

Meaning Move Match

Build a scene, then unpack the language choices.

GRADE 9 • 9.RV.1

9.RV.1 "Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general academic and content-specific vocabulary through reading, discussing, and writing about grade-level texts and topics..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Speak from the topic, not from a memorized definition.

2 Play a card only after you finish its starter.

3 Use details from the group's scene as evidence.

4 Make room for every group member to speak.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and give each player one Role card.
2. Deal each player four Move cards, using duplicate copies when needed.
3. Create the scene or message your Topic card asks for.
4. On your turn, use one Move card starter with a specific detail from the scene, then place the card in the middle.
5. Keep building on ideas until every player has played all four cards.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used nearby words to infer a meaning.

☐ I used a prefix, root, suffix, or related word to explain a word.

☐ I explained both denotation and connotation.

☐ I used a word or phrase in context and explained its literal or figurative meaning.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Group Chat Create a two-line group-chat exchange about planning an event. Include a challenging complex word, a loaded word, an idiom or figurative phrase, and a literary or classical allusion. Explain how context clues, word parts, literal meaning, and tone shape the exchange.	Team Huddle Create a two-line team huddle about solving a setback. Include a challenging complex word, a loaded word, an idiom or figurative phrase, and a literary or classical allusion. Explain how context clues, word parts, literal meaning, and tone shape the huddle.	Pitch Meeting Create a two-line pitch to improve something at school. Include a challenging complex word, a loaded word, an idiom or figurative phrase, and a literary or classical allusion. Explain how context clues, word parts, literal meaning, and tone shape the pitch.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Clue Hunter Listen for nearby words or sentence patterns that support an inferred meaning.	Part Picker Ask the group to name a useful prefix, root, suffix, or related word.	Tone Scout Check that the group separates a word's dictionary meaning from the feeling it carries.	Figure Finder Check that idioms, figurative phrases, and allusions are explained instead of treated as literal.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
USE CONTEXT “With ____ nearby, I infer ____ means ____.”	READ CONTEXT “The words ____ and ____ suggest that ____ means ____.”	BREAK IT DOWN “Break ____ into ____ and ____, and that suggests ____.”	RELATED WORD “____ is related to ____, so its word part suggests ____.”
MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
CHECK TONE “Denotatively, ____ means ____, but it feels ____ here.”	SWAP TONE “If we replace ____ with ____, the denotation stays close, but the tone becomes ____.”	EXPLAIN FIGURE “____ is not literal here. It means ____, and it makes the message feel ____.”	LINK ALLUSION “The allusion ____ points to ____, so it adds the idea of ____.”

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print enough Move card sets so each student receives four cards, and let groups choose any topic card for each round. If one student dominates, require that player to wait until every other player has played one card before taking another turn; if a student is stuck, the role holder may point to a relevant detail but may not supply the completed starter.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ari	Our two-line chat says, "This fundraiser plan looks feasible, but hidden fees make it infeasible." "It is a Trojan horse, and we may be biting off more than we can chew." With "hidden fees" nearby, I infer "Trojan horse" means a plan that seems helpful but hides a problem.
Bea	Break "infeasible" into "in-" and "feasible," and that suggests "not feasible."
Carlos	Denotatively, "infeasible" means not possible to carry out, but it feels discouraging here.
Dina	"Biting off more than we can chew" is not literal here. It means accepting more work than we can handle, and it makes the message feel cautionary.
Ari	The allusion "Trojan horse" points to the Greeks entering Troy by hiding inside a wooden horse, so it adds the idea of hidden danger.

LISTEN FOR

- specific nearby words used as evidence for an inference
- accurate use of prefixes, roots, suffixes, or related words
- clear distinction between dictionary meaning and emotional association
- explanations of idioms, figurative language, and allusions in the created context

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.