Word Choice Workshop

Use context and resources to choose words with the right shade of meaning.

6.L.V.3.e "Determine or clarify the nuanced meanings of closely related words or phrases using available print and/or digital resources to make strategic decisions when speaking and writing. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word Maya considers as a possible choice, then circle the nearby clue that explains what makes that word different. These clues show why one closely related word may fit a purpose better than another.

A Notice Takes Shape

1. During science club, Maya wrote a notice about a new pollinator garden beside the library. She first wrote, "Please inspect the soil before planting." Then she paused. Inspect could suggest a careful official check, like one done by a safety worker. The club only needed volunteers to look at the soil for stones, trash, and dry spots. Maya opened a learner's dictionary and compared inspect with examine. She changed the notice to "Please examine the soil before planting."

2. Next, Maya described the wooden border that would hold the garden bed in place. Her draft called it sturdy. A classmate suggested durable instead. Maya checked a print thesaurus, then read the dictionary notes. Sturdy described the border as strong and firm now. Durable emphasized that it could last through rain, sun, and many seasons. Because the notice asked families to donate wood that would last, Maya chose durable. The final notice requested "durable, untreated boards."

3. Finally, Maya wrote a line asking neighbors to help on planting day. She considered request, urge, and invite. A request was a polite ask. Urge carried pressure and showed that action was especially important. Invite sounded welcoming and gave people a choice. The club hoped to include people, not pressure them, so Maya wrote, "We invite neighbors to plant with us Saturday morning." Before posting the notice online, she asked the librarian to check that the digital calendar used the same friendly wording.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why was examine a better choice than inspect for the soil task?

2. What does durable add to the meaning of sturdy, and why did Maya choose durable?

3. If Maya wanted to show that neighbors needed to act right away, which word should she choose: request, urge, or invite? Explain.

4. Which resource did Maya use to compare inspect and examine, and what did it help her clarify?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are writing a message asking students to care for a class aquarium. Choose either watch or observe. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to check both words, then write exactly two sentences: one message sentence using the best word and one sentence explaining why it fits better.

ANSWER KEY # Word Choice Workshop

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word Maya considers as a possible choice, then circle the nearby clue that explains what makes that word different. These clues show why one closely related word may fit a purpose better than another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was examine a better choice than inspect for the soil task?	**Examine fits looking for stones, trash, and dry spots. Inspect can suggest a careful, official check.**
2	What does durable add to the meaning of sturdy, and why did Maya choose durable?	**Durable emphasizes lasting through rain, sun, and many seasons. Maya chose it because the club needed wood that would last.**
3	If Maya wanted to show that neighbors needed to act right away, which word should she choose: request, urge, or invite? Explain.	**Urge, because it carries pressure and shows that action is especially important.**
4	Which resource did Maya use to compare inspect and examine, and what did it help her clarify?	**She used a learner's dictionary. It helped her clarify that inspect can sound official, while examine fit the volunteers' task.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Please observe the fish quietly during feeding time. I used a dictionary and chose observe because it means to watch carefully, while watch can be less specific.

Accept responses that choose either word if the message and explanation accurately match its meaning and purpose. The student's explanation should mention use of a print or digital resource and a meaningful difference between the two words.