



Classic Vocabulary: Truth or Malarkey

Have fun figuring out the true meaning of the following classic vocabulary words taken from *A Christmas Carol*. Only one of the four definitions is correct; the others are simply 'malarkey', cleverly devised nonsense by students of the Classical Homeschool Program. Once you have completed the activity and checked your answers on the solutions page, create your own "Truth or Malarkey" questions with classic words from the glossary.

1. *Congenial* (adj.)

- a) having a grumpy personality
- b) having a pleasant or friendly personality
- c) sincerely requested
- d) having a bleak outlook or attitude

2. *Palpable* (adj.)

- a) having an interesting texture
- b) flammable
- c) able to be touched or felt
- d) having the urge to give up

3. *Alderman* (n.)

- a) a servant that works in the fields
- b) an elected member of a municipal council
- c) a church elder
- d) a widowed grandfather

4. *Intimation* (n.)

- a) a quote
- b) an imitation
- c) a serious conference
- d) a suggestion

5. *Vigor* (n.)

- a) physical strength and good health
- b) a type of wine
- c) lack of strength
- d) type of animal

6. *Misanthropic* (adj.)

- a) misplaced
- b) artfully creative
- c) to dislike and avoid people
- d) to be late

7. Garret (n.)

- a) a room just under the roof of a house
- b) a small person
- c) a French tie
- d) a type of shoe

8. Humbug (n.)

- a) a humming insect
- b) a type of fruit
- c) deceptive, false talk
- d) playful attitude

9. Solitude (n.)

- a) something that is solid
- b) something serious
- c) a suggestion
- d) state of being alone

10. Withal (adv.)

- a) tricky
- b) in addition
- c) chewy as a marshmallow
- d) something unholy

11. Morose (adj.)

- a) bad luck – used as a mild oath
- b) a crimson colour
- c) a funeral
- d) sullen or ill-tempered

12. Livery (n.)

- a) special uniform worn by servants
- b) a surgery relating to the liver
- c) special uniform worn by nurses
- d) a special tall hat worn by British soldiers

13. Veneration (n.)

- a) anything that acts as a barricade
- b) great respect, reverence
- c) perseverance or determination
- d) an addition

14. Ironmongery (n.)

- a) an idiotic idea
- b) tiring work
- c) clockworks
- d) something made of metal

15. Avarice (n.)

- a) name of a French historian
- b) an idea nobody can agree on
- c) extreme greed
- d) great hunger

16. Jocund (adj.)

- a) hateful
- b) cheerful and lighthearted
- c) brightly lit
- d) having a peculiar expression

17. *Capacious* (adj.)

- a) having a lot of space
- b) dimly lit
- c) squished like an ant under a boot
- d) filled with noise

18. *Preposterous* (adj.)

- a) hilarious
- b) absurd or ridiculous
- c) interesting
- d) dull

19. *Entreaty* (n.)

- a) another word for 'soldier'
- b) the signing of a treaty
- c) a sincere request
- d) an invitation

20. *Uproarious* (adj.)

- a) outrageous
- b) angering
- c) provoking laughter
- d) sounding like a tiger

21. *Recumbent* (adj.)

- a) cucumber-like shape
- b) infected
- c) hurtful
- d) lying down

Now it is your turn:

22. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

23. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

24. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

25. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

26. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

27. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

28. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

29. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

30. _____

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____



Solutions

1 b, 2c, 3c, 4d, 5a, 6c, 7a, 8c, 9d, 10b, 11d, 12a, 13b, 14d, 15c, 16b, 17a, 18b, 19c, 20c, 21d.

Your Solutions:

