

Winesburg, Ohio

by Sherwood Anderson

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: acquire, assail, carnal, coherent, compel, fervor, grotesque, hideous, indifferent, insistent, listless, materialistic, perpetual, perplex, protrude, reprove, reverse, squalid, waver, wrath



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	B
4	C
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	B
11	A
12	A
13	B
14	C
15	C
16	A
17	B
18	C
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. They are working to **acquire** nuclear weapons.
 - A. obtain (get)
 - B. eliminate (get rid of)
 - C. disguise or hide
2. She took every opportunity to **assail** the policy.
 - A. study
 - B. attack
 - C. understand
3. The novel treats his attraction as **carnal** rather than romantic.
 - A. careful and polite
 - B. physical or sexual
 - C. legal or official
4. Her argument is **coherent**.
 - A. unreasonable
 - B. fragmented
 - C. sensible and clear
5. Can we **compel** the witness to testify?
 - A. prevent
 - B. force
 - C. delay
6. She spoke about her cause with great **fervor**.
 - A. calm boredom
 - B. strong passion
 - C. mild dislike
7. The disease causes **grotesque** deformity.
 - A. hidden (internal)
 - B. as from aging
 - C. ugly or distorted
8. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
9. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
 - A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger
10. She made an **insistent** request for more time on the project.
 - A. shy and hesitant
 - B. firmly demanding
 - C. unclear and brief
11. She accepted her fate with **listless** resignation.
 - A. unenergetic
 - B. frustrated
 - C. lonely
12. I wouldn't describe myself as **materialistic**, but I would like some financial security.
 - A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
 - B. too afraid of risk and uncertainty
 - C. unwilling to spend any money

13. He has a **perpetual** fear of forgetting important deadlines.
A. joyful
B. constant
C. secret
14. I am **perplexed** by her sudden change of mind on this important issue.
A. amused
B. annoyed
C. confused
15. She is operating to repair the muscle wall through which the hernia **protrudes**.
A. heals over
B. shrinks back
C. sticks out
16. I don't want to spoil her, but I don't have the heart to **reprove** her.
A. criticize
B. compliment
C. instruct
17. She **reveres** nature and all that is natural.
A. dislikes and avoids
B. deeply respects
C. thoroughly enjoys
18. The refugees lived in **squalid** conditions with no clean water or proper shelter.
A. clean and pleasant
B. loud and crowded
C. filthy and unpleasant
19. We will never **waver** in our commitment to provide the best education possible.
A. speak forcefully
B. grow rapidly
C. be unsteady
20. She fears the **wrath** of God.
A. angry punishment
B. power
C. unpredictable moods

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 This **indifference** would not have surprised him; it certainly should not surprise anyone who reads his book.
 - A. without interest
 - B. risky investment
 - C. chaotic disorder
- 2 Anderson soon adopted the posture of a free, liberated spirit, and like many writers of the time, he presented himself as a sardonic critic of American provincialism and **materialism**.
 - A. overly concerned with wealth and possessions at the expense of other interests
 - B. the passage food and drink follow between the back of the mouth and the stomach
 - C. blood poisoning or poisoning of other tissues by microorganisms or their toxins
- 3 Hesitantly, fearfully, or with a sputtering **incoherent** rage, they approach him, pleading that he listen to their stories in the hope that perhaps they can find some sort of renewal in his youthful voice.
 - A. related to the change of a light wave (or other wave) when it passes an opaque edge or narrow opening
 - B. related to a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - C. not sensible or clear; or describing parts as not fitting together in a consistent or pleasing manner
- 4 Some were amusing, some almost beautiful, and one, a woman all drawn out of shape, hurt the old man by her **grotesqueness**.
 - A. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - B. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
 - C. distorted and unnatural in shape or size -- especially in a disturbing way

or:

