

Meaning Moves

Build precise meaning through collaborative word analysis.

GRADE 11 • 11.RV.1

11.RV.1 "Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general academic and content-specific vocabulary through reading, discussing, and writing about grade-level texts and topics..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Use the Topic card as your shared problem.

2 Speak only when your move adds a real idea.

3 Say the full starter before playing a card.

4 Let each person finish before you respond.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Place one Topic card faceup and read the task together.
2. Choose one Role card per player. With three players, leave one role aside.
3. Print two copies of the Move cards and deal four cards to each player.
4. Take turns discussing the topic. When you genuinely use a starter, place that card in the middle.
5. End the round when every dealt card is played, then complete the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used context, sentence structure, or word parts to clarify meaning.

☐ I explained a precise difference between similar words.

☐ I explained the meaning and effect of a figurative, idiomatic, or allusive phrase.

☐ I used a new word or phrase in another context.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Post Before Sending Write a two- or three-sentence advice post for someone who is about to share a rumor online, using at least one of these words: credible, impulsive, discretion. Include one figurative, idiomatic, or classical allusive phrase.	Shared Space Plan Write a short proposal for improving a shared school space, using at least one of these words: accessible, sustainable, collaborate. Include one figurative, idiomatic, or classical allusive phrase.	Event Conflict Write a two- or three-sentence message that helps a student group resolve an event disagreement, using at least one of these words: cooperative, unyielding, adaptable. Include one figurative, idiomatic, or classical allusive phrase.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Clue Tracker Notice context and sentence structure, and ask speakers to point to words that signal meaning.	Part Builder Listen for roots and affixes, and ask how each part contributes to a word's meaning.	Shade Judge Listen for near-synonyms, and ask which word has the most precise tone and meaning.	Meaning Mapper Listen for idioms, figurative language, and allusions, and ask what they mean and add.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD CONTEXT EVIDENCE “The words around ____ suggest it means ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD ANOTHER CONTEXT “In a different situation, ____ could describe ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD SPLIT WORD “I can split ____ into ____ and ____, so it likely means ____.”	MOVE CARD TRACE PARTS “The root or affix in ____ points to ____, which fits because ____.”
MOVE CARD COMPARE SHADES “____ is more precise than ____ here because ____.”	MOVE CARD TEST TONE “If we used ____ instead of ____, the tone would become ____.”	MOVE CARD UNPACK PHRASE “The phrase ____ does not mean ____ literally. It means ____ here.”	MOVE CARD EXPLAIN EFFECT “Using ____ as a figurative, idiomatic, or allusive phrase adds ____ to our message.”

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the Move cards so each group of three or four receives four cards per player. Run another round with a new topic and redistributed roles. If participation is uneven, require each player to take one turn before anyone plays a second card, and have role holders invite quieter classmates with a specific question.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	The words around impulsive suggest it means acting without enough thought because the post is shared before the writer checks facts.
Leo	I can split impulsive into impulse and -ive, so it likely means having the quality of a sudden urge.
Jordan	Impulsive is more precise than careless here because the post may be rushed, not intentionally irresponsible.
Nia	The phrase "do not fan the flames" does not mean wave air at a fire literally. It means avoid making the rumor spread or become more heated here.
Maya	In a different situation, discretion could describe keeping a friend's private news confidential because it means using careful judgment about what to share.

LISTEN FOR

- Meaning claims supported by nearby wording or sentence structure
- Accurate root and affix reasoning checked against context
- Precise distinctions among similar words and tones
- Literal meanings separated from intended figurative or idiomatic effects

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.