

The passage gives you an opportunity to expand your vocabulary. Below are twenty Vocabulary Words that are used in the passage and in the exercises that follow it.

abridge	finality	intangible	subterfuge
affable	furor	invoke	supercilious
bolster	garrulous	lucrative	tawdry
emendation	idiomatic	reciprocate	verbose
expletive	impromptu	shrew	wistful

Anne Bradstreet: The Nation's First Poet

The first accomplished American poet wasn't Edgar Allan Poe or Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. In fact, the first American poet wasn't a man. And the distinction does not go to Emily Dickinson. To find America's first distinguished poet, you must go all the way back to the 1600s.

That's when Anne Bradstreet (c. 1612–1672) lived and—when she wasn't managing a house and raising eight children—wrote her poems. Bradstreet's *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*, published in England in 1650, is the first volume of original verse written in America. The volume's publication was achieved by **subterfuge** (1). The poet's brother-in-law secretly took the volume to England where he had it published without her knowledge. Bradstreet was sure that the Puritan community would be in an uproar over a woman publishing a volume of poetry, but no **furor** (2) occurred.

The Tenth Muse was successful in London. It sold well, so we may presume it produced a profit and so was a **lucrative** (3) venture. The book's favorable reception didn't make the deeply religious Bradstreet haughty, conceited, or **supercilious** (4). Instead, the poet drew strength from her success; in fact, it **bolstered** (5) her resolve to write more.

The Puritan Poet and Her Muse

Bradstreet was born Anne Dudley around 1612 in Northampton, England. At the age of sixteen, she married Simon Bradstreet. Two years later, in 1630, the Dudleys and the Bradstreets sailed to New England to avoid religious persecution, and they became Massachusetts colonists. (Both her father and husband eventually became Massachusetts governors.)

Clinging to their Puritan faith, the Bradstreets and the other colonists fought the land, weather, famine, and disease. As a devout Puritan, Bradstreet believed that a woman should play a supporting role in her home and in the community. Based on her writings, Bradstreet also had some notions of women's equality: "I am obnoxious to each carping tongue / Who says my hand a needle better fits." These lines are not meant to indicate that Bradstreet was a **shrew** (6) who couldn't control her bad temper. Instead, they reflect the views of a hard-working housewife and poet who used her writing to express early feminist views.

The poems in *The Tenth Muse*, mostly composed before Bradstreet was thirty, are lengthy poems written in a very formal, learned style. When anthology editors use

poems from *The Tenth Muse* today, they often **abridge** (7) them. However, you can still find copies of the uncondensed poems. If you compare poems from the first and second editions of *The Tenth Muse*, you will probably notice more than one **emendation** (8), as Bradstreet made numerous corrections to the original volume.

Bradstreet's later poetry, more widely known today, is generally short and concerned with domestic and family themes. Of course, you wouldn't expect gaudy, showy, or **tawdry** (9) subjects in Puritan poetry, but Bradstreet's subjects are particularly natural and simple. Her subjects include birth, death, her children, her husband, and her illnesses. Some poems deal with **intangible** (10) themes such as love. Bradstreet's poems about her family show that she was a loving person and, presumably, **affable** (11), pleasant, and kind as well. And poems such as "To My Dear and Loving Husband," in which she writes "Thy love is such I can no way repay," indicates that she felt her husband **reciprocated** (12) her love several times over.

Although a strong Puritan spirituality dominated Bradstreet's life, her poems are rooted in practical concerns rather than **wistful** (13) or yearning sentiments. Instead, she shows the divine in the everyday life of a wife and mother. In some of these poems, you can feel her **impromptu** (14), spontaneous inspirations. In typical Puritan fashion, she often

invokes (15) God, finding comfort and guidance in calling upon a higher power. You certainly won't find an **expletive** (16) in Bradstreet's poems. Even in "Upon the Burning of Our House July 10, 1666," in which the speaker watches her home and her possessions go up in flames, she utters no curses but instead blesses God's name. By the end of the poem, Bradstreet has no unsettled feelings about the disaster; she concludes with comforting **finality** (17) that earthly possessions do not matter for "My hope and treasure lies above."

A Poet's Use of Language

The poems reflect the style of the times, and Bradstreet's words are characteristic of the English language of the 1600s. Examples of such **idiomatic** (18) words include *ought*, meaning "anything whatever" and *pelf*, meaning "worldly goods." Unlike her early poems, Bradstreet's later poems are not wordy or **verbose** (19). Bradstreet seems to have found her poetic voice in these later, more brief poems. It's probably safe to assume that Bradstreet was not a **garrulous** (20) figure who talked too much about trivialities.

