

Word Source Detectives

Use reference clues to check spelling and choose exact meanings.

4.L.V.3.d "Use print and digital reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses) to check spelling and determine or clarify the precise meaning of words and phrases. (l)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word Lila checks in a reference source. Circle the words that tell its precise meaning or explain why it is a better choice than another word.

Lila's Butterfly Note

- ① At the nature center, Lila read a sign about monarch butterflies. It said monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves. Lila wanted to write a note, but she was unsure how to spell caterpillar. She opened a print dictionary, found the word, and copied its spelling carefully. The dictionary also showed that caterpillar means the young form of a butterfly or moth.
- ② Next, Lila saw the word habitat on another sign. The sign's glossary said a habitat is the natural home of a plant or animal. Lila used that meaning to understand why milkweed is an important habitat for monarch caterpillars. She did not use home in her note, because habitat names the kind of home found in nature.
- ③ For her last sentence, Lila wrote, "I observed a caterpillar chewing a leaf." She checked a digital dictionary. It defined observe as "to watch carefully." A thesaurus listed see, watch, and notice near observe. Lila kept observe because it showed she watched closely, not just that she saw the caterpillar during a quick glance outside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 A note says catapillar. Use the print dictionary word in paragraph 1 to correct the spelling.

2 What does habitat mean in this passage?

3 Which dictionary word means "to watch carefully"?

4 Why did Lila choose observed instead of saw in her last sentence?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a word from a book or class topic that you want to check. Use a print or digital dictionary, glossary, or thesaurus to check its spelling and precise meaning, then write one sentence using the word. Name your source and write the meaning or a helpful synonym.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each word Lila checks in a reference source. Circle the words that tell its precise meaning or explain why it is a better choice than another word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A note says catapillar. Use the print dictionary word in paragraph 1 to correct the spelling.	caterpillar
2	What does habitat mean in this passage?	the natural home of a plant or animal
3	Which dictionary word means “to watch carefully”?	observe
4	Why did Lila choose observed instead of saw in her last sentence?	Observed shows that she watched the caterpillar closely, while saw could mean she only noticed it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Word: migrate Source: Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary Meaning: to move from one place to another at a certain time each year. Sentence: In fall, many birds migrate to places with warmer weather.

Accept equivalent wording for the meanings in questions 2 and 4. For question 3, accept observe or observed if the student connects it to watching carefully; the open response should name a reference source, give an accurate meaning or synonym, and use the word correctly in a sentence.