Pond Word Detectives

Use nearby details to figure out word meanings.

3.4.R.2 "Students will use context clues to clarify the meaning of words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each bold word and underline the nearby words that help you figure out what it means.

Notes at the Pond

1. After a night of rain, Mina and her grandfather walked to the pond. The water was **murky**. Mud swirled through it, so Mina could not see the stones below. At the edge, they found a **sturdy** wooden bench. Its thick legs did not shake when they sat down together. Mina took out her notebook to record what she saw.

2. A small fish **darted** past a clump of reeds. It zipped across the water so quickly that Mina almost missed it. Then a turtle climbed onto a flat rock. Its shell looked wet and shiny. Mina watched the turtle stretch its neck toward the sun. Her grandfather asked her to write down how the animals moved instead of just naming them.

3. Soon, dark clouds covered the sun, and rain began to fall again. Mina and her grandfather stepped beneath a wide tree. They were **sheltered** there, with branches and leaves keeping most of the rain off their heads. Mina's notebook stayed dry. She added one last note: the turtle slid back into the pond when the first drops hit its shell.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does **murky** mean? Which words in the passage help you know?

2. What does **sturdy** mean? Which detail about the bench helps you know?

3. What does **darted** mean? Which words about the fish help you know?

4. What does **sheltered** mean? Which detail about the tree helps you know?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a place other than a pond. Use the word **enormous**, and include a clue that helps a reader understand what it means.

ANSWER KEY

Pond Word Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.4.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each bold word and underline the nearby words that help you figure out what it means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does **murky** mean? Which words in the passage help you know?	**Murky means muddy or hard to see through. Mud swirled in the water, and Mina could not see the stones below.**
2	What does **sturdy** mean? Which detail about the bench helps you know?	**Sturdy means strong and steady. The bench's thick legs did not shake when Mina and her grandfather sat on it.**
3	What does **darted** mean? Which words about the fish help you know?	**Darted means moved quickly. The fish zipped across the water so quickly that Mina almost missed it.**
4	What does **sheltered** mean? Which detail about the tree helps you know?	**Sheltered means protected from the rain. The tree's branches and leaves kept most of the rain off their heads.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the farm, we saw an enormous pumpkin. It filled the whole wagon, leaving no room for another one.

For Part 2, accept similar meanings when students point to a matching clue in the passage. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response set somewhere other than a pond that uses enormous and gives a clear size clue.