

Word Tool Detectives

Use reference tools to clarify precise word meanings.

5.RV.1.J "Use glossaries, beginning dictionaries, and thesauruses, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first mention of each word Maya needed to clarify, and circle the tool she used to clarify it. This shows how different reference tools help readers and writers choose accurate words.

Signs for the Tide Pool

- ① At Harborview Aquarium, Maya helped prepare signs for a new tide-pool exhibit. She wrote that sea stars use tube feet to move and hold prey. Before printing, she checked the exhibit glossary. Its entry said tube feet are tiny, water-filled parts on an echinoderm's underside. The glossary helped Maya make sure the science word fit the display.
- ② Next, Maya wanted to explain that the pool becomes exposed when the tide goes out. She was unsure about exposed, so she used a beginning dictionary. The guide words at the top of a page helped her find the word quickly. The entry explained that exposed can mean uncovered or open to view. Maya chose uncovered because it made her sentence clearer.
- ③ For a heading, Maya first wrote, "Amazing Tide-Pool Animals." She opened a digital thesaurus to look for synonyms for amazing. It listed surprising, remarkable, and astonishing. Maya did not pick a word just because it sounded fancy. She read her whole heading and selected remarkable, which means worthy of notice. The final heading matched the careful, science-based tone of the exhibit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which reference tool did Maya use to clarify the meaning of tube feet?

2 What meaning of exposed did Maya find in the beginning dictionary?

3 How did guide words help Maya use the beginning dictionary?

4 Which synonym did Maya choose for amazing, and why did she choose it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one unfamiliar word from something you are reading. Use a glossary or beginning dictionary to find its meaning, then use a thesaurus to find two synonyms. Write exactly two sentences that name your tools, give the meaning, list the synonyms, and use your best synonym correctly.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the first mention of each word Maya needed to clarify, and circle the tool she used to clarify it. This shows how different reference tools help readers and writers choose accurate words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which reference tool did Maya use to clarify the meaning of tube feet?	She used the exhibit glossary.
2	What meaning of exposed did Maya find in the beginning dictionary?	Uncovered, or open to view.
3	How did guide words help Maya use the beginning dictionary?	They helped her find the word quickly.
4	Which synonym did Maya choose for amazing, and why did she choose it?	She chose remarkable because it matched the careful, science-based tone of the exhibit.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I used a digital beginning dictionary to learn that cautious means careful about avoiding danger or mistakes. A thesaurus listed careful and watchful, and I chose watchful: The watchful lifeguard scanned the deep end of the pool.

Accept equivalent wording for the glossary, dictionary, and thesaurus answers when it matches the passage. For the open task, check that the student names appropriate reference tools, gives an accurate meaning and two related synonyms, and uses one chosen synonym correctly in exactly two sentences.