

# What They Fought For - 1861-1865

by James M. McPherson

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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

|                            |   |                               |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 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.

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#### 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:** abolition, anarchy, bias, confiscate, contend (2), conviction, emancipated, idealism, motivate, motive, nevertheless, oppress, paradox, republic, rhetoric, subjugate, sustain, theme, tyranny



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### What They Fought For - 1861-1865

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## What They Fought For - 1861-1865

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. The long fight for abolition finally achieved its goal in the 19th century.
  - A. outlawing alcohol
  - B. ending slavery
  - C. regulating child labor
2. I don't like enforcing that law, but I prefer it to anarchy.
  - A. being fired
  - B. criminal activity
  - C. absence of order
3. She has a bias against young people.
  - A. statistical analysis
  - B. personal preference
  - C. standing rule
4. Security confiscated the pocketknife at the airport checkpoint.
  - A. gave back
  - B. took away
  - C. borrowed
5. She contends that they quoted her out of context.
  - A. proves
  - B. offers proof
  - C. claims
6. The teams are in fierce contention for first place.
  - A. surrender
  - B. confidence
  - C. competition
7. She stood up in class with total conviction and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
  - A. raised voice
  - B. firm belief
  - C. shaky voice
8. The new law emancipated thousands of laborers from forced servitude.
  - A. punished harshly
  - B. trained as servants
  - C. freed from bondage
9. Her idealism made her believe the school could become fairer for everyone.
  - A. fear of change
  - B. belief in high ideals
  - C. love of comfort
10. She is motivated by a sincere desire to help others.
  - A. driven
  - B. slowed
  - C. stopped
11. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
  - A. excuse
  - B. technique
  - C. reason

12. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
  - B. despite that
  - C. in addition
13. My work environment is oppressive.
- A. friendly
  - B. harsh and unfair
  - C. very important
14. Her life was a paradox: she was both incredibly private and a bestselling memoirist.
- A. something that seems self-contradictory
  - B. something that went as expected
  - C. something that is too short
15. A republic is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
  - B. representative government
  - C. oligarchy
16. Students analyzed the senator's rhetoric before writing their essays.
- A. persuasive language
  - B. family history
  - C. voting record
17. The Taliban wants total subjugation to their religious law.
- A. body temperature that is dangerously low
  - B. forced submission
  - C. gullibility (being too willing to believe)
18. The donation will sustain our efforts to help the homeless.
- A. disrupt
  - B. finalize
  - C. support
19. What is the theme of your essay?
- A. basic idea
  - B. grammatical voice
  - C. narrative point of view
20. 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

# Vocabulary in Context

## What They Fought For - 1861-1865

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- Exactly a year later, an Alabama corporal who had just been captured at Gettysburg nevertheless expressed confidence that, fighting for "the same principles which fired the hearts of our ancestors in the revolutionary struggle," the South would ultimately win the war:*
  - in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
  - despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
  - therefore (for that reason)
- "Instead of indulging in feelings of despondency let us compare our situation and cause to those of our illustrious ancestors who achieved the liberties we have ever enjoyed and for which we are now **contending**."*
  - restoring
  - following
  - competing (trying to win)
- Whose idealism could survive all that? A good bit of evidence exists to support Linderman's **contention** that it did not survive.*
  - someone who expresses disapproval
  - the act of recognizing difference
  - claim (that something is true)
- When prospects for the Confederacy appeared bright, these **convictions** took the form of an expansive nationalism.*
  - not working or not operating
  - a strong, firmly held belief
  - calculates or judges too low
- It is better to die than be subjugated, and I for one am ready and willing to fight to the bitter end.*
  - not roughly calculated
  - forced into submission
  - influenced or effected
- "bursting the bonds of tyranny," and the like, may come across to this post-Freudian age as mawkish posturing, romantic sentimentalism, hollow platitudes.*
  - long eventful journey
  - harsh and unjust rule
  - a nerve or brain cell
- The dominant themes in letters were homesickness and a longing for peace.*
  - recurring ideas
  - (noun) strips of hair that are lighter in color OR (verb) makes strips of hair lighter in color
  - changes the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening
- This bias cannot be helped, for it reflects the selectivity of the evidence available to the historian who seeks to get inside the minds of those men.*
  - an approach to psychology that emphasizes observable measurable behavior
  - a personal preference; or any tendency to move in a particular direction
  - a heart condition marked by chest pain due to reduced oxygen to the heart
- "I will never stand by and see my native soil polluted by a horde of Abolition incendiaries" or for that matter by the "lowest and most contemptible race upon the face of God's earth,"*
  - obsessive-compulsive disorder -- an anxiety disorder characterized by recurrent and persistent thoughts and feelings and repetitive, ritualized behaviors
  - the act of formally ending a system, practice, or institution -- most often used to refer to the movement to end slavery when no specific system is named
  - groupings of Egyptian rulers sharing a common origin some time between 3150 BC when Upper and Lower Egypt were united, and 31 BC when Rome conquered Egypt
- Texans seemed particularly ferocious on this subject, at least rhetorically.*
  - in a manner that uses words to make a point
  - in a manner that stops or hinders something
  - in a manner involving only one part or side

