

Words at Sea

Use context and reference tools to choose exact word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4c "Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words that could have more than one meaning or pronunciation. Number nearby context clues that help you choose the correct dictionary entry for each word.

Sailing from Harbor

- ① On a clear morning, a student crew prepared a small sailboat at a harbor. Maya carried a coil of rope toward the bow, where a pointed rail rose over the water. The captain said that this area needed to stay clear before the boat left the dock. A sharp breeze snapped the sail as the crew pushed away from shore.
- ② Farther from land, the water seemed calm, but the boat drifted sideways. The captain watched a floating leaf slide in the same direction and explained that a current was moving beneath the surface. To reach a buoy, the crew adjusted the sail instead of rowing straight toward it. Their new path curved across the bay.
- ③ Near noon, the wind weakened, and the sail hung loose. Luis began to wind a thin line around a wooden spool so it would not tangle. Later, the captain checked the compass and told everyone to keep watching the clouds. Dark clouds can signal a change in weather, even when the harbor looks peaceful from shore.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Use a dictionary to check bow in paragraph 1. Write its pronunciation and precise meaning in this passage.

- 2** Use a dictionary to check current in paragraph 2. Which meaning fits, "happening now" or "moving water"? Write the fitting meaning.

- 3** The word wind is used two ways in paragraph 3. Consult a dictionary. Write the pronunciation and meaning of wind in "Luis began to wind a thin line."

- 4** Use a thesaurus to find a synonym for breeze that fits paragraph 1. Write the synonym and explain why it fits better than calm.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a new word from a book or article, not from this passage. Consult a print or digital dictionary, then write the word, source, pronunciation, precise meaning, and an original sentence that gives a context clue.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three words that could have more than one meaning or pronunciation. Number nearby context clues that help you choose the correct dictionary entry for each word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use a dictionary to check bow in paragraph 1. Write its pronunciation and precise meaning in this passage.	/bau/, the front end of a boat.
2	Use a dictionary to check current in paragraph 2. Which meaning fits, "happening now" or "moving water"? Write the fitting meaning.	Moving water, especially water flowing in a particular direction.
3	The word wind is used two ways in paragraph 3. Consult a dictionary. Write the pronunciation and meaning of wind in "Luis began to wind a thin line."	/waɪnd/, to wrap or twist something around an object.
4	Use a thesaurus to find a synonym for breeze that fits paragraph 1. Write the synonym and explain why it fits better than calm.	Wind. A breeze is moving air that can snap a sail, while calm means there is little or no wind.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Word: bass. Source consulted: Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary. Pronunciation: /bæs/. Meaning: a freshwater fish. Sentence: A bass darted beneath the lily pads.

Accept standard dictionary pronunciations written in IPA or clear respelling. For the open task, accept accurate meanings and pronunciations when the student names a real print or digital reference source and writes a sentence that supports the selected meaning.