

The Wanderers

by Eudora Welty

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: agitate, alliance, ambiguous, anguish, contradict, delectable, despise, diverge, forbearance, hideous, impregnable, indelible, indifferent, lattice, luminous, recollect, revere, scrutiny, sinister, vivacious



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	C
7	C
8	C
9	A
10	B
11	A
12	C
13	A
14	C
15	C
16	C
17	B
18	C
19	B
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 gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
2. She understands the shifting **alliances** in the Middle East.
 - A. associations formed to support common interests
 - B. sets of competing interests amongst neighbors
 - C. borders between countries
3. Her **ambiguous** smile left him wondering whether she was amused or annoyed.
 - A. open to interpretation
 - B. easy to read clearly
 - C. obviously sarcastic
4. Her guilt led to **anguish** until she committed her life to good.
 - A. extreme solitude
 - B. extreme distress
 - C. extreme depression
5. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
6. The bakery filled the window with **delectable** pastries and cakes.
 - A. expensive
 - B. ordinary
 - C. delicious
7. She **despises** his lifestyle.
 - A. admires
 - B. wants
 - C. hates
8. We had a lot in common when we were younger, but then our interests began to **diverge**.
 - A. get weaker or less enthusiastic
 - B. move in opposition to each other
 - C. move apart or become different
9. I appreciate your **forbearance**.
 - A. patience or tolerance
 - B. financial loan
 - C. family concerns
10. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
11. It was thought to be an **impregnable** fortress.
 - A. able to withstand attack
 - B. susceptible to attack
 - C. lacking strong defenses
12. That teacher made an **indelible** impression on her students.
 - A. ordinary
 - B. confusing
 - C. lasting

13. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
- A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger
14. Vines climbed the wooden lattice beside the garden gate.
- A. smooth stone wall
 - B. deep water ditch
 - C. crisscross frame
15. The snow was **luminous** from the moonlight.
- A. soft and silent
 - B. wet and slushy
 - C. bright and glowing
16. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
17. She **reveres** nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
 - B. deeply respects
 - C. thoroughly enjoys
18. The new policy faced **scrutiny** from independent reviewers.
- A. strong support
 - B. quick approval
 - C. careful examination
19. In the movie, there was a **sinister** plot to kill people and harvest their organs.
- A. complicated
 - B. evil
 - C. clever
20. She's a **vivacious** high school senior who has captured the nations heart.
- A. kind and attractive
 - B. engaging and lively
 - C. smart and well-spoken

Vocabulary in Context

The Wanderers

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 As she looked out from her hill in the creeping shade, Miss Katie Rainey might have liked to be argued with and prevailed upon to go back in the house; at the last she might have suffered **contradiction**, but from whom?
 - A. something (typically a statement) that disagrees with itself; or (more rarely) the act of disagreeing
 - B. something made of the brownish metal with the same name -- such as a sculpture or a third place medal
 - C. nerve cells running from the base of the skull to the lower back and enclosed by vertebrae in adults
- 2 She made the steps of the walk they had to watch, head, breasts, and hips in their helpless **agitation**, like a rope of bells she started in their ears.
 - A. officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
 - B. formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
 - C. the act of stirring up (emotionally or physically); or a state of emotional unrest
- 3 Nina Carmichael, Mrs. Junior Nesbitt heavy with child, was seated where he could see her, head fine and **indifferent**, one puffed white arm stretched along the sewing machine.
 - A. without interest
 - B. likely to change
 - C. able to be found
- 4 Virgie had a sudden **recollection** of recital night at Miss Eckhart's—the moment when she was to be called out.
 - A. battle
 - B. result
 - C. memory
- 5 The old summer-house was still back there, **lattices** leaning inward and not matching at the joinings, in the shadow like a place where long ago something had been kept that could peep out now; in the sun like a little temple raised to it.
 - A. (noun) strips of hair that are lighter in color OR (verb) makes strips of hair lighter in color
 - B. changes the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening
 - C. regular crisscross pattern of lines or points that forms a repeating grid of squares or diamonds
- 6 Her busyness gave Missie an air of abandon, quite **impregnable**.
 - A. able to withstand attack
 - B. the state of being awake
 - C. able to take on or adopt
- 7 She slept in the bedroom rocker, in the **luminous** veil of her dress, the cocoon of her head hanging upon it, and the fan let fall from her fingers.
 - A. able to be persuaded to do something by tempting with pleasure or something desired
 - B. relating to one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
 - C. glowing or shining

