

Aggas B2 Blizzard Bag 1

Learning Target: I can use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words.

Context Clues - Lesson

*Learning words can be hard. If you're not sure what a word means, it helps if you can at least know the information around the word. There are ways of figuring out what a new or unusual word means. One way is to use **context clues**.*

Using **context clues** means using the information around the word you don't know. These words help you find what it means. You can also use the information in the rest of the paragraph to help you figure out what the word means. There are a few things to watch for when looking for context clues:

- A punctuation mark, such as a comma (,) or dash (—), may help you understand how the word is being used.

example:

The DVD player had been refurbished and was now ready to be sold since the customer who bought it returned it to the store—it had not been working correctly.

Refurbished is a big word! If you don't know what it means, look at the hint after the dash. The hint is "it had not been working correctly." This shows that refurbished must mean the same thing as "fixed" since it was now ready to be sold.

- Key words, such as "or", and "that is" may also give you a hint that a definition is nearby.

example:

The famous basketball player had an endorsement deal with the cereal company; that is, they paid him money to talk publicly about their product.

This sentence shows that endorsement means "public support or approval."

- The intended meaning of some phrases are not the same as the literal meaning of the words. These phrases are common expressions such as "under the weather" which means that the person is feeling ill.
- Also, make sure to read the entire paragraph! Sometimes a word's definition may become clearer by reading the entire paragraph where it appears.

Directions: Use the lesson and the passage to answer the following questions about context clues.

About Hurricanes

Miami Museum of Science

A tropical cyclone is a storm system that has several thunderstorms and a low pressure center. Depending upon where they are located and their severity, these storms can also be called typhoons, tropical depressions, or hurricanes.

A hurricane is a powerful storm that measures several hundred miles in diameter. Hurricanes have two main parts. The first is the eye of the hurricane; the eye is a calm area in the center of the storm. Usually, the eye of a hurricane measures about 20 miles in diameter, and has very few clouds. The second part is the wall of clouds that surrounds the calm eye. This is where the hurricane's strongest winds and heaviest rain occur.

Hurricanes are born over warm, **tropical** oceans. Hurricanes are fueled by water **vapor** that is pushed up from the warm ocean surface, so they can last longer and sometimes move much further over water than over land. The combination of heat and moisture, along with the right wind conditions, can create a new hurricane.

The colors in hurricane **radar** images show the amount of rain falling in a given area. Each raindrop reflects the energy from the **radar**. The more raindrops in a certain area, the brighter the color in the **radar** image of that area. **Radar** images measure the amount of moisture in the air. The brighter the color on the radar image, the more moisture in the air. The bright red color around the eye indicates the area of heaviest rainfall. The green-colored area has a moderate amount of rain, while the blue areas represent the least amount of rain.

1. Which is the best definition for vapor?

- A. dry, hot air
 - B. the center of the storm
 - C. heavy clouds
 - D. moisture or mist
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2. What is the meaning of radar in the passage?

- A. a device that flies into the hurricane to determine which way the storm will move
 - B. a device used by the highway patrol to catch speeding cars
 - C. a device that collects and purifies hurricane waters
 - D. a device for determining the presence and location of an object
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3. What is the best meaning for the word tropical?

- A. dry and hot
- B. cool and windy
- C. hot and humid
- D. cloudy and rainy

The Aristocrats

by C. Safos

During the storm, Evan took all the oxygen tanks below deck and tied them together. He wished he had completed the task earlier as his skipper had asked, but now they were all in the thick of it.

The lightning crawled across the sky like roadways on an atlas. The thunder was shaking loose what courage the crew had managed to **muster** after the skipper's big speech. Now Evan could see it in the faces of each of his shipmates. They were **floundering** in the middle of the Atlantic with no direction, like a leaf on the wind. They couldn't even follow the North Star, a natural compass. The black clouds above them **billowed** like lungs taking in air. As they bulged, they blotted out everything but lightning.

The ship dipped back and forth, bow first, into the tide, like a needle on a sewing machine. The spray from the storm and the push of the tide **doused** everyone on the ship's deck right down to their socks.

Then, off the starboard side, Evan saw the whisper of a light nearly obscured by the confusion of dark clouds merging with the black of the sea. As the sky shifted with the storm, the light began to open itself up to the crew of the *Emoke Pulay*. Suddenly, the separation of the sea and sky became apparent. The skipper howled like a madman, "Steady as she goes, boys!"

4. In paragraph 2, the word floundering means

- A. dampening.
 - B. struggling.
 - C. cleaning.
 - D. fishing.
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5. In paragraph 2, the word billowed means

- A. swelled.
 - B. disappeared.
 - C. followed.
 - D. sunk.
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6. In paragraph 2, the word muster means

- A. to awaken.
- B. to confuse.
- C. to trouble.

- D. to gather.
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7. In paragraph 3, the word doused means

- A. scared.
 B. dried.
 C. drenched.
 D. slept.

A Jeweler's Job

A jeweler is a person who sells, repairs, and sometimes designs jewelry. A jeweler performs a variety of job duties. In order to do his or her job, a jeweler must be very knowledgeable. Part of a jeweler's job is to appraise jewelry. Sometimes people go to a jewelry store when they want to know the value of jewelry that they already own.

8. Which phrase from the passage provide clues to the meaning of appraise?

- A. designs jewelry
 B. job duties.
 C. very knowledgeable
 D. know the value.

That's Not Good

by Tirzah Tyler

The doctor, carrying a clipboard, walked into the room. "Mrs. Harper, I have the results from your EKG," he declared with a smile. "You did not have a heart attack."

"That's good news," Mom said. "What do I have, then?"

"Well, I'd like to ask you a few questions so that we can determine what's going on," the doctor said gently. "Do you have a headache? Do you have pain in your extremities?"

Mom shrugged her shoulders. "My head hurts a little bit, but I think that's because I haven't had my morning coffee yet. My hands and feet are fine."

"Do you have any pain anywhere else?" the doctor asked.

9. What word or words from the passage help the reader know what extremities means?

- A. shoulders
 B. hurts
 C. morning coffee
 D. hands and feet

I scooted closer to Mom on the hospital bed and leaned my head against her shoulder. "When do you think the doctor will come back?" I asked. My stomach gurgled.

Mom chuckled. "Jennifer, are you asking because you're concerned about me or because

you're famished? I think your stomach is growling loud enough to page the doctor over the loudspeaker."

I laughed. "I'm concerned about you." Then, in a more serious tone, I added, "You're the only family I have. Does your chest still hurt?"

"A little bit, but I'm not so scared anymore."

10. Which word or words from the passage provide clues to the meaning of famished?

- A. closer to Mom
- B. stomach gurgled
- C. serious tone
- D. the only family