatter, trifle, trifle with, venerable



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She had an **abstracted** look.
 - A. beautiful
 - B. questioning
 - C. distracted
2. A water **abstraction** license is required.
 - A. removal
 - B. knowledge
 - C. of the sea
3. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
4. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
5. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
6. In algebra, letters often denote unknown numbers in equations.
 - A. scatter
 - B. represent
 - C. confuse
7. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
8. Which word choice would help to establish a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
9. The sixth paragraph (lines 67-68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
10. She is too **indolent** for med school.
 - A. calm
 - B. lazy
 - C. kind
11. Her program has been a **manifest** failure. Everyone is trying to blame someone else for it.
 - A. sudden
 - B. obvious
 - C. surprising

12. The budget was approved, notwithstanding the loud protests from the opposition.
- A. in spite of
 - B. as a result of
 - C. in addition to
13. In English, most adjectives precede the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
14. Courage is dangerous without prudence.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
15. I don't recollect her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
16. The lawyers will remonstrate that we're starting without a written agreement, but we trust each other.
- A. promise
 - B. protest
 - C. explain
17. In a few jurisdictions, squatters can gain legal title to property if they meet a series of requirements for a long enough period of time.
- A. illegal tenants
 - B. thieves
 - C. needy people
18. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
19. The European Parliament refuses to be trifled with.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with
20. Many were surprised that a venerable institution like Bear Stearns could so rapidly go out of business.
- A. large and successful
 - B. long respected
 - C. popular

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 man, who had manifested so hostile an intention, appeared to understand the other's **allusion**, and suffered himself to be diverted from his object.
 - A. a nerve or brain cell
 - B. an indirect reference
 - C. long eventful journey
- 2 Presently its proportions became more distinct, and then an airy, female form appeared to hesitate, as if considering whether it would be **prudent** to advance.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 3 ...she rather **manifested** the quality of impatience, than any feeling of alarm.
 - A. unrecognized difference
 - B. showed
 - C. did in a particular way
- 4 **Notwithstanding** the surprise and the disadvantage of his attitude, the youth was not disposed to become a captive so easily.
 - A. used to show that something remains true even though something else seems to go against it
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 5 "Well, since it is your wish, Ellen," returned the youth, **endeavouring** to swallow his spleen, "I will make the trial; though, as you ought to know, it is part of the religion of a Kentuckian to fret himself a little at a mischance."
 - A. working or operating
 - B. believing or judging
 - C. trying or attempting
- 6 "They have robbed the **squatter** of his beasts!" said the attentive trapper.
 - A. someone who lives in an unoccupied place without the legal right
 - B. a group formed to discuss or offer insight on a particular topic
 - C. to constrain in some way -- such as tie up, require, or obligate
- 7 Several shots in quick succession, each sending its dangerous messenger, still nearer than the **preceding** discharge, cut short her speech, no less in prudence than in terror.
 - A. beginning to fight again
 - B. influencing or effecting
 - C. prior (in time or space)
- 8 How well these **indolent** watchers discharged their duties, after the assault, has never been known, inasmuch as nothing occurred to confirm or to disprove their subsequent vigilance.
 - A. unfocused
 - B. lazy
 - C. impulsive
- 9 He was interrupted by another burst of merriment from Ellen, which served, in some measure, to recall him to his **recollection**.
 - A. battle
 - B. result
 - C. memory
- 10 Before time was given for a word of **remonstrance**, it had sent forth its contents, in its usual streak of bright flame.
 - A. someone who expresses disapproval
 - B. argument in protest or opposition
 - C. the act of recognizing difference

- 11 *The Doctor, whose observation of the bee-hunter had hitherto been exceedingly cursory, stared at the new speaker with a look which **denoted** something like recognition.*
- A. with rises and falls in pitch
 - B. stand for or symbolize literally; or be a sign or indicator of
 - C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 12 *"Then Nelly has not done me credit for what I trust I deserve," returned the single-minded Doctor, "for I am not of the phlebotomising school at all; greatly preferring the practice which purifies the blood instead of **abstracting** it."*
- A. removing
 - B. not real
 - C. allowing
- 13 *"Rising of the sun!" slowly repeated the old man, lifting his tall person from its seat with a deliberate and **abstracted** air, while he kept his eye riveted on the changing, and certainly beautiful tints, that were garnishing the vault of Heaven.*
- A. in whatever way
 - B. firm in purpose
 - C. distracted (not getting his full attention)
- 14 *But why do I find you, **venerable** and excellent friend of my parents, in these wastes, so far from the comforts and safety of the lower country?*
- A. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - B. respected (worthy of respect) -- typically because of age or position
 - C. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 15 *"I know not," said Middleton, beginning to tire of the fellow's **trifling**: "courage?"*
- A. moving out of an interacting position; or stopping
 - B. canceling or annulling a formal ruling or contract
 - C. something of small importance; or a small quantity
- 16 *Mankind twist and turn the rules of the Lord, to suit their own wickedness, when their devilish cunning has had too much time to **trifle with** His commands.*
- A. treat thoughtlessly or without respect
 - B. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - C. injured muscles or tendons of the back
- 17 *When this equivocal species of amity was **established** between the warrior of the prairies and the experienced old trapper, the latter proceeded to give his directions to Paul, concerning the arrangements of the contemplated halt.*
- A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. created
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 18 *"I am but an infant," he commenced, looking furtively around him, in order to detect how far his well-**established** character for prudence and courage contradicted his assertion.*
- A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. known
- 19 *Courage and **cunning** had established his ascendancy, and it had been rendered, in some degree, sacred by time.*
- A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 - B. good at achieving goals through cleverness and deception
 - C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 20 *...in whose **countenance** disappointment and rage were struggling with the affected composure of his station,*
- A. facial expression
 - B. the best or most important
 - C. a secret agreement or plot

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 21 times in this book.
2	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 23 times in this book.
3	B	manifest (<i>as in: manifest destiny</i>)	Used 55 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	notwithstanding	High-utility academic word; used 34 times in this book.
5	C	endeavor	Used 29 times in this book.
6	A	squatter	Used 145 times in this book.
7	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 22 times in this book.
8	B	indolent (<i>as in: she is naturally indolent</i>)	Used 16 times in this book.
9	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 26 times in this book.
10	B	remonstrate	Used 11 times in this book.
11	B	denotes	Used 10 times in this book.
12	A	abstracted (<i>as in: abstracted his wallet</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
13	C	abstracted (<i>as in: abstracted, so didn't notice</i>)	Used 10 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
14	B	venerable	High-utility academic word; used 32 times in this book.
15	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 13 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 35 times in this book.
20	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 87 times in this book.