

Studies in Poetry
Vocabulary Quiz #1—Lessons 1–4

1. _____ Professor Gradgrind always presents his lectures in a formal, _____ manner. Seldom—if ever—does the professor amuse his students, always giving boring instruction.
(A) sensuous
(B) cordial
(C) didactic
(D) stringent
(E) bombastic

2. _____ How would you describe an “abyss”?
(A) bottomless
(B) pedagogic
(C) shallow
(D) sensuous
(E) humorless

3. _____ My boss was less than _____ when I lost our best client; nevertheless, Mr. Gates’s _____ to me had a tone of disappointment and not of anger.
(A) bombastic . . . nicety
(B) sensuous . . . croft
(C) bland . . . swath
(D) cordial . . . admonition
(E) reckless . . . cordiality

4. _____ True poetry seldom includes verse that is sentimental, rhetorical, or _____, which tends to be the work of aspiring poets, who compose patriotic themes.
(A) bland
(B) sensuous
(C) stringent
(D) scant
(E) bombastic

5. _____ As the sinking ship began to take on more water, the _____ concern among the sailors was to ensure the lifeboats were properly equipped; but much to their dismay, there was a _____ supply of water, which was sufficient for only a few days.
(A) reckless . . . sensuous
(B) pedagogic . . . stringent
(C) nice . . . bland
(D) stringent . . . brooding
(E) paramount . . . scant

OVER

6. _____
In his book, Arlo Bates point out that the key
to
A B
understanding or to even appreciating literature
C
is reading with intelligence. No error.
D E

7. _____
Some teachers fail to realize that a class of
A
normal students are often confounded, because
B C
the language of literature is different than the
D
language used in daily conversation. No error.
E

8. _____
The chief end of it is to delight, to become part
A
of the intimate and actual life of the student
B
and not a subject to be tossed aside whenever
C
the academic pressure is removed. No error.
D E

9. _____
In "To a Waterfowl," the poet is reminded that
A
even though he may perhaps be alone in this
B
world, God ensures that none of His creatures
C
live without His guidance. No errors.
D E

10. _____
Typical of most American Romantics, Emily
A
Dickinson displays a very sentimental and
B
unrealistic view of nature, which tends toward
C
giving God-like attributes to the physical
D
world. No errors.

11. _____ The government began to lose
favor when the officials restricted its
citizens' freedom of travel, a restriction
that was very stringent according to
modern standards.

The word "stringent" means

- (A) lax.
- (B) indifferent.
- (C) severe.
- (D) silly.
- (E) unfortunate.

12. _____ After being convinced of its
usefulness in the classroom, the
teachers wholeheartedly tried to use the
new pedagogic theory on their pupils.

The word "pedagogic" means most
nearly in this sentence

- (A) instructional.
- (B) scientific.
- (C) experimental.
- (D) illogical.
- (E) useful.

13. _____ Many students seldom see the
connection with the word "reckless" as
describing someone who fails to reck.

The word "reck" means to

- (A) hover.
- (B) ignore.
- (C) withhold permission.
- (D) forget often.
- (E) take heed.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

The brilliant though tragically brief life and career of John Keats represents a great chapter in English literature. Even though some

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poets have risen higher than Keats, few have begun life more

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humbly. Born the son of a livery stable hand and an innkeeper's daughter, Keats was orphaned at fifteen years of age and left school to become an apprentice of an apothecary-surgeon. While seemingly headed for a career in medicine, he gave it up suddenly in favor of

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poetry, for which he had developed a passion since discovering Spenser's poetry, who wrote *The Faerie Queene*. Keats was

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encouraged by the essayist and poet Leigh Hunt, by who he was

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introduced to Hunt's circle of literary friends, who included Wordsworth, Shelley, Hazlitt, and other eminent literary figures. His personal letters and the testimony of friends show Keats to have been a vigorous, zestful, warm-hearted person. However, Keats is distinguished and best remembered for his devotion to beauty. Seeing the world not as a symbol of religious truth as Wordsworth did nor as the mere tangible manifestation of ideal beauty as Shelley.

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Rather he resembles the Elizabethan poets in his celebration of the

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beauties and joys of the world as excellent in themselves.

