# Falcons Above Town

Use context clues to build word knowledge while reading.

**5.RV.1.G** "Develop breadth of vocabulary knowledge by listening to and reading high quality, complex text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle four words or phrases that are new or especially precise. Underline nearby words that help you figure out what each circled word means.

### City Sky Hunters

1 At dawn, a peregrine falcon perches on a skyscraper ledge above a busy city street. From this lofty lookout, the bird scans for pigeons, its usual prey. Peregrines have sharp vision that helps them notice movement far below. Although the building is made of steel and glass, the narrow ledge resembles the cliff faces where these falcons traditionally nest.

2 To capture a meal, a falcon may soar high, then fold its wings and plunge in a steep dive called a stoop. During this descent, it can reach very high speeds. The falcon does not crash into its target blindly. It adjusts its path with swift turns, using its tail like a rudder to steer through the air with control.

3 City nesting can be hazardous. Windows may reflect the sky, confusing young birds as they learn to fly, and storms can drench an exposed nest. Yet many cities support peregrines by protecting nest sites and placing bands on chicks. A band carries an identifying number, allowing scientists to track where a bird travels and whether it survives.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does lofty mean in paragraph 1? Which detail supports your answer?

2. What does traditionally mean in paragraph 1?

3. In paragraph 2, what is a rudder? How does the passage help you understand the word?

4. What does exposed mean in paragraph 3? Which weather word gives a clue?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about an animal in a place where it can survive. Use at least two precise words from the passage, and include details that help a reader understand those words.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 5 · 5.RV.1.G**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle four words or phrases that are new or especially precise. Underline nearby words that help you figure out what each circled word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does lofty mean in paragraph 1? Which detail supports your answer? | **Lofty means high above the ground. The falcon is on a ledge above a busy city street.** |
| 2 | What does traditionally mean in paragraph 1? | **Traditionally means in the usual way over a long time, or according to past practice.** |
| 3 | In paragraph 2, what is a rudder? How does the passage help you understand the word? | **A rudder is something used to steer or guide direction. The passage says the falcon uses its tail to steer through the air.** |
| 4 | What does exposed mean in paragraph 3? Which weather word gives a clue? | **Exposed means not protected from the weather. The clue word is "storms," which can drench the nest.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On a rocky coast, a seal rested on a lofty shelf above the crashing waves. When a storm began, it left the exposed shore and swam into deeper water.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by nearby words in the passage. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response that uses at least two passage vocabulary words accurately and gives context clues through details.