

The Two Towers

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, brazen, cleave, cower, cunning, defile, dwell, endure (2), glimmer, grovel, heed, hideous, hinder, kindred, malice, perceive, peril, quiver, rouse



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 **brazen** thief walked right into the store and stole a diamond necklace in broad daylight.
 - A. silent and smart
 - B. disguised
 - C. bold and improper
3. It has the ability to **cleave** carbon-carbon bonds.
 - A. split
 - B. identify
 - C. find
4. She **cowered** behind her big sister.
 - A. walked slowly
 - B. walked proudly
 - C. fearfully hid
5. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
6. Vandals **defiled** the ancient temple by spray-painting the walls.
 - A. carefully restored
 - B. secretly explored
 - C. spoiled the purity of
7. Their family has **dwelled** in that valley for ten generations.
 - A. visited
 - B. looked
 - C. lived
8. As a soldier, she was prepared to endure hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
 - A. risk
 - B. suffer through
 - C. cause
9. 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
10. In the pitch-black cave, the faint **glimmer** from our torch was the only source of light.
 - A. reddish-yellow
 - B. undependable
 - C. dim, wavering light
11. Hoping for forgiveness, he **groveled** instead of calmly admitting his mistake.
 - A. acted overly submissive
 - B. spoke with confidence
 - C. refused to apologize
12. 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

13. He had a hideous scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
- A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
14. The brace I have to wear is hindering my movements
- A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult
15. They became quick friends, finding in each other a kindred spirit.
- A. lively
 - B. thoughtful
 - C. similar
16. Words can be like baseball bats when used maliciously against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
17. It's one thing to perceive something with the senses and another to understand its importance.
- A. become aware of
 - B. physically touch
 - C. clearly see
18. The journalist's investigation put her in great peril.
- A. fame
 - B. danger
 - C. weariness
19. Her hands began to quiver as she opened the envelope.
- A. slightly shake
 - B. tightly grip
 - C. quickly move
20. The smell of freshly brewed coffee roused her from her sleep.
- A. interrupted
 - B. deepened
 - C. awakened

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 *We will make such a chase as shall be accounted a marvel among the Three **Kindreds**: Elves, Dwarves, and Men.*
 - A. chemical substance comprised of the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
 - B. aka natural rights -- rights that are 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 *Do any folk **dwelt** in these hills?*
 - A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - B. enter another's property without right or permission
 - C. live (make their home in)
- 3 *'But you must ride now, or you will **hinder** us,' said Aragorn.*
 - A. make different; or show difference
 - B. to cause something to move forward
 - C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 4 *...hundreds of **hideous** arms grasped at him from every side.*
 - A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. ugly and frightening
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 5 *Some of my kin look just like trees now, and need something great to **rouse** them; and they speak only in whispers.*
 - A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. explains something in a particular way
 - C. to awaken, make more active, or excite
- 6 *As the old Ent approached, the trees lifted up their branches, and all their leaves **quivered** and rustled.*
 - A. to shake or tremble slightly
 - B. not working or not operating
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 7 *But he does not yet **perceive** our purpose clearly.*
 - A. see (have awareness of)
 - B. think carefully
 - C. strongly desire
- 8 *Indeed he is in great fear, not knowing what mighty one may suddenly appear, wielding the Ring, and **assailing** him with war, seeking to cast him down and take his place.*
 - A. stopping a battle or fight
 - B. to attack or cause trouble
 - C. changing through evolution
- 9 *Since Gandalf's head is now sacred, let us find one that it is right to **cleave**!*
 - A. split (with violent force)
 - B. show, determine, or understand
 - C. take up or receive into heaven
- 10 *'Mercy, lord!' whined Wormtongue, **grovelling** on the ground.*
 - A. showing submission or fear
 - B. stopping a battle or fight
 - C. changing through evolution
- 11 *His eyes glittered. Such **malice** was in them that men stepped back from him.*
 - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - C. desire to make others suffer

- 12 *With it he washed clean the stones that Wormtongue had defiled.*
A. caused great mental or physical suffering
B. consented reluctantly; or suffered defeat
C. spoiled the beauty or purity of something
- 13 *Brazen trumpets sounded.*
A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
B. make one's home in; or live in; or stay (in a place)
C. bold and unrestrained by what others consider proper
- 14 *the spell endured*
A. took on or adopted
B. previously created
C. continued to exist
- 15 *how much more of this would they have to endure*
A. call -- typically to come nearer by using a hand gesture or a nod
B. suffer through
C. communication through gestures and body movements (without words)
- 16 *Gollum certainly had that cunning, and needed all of it.*
A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
B. cleverness and ability to deceive others
C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 17 *In this evil hole they cowered, hoping in its shadow to escape the attention of the Eye.*
A. deeply involved; or intermixed with complications or difficulties
B. entered into a place of religious seclusion (such as a monastery)
C. ducked in fear
- 18 *he returned with the first glimmer of light,*
A. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
B. technical: center or concentration
C. dim light
- 19 *Frodo and Sam were plodding along with heavy hearts, no longer able to care greatly about their peril.*
A. useful
B. danger
C. allows
- 20 *...she took no heed of Sam and his cries, until he was close at hand.*
A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
B. adjusted excessively or made up for excessively
C. notice (paying attention)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	kindred	Used 7 times in this book.
2	C	dwell (<i>as in: It dwells in the forest.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
3	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
4	B	hideous	Used 15 times in this book.
5	C	rouse	Used 26 times in this book.
6	A	quiver	Used 16 times in this book.
7	A	perceive (<i>as in: though blind, can perceive light</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
8	B	assail	Used 5 times in this book.
9	A	cleave (<i>as in: cleave through</i>)	Used 34 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
10	A	grovel	Used 7 times in this book.
11	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
12	C	defile	Used 5 times in this book.
13	C	brazen	Used 4 times in this book.
14	C	endure (<i>as in: endure through the ages</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	Used 17 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 13 times in this book.
17	C	cower	Used 15 times in this book.
18	C	glimmer (<i>as in: glimmering lights</i>)	Used 23 times in this book.
19	B	peril	Used 59 times in this book.
20	C	heed	Used 19 times in this book.