

Meaning Move Match

Use word evidence to build a precise interpretation.

GRADE 12 • 12.RV.1

12.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 exact starter before adding your idea.

2 Base each claim on words in the topic.

3 Let every player speak before anyone plays a second card.

4 Do not play a card unless it fits the topic.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and give each player one Role card.
2. Give each player four Move cards, using extra copies of the deck if needed.
3. Read the topic aloud and discuss what its key words and phrases suggest.
4. When you genuinely use a Move card's starter, place that card in the middle.
5. Keep talking until every player has played every card, then complete the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used context or sentence structure to infer meaning.

☐ I used word parts to analyze a complex word.

☐ I distinguished between words with similar meanings.

☐ I explained the effect of an idiom, figurative phrase, or allusion.


TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Public Promise A candidate says, "We need a transparent process, not a performative promise. The current plan is only kicking the can down the road." What do the academic words and idiom mean here, and how do they strengthen the criticism?	Leadership Labels A student says, "Our club leader is assertive, not aggressive or domineering. We cannot keep moving the goalposts." How do the three labels differ, and what does the idiom add to the concern?	Classical Warning During a budget meeting, a member calls an irreversible solution "a Pandora's box." What does the allusion suggest in context, and what effect does it have on the warning?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Context Tracker Watch for nearby words and sentence patterns that support an inference.	Word Builder Notice roots, prefixes, suffixes, and word families that clarify meaning.	Shade Matcher Push the group to distinguish close words by tone, strength, and implication.	Image Decoder Identify nonliteral language or allusions and ask what they do in the statement.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD CONTEXT CLUE "From the words around ____, I infer that it means ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD CONTEXT CLUE "The sentence structure around ____ suggests ____, especially when it says ____."	MOVE CARD WORD PARTS "The root, prefix, or suffix in ____ points to ____."	MOVE CARD WORD PARTS "I can break ____ into ____, which helps me infer ____."
MOVE CARD NUANCE CHECK "____ is more precise than ____ here because ____."	MOVE CARD NUANCE CHECK "If we replace ____ with ____, the tone shifts from ____ to ____."	MOVE CARD INTERPRET IMAGE "The phrase ____ is not literal. In this context, it suggests ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD TRANSFER TEST "In a different context, I could use ____ to describe ____ because ____."

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

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Use the sample exchange with the Public Promise card as a teacher model, but do not display it before groups begin. Print or copy enough Move card sets so each student receives four cards. If one student dominates, enforce the one-card-per-player rotation before anyone may play another card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	From the words around transparent, I infer that it means open and easy to examine because it describes a process the candidate wants.
Luis	I can break performative into perform and -ative, which helps me infer that it describes a promise made more for appearance than action.
Tara	Transparent is more precise than honest here because transparent describes a process people can inspect, while honest usually describes a person's truthfulness.
Jon	The phrase kicking the can down the road is not literal. In this context, it suggests delaying a problem because the candidate criticizes the current plan.
Maya	In a different context, I could use performative to describe a public apology designed for attention because it may not lead to action.

LISTEN FOR

- Cites nearby wording or syntax as evidence for an inferred meaning
- Connects a root or affix to a plausible meaning and checks it against context
- Distinguishes connotation, tone, strength, or implication among near-synonyms
- Explains both the meaning and rhetorical effect of nonliteral language or an allusion

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