



Destiny's Purpose

Word Meaning from Context

Level Two – p. 1



Name: _____ Date: _____

The author left one special ‘alpaca word’ (mineral, p. 17) out of the glossary. When the reader finds an unknown word, a good strategy is to try to figure out the meaning by using the reader’s knowledge and the clues in the sentence.

There are three main types of context clues:

1. Explanation: The meaning of the word can be inferred by clues the author shares and reader background knowledge.

Ellie was a blithe young girl, always smiling at people she met.

2. Synonym or Definition: The author offers a word (or words) that mean the same, or a definition included in the sentence.

His duplicity, or dishonesty, was clear when he returned to the empty room to steal the money.

3. Antonym or Contrast: By providing a word (or words) that mean the opposite, the author helps the reader understand the unknown word.

Bill was anxious about the test, but Joe was calm.

In the each of the following sentences, infer the meaning of the word and indicate which clue you used to discover the meaning.

The Sentence	I think the word means...	Type of context clue?	How I found the meaning....
As he poured the <u>mineral</u> mix into the feeder, Destiny didn't dip his nose into the fine powder.	nutrients, things that come from rocks, things our bodies need, things we can eat, eaten as a powder	Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It says it is a powder, and goes in a feeder. • Destiny is supposed to ‘dip’ his nose into it, which must mean he eats it. • I have read about vitamins and ‘minerals’ in foods. • I have seen rock and ‘mineral’ collections.



Word Meaning from Context

Level Two – p. 2



The Sentence	I think the word means...	Type of context clue?	How I found the meaning....
Katie appeared infallible in math class because she had never gotten a problem wrong.			
The book of logic contained many conundrums - mind-exercising puzzles.			
Although Mary was willing to play in the snow, Jack was reluctant because he was so cold.			
She wincing in pain when the rock fell on her foot.			
The saturated , dripping dog ran in the house after swimming in the lake.			
We could tell by the rotten smell, that something putrid was in our trash can.			
The events for the conference were listed in chronological order beginning with the first event of the day and ending with the closing ceremonies in the evening.			
The smell from the refrigerator was very foul , but the freezer smelled fresh.			



Word Meaning from Context

Level Two – Answers



The Sentence	I think the word means...	Type of context clue?	How I found the meaning....
Katie appeared infallible in math class because she had never gotten a problem wrong.	always right	Synonym/ Definition	The author tells us WHY Katie is infallible (because she never gets any problems wrong) – defining the word infallible.
The book of logic contained many conundrums - mind-exercising puzzles.	puzzles	Synonym/ Definition	We are told that conundrums are: mind exercising puzzles.
Although Mary was willing to play in the snow, Jack was reluctant because he was so cold.	hesitant, unwilling	Antonym	The author contrasts Mary with Jack, in effect contrasting 'willing' and 'reluctant'. The use of the word 'although' tells us that there is an opposing relationship between the terms.
She winc ed in pain when the rock fell on her foot.	grimaced, frowned	Explanation	The author gives us clues about the event that caused the 'wince'. Because we bring our background knowledge: that a rock falling on a foot = pain = a pinched look; we can imagine 'wince'.
The saturated , dripping dog ran in the house after swimming in the lake.	very wet	Synonym/ Definition and Explanation	By placing 'saturated' and 'dripping' in a series, we know that both describe the dog. As well, we use our background knowledge of 'swimming in a lake' to understand that the dog is wet.
We could tell by the rotten smell, that something putrid was in our trash can.	bad, decaying	Explanation	Using 'rotten smell' and as the clue, we use our background knowledge to tell us that things in the trash that smell rotten have usually gone bad.
The events for the conference were listed in chronological order beginning with the first event of the day and ending with the closing ceremonies in the evening.	in order of time, sequential	Synonym/ Definition	The author gives us a definition of the word chronological following it: "...beginning with the first....ending with the closing ceremonies". This tells us that chronological order is based on time and sequence.
The smell from the refrigerator was very foul , but the freezer smelled fresh.	smelly	Antonym	The author contrasts the fridge with the freezer, in effect contrasting 'foul' and 'fresh'. The use of the word 'but' tells us that there is an opposing relationship between the terms.