Anne Bradstreet was a remarkable woman who, in her own way, defied colonial society's and the Puritan religion's conventional ideas about the place of a woman. In so doing, she helped define and establish a literary tradition for a new country.

1. In the passage, Bradstreet's brother-in-law carried out a **subterfuge**, or a sort of _____, to publish the poems.
 - (A) consensus
 - (B) contract
 - (C) campaign
 - (D) subscription
 - (E) deception

2. In the passage, **furor** means
 - (A) secret discussion
 - (B) calm acceptance
 - (C) public uproar
 - (D) battle
 - (E) anger

3. If the publication of Bradstreet's first volume of poetry was a **lucrative** venture, as the author suggests, then we may expect that the volume
- (A) produced a profit
 - (B) was a disaster
 - (C) was a business partnership
 - (D) was a literary project
 - (E) made little money
4. How does the writer let us know that **supercilious** may be defined as "overly proud"?
- (A) The writer relates the word to success.
 - (B) The writer associates **supercilious** with the words *haughty* and *conceited*.
 - (C) The writer contrasts **supercilious** with an antonym.
 - (D) The writer has established pride as characteristic of Bradstreet's personality.
 - (E) The writer is critical of Bradstreet's success.
5. In the passage, Bradstreet was **bolstered** by the success of *The Tenth Muse* because
- (A) the success discouraged her
 - (B) the success was dependent on future writing
 - (C) the success had no effect on her
 - (D) the success gave her strength
 - (E) the success was unknown to her
6. **Shrew** usually means a small mammal. However, in the passage the word is used in a different way. In the passage, **shrew** means a
- (A) muse
 - (B) bad-tempered woman
 - (C) colonial housewife
 - (D) skilled English-language poet
 - (E) feminist
7. We can infer from the passage that **abridge** means to
- (A) condense
 - (B) lengthen
 - (C) rewrite
 - (D) critique
 - (E) remove
8. In the passage, an **emendation** is a(n)
- (A) illustration
 - (B) correction
 - (C) reprint
 - (D) dedication
 - (E) disclaimer
9. In the passage, a **tawdry** subject is one that is
- (A) silly
 - (B) late
 - (C) family related
 - (D) pure and simple
 - (E) gaudy or showy

10. How does the writer provide a clue to the meaning of **intangible**?
- (A) The writer uses love as an example of an **intangible** theme.
 - (B) The writer uses a synonym for **intangible**.
 - (C) The writer uses **intangible** in a series of similar words.
 - (D) The writer restates the meaning in different words.
 - (E) The writer contrasts **intangible** with the word *concrete*.
11. In the passage, _____ is another word for **affable**.
- (A) capable
 - (B) efficient
 - (C) pleasant
 - (D) wife
 - (E) affluent
12. In the passage, _____ is another word for **reciprocated**.
- (A) scorned
 - (B) analyzed
 - (C) returned
 - (D) begrudged
 - (E) absorbed
13. The writer tells you that **wistful** is defined as “full of melancholy yearning” by
- (A) defining the word
 - (B) joining **wistful** with the word *yearning*
 - (C) using a synonym for **wistful**
 - (D) describing Bradstreet’s poetry as **wistful**
 - (E) comparing the words **wistful** and *poetry*
14. The writer provides a clue to the meaning of **impromptu** by
- (A) relating it to everyday life
 - (B) calling poetry “inspired”
 - (C) merging the domestic and the spiritual
 - (D) linking it to the word *spontaneous*
 - (E) relating it to the Divine
15. In the passage, one who **invokes** God
- (A) is hateful
 - (B) is typical
 - (C) is a Puritan
 - (D) calls upon God
 - (E) rejects comfort and guidance
16. In the passage, **expletive** means
- (A) a curse
 - (B) a certainty
 - (C) poetic
 - (D) difficult to find
 - (E) typically Puritan

17. When we read in the passage that Bradstreet concludes with comforting **finality**, we should realize that **finality** means
- (A) beginning
 - (B) a prayer that calls on God for guidance
 - (C) the quality of being settled
 - (D) a comforting thought
 - (E) the quality of being unsure
18. How does the writer provide a clue to the meaning of **idiomatic**?
- (A) The writer quotes lines of Bradstreet's poetry.
 - (B) The writer uses **idiomatic** to describe words belonging to a given language and era.
 - (C) The writer relates **idiomatic** to poetry only.
 - (D) The writer explains that **idiomatic** means to talk only of trivial matters.
 - (E) The writer includes **idiomatic** in a series of words similar in meaning.
19. In the passage, **verbose** means
- (A) imaginative
 - (B) silent
 - (C) concise
 - (D) poetic
 - (E) wordy
20. In the passage, a **garrulous** person
- (A) is impossible
 - (B) is untruthful
 - (C) talks too much, especially about trivialities
 - (D) is scholarly
 - (E) talks too little and is hard to get along with

