Floating Power Clues

Use nearby details to unlock precise vocabulary.

8.RV.1.B "Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) to determine the meaning of words or phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words deliberate, buoyant, feasible, and intermittent. Circle the nearby words or phrases that help you infer each word's meaning, then number each clue set 1 through 4.

Turbines That Float

(1) On a windy island in the North Atlantic, engineers are testing a turbine that floats far from shore. Unlike towers bolted to the seafloor, this machine is attached to anchors by long, flexible cables. The platform can sway with waves without tipping over. Its location is deliberate: winds over deep water are often stronger and steadier than winds near land. By placing turbines where the breeze is reliable, planners hope to produce electricity more consistently.

(2) Before the turbine is built at full scale, the team studies a prototype in a harbor. The smaller model holds instruments that measure wind speed, cable tension, and the angle of the platform. During one storm, waves shoved the model sideways, yet it remained buoyant and returned upright after each rise and fall. This result matters because a floating turbine must endure rough weather for years. If its cables or platform fail, repairs far offshore can be difficult and costly.

(3) Floating turbines are not a perfect solution for every coast. Building and maintaining them requires specialized ships, trained crews, and careful planning. Still, the design may be feasible in places where water becomes deep close to land, making fixed towers impractical. Wind power is also intermittent, meaning its output changes when the wind slows or stops. For that reason, communities may pair turbines with batteries, other energy sources, or power lines that carry electricity from areas with different weather.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does deliberate mean as it describes the turbine's location? Which details in the paragraph support your meaning?

2. What does buoyant mean in paragraph 2? Use the model's actions during the storm to explain.

3. What does feasible mean in paragraph 3? Use the sentence about deep water and fixed towers as context.

4. What does intermittent mean as it describes wind power? What words after the comma help you infer the meaning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence mini-passage about a tool, machine, or natural event. Use one challenging word and include enough context clues for a reader to infer its meaning without a dictionary.

ANSWER KEY

Floating Power Clues

GRADE 8 · 8.RV.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words deliberate, buoyant, feasible, and intermittent. Circle the nearby words or phrases that help you infer each word's meaning, then number each clue set 1 through 4. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does deliberate mean as it describes the turbine's location? Which details in the paragraph support your meaning?	**Deliberate means planned on purpose. The passage says planners place turbines where winds are stronger, steadier, and reliable.**
2	What does buoyant mean in paragraph 2? Use the model's actions during the storm to explain.	**Buoyant means able to float or stay above water. The model remained afloat and returned upright after waves pushed it.**
3	What does feasible mean in paragraph 3? Use the sentence about deep water and fixed towers as context.	**Feasible means possible and practical to do. Floating turbines can work where deep water makes fixed towers impractical.**
4	What does intermittent mean as it describes wind power? What words after the comma help you infer the meaning?	**Intermittent means not steady or continuous. The words "output changes when the wind slows or stops" provide the clue.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the earthquake, the resilient bridge bent slightly but did not crack, and workers reopened it quickly. Its ability to recover after shaking showed why engineers had chosen that material.

Accept reasonable meanings supported by nearby details, even if students use different wording. In Part 3, accept any two-sentence response with a challenging word and clear context clues that reveal its meaning.