Creek Clue Hunt

Use nearby details to figure out unfamiliar words.

4.4.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 the four bold words in the passage. Underline nearby details that help you figure out what each word means.

After the Rain

1 After a night of rain, Nia and her grandfather walked to the creek behind their house. The water was **murky**. Brown soil swirled through it, and Nia could not see the stones on the bottom. They stayed on the path above the bank. Grandfather handed Nia a notebook and asked her to record the small creatures she noticed.

2 Near a clump of reeds, Nia spotted an insect on a brown stem. Its long, thin body looked so much like the stem that she nearly missed it. The insect was **camouflaged**, hidden in plain sight by its shape and color. As Nia leaned closer, a tiny spider **skittered** across a rock, moving in quick, darting steps before slipping into a crack.

3 **Cautious**, Nia took one slow step back from the slippery edge instead of rushing after the spider. Then she noticed a shiny snail climbing a leaf. She drew the snail and wrote a note about its smooth trail. At home, she showed her grandfather the notebook. He smiled because she had found so much without disturbing the creatures or stepping into the creek.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does **murky** mean? Give one clue from the passage.

2. What does **camouflaged** mean? Give one clue from the passage.

3. What does **skittered** mean? Give one clue from the passage.

4. What does **cautious** mean? Give one clue from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a different outdoor discovery. In your first sentence, use a challenging word and give a nearby clue to its meaning. In your second sentence, explain the word and point to your clue.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Clue Hunt

GRADE 4 · 4.4.R.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

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

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does **murky** mean? Give one clue from the passage.	**Murky means cloudy or hard to see through. Brown soil swirled in the water, and Nia could not see the stones.**
2	What does **camouflaged** mean? Give one clue from the passage.	**Camouflaged means blending in with the surroundings. The insect looked so much like the brown stem that Nia nearly missed it.**
3	What does **skittered** mean? Give one clue from the passage.	**Skittered means moved quickly in small steps. The spider moved in quick, darting steps across a rock.**
4	What does **cautious** mean? Give one clue from the passage.	**Cautious means careful to avoid danger. Nia stepped back slowly from the slippery edge instead of rushing after the spider.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On a mountain trail, I saw a jagged rock with sharp, uneven points. The clue “sharp, uneven points” shows that jagged means having rough, pointed edges.

Accept accurate meanings supported by details from the passage, even if students use different wording. For Part 3, check that the new word has a nearby clue and that the explanation matches it.