

William Wilson

by Edgar Allan Poe

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: altercation, antagonist, arbitrary, contradict, dismal, enable, enormity, habitual, indignant, indulge, minute (2), motive, novel, scorn, scrupulous, scrutiny, vary, venerable, veritable



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

William Wilson

by Edgar Allan Poe

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

Vocabulary Preview

William Wilson

by Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We have video of the **altercation**.
 - A. fight
 - B. accident
 - C. theft
2. In the book, *Harry Potter*, Voldemort is Harry's **antagonist**.
 - A. partner
 - B. friend
 - C. enemy
3. The rules felt **arbitrary**, changing from one day to the next without clear explanation.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. strict
 - C. cruel
4. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
5. When she graduated from college the job market was **dismal**.
 - A. especially good
 - B. promising but unusual
 - C. terrible or depressing
6. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
7. The photographs depict the **enormity** of the crime.
 - A. gradual destruction (of something previously established) -- such as a government, rule, or belief
 - B. extreme wickedness
 - C. a system of government with a ruler who has absolute power -- especially one who abuses that power
8. She **habitually** works through lunch.
 - A. in a manner intended to attract notice and impress others
 - B. regularly
 - C. with satisfaction or contentment (unworried and satisfied)
9. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
 - A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
10. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
11. Even a **minute** amount of lead can be harmful to children.
 - A. large
 - B. 60 seconds
 - C. tiny
12. She thrives at sifting through that kind of **minute** detail.
 - A. quickly eliminated
 - B. available from prior research
 - C. including even small considerations

13. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
- A. excuse
 - B. technique
 - C. reason
14. It is a novel idea and just might work.
- A. original
 - B. important
 - C. valuable
15. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
16. Lenders trust her as a scrupulous property inspector.
- A. fast and cheap
 - B. honest and careful
 - C. loud and rude
17. The new policy faced scrutiny from independent reviewers.
- A. strong support
 - B. quick approval
 - C. careful examination
18. McDonald's menu options vary by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known
19. Many were surprised that a venerable institution like Bear Stearns could so rapidly go out of business.
- A. large and successful
 - B. long respected
 - C. popular
20. The back yard is a veritable jungle.
- A. decaying (figuratively)
 - B. walled (figuratively)
 - C. real (figuratively)

Vocabulary in Context

William Wilson

by Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *This has been already too much an object for the **scorn**—for the horror—for the detestation of my race.*
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific
- 2 *To the uttermost regions of the globe have not the **indignant** winds bruited its unparalleled infamy?*
 - A. angered or annoyed at something unjust or wrong
 - B. surprised as something unexpected
 - C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 3 *—and a cloud, dense, **dismal**, and limitless, does it not hang eternally between thy hopes and heaven?*
 - A. irrelevant or unimportant
 - B. important or significant
 - C. depressing or gloomy
- 4 *From comparatively trivial wickedness I passed, with the stride of a giant, into more than the **enormities** of an Elah-Gabalus.*
 - A. people that view history as class struggle and argue that capitalism will be replaced by communism
 - B. extreme wickedness

or more rarely (and considered incorrect by many): enormousness (largeness)

 - C. any of the Scandinavian peoples who raided the coasts of Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries
- 5 *In truth, it was a dream-like and spirit-soothing place, that **venerable** old town.*
 - A. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - B. respected (worthy of respect) -- typically because of age or position
 - C. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 6 *—to me how **veritably** a palace of enchantment!*
 - A. said in a manner that is less harsh or less offensive than stating something directly
 - B. in a manner that is not trustworthy, or attracts unwelcome attention, or is improper
 - C. used for emphasis: to describe one thing as almost like another (more intense) thing
- 7 *The morning's awakening, the nightly summons to bed; the connings, the recitations; the periodical half-holidays, and perambulations; the play-ground, with its broils, its pastimes, its intrigues;—these, by a mental sorcery long forgotten, were made to involve a wilderness of sensation, a world of rich incident, an universe of **varied** emotion, of excitement the most passionate and spirit-stirring.*
 - A. took on as one's own
 - B. differed; or changed
 - C. began fighting again
- 8 *My namesake alone, of those who in school phraseology constituted "our set," presumed to compete with me in the studies of the class—in the sports and broils of the play-ground—to refuse implicit belief in my assertions, and submission to my will—indeed, to interfere with my **arbitrary** dictation in any respect whatsoever.*
 - A. based on chance or impulse
 - B. able to meet and talk with
 - C. the quality of disagreeing
- 9 *He appeared to be destitute alike of the ambition which urged, and of the passionate energy of mind which **enabled** me to excel.*
 - A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 10 *It may seem strange that in spite of the continual anxiety occasioned me by the rivalry of Wilson, and his intolerable spirit of **contradiction**, I could not bring myself to hate him altogether.*
 - 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

