Clues by the Shore

Use nearby words to unlock meanings.

3.RC.11 "Apply context clues (e.g., word, phrase, and sentence-level context) and text features (e.g., maps, illustrations, charts) to determine the meanings of unknown words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the four bold words in the passage, then underline the nearby words that help you figure out what each one means.

A Visit to the Tide Pools

1. At low tide, Maya walked beside a rocky shore. The sea had pulled back, leaving little pools of salt water. In one pool, a crab slipped into a **crevice**. The narrow crack between two rocks was just big enough for the crab. Maya stayed still and watched its legs poke out. A gull called from above, but the crab did not move.

2. Nearby, a sea anemone looked like a flower with many soft arms. It stayed **anchored** to the pool's rocky bottom. Its base held tightly to the rock when a wave rushed in. Small fish swam past its waving arms. Maya noticed that the pool's water was cool, even though the sun warmed the dry rocks around it. She kept her hands out of the pool.

3. As a wave washed back out, a second crab crossed the sand. When a gull landed nearby, the crab **retreated**. It moved away from the bird and hid under a stone. A barnacle on a higher rock was **exposed** to the air. It was no longer under water, so its hard shell stayed shut. Maya knew the rising tide would cover that rock later.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is a crevice? Write the clue that helped you.

2. What does anchored tell you about the sea anemone? Write the clue that helped you.

3. What did the crab do when it retreated? Write the clue that helped you.

4. What does exposed mean for the barnacle? Write the clue that helped you.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a place you know. Use a word a reader might not know in the first sentence, then give a clue to its meaning in the second sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Clues by the Shore

GRADE 3 · 3.RC.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the four bold words in the passage, then underline the nearby words that help you figure out what each one means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is a crevice? Write the clue that helped you.	**A crevice is a narrow crack. The clue is "The narrow crack between two rocks."**
2	What does anchored tell you about the sea anemone? Write the clue that helped you.	**It is held in one place. The clue is that its base "held tightly to the rock."**
3	What did the crab do when it retreated? Write the clue that helped you.	**It moved away. The clue is that it "moved away from the bird and hid under a stone."**
4	What does exposed mean for the barnacle? Write the clue that helped you.	**It was out in the air. The clue is that it was "no longer under water."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the park, I saw a gigantic tree. Its trunk was wider than our picnic table.

Accept accurate meanings in students' own words when they point to a supporting clue. For Your Turn, the second sentence should help a reader work out the first sentence's chosen word.