

The Winter's Tale

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: afflict, ballad, beseech, chaste, chide, commend, contrary, contrary to, countenance, entreat, impudent, lament, malice, penitent, perpetual, scarcity, trifle, tyranny, vengeance, yield



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She has been **afflicted** with migraines since childhood.
 - A. worried about
 - B. surprised by
 - C. made to suffer
2. The old **ballad** told the tragic tale of two lovers separated by war.
 - A. traditional short story
 - B. dramatic performance on stage
 - C. song that tells a story
3. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
 - A. asking
 - B. demanding
 - C. instructing
4. Jacob remained **chaste** until he met his future spouse.
 - A. a virgin
 - B. disillusioned
 - C. unfaithful to anyone
5. She gently **chides** her friends who run up credit card debt unnecessarily.
 - A. avoids
 - B. celebrates with
 - C. criticizes
6. I **commend** her dedication.
 - A. praise
 - B. envy
 - C. miss
7. We're trying to choose between two **contrary** solutions.
 - A. imperfect
 - B. different
 - C. unfriendly
8. We will not allow members to act **contrary** to our code of ethics.
 - A. without understanding
 - B. prior to creating
 - C. in opposition to
9. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
10. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
 - A. bribed (with gifts)
 - B. asked earnestly
 - C. threatened
11. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
 - A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet
12. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about

13. Words can be like baseball bats when used maliciously against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
14. After breaking the window, the penitent boy apologized to his neighbor.
- A. proud of one's actions
 - B. confused about the rules
 - C. feeling regret for wrongdoing
15. He has a perpetual fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
16. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
17. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
18. Pure democracy (without protection of minority rights) can become tyranny of the majority.
- A. a situation in which a difficult choice must be made between imperfect alternatives
 - B. a form of government where some people control others in a harsh, unfair manner
 - C. a form of government that is fair because decisions are made by majority vote
19. Her evolutionary benefit theory of vengeance is supported by studies showing that a person's desire for revenge increases when others see their mistreatment.
- A. fairness
 - B. status
 - C. revenge
20. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down

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 **Beseech** you,— ARCHIDAMUS.
 - A. to ask strongly or beg for something
 - B. move into position to work; or start
 - C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 2 I think there is not in the world either **malice** or matter to alter it.
 - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer
- 3 To satisfy your highness, and the **entreaties** of our most gracious mistress.
 - A. relative amounts
 - B. requests
 - C. acts of betrayal
- 4 If thou wilt confess,—Or else be **impudently** negative, To have nor eyes nor ears nor thought,—then say My wife's a hobby-horse; deserves a name As rank as any flax-wench that puts to Before her troth-plight: say't and justify't.
 - A. in a manner that uses a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. in a manner influenced by personal belief, feelings, or preferences (rather than being based purely upon fact)
- 5 I would not be a stander-by to hear My sovereign mistress clouded so, without My present **vengeance** taken: 'shrew my heart, You never spoke what did become you less Than this; which to reiterate were sin As deep as that, though true.
 - A. something that stands out
 - B. something made from parts
 - C. the act of taking revenge
- 6 The king hath on him such a **countenance** As he had lost some province...
 - A. facial expression
 - B. the best or most important
 - C. a secret agreement or plot
- 7 Gentle my lord, You **scarce** can right me throughly then, to say You did mistake.
 - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 8 **Commend** my best obedience to the queen;
 - A. express a favorable opinion of
 - B. influence or effect
 - C. gain advantage from
- 9 Nay, rather, good my lords, be second to me: Fear you his **tyrannous** passion more, alas, Than the queen's life?
 - A. able to be translated
 - B. harsh and unjust rule
 - C. not easily identified

- 10 *Hermione, queen to the worthy Leontes, king of Sicilia, thou art here accused and arraigned of high treason, in committing adultery with Polixenes, king of Bohemia; and conspiring with Camillo to take away the life of our sovereign lord the king, thy royal husband: the pretence whereof being by circumstances partly laid open, thou, Hermione, **contrary** to the faith and allegiance of true subject, didst counsel and aid them, for their better safety, to fly away by night.*
- decisive defeat
 - produce or show
 - in opposition to
- 11 *My lord should to the heavens be **contrary**,
Oppose against their wills.*
- the trait of being difficult to meet and talk with
 - different (doing something other than what the heavens would dictate)
 - aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
- 12 *Pr'ythee, bring me To the dead bodies of my queen and son: One grave shall be for both; upon them shall The causes of their death appear, unto Our shame **perpetual**.*
- having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 13 *whose loss of his most precious queen and children are even now to be afresh **lamented**.*
- was abundant or plentiful
 - thought -- possibly aloud
 - grieved or mourned
- 14 *Sir, my gracious lord, To **chide** at your extremes it not becomes me,—O, pardon that I name them!*
- notable difference
 - come to terms with
 - scold or criticize
- 15 *The gods themselves, Humbling their deities to love, have taken The shapes of beasts upon them: Jupiter Became a bull and bellow'd; the green Neptune A ram and bleated; and the fire-rob'd god, Golden Apollo, a poor humble swain, As I seem now:—their transformations Were never for a piece of beauty rarer,—Nor in a way so **chaste**, since my desires Run not before mine honour, nor my lusts Burn hotter than my faith.*
- not having sexual intercourse (ever, outside of marriage, or for a long time); or not involving sexual desire
 - a citizen of Rome between the founding of the city (753 BC) and the fall of the Western Roman Empire (476 AD)
 - able to be portrayed or created in a particular way OR able to be interpreted, translated, or extracted from
- 16 *This is a merry **ballad**; but a very pretty one.*
- related to the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy
 - of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
 - a song (or poem) that tells a story or expresses strong feelings -- typically slow in tempo
- 17 *She prizes not such **trifles** as these are:*
- struggles or disagreements
 - is attractive or desirable
 - things of small importance
- 18 *I **yield** all this; But, for some other reasons, my grave sir, Which 'tis not fit you know, I not acquaint My father of this business.*
- produce or give
 - stop (something from happening)
 - think deeply or carefully about
- 19 *...no fault could you make,
Which you have not redeem'd; indeed, paid down
More **penitence** than done trespass: at the last,
Do as the heavens have done, forget your evil;
With them forgive yourself.*
- a psychologist concerned with the treatment of abnormal thinking and behavior
 - a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king of queen
 - remorse (sorrow) for misdeeds
- 20 *I am sorry, sir, I have thus far stirr'd you: but I could **afflict** you further.*
- think carefully
 - strongly desire
 - cause suffering

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	beseech	Used 18 times in this play.
2	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
3	B	entreat	Used 4 times in this play.
4	B	impudent	Used 2 times in this play.
5	C	vengeance (<i>as in: vengeance is mine</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
6	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
7	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
8	A	commend (<i>as in: I commend her work</i>)	Used 5 times in this play.
9	B	tyranny	Used 5 times in this play.
10	C	contrary to (<i>as in: contrary to</i>)	3 meanings in this play.
11	B	contrary (<i>as in: a contrary idea</i>)	3 meanings in this play.
12	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
13	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
14	C	chide	Used 4 times in this play.
15	A	chaste (<i>as in: remained chaste</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
16	C	ballad	Used 11 times in this play.
17	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 5 times in this play.
18	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
19	C	penitent	Used 4 times in this play.
20	C	afflict	Used 5 times in this play.