

The Story of an Hour

by Kate Chopin

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: afflicted, exalted, illumination, impose, procession, repression, self-assertion, striving, suspension, unwittingly

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 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):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.



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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The coach was **afflicted** with severe migraines all season.

- A. troubled by or suffering from a condition
- B. deeply worried about an upcoming event
- C. widely known for a particular weakness

2. The returning hero felt **exalted** as the crowd erupted in cheers.

- A. deeply troubled by unexpected events
- B. elevated in spirit; intensely uplifted
- C. exhausted by a long and difficult ordeal

3. A flash of **illumination** crossed her face as the answer came.

- A. a burst of energy that follows great effort
- B. a wave of doubt that clouds clear thinking
- C. sudden understanding or insight

4. Her older brother tried to **impose** his will on the rest of the family.

- A. force one's wishes or authority on others
- B. offer detailed guidance to others
- C. take charge of a group during a difficult time

5. He imagined a **procession** of adventures stretching before him.

- A. a confusing tangle of competing options
- B. a brief and unlikely stroke of good fortune
- C. a long succession or sequence

6. Years of **repression** had taught him to smile even when furious.

- A. a pattern of obsessive and repetitive thinking
- B. suppression or holding back of feelings
- C. open expression of strong or defiant emotion

7. Her **self-assertion** in the meeting surprised those who underestimated her.

- A. standing up for one's own rights or opinions
- B. the habit of yielding to others' demands
- C. defending others rather than oneself

8. She kept **striving** against the current even as her arms grew weak.

- A. moving cautiously to avoid making mistakes
- B. struggling hard to resist something
- C. drifting forward with little resistance

9. The negotiators called for a **suspension** of talks until new evidence emerged.

- A. a temporary stopping; a state of pause
- B. an urgent resumption following a long delay
- C. a permanent end to something long overdue

10. He had **unwittingly** let slip the secret before realizing what he'd done.

- A. reluctantly, after much hesitation
- B. with full awareness of the consequences
- C. without awareness; unintentionally

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

intelligence — news; information received

abandonment — a complete surrender to impulse or emotion; letting go of all restraint

aquiver — trembling; quivering

bespoke — indicated or revealed (a quality or fact)

monstrous joy — a joy that feels morally outrageous or wrong

elixir — a life-giving potion or medicine (used figuratively)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband’s death.”

As it is used in the excerpt, the word “afflicted” most nearly suggests that Mrs. Mallard...

- A. suffered from a serious health condition
- B. needed others to soften difficult news
- C. was widely known as gentle and sensitive

2 “She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength.”

In the passage, Mrs. Mallard is characterized as someone who...

- A. has faced hardship and grown bitter
- B. openly displays her emotions to others
- C. has long suppressed her inner feelings

3 “It was not a glance of reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought. There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Mrs. Mallard’s “suspension of intelligent thought” indicates that she...

- A. is carefully analyzing what happened
- B. has paused thinking while waiting
- C. is too frightened to feel anything

4 “She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will—as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.”

The author most likely describes Mrs. Mallard as “striving to beat it back with her will” in order to show that she...

- A. was too weak to resist it physically
- B. fought hard against the feeling
- C. had already accepted the feeling

5 “She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted perception enabled her to dismiss the suggestion as trivial.”

As it is used in the excerpt, the word “exalted” most nearly suggests that Mrs. Mallard’s perception is...

- A. elevated in spirit and feeling
- B. carefully reasoned and logical
- C. distorted by grief and confusion

6 “She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.”

The author most likely uses the word “procession” to describe Mrs. Mallard’s future years in order to suggest that those years will...

- A. bring grief and uncertainty
- B. pass slowly under hardship
- C. march toward her like a parade

7 “There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellowcreature.”

According to the passage, Mrs. Mallard regards imposing one’s will on another person as...

- A. an act no one has the right to commit
- B. an act of strength and persistence
- C. a natural expression of love

8 “A kind intention or a cruel intention make the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination.”

The author most likely includes the phrase “brief moment of illumination” in order to...

- A. signal a moment of sudden insight
- B. describe the physical lighting
- C. show she is still confused

9 “What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!”

It can reasonably be inferred that Mrs. Mallard’s “possession of self-assertion” suggests she...

- A. values love above all else
- B. prizes independence over love
- C. is uncertain about what she truly wants

10 “There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory.”

In the passage, Mrs. Mallard is characterized as...

- A. aware of her own transformation
- B. defeated and overcome by emotions
- C. unaware of her triumphant bearing

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	TEACHER NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	B	
4	B	
5	A	
6	C	
7	A	
8	A	
9	B	
10	C	