

The Scarlet Pimpernel

by Baroness Orczy

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

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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: audacious, convey, cunning, enigma, flippant, fugitive, guillotine, heed, impudent, incline, inclined, malice, peremptory, peril, prudent, relentless, republic, rouse, squalid, veritable



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. It is an **audacious** plan.
 - A. likely to succeed
 - B. bold and daring
 - C. improperly considered
2. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
 - A. express
 - B. accept
 - C. understand
3. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
4. The locked box with no key remained an **enigma** to everyone in the room.
 - A. mystery
 - B. simple task
 - C. clear answer
5. Her **flippant** joke during the serious meeting upset the group.
 - A. deeply respectful
 - B. not properly serious
 - C. carefully researched
6. The **fugitive** fled to Venezuela.
 - A. person on vacation
 - B. rebel
 - C. person running from the law
7. The **guillotine** is often associated with the Reign of Terror, a period of extreme violence and political turmoil during the French Revolution.
 - A. a device used to torture people
 - B. a device used to behead people
 - C. a device used to imprison people
8. 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
9. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
 - A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet
10. I was **inclined** to laugh, but I overcame the urge.
 - A. disinclined
 - B. afraid
 - C. tending
11. The boat ramp has a steep **incline**.
 - A. slope
 - B. price
 - C. danger

12. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
13. Her tone was **peremptory**, preventing argument or disagreement.
- A. not allowing contradiction or refusal
 - B. not in line with her usual manner
 - C. more rushed than usual
14. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
15. Courage is dangerous without **prudence**.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
16. Her parents criticize her **relentlessly**.
- A. subtly (in a non-obvious way)
 - B. constantly and oppressively
 - C. with an excessive sense of superiority
17. A **republic** is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
 - B. representative government
 - C. oligarchy
18. The smell of freshly brewed coffee roused her from her sleep.
- A. interrupted
 - B. deepened
 - C. awakened
19. The refugees lived in **squalid** conditions with no clean water or proper shelter.
- A. clean and pleasant
 - B. loud and crowded
 - C. filthy and unpleasant
20. The back yard is a **veritable** jungle.
- A. decaying (figuratively)
 - B. walled (figuratively)
 - C. real (figuratively)

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 *Sergeant Grosypierre had been sent to the **guillotine** for allowing a whole family of aristos to slip out of the North Gate under his very nose.*
 - A. a method of artistic painting on a wall by using watercolors on wet plaster; or the painting made in such a manner
 - B. a device used to behead people (most associated with the French Revolution); or executing someone in such a manner
 - C. accept someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
- 2 *"Hush!" he said **peremptorily**, and instinctively once again looked towards the strangers.*
 - A. in a manner that does not allow contradiction or refusal
 - B. with low spirits (sadness, disappointment, hopelessness)
 - C. in a manner that gradually destroys an established order
- 3 *She tried to pierce the distance far away, beyond which lay the shores of France: that **relentless** and stern France which was exacting her pound of flesh, the blood-tax from the noblest of her sons.*
 - A. the state of being aware of one's mental activity
 - B. to continue without stopping in an extreme manner
 - C. appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
- 4 *But you, citoyenne, are a daughter of France, and should be ready to help her in a moment of deadly **peril**.*
 - A. useful
 - B. danger
 - C. allows
- 5 *—I have been sent over here by the **Republican** Government as its representative: I present my credentials to Mr. Pitt in London to-morrow.*
 - A. relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
 - B. of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
 - C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
- 6 *"and your **impudence** passes belief," she said merrily.*
 - A. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - B. improper boldness or disrespect
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 7 *All along, Marguerite had been expecting it; she would not show fear, she was determined to seem unconcerned, **flippant** even.*
 - A. the state or degree of agreeing or approving
 - B. showing an inappropriate lack of seriousness
 - C. designed to be useful; or capable of working
- 8 *No wonder that in France the SOBRIQUET of the mysterious Englishman **roused** in the people a superstitious shudder.*
 - A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. explains something in a particular way
 - C. to awaken, make more active, or excite
- 9 *His whole attitude was one of intense longing—a **veritable** prayer for that confidence, which her foolish pride withheld from him.*
 - A. deserving no respect (worthless or of bad quality)
 - B. the quality or degree of not being straightforward
 - C. used for emphasis to introduce a dramatic metaphor

- 10 *But if he were warned, he might form new plans, be more wary, more prudent.*
 A. sensible and careful
 B. not demonstrative of
 C. sincerity (realness)
- 11 *What food for gossip to those mischievously inclined.*
 A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)
 B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled
 C. disposed (having a tendency to favor something)
- 12 *The men, obedient as machines, rushed down the rocky incline towards the beach,*
 A. slope (angle)
 B. tell someone about something
 C. something repeated regularly
- 13 *But she did not heed any of these petty discomforts:*
 A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 B. adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
 C. pay attention to
- 14 *Presently this was thrown open, and Marguerite found herself on the threshold of the most dilapidated, most squalid room she had ever seen in all her life.*
 A. with the involvement of other people or things
 B. the state or degree of being greater than zero
 C. dirty and unpleasant; or (more rarely) immoral
- 15 *between you, you will have cunning as well as valour!*
 A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 B. cleverness
 C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 16 *It was the DAY DREAM, Percy's favourite yacht, and all her crew of British sailors: her white sails, glistening in the moonlight, seemed to convey a message to Marguerite of joy and hope, which yet she feared could never be.*
 A. communicate or express
 B. create dramatic change
 C. mirror back (an image)
- 17 *That ... audacious Scarlet Pimpernel, alone and with thirty men at his heels, could not reasonably be expected to escape a second time.*
 A. strongly biased
 B. bold and daring
 C. material wealth
- 18 *As for that enigmatic Scarlet Pimpernel, what is he to you?*
 A. mysterious
 B. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
 C. lacking a reason for doing something
- 19 *It was a crumpled piece of paper, evidently forgotten there by the fugitives, in their hurry to get away.*
 A. males, females, or various trans categories
 B. jobs, reservations, bookings, or activities
 C. people running away to avoid arrest or an unpleasant situation
- 20 *"I think I can rely on you, citoyen soldiers," laughed Chauvelin, maliciously, "to give this old liar the best and soundest beating he has ever experienced."*
 A. in a manner that makes someone excited about getting something
 B. in a brave manner -- especially when adventurous or determined
 C. with a desire to see others suffer

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	guillotine	Used 36 times in this book.
2	A	peremptory	Used 14 times in this book.
3	B	relentless	Used 12 times in this book.
4	B	peril	Used 20 times in this book.
5	B	republic (<i>as in: the country is a republic</i>)	Used 27 times in this book.
6	B	impudent	Used 16 times in this book.
7	B	flippant	Used 6 times in this book.
8	C	rouse	Used 14 times in this book.
9	C	veritable	Used 7 times in this book.
10	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
11	C	inclined (<i>as in: I'm inclined to</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	A	incline (<i>as in: on an incline or incline his head</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	C	heed	Used 13 times in this book.
14	C	squalid	Used 8 times in this book.
15	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 25 times in this book.
16	A	convey (<i>as in: convey her thoughts</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
17	B	audacious	Used 10 times in this book.
18	A	enigma	High-utility academic word; used 13 times in this book.
19	C	fugitive (<i>as in: she is a fugitive</i>)	Used 29 times in this book.
20	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.