Using context clues

Library Evidence and Transfer

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review Read nearby words and the whole sentence. Try a possible meaning in place of the unfamiliar word; check whether it preserves the idea.

Example The fragile model needed gentle handling because its thin pieces could snap. Fragile means easily broken; the nearby details explain why.

Investigate how the library account supports word meanings. Compare clues, evaluate a claim, and transfer a meaning to a new situation. Other well-supported explanations are valid.

The Blurred Book List

[1] A spilled drink left the handwritten book list illegible. The ink had blurred until none of the titles could be read. To decipher one title, Rosa compared its remaining letters with a clean list and finally figured out what it said.

[2] Her partner was methodical: first he sorted books by topic, next he checked each title, and finally he placed them in order. Two books were duplicates, with exactly the same title, pages, and pictures. The team put fragile lists in protective sleeves to preserve them for next year's club.

1. Which better explains illegible: impossible to read or difficult to carry? Identify the detail that rules out the other meaning.

2. Does decipher describe Rosa's process of figuring out writing or the damage caused by the drink? Explain using what she does.

3. A reader says methodical means working without an order. Name two signal words that challenge that claim, and give a better meaning.

4. Would two books with the same cover but completely different pages fit duplicates as used here? Explain.

5. A museum puts an old map behind protective glass so it will last. Explain how preserve from the library account fits this new situation.

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Responses and feedback: Library Evidence and Transfer

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

1. Illegible means impossible to read. None of the blurred titles could be read; the account says nothing about carrying the list.

Reasoning: First, find what the spilled drink changed: the ink became blurred. Next, use the stated result, unreadable titles. The problem concerns reading, not the list's weight or size.

2. Decipher describes figuring out writing. Rosa compares the remaining letters with a clean list until she understands the title.

Reasoning: First, separate the damage from Rosa's later action. Then follow her comparison of letters to the result, figuring out the title. That process reveals the meaning of decipher.

3. First and next challenge the claim. Methodical means following an organized sequence of steps.

Reasoning: First, notice the sequence markers first, next, and finally. Then connect them to sorting, checking, and arranging. These planned steps show organization rather than random action; any two of the three markers are valid.

4. No. Here duplicates are matching copies with the same title, pages, and pictures, not just the same cover.

Reasoning: First, identify all the matching features in the account. Next, test the proposed pair against them. Different pages fail that comparison, so a shared cover alone does not fit this use of duplicates.

5. Preserve means protect or keep in good condition. Glass protects the map just as sleeves protect the lists for future use.

Reasoning: First, connect protective sleeves with keeping the lists usable next year. Then compare the glass protecting the map. Both actions prevent damage so an object can last.