ugly, gross, or very wrong
- 5 Without looking back, the old man had hurried down the hillside and across a meadow, leaving George Willard **perplexed** and frightened upon the grassy slope.
 - A. excessively excited
 - B. nervous or confused
 - C. confused or puzzled
- 6 Strange, **hideous** accusations fell from his loosehung lips.
 - A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 7 As his hard knuckles beat down into the frightened face of the school-master, his **wrath** became more and more terrible.
 - A. extreme anger
 - B. determination
 - C. use of reason
- 8 By the window sat the sick woman, perfectly still, **listless**.
 - A. lacking energy and normal enthusiasm
 - B. lacking a reason for doing something
 - C. inconspicuousness or trustworthiness
- 9 He always wore a dirty white waistcoat out of the pockets of which **protruded** a number of the kind of black cigars known as stogies.
 - A. disagreed
 - B. continued
 - C. stuck out

- 10 *In the path at the side of the road they were **compelled** to walk one behind the other.*
 A. fruit cooked with sugar (like jam)
 B. forced; or (more rarely) convinced
 C. didn't trust or have confidence in
- 11 *A kind of crude and animal-like poetic **fervor** took possession of them.*
 A. chaotic disorder
 B. intense feelings
 C. risky investment
- 12 *It was the indefinable hunger within that made his eyes **waver** and that kept him always more and more silent before people.*
 A. portray or create in a particular way OR interpret, translate, or extract from
 B. to release from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
 C. to move back and forth (shake or quiver)
- or:
- to change, be unsure, or weak
- 13 *In the woods an intense silence seemed to lie over everything and suddenly out of the silence came the old man's harsh and **insistent** voice.*
 A. able to be taken on as one's own
 B. persistent or continuing or firm
 C. indicating approval or agreement
- 14 *In the city where he is living men are **perpetually** young.*
 A. done in a manner that is of low quality or of lower quality than something else
 B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 C. in a manner that relates to electricity generated by light or affected by light
- 15 *When after two years of that life I found she had managed to **acquire** three other lovers who came regularly to our house when I was away at work, I didn't want to touch them or her.*
 A. obtain (come into the possession of something)
 B. something that is necessary for something else
 C. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
- 16 *The **reproofs** she committed to memory, going about the garden and saying them aloud like an actor memorizing his part.*
 A. criticisms
 B. sympathies
 C. main roads
- 17 *The minister almost wept with joy at this deliverance from the **carnal** desire to "peep" and went back to his own house praising God.*
 A. related to the change of a light wave (or other wave) when it passes an opaque edge or narrow opening
 B. sexual, or related to the body or physical desire (in contrast to spiritual desires or higher ideals)
 C. related to a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
- 18 *Hours passed and a fever **assailed** his body.*
 A. gradually added or removed
 B. to attack or cause trouble
 C. limited or with boundaries
- 19 *When his way homeward led him again into the street of frame houses he could not bear the sight and began to run, wanting to get quickly out of the neighborhood that now seemed to him utterly **squalid** and commonplace.*
 A. with the involvement of other people or things
 B. the state or degree of being greater than zero
 C. dirty and unpleasant; or (more rarely) immoral
- 20 *He began to think of the people in the town where he had always lived with something like **reverence**.*
 A. interfere (in another's affairs or business); or handle (something that shouldn't be handled)
 B. feelings of deep respect and admiration -- sometimes with a mixture of wonder and awe or fear
 C. separate two things to prevent passage of something such as heat, cold, noise, or electricity

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	A	materialistic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	C	coherent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
4	C	grotesque	Used 27 times in this book.
5	C	perplex	Used 7 times in this book.
6	B	hideous	Used 4 times in this book.
7	A	wrath	Used 7 times in this book.
8	A	listless	Used 3 times in this book.
9	C	protrude	Used 5 times in this book.
10	B	compel	Used 4 times in this book.
11	B	fervor	Used 6 times in this book.
12	C	waver	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
13	B	insistent	Used 7 times in this book.
14	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	A	acquire	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
16	A	reprove	Used 3 times in this book.
17	B	carnal	Used 3 times in this book.
18	B	assail	Used 2 times in this book.
19	C	squalid	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.