

A Harlot's Progress - Vocabulary exercises



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

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

Match these words with their definitions.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 10. masquerade | products that can be bought or sold |
| 11. colonies | to dislike and have no respect for someone or something |
| 12. commodities | 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 |
| 13. consume | to show something that is usually hidden |
| 14. expose | countries governed by another, more powerful country |
| 15. exploitation | a way of behaving that hides the truth |
| 16. despise | a state of human society that is very developed and organised |
| 17. colonisers | to use something, especially fuel, energy, goods etc. |
| 18. civilisation | a situation in which someone treats somebody else in an unfair way, especially in order to make money out of their work |

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

Plate 5

Match these words with their definitions.

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

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.