- 11 In a word, nothing could more seriously disturb me, (although I **scrupulously** concealed such disturbance,) than any allusion to a similarity of mind, person, or condition existing between us.
- A. in a manner that does not change
 - B. ethically; or carefully diligent
 - C. in a manner that deserves praise
- 12 One night, about the close of my fifth year at the school, and immediately after the **altercation** just mentioned, finding every one wrapped in sleep, I arose from bed, and, lamp in hand, stole through a wilderness of narrow passages from my own bedroom to that of my rival.
- A. a noisy argument, confrontation, or fight
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. the time during which something continues
- 13 Was it, in truth, within the bounds of human possibility, that what I now saw was the result, merely, of the **habitual practice** of this sarcastic imitation?
- A. able to change
 - B. done regularly
 - C. very important
- 14 I became aware of the figure of a youth about my own height, and habited in a white kerseymere morning frock, cut in the **novel** fashion of the one I myself wore at the moment.
- A. pleasantly new and original
 - B. important and valuable
 - C. traditional (having withstood the test of time)
- 15 We had protracted our sitting far into the night, and I had at length effected the manoeuvre of getting Glendinning as my sole **antagonist**.
- A. someone who changes something (upon review)
 - B. someone who takes something on as their own
 - C. someone who offers opposition or is hostile
- 16 That he was overcome by the wine just swallowed, was the idea which most readily presented itself; and, rather with a view to the preservation of my own character in the eyes of my associates, than from any less interested **motive**, I was about to insist, peremptorily, upon a discontinuance of the play, when some expressions at my elbow from among the company, and an ejaculation evincing utter despair on the part of Glendinning, gave me to understand that I had effected his total ruin under circumstances which, rendering him an object for the pity of all, should have protected him from the ill offices even of a fiend.
- A. small quantity or indication
 - B. the sacred writings of Islam
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 17 When, therefore, Mr. Preston reached me that which he had picked up upon the floor, and near the folding doors of the apartment, it was with an astonishment nearly bordering upon terror, that I perceived my own already hanging on my arm, (where I had no doubt unwittingly placed it,) and that the one presented me was but its exact counterpart in every, in even the **minutest** possible particular.
- A. smartest
 - B. show off
 - C. smallest
- 18 And then I scrutinized, with a **minute** scrutiny, the forms, and the methods, and the leading traits of his impertinent supervision.
- A. having the characteristics of a monk (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
 - C. careful
- 19 And then I **scrutinized**, with a minute scrutiny, the forms, and the methods, and the leading traits of his impertinent supervision.
- A. mirrored back (an image)
 - B. quoted (to make a point)
 - C. looked at very carefully
- 20 I had **indulged** more freely than usual in the excesses of the wine-table; and now the suffocating atmosphere of the crowded rooms irritated me beyond endurance.
- A. enjoyed to excess
 - B. guided or managed
 - C. thought carefully

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

William Wilson

by Edgar Allan Poe

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	C	dismal	Used 3 times in this book.
4	B	enormity (<i>as in: enormity of the crime</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	venerable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	C	veritable	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
8	A	arbitrary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
10	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
11	B	scrupulous	Used 3 times in this book.
12	A	altercation	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	B	habitual	Used 4 times in this book.
14	A	novel (<i>as in: a novel situation</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	C	antagonist (<i>as in: the antagonist in the film</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
18	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.