The Pilgrims: Surviving “The Starving Time”

North America was a rude awakening for the Puritan Pilgrims. After sailing from England aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620, they encountered a harsh and dangerous land. Their first year was especially discouraging, filled with hardships, disease, and death. These setbacks would have been enough to **frustrate** (1) even the most determined colonists. William Bradford (1590–1657), in his history, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, refers to the experience as “the starving time.” Yet these devout Puritans believed in the generosity and goodness of their god. They relied completely on God’s **beneficence** (2). Through their prayers of **supplication** (3), they received the guidance and strength that they asked for.

The Puritan Faith

The Puritans were a Protestant sect that tried to reform the traditional and ritualized Church of England. The Puritans believed that grace from God was not **congenital** (4). People were not born with grace but achieved it through a lifetime of good work. They believed in a more personal relationship with their god, one between the individual worshiper and his or her god. They felt that the

Church of England was too **peremptory** (5), arrogant, and dictatorial. The Puritans tried to create a more democratic community, where decisions were made by **consensus** (6) rather than by one person. In the Puritan church, all the worshipers had some input in the religious service. The Church of England, on the other hand, was run in a much more **autocratic** (7) way: only church officials made decisions. The criticism the Puritans experienced was often fierce, but they remained **adamant** (8), yielding not an inch in their faith. As a result of persecution, the Pilgrims eventually sought religious freedom in the New World. Calling themselves Pilgrims, a group of more than one hundred set off in the *Mayflower* for the colony of Virginia. They landed instead on the coast of what is now Massachusetts on November 11, 1620.

The coast’s stark sand dunes must have been a disappointment to the travelers. With winter approaching, the Pilgrims decided there could be no **procrastination** (9) in settling there—housing and shelter were built immediately. Even the most **intrepid** (10), or courageous, of the colonists probably had mixed, changing, or **ambivalent** (11) feelings about their new home. All the Pilgrims

remained committed and united, however; there were no **factious** (12) members who quarreled or refused to do their share of the work.

Colonial Life

From William Bradford's writings, one gets a vivid impression of the colony's early months. Bradford records that half the colonists died within three months. The winter was harsh, made more difficult by the lack of proper supplies and shelter. The cold weather lasted so long that it seemed **interminable** (13). Scurvy and other diseases proved fatal to many colonists and the lack of food left others looking sickly, pale, and **sallow** (14). The few healthy colonists willingly took care of the sick and tended to even the most **repugnant** (15) of chores that those with queasy stomachs would find disgusting. The Pilgrims were **resilient** (16), however, and were able to bounce back after the long winter. They were fortunate, too, in being befriended by Squanto (1585?–1622), one of a few surviving members of the Patuxet tribe. He helped the colonists make peace with the local Wampanoag tribe, whom the Pilgrims had **antagonized** (17) during the winter by taking and eating some of their grain. Squanto mediated between the angry Wampanoag and the starving Pilgrims, and he later taught the Pilgrims how to plant and harvest crops of their own. The result of this harvest was, of course, the famous first Thanksgiving in the autumn of 1621.

Documents of Early Colonial Life and Legend

Many scholars agree that William Bradford's firsthand look at Pilgrim life is one of the most important documents in early American history. Bradford began writing his history of Plymouth Colony in 1630. Until 1647, he wrote annual accounts of the settlement. The Plymouth church's records contained the first nine chapters of Bradford's history. The church doubled as **archives** (18), serving as a place for the storage and preservation of such important historical material. The original manuscript was lost during the Revolutionary War, perhaps during a military **sortie** (19), or defensive attack. In any event, historians believe the manuscript was picked up as a souvenir by a British soldier and carried back to England where it was discovered in 1855 and published the following year.

William Bradford was dedicated not only to recording the history of the New World but also to making history. He was elected thirty times to lead the Pilgrim community. His assistant governor was John Alden (1599–1687). The story of how Alden became **betrothed** (20) and later married to Priscilla Mullens (1602?–1685?) is famous, thanks to the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem "The Courtship of Miles Standish." Clearly, Bradford's records were crucial to the documentation of early American history and were the basis for some famous American legends.

