

The Princess Bride

by William Goldman

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

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
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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: agony, anguish, commotion, conceit, crucial, deduce, factor, guile, however (2), infatuated, narrative, omit, optimistic, ornate, ponder, ravine, recluse, taunt, vary



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	B
7	B
8	B
9	A
10	C
11	A
12	A
13	C
14	A
15	C
16	A
17	B
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. She cried out in **agony**.
 - A. sudden surprise
 - B. intense anger
 - C. intense suffering
2. Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - A. extreme solitude
 - B. extreme distress
 - C. extreme depression
3. Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
 - A. disturbance
 - B. outburst of laughter
 - C. accident
4. Her **conceit** showed in the way she interrupted others and assumed she was always the smartest person in the room.
 - A. ignorance
 - B. arrogance
 - C. encouragement
5. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
6. She trusts only what she can measure or can **deduce** from measurement.
 - A. describe in detail
 - B. conclude by reasoning
 - C. find in a book
7. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
 - A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
8. She had the **guile** to lie directly to his face.
 - A. necessity
 - B. cunning and deceit
 - C. ambition
9. I hope to take the ACT just once. **However**, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and
10. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
11. He was **infatuated** with the new singer and talked about her constantly.
 - A. foolishly fascinated
 - B. openly annoyed
 - C. slightly informed

12. It's an interesting **narrative** about her first year in college.
- A. story
 - B. joke
 - C. theatrical play
13. She **omitted** a few details to place herself in a more favorable light.
- A. made up
 - B. exaggerated
 - C. left out
14. She keeps telling me her chances of dying in a car accident are 1 in 150, but I keep telling her that's too **optimistic** if she drives after drinking.
- A. hopeful
 - B. gloomy
 - C. simplistic
15. It was the most **ornate** building I've ever seen.
- A. ancient
 - B. boring
 - C. decorated
16. We **pondered** our fate.
- A. thought about
 - B. feared for
 - C. actively changed
17. I was afraid that if we climbed into the **ravine**, we might be caught in a flood before we could get out.
- A. a hole so deep the bottom cannot be seen
 - B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
 - C. a large, fast-moving river
18. Howard Hughes became an **eccentric recluse**.
- A. loaner
 - B. millionaire
 - C. collector
19. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
 - B. insulted
 - C. surrounded
20. McDonald's menu options **vary** by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known

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 *Adela, flattered, began to **ponder** on the truth of the statement.*
 - A. think deeply or carefully about
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. fulfill one's highest potential
- 2 *But now she had it all diagnosed, **deduced**, clear.*
 - A. not roughly calculated
 - B. concluded by reasoning
 - C. influenced or effected
- 3 *She could chide herself for her silly **infatuation** with a dullard.*
 - A. deeply but often foolishly in love with or obsessed with someone or something
 - B. a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
 - C. a stone shaped like a disk that spins and is used to grind, sharpen or polish
- 4 *Why would a master of **narrative** stop his narrative dead before it has much chance to begin generating?*
 - A. story
 - B. snake
 - C. skill
- 5 *Still, he was an eternal **optimist**, so he kept the great cage of the fifth level always in readiness.*
 - A. someone who expects the best; or who focuses on the good part of things
 - B. someone who expects the worst; or who focuses on the bad part of things
 - C. someone who joins with others in a public protest or display of support
- 6 *Just as the chapters on whaling in Moby-Dick can be **omitted** by all but the most punishment-loving readers, so the packing scenes that Morgenstern details here are really best left alone.*
 - A. learned, discovered, or decided
 - B. took up or received into heaven
 - C. to exclude or neglect something
- 7 ***Conceited**, Buttercup thought.*
 - A. not judged in a negative way
 - B. excessively proud of oneself
 - C. calculated or judged too low
- 8 *But since no one in Guilder could know yet what we've done, and no one in Florin could have gotten here so quickly, he is definitely not, **however** much it may look like it, following us.*
 - A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
 - B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
 - C. regardless of how
- 9 *There was, **however**, a second group of criminals, those who realized that capture meant, for various past performances, death, and these, without exception, resisted.*
 - A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless*, etc.
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 10 *"The six-fingered man **taunts** you," Yeste called.*
 - A. items characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open -- such as a door or musical instrument with that characteristic
 - B. (verb) intentionally angers, challenges, or upsets someone OR (noun) insults or other actions intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 - C. a means of control -- most commonly the straps attached to a bit in a horse's mouth that are used to control it OR restrains or controls

- 11 *Because the Sicilian had a dream: with his **guile** plus the Turk's strength plus the Spaniard's sword, they might become the most effective criminal organization in the civilized world.*
- A. prepare food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. cunning (shrewdness and cleverness) and deceitful
 - C. treat as a particular type that is considered bad
- 12 *They were running along the edge of a towering **ravine**.*
- A. another battle with the same foe
 - B. deep, narrow, steep-sided valley
 - C. describing someone as antisocial
- 13 *It was **agony** keeping her arms outstretched and her fingers spread when it was all so useless.*
- A. size or dimension
 - B. circular movement
 - C. intense suffering
- 14 *Because when she died of murder on their wedding night, it was **crucial** that all Florin realize the depth of his love, the epochal size of his loss, since then no one would dare hesitate to follow him in the revenge war he was to launch against Guilden.*
- A. natural
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
- 15 *The whys behind the screams interested him fully as much as the **anguish** itself.*
- A. extreme introversion
 - B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress
 - C. extreme depression
- 16 *As an architect, he had been crucial in the safety **factors** involved in the Zoo of Death, and it had undeniably been Rugen who had arranged for the only survivable entrance being the underground fifth-level one.*
- A. People who are of lower rank or status
 - B. things that affect a result or outcome
 - C. theories on the origin of the universe
- 17 *Each step was perhaps a foot in width, so he was six feet from Fezzik, six feet from the large, **ornate** green-handled door that opened onto the final level.*
- A. able to be taken on as one's own
 - B. indicating approval or agreement
 - C. having lots of decorative detail
- 18 *Seventy-two inches from death now The green speckled **recluse** doesn't destroy as quickly as the stonefish.*
- A. someone withdrawn from society (living alone and avoiding contact)
 - B. a place where conditions are kept as they were to protect wildlife
 - C. someone who believes that all knowledge is derived from experience
- 19 *IT WAS NOT, in point of fact, her Westley that was causing the **commotion** out front.*
- A. noisy disturbance
 - B. circular movement
 - C. size or dimension
- 20 *They were made in **varying** sizes, and the Prince's looked to be one of the largest, being wrist thick where it joined the handle.*
- A. gaining advantage from
 - B. differing; or changing
 - C. taking on as one's own

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	ponder	Used 4 times in this book.
2	B	deduce	Used 4 times in this book.
3	A	infatuated	Used 3 times in this book.
4	A	narrative (<i>as in: Narrative of the Life of...</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
5	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	C	omit	High-utility academic word
7	B	conceit (<i>as in: confident, but not conceited</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
8	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	taunt	Used 4 times in this book.
11	B	guile	Used 2 times in this book.
12	B	ravine	Used 22 times in this book.
13	C	agony	Used 5 times in this book.
14	B	crucial	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
15	B	anguish	Used 7 times in this book.
16	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	C	ornate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
18	A	recluse	Used 4 times in this book.
19	A	commotion	Used 3 times in this book.
20	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.