City Falcon Clues

Use word roles and context to unlock meaning.

6.L.V.2.b "Apply knowledge of parts of speech to determine the meanings of words and phrases in grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline five verbs that show an action in the passage, and circle five adjectives that describe a noun. Next to each marked word, write a short meaning based on its role and nearby clues.

Peregrines Above the Streets

1. On tall city buildings, peregrine falcons often perch on ledges that resemble the cliffs where their ancestors nested. From a high lookout, a bird can scan the streets for pigeons or other prey. Its sharp eyes notice movement far below. When a falcon spots a meal, it may launch into a steep dive. The busy city seems noisy to people, but the high ledge gives the falcon a protected place to rest, watch, and raise young.

2. Falcons are adaptable hunters, so they can use structures people built instead of natural rock faces. A window washing platform may serve as a temporary perch, and a quiet corner can shelter chicks. Adult falcons share duties at the nest. One parent may guard the eggs while the other searches for food. This teamwork is especially useful in a crowded place, where people, traffic, and other birds move through the same small spaces during daylight hours.

3. Researchers watch these birds without climbing to every nest. Some groups place a small band on a chick's leg, giving each bird an identifying number. Later, a person who sees the band can report where the falcon traveled. Reports from many observers create a living map of the birds' movements. The map helps scientists learn which nesting sites stay successful and which areas may need protection. By studying the reports, communities can make safer choices about nearby construction.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, perch is a verb. What does it mean, and which nearby words help you determine its meaning?

2. In paragraph 2, what part of speech is shelter in the phrase "shelter chicks," and what does it mean?

3. In paragraph 2, crowded is an adjective that describes place. What does crowded mean in this sentence?

4. In paragraph 3, living is an adjective in the phrase "living map." What does the phrase living map mean here?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two original sentences about observing an animal. Use track as a noun in one sentence and as a verb in the other, underline track each time, and label each use noun or verb.

ANSWER KEY

City Falcon Clues

GRADE 6 · 6.L.V.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline five verbs that show an action in the passage, and circle five adjectives that describe a noun. Next to each marked word, write a short meaning based on its role and nearby clues. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, perch is a verb. What does it mean, and which nearby words help you determine its meaning?	**Perch means to sit or rest on a high place. The clues include "on ledges" and "place to rest."**
2	In paragraph 2, what part of speech is shelter in the phrase "shelter chicks," and what does it mean?	**Shelter is a verb. It means to protect or provide a safe covered place for the chicks.**
3	In paragraph 2, crowded is an adjective that describes place. What does crowded mean in this sentence?	**Crowded means filled with many people, vehicles, or birds in a limited space.**
4	In paragraph 3, living is an adjective in the phrase "living map." What does the phrase living map mean here?	**It means an up-to-date map or record of the falcons' movements that is built from observers' reports.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The ranger found a muddy _track_ beside the stream. (noun) Scientists _track_ the turtle's path with a radio tag. (verb)

Accept equivalent meanings when students use the word's part of speech and passage clues accurately. For the open task, accept any two original animal-related sentences that use and label track correctly as a noun and a verb.