Clues at Work

Use nearby details to unlock word meanings.

6.RV.1.B "Use context and sentence structure to determine multiple meanings of words and clarify the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each word that is used with two different meanings. Number the nearby words or phrases that give you a clue to each meaning.

A Bridge for Pine Creek

1 At Pine Creek Nature Center, sixth graders planned a small footbridge across a narrow channel. Before anyone lifted a board, the group studied the creek's bank. The sloping land beside the water had soft soil, so the bridge posts would need firm supports. They also visited a local bank. There, a manager described a community grant that could pay for tools. The students compared these two stops as they planned. One was beside rushing water, while the other had tellers, accounts, and a locked vault.

2 On the first workday, Maya felt a cool draft in the tool shed. Loose papers on the worktable fluttered, and she closed the window near her. Later, she opened another draft on a tablet. It was an early bridge plan with material lists, but several measurements were blank. Maya asked her team to review that draft before ordering lumber. The first draft moved through the room, but the second one could be revised with notes. Both uses appeared during the same busy afternoon.

3 By afternoon, the class tested the bridge deck before any visitor used the path. The deck was the flat surface that people would walk across. A volunteer placed sandbags on it to test the load, the amount of weight the bridge could safely carry. Then students watched the creek's current push leaves downstream. Their current plan was to add a handrail before the trail opened. A sign near the water warned visitors not to step into the swift flow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does bank mean when the group studies the creek's bank? What does it mean when they visit a local bank? Give one context clue for each meaning.

2. What does draft mean in the tool shed? What does draft mean on Maya's tablet? Use details from the sentences to support your answer.

3. The word current appears twice in the last paragraph. Explain the meaning of each use.

4. What does the phrase test the load mean? Which part of the sentence clarifies the phrase?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences that use one word in two different meanings. Choose a word that does not appear in the passage, and underline or label a context clue in each sentence that shows the meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Clues at Work

GRADE 6 · 6.RV.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each word that is used with two different meanings. Number the nearby words or phrases that give you a clue to each meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does bank mean when the group studies the creek's bank? What does it mean when they visit a local bank? Give one context clue for each meaning.	**The creek's bank is land beside the water, shown by "sloping land" and "soft soil." The local bank is a place that handles money, shown by the manager, grant, tellers, accounts, and vault.**
2	What does draft mean in the tool shed? What does draft mean on Maya's tablet? Use details from the sentences to support your answer.	**The draft in the shed is a moving current of cool air, shown by fluttering papers and the window. The draft on the tablet is an early version of a plan, shown by material lists, blank measurements, and revisions.**
3	The word current appears twice in the last paragraph. Explain the meaning of each use.	**The creek's current is moving water that pushes leaves downstream. The students' current plan is the plan they have now.**
4	What does the phrase test the load mean? Which part of the sentence clarifies the phrase?	**It means to check how much weight the bridge can safely carry. The phrase "the amount of weight the bridge could safely carry" clarifies it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bat flew from the [dark cave] at dusk. Jordan swung a bat and [hit the ball] over the fence.

Accept accurate meanings supported by nearby details or sentence structure. For Part 3, accept any word with two clearly different meanings if each sentence includes a marked context clue.