14. A. NO CHANGE
B. was represented
C. represent
D. is

15. A. NO CHANGE
B. risen higher
C. has risen higher
D. has risen better

16. A. NO CHANGE
B. he abandoned it
C. he gave medicine
D. Keats gave it

17. A. NO CHANGE
B. Spenser's poem
C. Spenser's verse
D. the poetry of Spenser

18. A. NO CHANGE
B. by whom he
C. by who Keats
D. of who Keats

19. A. prepositional phrase
B. appositive phrase
C. fragment
D. independent clause

20. A. NO CHANGE
B. Therefore he
C. So Keats
D. Rather Keats

STOP

Studies in Poetry
Vocabulary Quiz #2—Lessons 5–9

1. I could see it in her face. When I told my sister that she was not selected to represent our club at the upcoming competition, her _____ turned from shock to anger in just moments.
(A) munificence
(B) haunt
(C) sieve
(D) visage
(E) tulle

2. Legend relates that Mercury, the messenger of the gods, would _____ across the seas, skimming swiftly along the surface of the waters.
(A) chide
(B) mete
(C) surmise
(D) scud
(E) haunt

3. The new employee seems a bit too _____; he is always wanting to _____ out equally his unwanted advice about how to do our jobs.
(A) officious . . . mete
(B) wonted . . . surmise
(C) plaintive . . . chide
(D) haunting . . . scud
(E) reckless . . . warp

4. When I heard the scheme of our leader, the plan seemed very _____; there is something wrong about having to use misleading information to achieve our goals.
(A) wonted
(B) plaintive
(C) sublunary
(D) oblique
(E) inconstant

5. After our family lost our house to fire, our entering into poverty was _____ and sad; yet our good and generous neighbors displayed their _____ by giving us food, clothing, and money.
(A) officious . . . inconstancy
(B) plaintive . . . munificence
(C) oblique . . . tulle
(D) surmising . . . visage
(E) chiding . . . sieve

OVER

6. SIEVE : FLOUR ::
 (A) hammer : saw
 (B) pencil : paper
 (C) shoe : foot
 (D) wrench : bolt
 (E) gold : bank
7. TULLE : FABRIC ::
 (A) coat : hat
 (B) canoe : boat
 (C) fox : rhyme
 (D) juice : fruit
 (E) oak : flower
8. CHIDE : SCOLD ::
 (A) forgive : rebel
 (B) relieve : burden
 (C) admonish : warn
 (D) work : sleep
 (E) refuse : accept
9. STRAIGHT : WARP ::
 (A) true : correct
 (B) confident : discouraged
 (C) brave : bold
 (D) buy : own
 (E) retain : possess
10. INCONSTANCY : FICKLENESS ::
 (A) manners : disrespect
 (B) garden : mansion
 (C) bank : debt
 (D) pathway : destination
 (E) asphodel : lily
11. During the twilight service, the minister offered up a most beautiful evensong that truly was poetic.
 The word “evensong” means a
 (A) sermon.
 (B) homily.
 (C) prayer.
 (D) eulogy.
 (E) oration.
12. Nearby the manor stood a copse, which seemed out of place with the open meadows.
 The word “copse” means in this sentence
 (A) a small lake.
 (B) a shed.
 (C) a deer.
 (D) a thicket of small trees.
 (E) a pond.
13. In my hometown many years ago, the favorite haunt of my friends was Old Joe’s Hamburger Barn.
 The word “haunt” means
 (A) entertainment.
 (B) a frequently visited place.
 (C) trip.
 (D) diversion.
 (E) food.

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In her life as in her poetry, Emily Dickinson followed the injunctions of them: she perceived and experienced the greatest richness, beauty,

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and finding terror in the familiar and the near-at hand.

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She found miracles of meaning in a bobolink, a bat, a hummingbird,

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and the cricket. In addition to this, Emily discovered deep meaning in

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ordinary things like a sermon, a shadow on the grass, and a buzzing fly. At the nationally known seminary, Mount Holyoke Seminary, founded by the brilliant and redoubtable Miss Mary Lyon, Emily met girls from Canada and of the American South, and from as far west as

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Iowa and Wisconsin. She became a great favorite with students and

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teachers and excelled in the study of Latin and literature, as well as training in voice and piano. At the seminary, Emily faced what was perhaps the most important religious crisis of her life.

However, it was here also that Emily was often seen surrounded by a

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group of classmates who gathered to hear her make up a series of very funny stories, as she could always do on the spot.

- 14. A. NO CHANGE
- B. for them
- C. of Emerson and Whitman
- D. of Emerson/Whitman

- 15. A. NO CHANGE
- B. terror found
- C. terrible
- D. greatest terror

- 16. A. NO CHANGE
- B. Her finding
- C. She could find
- D. Emily found

- 17. A. NO CHANGE
- B. of the cricket
- C. a cricket
- D. for crickets

- 18. A. NO CHANGE
- B. by
- C. to
- D. from

- 19. A. NO CHANGE
- B. Emily became
- C. Her becoming
- D. She becoming

- 20. A. NO CHANGE
- B. There it was
- C. here also that
- D. also at Mount Holyoke

STOP