

The Return of the King

by J. R. R. Tolkien

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: assail, citadel, despair (2), dwell, dwelling, endure (2), hallowed, heed, herald (2), hinder, kindred, peril, sheer (2), waylay, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	C
11	C
12	B
13	C
14	C
15	B
16	C
17	A
18	B
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 took every opportunity to **assail** the policy.
 - A. study
 - B. attack
 - C. understand
2. The **citadel** stood on a high hill, overlooking the town like a watchful guardian.
 - A. fortified stronghold
 - B. wooden farmhouse
 - C. outdoor marketplace
3. She rescued me from **despair**.
 - A. fear
 - B. poverty
 - C. hopelessness
4. Don't **despair**--help is on the way!
 - A. lose hope
 - B. be impatient
 - C. cry
5. Their family has **dwelled** in that valley for ten generations.
 - A. visited
 - B. looked
 - C. lived
6. We searched the entire valley and did not find her **dwelling**.
 - A. home
 - B. deep well
 - C. horse
7. As a soldier, she was prepared to **endure** hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
 - A. risk
 - B. suffer through
 - C. cause
8. Over the years, the stories my grandmother told me have **endured** as a source of wisdom in my life.
 - A. stopped acting
 - B. brought suffering
 - C. continued to exist
9. Visitors spoke softly as they entered the **hallowed** memorial.
 - A. deeply respected
 - B. newly repaired
 - C. open to everyone
10. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
 - A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
11. The goldfinch **heralds** spring when it begins to show a little yellow.
 - A. signals (that something is about to end)
 - B. demonstrates happiness with something
 - C. signals (that something will soon happen)
12. The king's **herald** announced it this morning.
 - A. lawyer
 - B. announcer
 - C. advisor

13. The brace I have to wear is **hindering** my movements
- A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult
14. They became quick friends, finding in each other a kindred spirit.
- A. lively
 - B. thoughtful
 - C. similar
15. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
16. It was a demonstration of **sheer** stupidity.
- A. mixed
 - B. misguided
 - C. complete
17. A **sheer** cliff drops from the lighthouse to the sea.
- A. steep
 - B. ragged
 - C. rock
18. The bandits planned to **waylay** travelers on the narrow mountain path.
- A. follow quietly
 - B. stop unexpectedly
 - C. spy upon
19. The experiment **yielded** data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she **yielded** to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

Vocabulary in Context

The Return of the King

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 Not he, yet one of his **kindred**.
 - A. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
 - B. aka natural right -- a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. similar in quality or character

or:

closely related -- such as family or things with shared origin
- 2 A strong **citadel** it was indeed, and not to be taken by a host of enemies, if there were any within that could hold weapons; unless...
 - A. fortress
 - B. island (that is made of a coral reef)
 - C. dense, rainy forest with many species
- 3 At least he should come **unheralded** by us.
 - A. selected (on a computer screen)
 - B. took up or received into heaven
 - C. unannounced
- 4 Then Aragorn let the trumpets be blown; and **heralds** cried: 'Behold the King Elessar is come!'
 - A. things that hold other things together, or wrap or cover or tie something
 - B. people who announce important news -- especially a king's representatives
 - C. international boundaries or wilderness areas at the edge of settled areas
- 5 He stumbled on until he was crawling like a beast on the ground and felt that he could **endure** no more:
 - A. call -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
 - B. suffer through (or put up with something difficult)
 - C. communication through gestures and body movements (without words)
- 6 But men are better than gates, and no gate will **endure** against our Enemy if men desert it.
 - A. differ; or change
 - B. influence opinion
 - C. continue to exist
- 7 ...and beyond, going steeply down, was a road between **sheer** cliffs, knife-edged against the sky far above.
 - A. so steep as to be almost vertical
 - B. ragged (with lots of rocky outcroppings)
 - C. in the shade
- 8 And when Sam heard that he laughed aloud for **sheer** delight,
 - A. more religious; or having more enthusiastic support (for something)
 - B. more trustworthy with secrets and/or less conspicuous or obtrusive
 - C. complete -- without restriction
- 9 Farewell he bade to his free people, hearth and high-seat, and the **hallowed** places, where long he had feasted ere the light faded.
 - A. treated as sacred or greatly respected
 - B. able to be protected or kept unchanged
 - C. able to accept as true (without proof)
- 10 Lone men, riding wild, brought word of foes **assailing** their east-borders, of orc-hosts marching in the Wold of Rohan.
 - A. stopping a battle or fight
 - B. to attack or cause trouble
 - C. changing through evolution
- 11 For yet another weapon, swifter than hunger, the Lord of the Dark Tower had: dread and **despair**.
 - A. adjusts a lens to make an image clear
 - B. not creating disagreement or struggle
 - C. hopelessness

- 12 *From all his policies and webs of fear and treachery, from all his stratagems and wars his mind shook free; and throughout his realm a tremor ran, his slaves quailed, and his armies halted, and his captains suddenly steerless, bereft of will, wavered and **despaired**.*
- A. lost hope
 - B. disagreed
 - C. stuck out
- 13 *'The Lord's errands are urgent and should not be **hindered** by me,' said Beregond; 'but tell me quickly, if you may: what goes forward?'*
- A. not interacting; or not interested
 - B. not provided with investment funds
 - C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 14 *All went well that day, and no sight or sound had they of the enemy waiting to **waylay** them.*
- A. tile designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - B. to stop someone unexpectedly -- usually to attack or to talk
 - C. relating to an ancient city state on the north African coast
- 15 *And still Meriadoc the hobbit stood there blinking through his tears and no one spoke to him, indeed none seemed to **heed** him.*
- A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - B. adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
 - C. pay attention to
- 16 *He has well repaid my trust; for if Elrond had not **yielded** to me, neither of you would have set out; and then far more grievous would the evils of this day have been.*
- A. with rises and falls in pitch
 - B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
 - C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 17 *In the Southfarthing the vines were laden, and the **yield** of 'leaf' was astonishing; and everywhere there was so much corn that at Harvest every barn was stuffed.*
- A. production
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 18 *they established their **dwelling**s in Middle-earth*
- A. homes
 - B. things that help clarify or demonstrate
 - C. things designed to stops something else
- 19 *let us **dwel**l in fair Ithilien and there make a garden.*
- A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - B. enter another's property without right or permission
 - C. live (make our homes)
- 20 *But unless your master has come to new wisdom, then with all his servants you will be in great **peril**.*
- A. useful
 - B. danger
 - C. allows

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	kindred	Used 10 times in this book.
2	A	citadel	Used 46 times in this book.
3	C	herald (<i>as in: heralds the coming of...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
4	B	herald (<i>as in: announced by herald & trumpet</i>)	Used 10 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	Used 17 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	C	endure (<i>as in: endure through the ages</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
7	A	sheer (<i>as in: a sheer cliff</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
8	C	sheer (<i>as in: sheer fun</i>)	Used 13 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	hallowed	Used 10 times in this book.
10	B	assail	Used 12 times in this book.
11	C	despair (<i>as in: she felt despair</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	A	despair (<i>as in: do not despair</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 11 times in this book.
14	B	waylay	Used 7 times in this book.
15	C	heed	Used 22 times in this book.
16	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	dwelling (<i>as in: a modest dwelling</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
19	C	dwell (<i>as in: It dwells in the forest.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
20	B	peril	Used 36 times in this book.