Clues at the Harbor

Use nearby words and reference tools to clarify meaning.

5.L.V.3 "Meaning & Purpose: Make connections between words and phrases and use reference materials to determine or clarify word meanings in a variety of settings and for a variety of purposes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word Maya tries to clarify. Circle the nearby words or phrases that help explain it, and box each reference-material detail she uses.

Maya Visits a Ship Museum

1. At the harbor museum, Maya stopped beside a model of a nineteenth-century clipper ship. A label said the vessel was sleek, with a narrow body that helped it slice through waves. Maya connected sleek to the picture's smooth, pointed shape. She guessed that sleek meant built to move quickly and smoothly, then checked a dictionary on the museum tablet. Its definition matched her guess.

2. Another label described sailors who had to secure the cargo before a storm. It explained that they fastened crates, barrels, and coils of rope so nothing would slide across the deck. The word secure can mean safe in some situations, but these details showed Maya that it meant to fasten firmly here. She compared the meanings in a dictionary entry and chose the one that fit.

3. Near the exit, Maya read that the ship's voyage was perilous, or full of serious danger. A storm map showed strong winds along the route, and a list recorded damaged sails. The nearby word, the map, and the list all supported the same meaning. Maya wrote perilous in her notebook and added the dictionary guide words for the page where she found it. Those guide words helped her locate the entry quickly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does sleek mean in the first paragraph? Which details helped Maya figure it out?

2. Which meaning of secure fits the second paragraph, safe or fasten firmly? Explain using details from the passage.

3. How do the words after perilous help clarify its meaning? Name one other detail that supports that meaning.

4. What reference materials did Maya use, and how did each one help her?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an unfamiliar word from a book or article that is not in this passage. Write exactly two sentences: In the first, name a context clue that suggests its meaning. In the second, give its meaning from a dictionary or glossary and name the reference material you used.

ANSWER KEY

Clues at the Harbor

GRADE 5 · 5.L.V.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word Maya tries to clarify. Circle the nearby words or phrases that help explain it, and box each reference-material detail she uses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does sleek mean in the first paragraph? Which details helped Maya figure it out?	**Sleek means built to move quickly and smoothly. The ship's narrow body, smooth pointed shape, and ability to slice through waves are clues.**
2	Which meaning of secure fits the second paragraph, safe or fasten firmly? Explain using details from the passage.	**Fasten firmly fits. The sailors fastened crates, barrels, and rope so they would not slide across the deck.**
3	How do the words after perilous help clarify its meaning? Name one other detail that supports that meaning.	**The words "or full of serious danger" directly explain perilous. The storm map with strong winds or the list of damaged sails also supports the meaning.**
4	What reference materials did Maya use, and how did each one help her?	**She used a dictionary on the museum tablet to check meanings of sleek and secure. She used dictionary guide words to find the entry for perilous quickly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my science article, a seed was dormant because it rested through winter instead of sprouting. The Merriam-Webster Learner's Dictionary says dormant means inactive for a time.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage meanings and any cited context clues that support them. For the open task, accept any two-sentence response with a relevant context clue, an accurate reference-based meaning, and a named dictionary or glossary.