(also used metaphorically to describe beauty or intelligence)
- 8 Gradually other children, Loomis and Maloney, attracted by the magnetic MacLains, played there too, all drunk with the attractions of an untried place, and a place **sinister** for the day.
 - A. not able to be disagreed with
 - B. evil, harmful, or frightening
 - C. not thoughtful about the past
- 9 There was a tuning fork in his shirt pocket that showed when he walked sideways back of the coffin and leaned over it full front to **scrutinize** the body.
 - A. being a boundary or limit
 - B. find, search, or research
 - C. to look at very carefully

- 10 *Then he made a **hideous** face at Virgie, like a silent yell.*
 A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
 C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 11 *Turning her head, looking out of the one bright window through which came the cries of the little MacLains playing in the yard, she knew another moment of **alliance**.*
 A. association formed to support common interests
 B. set of competing interests amongst neighbors
 C. sense of isolation due to competing interests
- 12 *But she knew the kinship for what it was, whomever it settled upon, an **indelible** thing which may come without friendship or even too early an identity, may come even despisingly, in rudeness, intruding in the middle of sorrow.*
 A. a hollow muscular organ in the pelvic cavity of females which can hold a developing fetus
 B. one who believes that knowledge is acquired primarily by reason rather than by experience
 C. impossible to remove, forget, or erase -- can refer to physical marks or lasting memories
- 13 *"But mainly, Mr. MacLain, you should remember to keep off rich food," Miss Snowdie said, leading her husband down a **divergent** path.*
 A. lacking a tendency to be full of thought
 B. without a tendency to be full of thought
 C. to move apart; or be or become different
- 14 *After Dr. Williams' prayer, little crumbs and clods ran down the mound, pellmell; the earth grew immediately **vivacious** and wild as a creature.*
 A. the quality of feeling angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked
 B. having an engaging liveliness -- when said of a person, typically said of a female
 C. an argument attributed to one's opponent that is weaker than their actual argument
- 15 *Her fingers set, after coming back, set half-closed; the strength in her hands she used up to type in the office but most consciously to pull the udders of the succeeding cows, as if she would hunt, hunt, hunt daily for the blindness that lay inside the beast, inside where she could have a real and living wall for beating on, a solid prison to get out of, the most real stupidity of flesh, a mindless and careless and calling body, to respond flesh for flesh, **anguish** for anguish.*
 A. extreme introversion
 B. extreme pain, suffering, or distress
 C. extreme depression
- 16 *My night-blooming cereus threw a flower tonight, and I couldn't **forbear** to bring you it.*
 A. refrain (hold back) from acting
 B. the ability to take on or adopt
 C. where attention is concentrated
- 17 *Miss Virgie must **despise** things more than the meanest people, more than any throwing ghosts.*
 A. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
 B. technical: center or concentration
 C. dislike strongly and look down upon
- 18 *Cassie's voice, growing louder, grew at the same time more anxious and more **reverent**.*
 A. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 B. feeling or showing respect and admiration
 C. the quality of being sensible and careful
- 19 *Sometimes he looked up in the town where he was young and said something strangely spiteful or **ambiguous** (he was never reconciled to his father, they said, was sarcastic to the old man—all he loved was Miss Snowdie and flowers) but he bothered no one.*
 A. unclear -- because there could be two or more interpretations
 B. trustworthy with secrets or subtle (not attracting attention)
 C. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
- 20 *She smiled once, seeing before her, screenlike, the hideous and **delectable** face Mr. King MacLain had made at the funeral, and when they all knew he was next—even he.*
 A. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 B. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
 C. extremely pleasing -- especially to the sense of taste or to the eye

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	contradict	High-utility academic word
2	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
3	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
4	C	recollect	High-utility academic word
5	C	lattice	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	impregnable (<i>as in: the fort was impregnable</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
7	C	luminous	Used 3 times in this story.
8	B	sinister	High-utility academic word
9	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word
10	B	hideous	Used 2 times in this story.
11	A	alliance	Used 2 times in this story.
12	C	indelible	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
13	C	diverge	High-utility academic word
14	B	vivacious	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
15	B	anguish	Used 2 times in this story.
16	A	forbearance	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
17	C	despise	Used 2 times in this story.
18	B	revere	High-utility academic word
19	A	ambiguous	High-utility academic word
20	C	delectable	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library