

A Harlot's Progress - Vocabulary exercises

Answers



Use the text of the story to help you work out the meanings of these words.

Introduction

Match these words with their definitions.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. crackdown | severe action taken to restrict the activities of criminals |
| 2. rife | widespread, very common |
| 3. satirise | use humour to criticise an organisation or society to show their faults or weaknesses |
| 4. hypocrisy | behaviour in which someone pretends to have moral standards that they do not actually have |
| 5. brutality | violent and cruel behaviour |
| 6. vulnerable | weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally |
| 7. devious | behaving in a dishonest or indirect way to get something |

Plate 1

1. Moll is greeted by the **pox-ridden** Elizabeth Needham.

- What is the meaning of **pox-ridden**?
- a) generous and kind
 - b) infected with syphilis**
 - c) horse-loving
 - d) successful in business

2. Elizabeth Needham is a **notorious** madam.

What is the meaning of **notorious**?

- a) popular
- b) friendly
- c) famous for being good
- d) well known for being bad

3. What is a **madam**?

- a) a woman who is in charge of prostitutes in a brothel
- b) a woman who runs a successful business
- c) a woman who has been in prison
- d) a woman who is involved in crime

4. Mother Needham was put in the pillory for running a **disorderly** brothel.

What is the meaning of **disorderly**?

- a) well-organised
- b) messy
- c) publicly violent or noisy
- d) criminal

5. The crowd **stoned** her and she died.

What is the meaning of **stoned**?

- a) the public shouted at her
- b) the public frightened her
- c) the public left her there
- d) the public threw stones at her

6. At the door to the brothel is the **infamous** rake.

What is the meaning of **infamous**?

- a) not famous
- b) well known for being bad or evil
- c) criminal
- d) well known for being rich

7. His rich friends obtained his **pardon**.

What is a **pardon**?

- a) an official decision not to punish someone for a crime
- b) an apology
- c) an excuse
- d) forgiveness

8. The men are awaiting Moll's arrival with **anticipation**.

What is the meaning of **anticipation**?

- a) a feeling of dread
- b) a feeling of excitement
- c) a feeling of curiosity
- d) a feeling of indifference

9. The building they are standing in front of is **decaying**.

What is the meaning of **decaying**?

- a) its condition is becoming worse
- b) its condition is improving
- c) falling down
- d) being repaired

10. The building is a symbol of the men's **moral bankruptcy**.

What is the meaning of **moral bankruptcy**?

- a) lack of moral values
- b) lack of money
- c) lack of health
- d) lack of feelings

11. To the left, a **clergyman** is on horseback.

Who is a **clergyman**?

- a) a lawyer
- b) a judge
- c) an accountant
- d) a priest or minister in the Christian Church

12. The **teetering** pile of pans **alludes** to Moll's **imminent** fall.

What is the meaning of **teetering**?

a) made of metal

b) very tall

c) moving in an unsteady way so that it looks as if it's going to fall

d) very useful

13. What does **allude** mean?

a) paint a picture

b) foresee the future

c) demonstrate

d) mention something in an indirect way

14. What is the meaning of **imminent**?

a) terrible

b) likely to happen very soon

c) unlikely to happen

d) disastrous

15. Moll is wearing white illustrating her innocence and **naivety**.

What is the meaning of **naivety**?

a) purity

b) beauty

c) lack of experience of life and willingness to believe that people always tell you the truth

d) cleanliness

16. The dead goose **foreshadows** her death as a result of her **gullibility**.

What is the meaning of **foreshadow**? a) happen before

b) will cause something to happen in the future

c) be a sign of something that will happen in the future

d) create darkness

17. What is the meaning of **gullibility**? a) stupidity

b) weakness

c) lack of intelligence

d) **naivety**

Plate 2

Match these words with their definitions.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. foretell | to know or say what will happen in the future |
| 2. sneak | to go somewhere secretly, without being seen |
| 3. canopy | a fixed cover that hangs above a bed as decoration |
| 4. distract | to take someone's attention away from what they are trying to do |
| 5. cheeky | rude in an amusing or annoying way |
| 6. colonialism | the practice by which a powerful country controls other countries |
| 7. exotic | exciting and unusual because it is connected with a foreign country |
| 8. outfit | a set of clothes you wear together |
| 9. implication | something that is suggested or indirectly stated |

Match these words with their definitions.

10. masquerade	a way of behaving that hides the truth
11. colonies	countries governed by another, more powerful country
12. commodities	products that can be bought or sold
13. consume	to use something, especially fuel, energy, goods etc.
14. expose	to show something that is usually hidden
15. exploitation	a situation in which someone treats somebody else in an unfair way, especially in order to make money out of their work
16. despise	to dislike and have no respect for someone or something
17. colonisers	people who help take control of a country that is not their own, especially using force, and sending people from their own country to live there
18. civilisation	a state of human society that is very developed and organised

Plate 3

1. Moll has gone from **kept woman** to common prostitute.

- What is a **kept woman**?
- a) a rich woman with a successful business
 - b) a woman who is given money and a home by a man who visits her regularly to have sex
 - c) a woman who runs a brothel
 - d) a woman who keeps her possessions in order

2. She has been **discarded** by the merchant.

What is the meaning of **discarded**?

- a) paid off
- b) got rid of
- c) blessed
- d) paid for

3. She now lives in a **shabby** room.

What is the meaning of **shabby**?

