

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

by Elizabeth George Speare

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

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: accompany, contrast, deliberate (3), demonstrate (2), direct, endure, grave, imply, incredulous, inquire, magistrate, novel, sobering, solemn, tone, trace (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

by Elizabeth George Speare

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

Vocabulary Preview
The Witch of Blackbird Pond
by Elizabeth George Speare

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Will you **accompany** her to the party?
 - A. follow
 - B. precede
 - C. go with
2. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
3. She **deliberately** added false information to the Wikipedia page.
 - A. intentionally
 - B. carelessly
 - C. accidentally
4. We need to **deliberate** on this further before making a decision.
 - A. wait
 - B. delay
 - C. talk
5. She wasn't accustomed to cold weather, but she managed to cross the icy street with **deliberate** care.
 - A. quick and energetic
 - B. very little
 - C. slow and careful
6. The medal is given only to a few who have **demonstrated** extraordinary courage while defending their country.
 - A. protested
 - B. shown
 - C. encouraged
7. The students **demonstrated** against limitations on free speech.
 - A. signed petitions
 - B. spoke eloquently
 - C. protested
8. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
9. As a soldier, she was prepared to endure hardship and even to sacrifice her life for others.
 - A. risk
 - B. suffer through
 - C. cause
10. The day after the funeral, she was in a **grave** mood.
 - A. hysterical
 - B. solemn
 - C. fearful
11. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
 - A. hinted
 - B. insisted
 - C. denied

12. At first, she was **incredulous**--thinking the report was in error.
- A. worried
 - B. confused
 - C. without belief
13. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
- A. answer questions
 - B. ask about
 - C. perform a task
14. The **magistrate** set bail at \$10,000.
- A. attorney
 - B. queen or king
 - C. judge
15. It is a **novel** idea and just might work.
- A. original
 - B. important
 - C. valuable
16. These are **sobering** statistics that should leave all of us concerned.
- A. serious
 - B. false
 - C. true
17. Everyone was **solemn** at the funeral.
- A. serious and dignified
 - B. teary eyed
 - C. dressed in dark colors
18. Would you describe the author's tone as more optimistic or more pessimistic?
- A. supporting characters
 - B. expressed mood
 - C. logical argument
19. The study found **traces** of cocaine on most \$20 bills used in large cities of the United States and Canada.
- A. tiny quantities
 - B. various types of
 - C. large amounts
20. She used a stick to **trace** a mysterious symbol on the sand.
- A. draw
 - B. erase
 - C. uncover

Vocabulary in Context
The Witch of Blackbird Pond
by Elizabeth George Speare

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 The bleak line of shore surrounding the gray harbor was a disheartening **contrast** to the shimmering green and white that fringed the turquoise bay of Barbados which was her home.
A. similarity
B. disappointment
C. difference
- 2 Without a second's **deliberation** she acted. Kicking off her buckled shoes and dropping the woolen cloak, she plunged headlong over the side of the boat.
A. opinion
B. agreement
C. thought
- 3 Nat's eyes **deliberately** taunted her.
A. on purpose
B. with disrespect
C. accidentally
- 4 Lost in her own thoughts, Kit barely noticed that William's dignified pace was even more **deliberate** than usual.
A. quick
B. energetic
C. slow
- 5 "A true witch will always float. The innocent ones just sink like a stone." He was obviously paying her back for the morning's humiliation. But she was surprised to see that John Holbrook was not at all amused. His solemn young face was even more **grave** than before.
A. humorous and smiling
B. serious and solemn
C. calm and untroubled
- 6 Kit recoiled, as much from his angry **tone** as from the repulsive words.
A. volume of voice expressing a feeling
B. quality of voice expressing a feeling
C. rhythm of voice expressing a feeling
- 7 Mercy **demonstrated** on two pieces of thin board to which were fastened strips of leather set with hooked wire teeth. From a great pile of heavy blue wool she pulled a small tuft, caught it in the wire teeth of one board, and drew across it the second board till the fibers were brushed flat.
A. protested
B. showed
C. sat
- 8 Captain Talcott sensed the growing anger in the waiting crowd and raised his voice. "There is to be no **demonstration**," he reminded them.
A. vacation
B. violence
C. public protest
- 9 Matthew Wood stood on the threshold of his home, his bushy eyebrows massed close together as he surveyed the three women who waited to **accompany** him.
A. perform with
B. work with
C. go with
- 10 What are you **implying**, Gershom?
A. suggesting
B. boldly saying
C. doing rudely

- 11 Kit had no idea that her methods were **novel** and surprising.
A. new
B. fiction
C. upsetting
- 12 ...and then she was laughing with Hannah. But instantly she **sobered** again.
A. became serious
B. stopped being drunk
C. became amused
- 13 But it's not much fun trying to keep my hand firm and being so **solemn** all day long.
A. very serious
B. friendly and cheerful
C. insincere
- 14 "'Tis a strange thing, that the only friends I have I found in the same way, lying flat in the meadows, crying as though their hearts would break."
The two young people stared at each other. "You?" breathed Kit **incredulously**.
Nat laughed. "I'll have you know that I was only eight years old," he explained.
A. in the manner of one happy to have solved a puzzle
B. with a laugh, smile, or humorous look
C. having difficulty comprehending something so unexpected
- 15 In the clean white sand on the floor Hannah **traced** a careful B. Looking at Prudence, Kit held her breath.
A. drew
B. found
C. showed
- 16 But Nat had slipped out of the room and his halfhearted pursuers reported not a single **trace** of him.
A. indication or sign
B. drawing or outline
C. compliment or flattery
- 17 The **magistrate** and the ministers will examine you.
A. attorney
B. mayor
C. judge
- 18 We have come here in order to **inquire** and search into the matter of Mistress Katherine Tyler, lately of Barbados, who is accused by sundry witnesses of the practice of witchcraft.
A. respond
B. ask
C. disgrace
- 19 The magistrate spoke to her **directly**. "I had considered this morning's inquiry merely a formality. I did not expect to find any evidence worthy of carrying to the court. But this is a serious matter. You must explain to us how this child's name came to be written."
A. in a straightforward manner
B. in a gentle manner
C. in a tactful manner
- 20 Was this what strengthened these New Englanders to **endure** the winter, the knowledge that summer's return would be all the richer for the waiting?
A. surrender to
B. suffer through
C. break with

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

by Elizabeth George Speare

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	C	deliberate (<i>as in: need to deliberate</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
3	A	deliberate (<i>as in: deliberate insult</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
4	C	deliberate (<i>as in: a deliberate thinker</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
5	B	grave (<i>as in: Her manner was grave.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
6	B	tone (<i>as in: the tone of the essay</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
7	B	demonstrate (<i>as in: It demonstrates my point.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	C	demonstrate (<i>as in: demonstrate to protest</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	C	accompany (<i>as in: accompany on the journey</i>)	High-utility academic word
10	A	imply	High-utility academic word
11	A	novel (<i>as in: a novel situation</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	A	sobering (<i>as in: a sobering thought</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
13	A	solemn	Used 9 times in this book.
14	C	incredulous	Used 6 times in this book.
15	A	trace (<i>as in: trace a picture or outline</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	trace (<i>as in: found a trace of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	magistrate	Used 26 times in this book.
18	B	inquire	Used 11 times in this book.
19	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	B	endure (<i>as in: endured the pain</i>)	Used 13 times in this book.