- 11 *But soldiers from other states were not far behind—especially states that experienced northern occupation and confiscation of property.*
- the act of move something out of an interacting position; or the act of stopping
  - to take something regardless of consent -- often as a punishment or by authority
  - co-existing peacefully; or having components that are combined in a pleasing way
- 12 *Confederate soldiers' letters and diaries continued in 1864 and even into 1865 to abound with such expressions as this "gigantic struggle for liberty," for "the great Democratic principles of States' Rights and States' Sovereignty," for "the dear rights of freemen" against "tyranny and oppression," ...*
- high taxes
  - harsh and unfair treatment
  - property confiscation
- 13 *Because, said northern soldiers almost as if in echo of Abraham Lincoln, once admit that a state can secede at will, and republican government by majority rule would come to an end.*
- relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
  - of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
  - of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
- 14 *"The central idea of secession," said Lincoln, "is the essence of anarchy."*
- a hollow muscular organ in the pelvic cavity of females which can hold a developing fetus
  - one who believes that knowledge is acquired primarily by reason rather than by experience
  - the complete absence of political authority; or more generally, complete absence of order
- 15 *Some Union soldiers avowed a more abstract motive of revenge for Confederate atrocities elsewhere, even the Fort Pillow massacre.*
- small quantity or indication
  - the sacred writings of Islam
  - reason (for doing something)
- 16 *It was the visceral counterpart of retribution for invasion and destruction that increasingly motivated Confederate soldiers.*
- wanting to do something; or made someone want to do something
  - provided investment funds for something -- such as a business
  - not viewed in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
- 17 *How could men sustain a high level of idealistic commitment through the grim experiences of disease, death, exhaustion, and frustration as the war ground on year after year?*
- accept as true (without proof)
  - take (power or responsibility)
  - support
- 18 *How could men sustain a high level of idealistic commitment through the grim experiences of disease, death, exhaustion, and frustration as the war ground on year after year?*
- the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)
  - the belief that behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards
  - the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
- 19 *Many Americans in Thomas Jefferson's time felt acutely the paradox of fighting for liberty while holding other people in slavery.*
- a situation or statement that seems to contradict itself but may still be true
  - something exclusive to (someone or some group) -- such as an activity or place
  - a rough substance that can be rubbed against something else to polish or clean
- 20 *Emancipation was a salient issue for Union soldiers because it was controversial.*
- "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
  - a sexually transmitted disease that, if treated early, can be completely cured with antibiotics
  - the act of being released from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

### What They Fought For - 1861-1865

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| #  | KEY | WORD   | NOTE  |
|----|-----|--|---|
| 1  | B   | nevertheless   | High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.  |
| 2  | C   | contend ( <i>as in: She contended for the gold medal</i> ) | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 3  | C   | contend ( <i>as in: She contended that...</i> )            | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 4  | B   | conviction ( <i>as in: spoke with conviction</i> )         | Used 29 times in this book.                             |
| 5  | B   | subjugate  | Used 5 times in this book.                              |
| 6  | B   | tyranny  | Used 10 times in this book.                             |
| 7  | A   | theme ( <i>as in: theme of the novel</i> )                 | High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.  |
| 8  | B   | bias   | High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.  |
| 9  | B   | abolition  | Used 20 times in this book.                             |
| 10 | A   | rhetoric   | High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.  |
| 11 | B   | confiscate   | Used 5 times in this book.                              |
| 12 | B   | oppress ( <i>as in: oppressive government</i> )            | Used 6 times in this book.                              |
| 13 | B   | republic ( <i>as in: the country is a republic</i> )       | Used 17 times in this book.                             |
| 14 | C   | anarchy  | Used 6 times in this book.                              |
| 15 | C   | motive ( <i>as in: What is her motive?</i> )               | High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book. |
| 16 | A   | motivate   | Used 5 times in this book.                              |
| 17 | C   | sustain ( <i>as in: sustained by her faith</i> )           | High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.  |
| 18 | B   | idealism ( <i>as in: youthful idealism</i> )               | Used 6 times in this book.                              |
| 19 | A   | paradox  | High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.  |
| 20 | C   | emancipated  | Used 28 times in this book.                             |