Clues in Flight

Use nearby details to check word meanings as you read.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4c "Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline up to three words whose meanings you need to confirm, then circle the nearby words that help you figure out each meaning. Reread the whole sentence before you decide what each underlined word means.

The Falcon's Dive

1. During a winter bird count, Maya spotted a peregrine falcon resting on a tall bridge beam. Its blue-gray back blended with the cloudy sky, but its dark head stood out. The falcon watched a flock of pigeons below. Suddenly, it tucked its wings close to its body and dropped swiftly through the air. Maya lifted her binoculars to follow the dive.

2. Instead of flapping, the falcon used gravity to accelerate, or gain speed quickly. This steep, high-speed drop is called a stoop. Peregrine falcons use a stoop when hunting because the surprise attack gives pigeons little time to escape. Maya reread the sentence about tucked wings. She realized the bird was not falling by accident. It was controlling its dive.

3. At the count's end, Maya recorded the falcon on her checklist. She also wrote that the bird had perched, or rested, before its hunt. The group leader checked her notes against other observers' reports. Their records matched, so the team could confirm the sighting. Maya learned that careful rereading helped her understand both the falcon's actions and the scientists' notes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Reread paragraph 2. What does stoop mean? Name two context clues that helped you decide.

2. What does accelerate mean in paragraph 2? Which words in the sentence confirm its meaning?

3. What does perched mean in paragraph 3? What phrase confirms your answer?

4. Maya reread the sentence about the falcon's tucked wings. What mistaken idea could she correct, and what did she understand instead?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about an animal, using a challenging action word in the first and a context clue in the second that confirms its meaning. Reread both sentences to make sure the clue works.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in Flight

GRADE 5 · RF.5.4c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline up to three words whose meanings you need to confirm, then circle the nearby words that help you figure out each meaning. Reread the whole sentence before you decide what each underlined word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Reread paragraph 2. What does stoop mean? Name two context clues that helped you decide.	**A steep, high-speed hunting dive. Clues include "steep, high-speed drop" and the surprise attack on pigeons.**
2	What does accelerate mean in paragraph 2? Which words in the sentence confirm its meaning?	**It means gain speed quickly. The words "gain speed quickly" confirm the meaning.**
3	What does perched mean in paragraph 3? What phrase confirms your answer?	**It means rested. The phrase "or rested" confirms the meaning.**
4	Maya reread the sentence about the falcon's tucked wings. What mistaken idea could she correct, and what did she understand instead?	**She could correct the idea that the falcon was falling by accident. She understood that it was controlling a hunting dive.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The lizard scurried across the warm rock. It moved in quick, short steps to hide beneath a leaf.

Accept reasonable meanings when students support them with nearby words from the passage. For the open task, accept any two sentences with an action word and a clear context clue that confirms the word's meaning.