Prairie Word Clues

Use related words and comparisons to unlock meaning.

7.RV.1.D "Use the relationship between particular words, including synonyms, antonyms, and analogies to better understand each word."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word whose meaning is clarified by a nearby synonym or antonym. Circle each analogy, then write a few words beside it to name what the comparison helps you understand.

Restoring a Prairie

1 At dawn, Maya joined a team restoring a small prairie beside the city library. The ground looked barren, or nearly empty, after years of mowing. Yet beneath the soil lay dormant seeds, resting but still alive. Maya's supervisor, Mr. Chen, explained that native plants could return if the team removed invasive weeds. Unlike native species, which belong in the region, the invasive plants spread aggressively and crowded out their neighbors. Maya pictured the weeds as uninvited guests taking every seat at a crowded table.

2 During the first week, the volunteers cleared thick stems and carried them to compost bins. The work was tedious, not exciting or quick, because each root had to be pulled carefully. Maya remained diligent, or steady and hardworking, even when afternoon heat made the task uncomfortable. By Friday, tiny shoots appeared. They looked fragile, the opposite of sturdy, but Mr. Chen said prairie grasses develop deep roots. "A young prairie is like a team learning a new routine," he said. "At first, each part seems small, but together the parts become strong."

3 A month later, rain finally arrived after a scarce, or limited, spring. Water filled shallow hollows, and insects returned to the growing plants. Maya noticed that the plot was no longer silent. It buzzed with life. Some visitors expected a neat lawn, but a prairie is diverse rather than uniform, with many kinds of grasses and flowers. Mr. Chen compared the habitat to a neighborhood market: different stalls offer different goods, and each adds to the whole. Maya understood that diversity helped the prairie support more living things.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does barren mean in the first paragraph? Which nearby words help you determine its meaning?

2. What two words in the second paragraph are antonyms? How does their relationship help explain fragile?

3. How does the comparison to uninvited guests help you understand invasive weeds?

4. What does the neighborhood market analogy help explain about a diverse prairie?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about preparing for a school event. Use a word followed by a synonym, a pair of antonyms, and an analogy to help explain your ideas.

ANSWER KEY

Prairie Word Clues

GRADE 7 · 7.RV.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word whose meaning is clarified by a nearby synonym or antonym. Circle each analogy, then write a few words beside it to name what the comparison helps you understand. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does barren mean in the first paragraph? Which nearby words help you determine its meaning?	**Barren means nearly empty. The clue is "or nearly empty."**
2	What two words in the second paragraph are antonyms? How does their relationship help explain fragile?	**Fragile and sturdy are antonyms. Fragile means not sturdy, or easily damaged or broken.**
3	How does the comparison to uninvited guests help you understand invasive weeds?	**It shows that invasive weeds take space from native plants and crowd them out.**
4	What does the neighborhood market analogy help explain about a diverse prairie?	**It explains that a prairie has many different kinds of plants, and each kind adds to the whole habitat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The committee was diligent, or steady and hardworking, as it planned the science fair. The display area changed from chaotic to orderly after students sorted the supplies. The volunteers worked like bees in a hive, with each person completing a different job.

Accept equivalent definitions when students use the passage's synonym, antonym, or analogy as evidence. For Part 3, accept any three-sentence response that correctly includes a synonym relationship, an antonym relationship, and an analogy.