

The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

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	
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: allay, auspicious, banish, beseech, contentious, cunning, diligent, discord, ebb, heed, loath, odious, omit, paragon, perish, prosper, scarcity, subtle (2), tempest



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	A
9	C
10	C
11	B
12	C
13	C
14	B
15	B
16	C
17	C
18	B
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 does little to **allay** Israeli fears.
 - A. increase
 - B. distract from
 - C. reduce
2. Clear skies and a warm breeze made for an **auspicious** start to the journey.
 - A. favorable and promising
 - B. dull and ordinary
 - C. ominous and dark
3. I tried to **banish** the thought from my mind.
 - A. understand
 - B. collect
 - C. send away
4. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
 - A. asking
 - B. demanding
 - C. instructing
5. It's a **contentious** and complicated issue that I think should be discussed at a separate meeting.
 - A. complex
 - B. controversial
 - C. philosophical
6. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
7. A **diligent** detective investigates all clues.
 - A. lazy and careless
 - B. rude and dishonest
 - C. careful and hardworking
8. There is too much **discord** in their home.
 - A. conflict
 - B. loud noise
 - C. uncritical agreement
9. After the incident, support for the policy **ebbed**.
 - A. increased
 - B. disappeared
 - C. declined
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. Though they **loath** to admit it, there are serious divides splitting the party.
 - A. are eager
 - B. are reluctant
 - C. are excited
12. The poll tax was designed as a particularly **odious** violation of civil rights.
 - A. extremely devious
 - B. harmful and hidden
 - C. extremely dislikable

13. She **omitted** a few details to place herself in a more favorable light.
- A. made up
 - B. exaggerated
 - C. left out
14. She was considered a **paragon** of patience by all her coworkers.
- A. a clear failure
 - B. a perfect example
 - C. an average sample
15. We can work together or **perish** separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
16. She is **prospering** in business.
- A. struggling
 - B. starting
 - C. doing well
17. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
18. She likes dramatic statements, but he prefers to be **subtle**.
- A. quiet and action-oriented
 - B. understated so as not to draw excess attention
 - C. a careful listener
19. She has a good eye for **subtle** differences in color.
- A. contrasting
 - B. complementary
 - C. minor
20. A **tempest** swept over the island.
- A. darkness
 - B. fear
 - C. storm

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 *If by your art, my dearest father, you have Put the wild waters in this roar, **allay** them.*
 - A. genetic change through evolution
 - B. interact again or interest again
 - C. reduce the intensity of; or calm
- 2 *Poor souls, they **perish'd**.*
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - C. moved into position to work; or started
- 3 *I find my zenith doth depend upon a most **auspicious** star*
 - A. favorable; or suggestive of good things to come
 - B. the degree to which something can be translated
 - C. not able to change to fit a different situation
- 4 *This damn'd witch Sycorax, For mischiefs manifold, and sorceries terrible To enter human hearing, from Argier, Thou know'st, was **banish'd**: for one thing she did They would not take her life.*
 - A. thought -- possibly aloud
 - B. was abundant or plentiful
 - C. expelled or gotten rid of
- 5 *go, hence with **diligence**!*
 - A. restarted (a fire)
 - B. calm state of mind
 - C. hard work and care
- 6 *It must needs be of **subtle**, tender, and delicate temperance.*
 - A. mental activity of which one is not self-aware
 - B. mild (understated)
 - C. the state or degree of being greater than zero
- 7 *You do yet taste
Some **subtleties** o' the isle, that will not let you
Believe things certain.*
 - A. a noticeable red (or brown) discolorations of sea water caused by excessive growth of microscopic algae
 - B. things said or done that are disrespectful of something considered sacred -- especially God or religion
 - C. things that are not obvious, but can be appreciated by someone with adequate sensitivity and relevant knowledge
- 8 *'Twas a sweet marriage, and we **prosper** well in our return.*
 - A. restore
 - B. examine
 - C. do well
- 9 *Tunis was never graced before with such a **paragon** to their queen.*
 - A. stop interacting; or stop having interest
 - B. an ideal instance
 - C. treating thoughtlessly or without respect
- 10 *the **contentious** waves*
 - A. the state or degree of being absolutely sure of something
 - B. causing difficulty
 - C. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
- 11 *You were kneel'd to, and importun'd otherwise By all of us; and the fair soul herself Weigh'd between loathness and obedience at Which end o' th' beam should bow.*
 - A. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
 - B. the quality of being highly reluctant or unwilling
 - C. the trait of being difficult to meet and talk with

- 12 Please you, sir, Do not **omit** the heavy offer of it: It seldom visits sorrow; when it doth, It is a comforter.
A. stop (something from happening)
B. fulfill one's highest potential
C. to exclude or neglect something
- 13 I am more serious than my custom; you Must be so too, if **heed** me: which to do Trebles thee o'er.
A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
B. adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
C. pay close attention to; or do what is suggested
- 14 ...This my mean task
Would be as heavy to me as **odious**; but
The mistress which I serve quickens what's dead,
And makes my labours pleasures:
A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
B. not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention
C. unpleasant, disgusting, or dislikable
- 15 As I told thee before, I am subject to a tyrant, sorcerer, that by his **cunning** hath cheated me of the island.
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
- 16 I do **beseech** thy greatness, give him blows, and take his bottle from him.
A. ask strongly or beg for something
B. move into position to work; or start
C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 17 **disdain**, and **discord**, shall bestrew the union of your bed
A. conflict and disagreement
B. characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open
C. design based on alphabetic letters; or adding such a design to something
- 18 **Scarcity** and want shall shun you; Ceres' blessing so is on you.
A. an expert in the branch of geology that studies rocks
B. someone who exposes wrongdoing within an organization
C. shortage (having an amount that is less than desired)
- 19 When first I rais'd the **tempest**
A. a long and determined effort for a cause that is passionately believed to be important
B. to dominate harshly and unfairly OR to deny equal rights to others or make them suffer
C. violent storm
- 20 His mother was a witch; and one so strong
That could control the moon, make flows and **ebbs**,
A. encourages growth or excitement, or causes something to happen
B. points to differences between; or compares to show differences
C. a gradual decline -- such as the height of the tide

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	allay	Used 2 times in this play.
2	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
3	A	auspicious	Used 2 times in this play.
4	C	banish	Used 2 times in this play.
5	C	diligent (<i>as in: she is diligent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
6	B	subtle (<i>as in: a subtle shade of blue</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
7	C	subtle (<i>as in: a subtle difference or thinker</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
8	C	prosper	Used 4 times in this play.
9	B	paragon	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	B	contentious	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
11	B	loath	Used 2 times in this play.
12	C	omit	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
13	C	heed	Used 2 times in this play.
14	C	odious	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
15	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 2 times in this play.
16	A	beseech	Used 6 times in this play.
17	A	discord (<i>as in: discord amongst the group</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
18	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
19	C	tempest	Used 4 times in this play.
20	C	ebb	Used 5 times in this play.