1. How does the writer let us know that **frustrate** may be defined as “to cause feelings of discouragement and bafflement”?
 - (A) The writer says that the New World was a rude awakening for the Pilgrims.
 - (B) The writer tells how harsh and dangerous the land was.
 - (C) The writer links **frustrate** to the words *setback* and *discouraging*.
 - (D) The writer relates **frustrate** to determination.
 - (E) The writer relates **frustrate** to disease and death.

2. We can infer from the passage that **beneficence** means
 - (A) anger and ill will
 - (B) indifference
 - (C) goodness and generosity
 - (D) attention
 - (E) efficiency and practicality

3. In this passage, **supplication** means
- (A) an application
 - (B) a request
 - (C) a demand
 - (D) a conquest
 - (E) curses
4. According to the passage, the Puritans believed that grace is not **congenital**, or present at birth, because
- (A) there is no such thing as grace
 - (B) only members of the Church of England may have grace
 - (C) grace is only achieved through a lifetime of good work
 - (D) grace is granted only at death
 - (E) the members of their community are not devout enough
5. The writer provides clues to the meaning of **peremptory** by
- (A) associating **peremptory** with the words *arrogant* and *dictatorial*
 - (B) linking **peremptory** to democratic
 - (C) explaining that the Puritans received criticism
 - (D) providing the synonym *individual*
 - (E) describing the nature of the relationship of the Pilgrims with their god
6. In the passage, **consensus** means
- (A) religious devotion
 - (B) opposition to authority
 - (C) common sense
 - (D) general agreement
 - (E) authority
7. When we read in the passage that the Puritans considered the Church of England **autocratic**, we should realize that they thought it
- (A) worked automatically
 - (B) responded to the will of its members
 - (C) was an efficient organization
 - (D) operated with too few rules and regulations
 - (E) did not include worshipers in decision making
8. According to the passage, if you are **adamant**, you are
- (A) unyielding
 - (B) faithless
 - (C) arrogant
 - (D) religious
 - (E) persecuted
9. We can infer from the passage that **procrastination** is defined as "to postpone or delay" because
- (A) the writer notes that shelter and housing were built immediately
 - (B) the writer explains that the Pilgrims were reluctant to stay in the New World
 - (C) the writer suggests that the Pilgrims had mixed feelings about their new homes
 - (D) the writer notes the lack of commitment shown by the Pilgrims
 - (E) the Pilgrims refused to work in the New World

10. In the passage, **intrepid** means
- (A) mixed
 - (B) disappointed
 - (C) courageous
 - (D) united
 - (E) scurvy
11. When the writer describes the Pilgrims' feelings as **ambivalent**, we should realize that the feelings were
- (A) definite
 - (B) determined
 - (C) personal
 - (D) mixed
 - (E) angry and bitter
12. According to the passage, _____ characterizes a **factionous** group.
- (A) poor leadership
 - (B) quarreling among the members
 - (C) hunger
 - (D) **procrastination**
 - (E) total unity and profound commitment
13. We can infer from the passage that if the winter lasted so long that it seemed **interminable** then it must have seemed
- (A) endless
 - (B) short
 - (C) difficult
 - (D) frustrating
 - (E) queasy
14. How does the writer provide a clue to the meaning of the word **sallow**?
- (A) The writer says it means "fatal."
 - (B) The writer places **sallow** in a series with *sickly* and *pale*.
 - (C) The writer relates **sallow** to the words *disgusting* and *queasy*.
 - (D) The writer says it is commonplace.
 - (E) The writer says it is a kind of bird.
15. In the passage, most people find **repugnant** chores _____.
- (A) enjoyable
 - (B) disgusting
 - (C) abundant
 - (D) hazardous
 - (E) painful
16. The writer provides a clue to the meaning of **resilient** by explaining that the Pilgrims
- (A) were able to bounce back
 - (B) starved and many died
 - (C) were fortunate to meet Squanto
 - (D) were able to make peace with the Wampanoag
 - (E) barely survived the long winter

17. In the passage, **antagonized** means
- (A) pleased
 - (B) fed
 - (C) angered
 - (D) taught
 - (E) harvested
18. In the passage, what does it mean that the church doubled as the **archives** for Bradford's writings?
- (A) The church was in a cave.
 - (B) The church was used for the storage of financial documents only.
 - (C) The church was interested in the documents.
 - (D) The church was used to store and preserve important documents.
 - (E) The church is a place of history.
19. In the passage, a **sortie** is
- (A) an exit
 - (B) a military officer
 - (C) a sordid act
 - (D) a defensive attack
 - (E) an indecisive act
20. In the passage, to be **betrothed** means to be _____.
- (A) separated
 - (B) friends
 - (C) engaged
 - (D) betrayed
 - (E) married