Words in Contrast

Use word relationships to uncover meaning in a repair-fair story.

L.7.5.b "Use the relationship between particular words to improve understanding."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline scarce, fragile, tentative, and drizzle in the passage, then circle a word that contrasts with each one and draw a line connecting each pair.

A Second Chance for a Lantern

1 On Saturday, the neighborhood repair fair opened in a former train station. At first, volunteers had only a scarce supply of tools, so they took turns using the same screwdriver. By noon, donations made the tools plentiful enough for every table. Mara brought a fragile paper lantern whose thin frame bent when she lifted it. Across the room, a sturdy wooden chair held three stacked boxes without wobbling. The fair was not a place to replace everything broken; it was a place to look closely before deciding what could be fixed.

2 Mara approached the lantern table with a tentative suggestion. She spoke softly and paused, unsure whether a new frame would fit. After testing a strip of bamboo, she grew confident and showed the volunteer exactly where it should go. Outside, a light drizzle dotted the station windows. An hour later, a downpour hammered the roof so loudly that people leaned closer to hear one another. Inside, the volunteer tied the bamboo in place while Mara held the lantern steady. When they finished, the paper no longer sagged against the frame.

3 When the storm eased, visitors carried their repairs toward the door. Some fixes were temporary: a strip of tape would hold only until someone found a stronger part. Others seemed permanent, like the chair leg secured with a new wooden peg. Mara lifted her lantern carefully and watched its frame stay straight. She had arrived ready to throw it away, but she left with an idea for the next fair: a small shelf where neighbors could leave spare materials for someone else to use.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does plentiful help you understand what scarce means at the start of the fair?

2. What does the contrast between fragile and sturdy tell you about the lantern?

3. How does Mara's change from tentative to confident help you understand tentative?

4. How are drizzle and downpour related, and what does that relationship tell you about a drizzle?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a place or activity not in the passage. Use a word that might be unfamiliar and a related word or opposite to make its meaning clear; in your third sentence, explain how the two words are related.

ANSWER KEY

Words in Contrast

GRADE 7 · L.7.5.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline scarce, fragile, tentative, and drizzle in the passage, then circle a word that contrasts with each one and draw a line connecting each pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does plentiful help you understand what scarce means at the start of the fair?	**Plentiful means there are enough tools for every table. Scarce means there are too few, so volunteers must share.**
2	What does the contrast between fragile and sturdy tell you about the lantern?	**The sturdy chair holds weight without wobbling, while the fragile lantern bends easily and needs careful handling.**
3	How does Mara's change from tentative to confident help you understand tentative?	**At first Mara speaks softly and pauses. Tentative means uncertain or hesitant, unlike her later confident manner.**
4	How are drizzle and downpour related, and what does that relationship tell you about a drizzle?	**Both are rain, but they differ in intensity. A drizzle is light rain, while a downpour is heavy rain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The pond water looked murky after the rain, so I could not see the stones at the bottom. Yesterday, the water was clear enough to spot every pebble. Murky and clear are opposites, which shows that murky means cloudy and hard to see through.

Accept accurate explanations in students' own words. For the marking job, the intended pairs are scarce and plentiful, fragile and sturdy, tentative and confident, and drizzle and downpour.