Clues Below Water

Use surrounding details to infer precise word meanings.

10.L.V.3.a "This progression transitions to 9-12.L.V.3.b."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words "lure" and "temporary." Underline the nearby words or phrases that help you infer what each word means.

Rebuilding a Reef

1 At dawn, marine biologist Elena Ruiz steps onto a floating platform above a damaged coral reef near Key Largo. Her team has placed rough, gray blocks on the sandy bottom, where storms scattered broken coral branches years earlier. The blocks contain narrow holes and ledges, giving small fish places to disappear when larger fish pass. Ruiz records the number of fish she sees during each dive. If young fish begin using the blocks, adult fish may follow. The team hopes the structures will help the reef recover, but it will take years to know whether the new habitat truly works.

2 To compare designs, the researchers set several blocks near one another. One design includes a few bright ceramic pieces that resemble the colors of healthy coral. These pieces may lure curious fish, especially after daylight reaches the seafloor. Yet Ruiz does not count every visitor as evidence of success. A fish that darts in, circles once, and leaves may only be investigating. During later dives, the team looks for fish that return repeatedly, hide in the holes, or feed among the blocks. Those behaviors suggest that fish may be using the structure as part of their daily routine, rather than simply noticing it once.

3 The ceramic pieces will be removed after six months, when divers examine the blocks without their color. This temporary feature helps the team test a question: do fish stay because the blocks provide shelter and food, or do they vanish when the bright pieces are gone? The answer could guide future restoration projects. If plain blocks support fish over time, communities could build them with local materials at lower cost. If fish leave, designers may need to change the shapes, surfaces, or locations of the structures before placing more on damaged reefs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does “recover” most likely mean as it describes the reef?

2. What details in paragraph 2 help you infer the meaning of “lure”?

3. In paragraph 2, what does “investigating” most likely mean?

4. What does “temporary” mean in paragraph 3? Use one detail from the paragraph to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a design that solves a problem. Use one word a reader may not know, and include enough context for the reader to infer its meaning. Underline the word you chose.

ANSWER KEY # Clues Below Water

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words “lure” and “temporary.” Underline the nearby words or phrases that help you infer what each word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does “recover” most likely mean as it describes the reef?	**To return to a healthier condition after damage.**
2	What details in paragraph 2 help you infer the meaning of “lure”?	**The bright pieces resemble healthy coral, and curious fish visit the structure, suggesting that lure means to attract or draw fish.**
3	In paragraph 2, what does “investigating” most likely mean?	**Exploring or checking out the blocks without staying or using them as habitat.**
4	What does “temporary” mean in paragraph 3? Use one detail from the paragraph to support your answer.	**Temporary means not meant to last for long. The ceramic pieces will be removed after six months.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The engineers chose porous pavement for the school courtyard. Its tiny spaces let rainwater soak through instead of forming puddles, so less water rushed into nearby drains.

Accept equivalent meanings when students support them with accurate context from the passage. For the open task, accept any exactly two-sentence response with an underlined potentially unfamiliar word and clear context clues to its meaning.