Roots of Recovery

Use nearby clues and sentence structure to infer precise meanings.

11.RV.1.B "Use context and sentence structure to clarify the meanings of words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the six vocabulary words whose meanings are clarified by nearby context. Circle the words or phrases that help you infer each meaning, and number the six word-clue sets.

Saving Underwater Meadows

(1) Along the coast of Virginia, scientists have been restoring eelgrass, a flowering plant that grows underwater in shallow bays. Eelgrass beds once covered wide areas, but disease and poor water quality caused many to vanish during the twentieth century. To begin recovery, researchers collect seeds from healthy meadows and scatter them over bare sediment. The work can seem painstaking, meaning slow and requiring careful effort, because each boatload holds thousands of tiny seeds. Yet new shoots can transform an open, muddy bottom into a sheltered habitat for fish, crabs, and young scallops.

(2) Healthy eelgrass also changes the water around it. Its long blades slow waves and trap drifting particles, so the water becomes less turbid, or cloudy with stirred-up material. Clearer water lets more sunlight reach the plants, which need light to make food. The beds are not a cure-all: a single storm or heat wave can damage them. Still, their roots bind loose sediment, reducing erosion, the gradual wearing away of shore or seabed. This protection may mitigate, or lessen, the force of waves near vulnerable coastlines. Scientists measure these effects over years rather than after one unusually calm season.

(3) Restoration teams must also be tenacious. They return to sites after failed plantings, examine what changed, and adjust their methods instead of abandoning the project. Results are often sporadic, appearing at irregular times or in scattered places, because weather, grazing animals, and water conditions vary. In one area, seedlings may spread quickly, while a nearby plot remains bare. These contrasts provide evidence, not defeat. By comparing successful and unsuccessful plots, researchers can identify conditions that support growth. Their findings help coastal communities decide where restoration funds and protective rules will have the strongest effect.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does turbid mean in paragraph 2? Identify the context clue that supports your answer.

2. What does painstaking mean in paragraph 1? How does the sentence structure clarify its meaning?

3. In paragraph 2, what does mitigate mean? Which nearby word gives the strongest clue?

4. What does tenacious mean in paragraph 3? Use the actions in the next sentence to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a scientific, community, or school project. Use one challenging vocabulary word that a reader can infer from an appositive, comparison, contrast, or cause-and-effect clue. Underline the vocabulary word and circle the clue.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the six vocabulary words whose meanings are clarified by nearby context. Circle the words or phrases that help you infer each meaning, and number the six word-clue sets. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does turbid mean in paragraph 2? Identify the context clue that supports your answer.	**Turbid means cloudy or unclear because of material in the water. The clue is "cloudy with stirred-up material."**
2	What does painstaking mean in paragraph 1? How does the sentence structure clarify its meaning?	**Painstaking means slow and requiring careful effort. The phrase "meaning slow and requiring careful effort" directly explains the word, and "because each boatload holds thousands of tiny seeds" shows why the work is careful.**
3	In paragraph 2, what does mitigate mean? Which nearby word gives the strongest clue?	**Mitigate means lessen or reduce. The strongest clue is "lessen."**
4	What does tenacious mean in paragraph 3? Use the actions in the next sentence to support your answer.	**Tenacious means persistent and unwilling to give up. The teams return after failed plantings, adjust their methods, and do not abandon the project.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The crew was vigilant, watchful for danger, as it inspected the damaged bridge each morning. Unlike a careless team, it recorded even small new cracks before reopening the road.

Accept accurate synonyms supported by a specific nearby clue or sentence pattern. For the open response, accept any two-sentence original example with a clearly marked word and context clue that reasonably reveals its meaning.