- a) beautiful
- b) expensive
- c) in poor condition
- d) in a nice area

4. The magistrate, with three armed **bailiffs**, is coming through the door to arrest Moll.

Who is a **bailiff**?

- a) an angry neighbour
- b) a soldier
- c) an unhappy customer
- d) a law officer

5. Gonson was an English judge noted for his enthusiasm for raiding brothels and passing harsh sentences.

What is the meaning of enthusiasm?

- a) a strong feeling of excitement and interest in getting involved in something
- b) a reluctance to get involved in something
- c) pressure to get involved in something
- d) diligence in getting involved in something

6. What is the meaning of **raid**?

a) visit as a customer

b) visit without warning to look for criminals

c) visit to check the conditions

d) visit to see how many people there are

7. What is a **harsh sentence**?

a) a serious telling off

b) a set of words that are grammatically incorrect

c) a cruel punishment given by a court

d) a huge amount of money to be paid

Plate 4

Match these words with their definitions.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. hemp | a plant which is used for making rope and cloth |
| 2. finer | more attractive |
| 3. jailer | a person in charge of a prison |
| 4. former | used to have a position in the past |
| 5. lice | small insects that live on the bodies of humans and animals |

Plate 5

Match these words with their definitions.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. squalid | very dirty and unpleasant |
| 2. mercury | a poisonous silver liquid metal |
| 3. rifle | to search quickly through something to find or steal something |
| 4. fleas | small jumping insects without wings that bite animals and humans and suck their blood |

Plate 6

1. The final plate shows Moll's **wake**.

- What is a **wake**?
- a) a group of colleagues, friends and family
 - b) last wish
 - c) an occasion before or after a funeral when people get together to remember the dead person
 - d) still alive

2. The prostitutes are not there to **mourn**.

- What is the meaning of **mourn**?
- a) steal
 - b) meet each other
 - c) grieve
 - d) have a drink

3. Moll's son is **unaware** of what is happening.

- What is the meaning of **unaware**?
- a) not bothered
 - b) more interested in something else
 - c) unhappy
 - d) not knowing about

4. The woman to the right of the parson looks **disapprovingly** at what is happening.

- What is the meaning of **disapprovingly**?
- a) angrily
 - b) she thinks their behaviour is amusing
 - c) seriously
 - d) she doesn't think it is acceptable behaviour

5. Moll's maid is being **molested** by the **undertaker**.

What is the meaning of **molested**?

- a) befriended
- b) attracted
- c) attacked physically or sexually
- d) annoyed

6. Who is an **undertaker**?

- a) someone who gets things done
- b) someone who mourns at wakes
- c) someone who arranges funerals
- d) someone who visits prostitutes

7. Moll's maid is stealing his **handkerchief**.

What is a **handkerchief**?

- a) a type of scarf
- b) an item of underwear
- c) a small piece of cloth you use for cleaning
- d) a small piece of material you use for blowing your nose

8. The house has an **ironic coat of arms**.

What is the meaning of **ironic**?

- a) very important
- b) belonging to an old family going back hundreds of years
- c) strange or amusing because it is different from what you expect
- d) not authentic

9. What is a **coat of arms**?

- a) a wall decoration
- b) a sign to show whose house it is
- c) a design or shield that is a special symbol of a family, city or organisation
- d) a joke

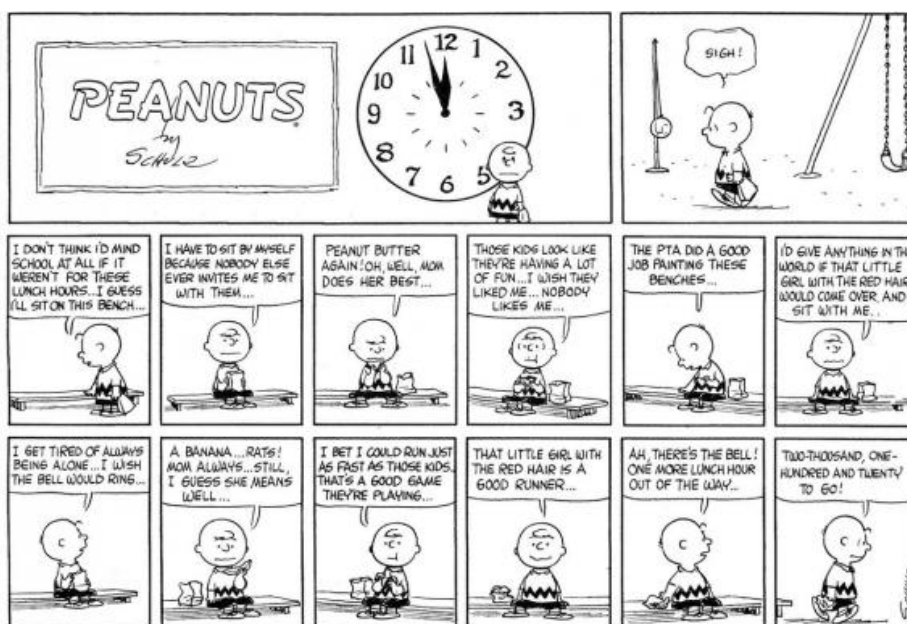
Label these pictures.



coat of arms



caricature



comic strip