Clue Word Sort

Find meaning clues in sentences

3.LF.14 "Describe word relationships and nuances in word meanings, including relating them to their opposites and distinguishing shades of meaning in similar or related words, including nouns, verbs, and adjectives. a..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SAME-MEANING CLUE

A nearby word means almost the same thing as the bold word.

The **tiny** bead was small.

OPPOSITE-MEANING CLUE

A nearby word means the opposite of the bold word. Words such as not and but can help you spot this kind of clue.

The **dry** towel was not wet.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SAME or OPPOSITE for each sentence; then, for Part 2, choose two item numbers and explain which words helped you sort them.

1. The **enormous** pumpkin was huge. SAME OPPOSITE

2. Mia **leaped** across the puddle, and Ben jumped across it. SAME OPPOSITE

3. The **silent** library was not noisy. SAME OPPOSITE

4. A **gift** is a present for Dad. SAME OPPOSITE

5. The **empty** jar was not full. SAME OPPOSITE

6. Jay **whispered**, but Ana shouted. SAME OPPOSITE

7. Unlike the **rough** path, this trail was smooth. SAME OPPOSITE

8. The **swift** fox was quick. SAME OPPOSITE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new sentences, one with a SAME clue and one with an OPPOSITE clue; underline the word each clue helps explain.

SAME _____

OPPOSITE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with **ancient** and an opposite word as a clue, without using not; underline the opposite word.

ANSWER KEY

Clue Word Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.14

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The **enormous** pumpkin was huge.	**SAME**	Huge means almost the same as enormous.
2	Mia **leaped** across the puddle, and Ben jumped across it.	**SAME**	Jumped means almost the same as leaped.
3	The **silent** library was not noisy.	**OPPOSITE**	Noisy means the opposite of silent.
4	A **gift** is a present for Dad.	**SAME**	Present means the same as gift.
5	The **empty** jar was not full.	**OPPOSITE**	Full means the opposite of empty.
6	Jay **whispered**, but Ana shouted.	**OPPOSITE**	Shouted contrasts with whispered.
7	Unlike the **rough** path, this trail was smooth.	**OPPOSITE**	Smooth means the opposite of rough.
8	The **swift** fox was quick.	**SAME**	Quick means almost the same as swift.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SAME**: The furious queen was angry.
- **OPPOSITE**: The bright lamp was not dim.

Challenge: The **ancient** bridge stood beside a new bridge.

Part 2 sample: Item 2 is SAME because jumped means almost the same as leaped. Item 6 is OPPOSITE because shouted contrasts with whispered.