

The Purloined Letter

by Edgar Allan Poe

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: adapt, allude, analogy, attain, cunning, endeavor, external, infer, ingenious, ingenuity, intellect, minute (2), motive, premises, probe, profound, scrutiny, unobtrusive, waylay



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	B
9	A
10	A
11	C
12	C
13	C
14	C
15	C
16	A
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. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - A. copied
 - B. read
 - C. changed
2. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
3. An **analogy** can make a complex problem seem simpler by comparing it to a similar situation.
 - A. comparison of similar things
 - B. summary of key arguments
 - C. list of opposite traits
4. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
 - A. openly oppose
 - B. carefully describe
 - C. successfully gain
5. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
6. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
7. **External** pressure from competitors forced the company to lower its prices.
 - A. located inside
 - B. coming from outside
 - C. happening before
8. The meaning of the word can be **inferred** based on context clues.
 - A. different
 - B. figured out
 - C. converted
9. Her **ingenious** plan let the class finish the project with only a few supplies.
 - A. clever and original
 - B. quick but careless
 - C. plain and ordinary
10. It's going to take a lot of **ingenuity**, but I think we can save the company.
 - A. creativity
 - B. money
 - C. time
11. The university invited some of the greatest **intellects** to speak at the symposium.
 - A. famous speakers
 - B. popular personalities
 - C. high-level thinkers
12. Even a **minute** amount of lead can be harmful to children.
 - A. large
 - B. 60 seconds
 - C. tiny

13. She thrives at sifting through that kind of minute detail.
- A. quickly eliminated
 - B. available from prior research
 - C. including even small considerations
14. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
- A. excuse
 - B. technique
 - C. reason
15. At what time did the officer reach the premises?
- A. land
 - B. building
 - C. property
16. The committee will probe the cause of the failure.
- A. investigate
 - B. make better
 - C. make worse
17. It was a profound spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
18. The new policy faced scrutiny from independent reviewers.
- A. strong support
 - B. quick approval
 - C. careful examination
19. She sat unobtrusively in the rear of the room.
- A. without drawing attention
 - B. while shouting loudly
 - C. while crying softly
20. The bandits planned to waylay travelers on the narrow mountain path.
- A. follow quietly
 - B. stop unexpectedly
 - C. spy upon

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 "Ha! ha! ha--ha! ha! ha!--ho! ho! ho!" roared our visiter, **profoundly** amused, "oh, Dupin, you will be the death of me yet!"
 - A. with greatest intensity or emotional depth
 - B. in a manner that is not aware of something
 - C. in a manner that is loving, but not sexual
- 2 "It is clearly **inferred**," replied the Prefect,
 - A. was overly unhappy and unsociable
 - B. concluded by reasoning
 - C. not limited or without boundaries
- 3 The method of the theft was not less **ingenious** than bold.
 - A. showing cleverness and originality
 - B. a tendency to think back on things
 - C. aware or concerned about something
- 4 After a hurried and vain **endeavor** to thrust it in a drawer, she was forced to place it, open as it was, upon a table.
 - A. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
 - B. to write or exchange written letters or emails
 - C. to attempt; or a project or activity attempted
- 5 He has been twice **waylaid**, as if by footpads, and his person rigorously searched under my own inspection.
 - A. to again think carefully and make a judgment about something
 - B. to stop someone unexpectedly -- usually to attack or to talk
 - C. the state or character of being absolutely sure of something
- 6 The cushions we **probed** with the fine long needles you have seen me employ.
 - A. investigated
 - B. concentrated
 - C. bounced back
- 7 ...then we **scrutinized** each individual square inch throughout the premises,
 - A. mirrored back (an image)
 - B. quoted (to make a point)
 - C. looked at very carefully
- 8 "Then," I said, "you have been making a miscalculation, and the letter is not upon the **premises**, as you suppose."
 - A. land
 - B. building
 - C. place (land and buildings together)
- 9 And here the Prefect, producing a memorandum-book proceeded to read aloud a **minute** account of the internal, and especially of the external appearance of the missing document.
 - A. having the characteristics of a monk (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
 - C. carefully detailed
- 10 A novice in the game generally seeks to embarrass his opponents by giving them the most **minutely** lettered names; but the adept selects such words as stretch, in large characters, from one end of the chart to the other.
 - A. in a manner that is not sensible and careful
 - B. in a manner that is capable of being noticed
 - C. in a small way
- 11 —And here the Prefect, producing a memorandum-book proceeded to read aloud a minute account of the internal, and especially of the **external** appearance of the missing document.
 - A. certain
 - B. outside
 - C. various

- 12 *They are persevering, ingenious, **cunning**, and thoroughly versed in the knowledge which their duties seem chiefly to demand.*
- 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
- 13 *A certain set of highly ingenious resources are, with the Prefect, a sort of Procrustean bed, to which he forcibly **adapts** his designs.*
- A. makes different; or shows difference
 - B. declares invalid; or ends or cancels
 - C. changes to fit a different situation
- 14 *The boy to whom I **allude** won all the marbles of the school.*
- A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. indirectly reference
 - C. consume or destroy completely
- 15 *There are two brothers, I know; and both have **attained** reputation in letters.*
- A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. tension from opposing ideas or feelings
 - C. gained or reached something with effort
- 16 *In the consideration of **motive** it fails; for two motives, each of a given value, have not, necessarily, a value when united, equal to the sum of their values apart.*
- A. small quantity or indication
 - B. the sacred writings of Islam
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 17 *an **analogous** source of error*
- A. similar in some respect
 - B. unable to get closer to
 - C. not sensible or careful
- 18 *It is not more true in the former, that a large body is with more difficulty set in motion than a smaller one, and that its subsequent momentum is commensurate with this difficulty, than it is, in the latter, that **intellects** of the vaster capacity, while more forcible, more constant, and more eventful in their movements than those of inferior grade, are yet the less readily moved, and more embarrassed and full of hesitation in the first few steps of their progress.*
- A. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
 - B. to whatever degree (regardless of how much; or whatever unspecified amount)
 - C. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
- 19 *These, like the over-largely lettered signs and placards of the street, escape observation by dint of being excessively obvious; and here the physical oversight is precisely analogous with the moral inapprehension by which the intellect suffers to pass unnoticed those considerations which are too **obtrusively** and too palpably self-evident.*
- A. in a manner that attracts undesired attention or imposes on others
 - B. in a manner that is made by humans rather than occurring in nature
 - C. in a manner that exercises privileges to which one is not entitled
- 20 *...I reflected upon the daring, dashing, and discriminating **ingenuity** of D—*
- A. ability to solve problems in smart creative ways
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	Used 2 times in this story.
2	B	infer	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this story.
3	A	ingenious	Used 3 times in this story.
4	C	endeavor	Used 2 times in this story.
5	B	waylay	Used 3 times in this story.
6	A	probe	Used 5 times in this story.
7	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this story.
8	C	premises (<i>as in: located on the premises</i>)	Used 9 times in this story.
9	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	3 meanings in this story.
10	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	3 meanings in this story.
11	B	external	Used 3 times in this story.
12	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 3 times in this story.
13	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this story.
14	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
15	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
16	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
17	A	analogy	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this story.
18	C	intellect (<i>as in: is a formidable intellect</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
19	A	unobtrusive	Used 2 times in this story.
20	A	ingenuity	Used 4 times in this story.