

Year 5 Reading Skills Sessions



Vocabulary

What does 'vocabulary' mean?

Vocabulary is the skill of giving/explaining the meaning of words in context.

'In context' means, words and what they mean within a text.

This means the story or text so far, the sentences around them and what you already know about the plot to figure out what the word must mean.

Some of the kinds of vocabulary questions you may encounter are:

Vocabulary Victor might ask...

What does this word tell us about the character/setting/atmosphere?

Look at that sentence/passage and circle a word/phrase that means the same as _____.

Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the main character is _____?

Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the setting is _____?

Which words/phrase in this text give us the impression that the atmosphere is _____?

The author uses words like _____ to describe _____. What impression does this give us of the character/setting/atmosphere?

The author describes the main character as _____. Think of another word that could have been used instead.

Why did the author use the word _____ to describe _____?

How does the author make the reader feel _____ in this part of the text?

How has the author's choice of words created the feeling _____?

What do phrases such as _____ tell you about _____?

What might that mean?

What do you think the writer is saying, when they _____?

What does that imply/suggest/indicate about _____?



Closest in Meaning Questions



The 'Closest in Meaning' Question

1 A Siamese cat **crouched** on a tree branch, peering down at Gaby with brilliant blue eyes.

Which word is closest in meaning to *crouched*?

Tick **one**.

balanced

squatted

trembled

pounced

1 mark

This type of question will give you an example of a word from the text and ask you to tick a **synonym** for the word.

Alternative Wording Questions



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The 'Alternative Wording' Question

11

She resettled on the branch, considering her options.

What does *considering her options* mean in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

thinking about what to do

changing her mind

looking at it from the cat's point of view

wishing her mother was there

1 mark

This type of question will give you an example of a phrase from the text and ask you to tick another way that the author could have written it while still keeping the same meaning.

Define It Questions



The '**Define It**' Question

6

Gaby secured her feet and hands and climbed higher...

What does *secured her feet and hands* mean?

1 mark

This type of question will give you an example of a word or phrase from the text and ask you to explain what it means in your own words.

Find and Copy Questions



The 'Find and Copy' Question

17 Look at the paragraph beginning: *Twenty-seven-year-old Webb...*

Find and copy one word from this paragraph that is closest in meaning to 'motivated'.

1 mark

20 **Find and copy** a group of words that tells you that the drinks of ale, brandy and beef tea given to Matthew Webb would be considered unusual today.

1 mark

This type of question will ask you to find a word or phrase within the text which means or shows a particular thing and copy it onto the line.

Multiple Choice Questions



The 'Multiple Choice' Question

15 *Nearly twenty-two hours later, the exhausted man staggered onto French soil at Calais and became an instant hero.*

Find and **copy two** different words from the sentence above that show how tired Matthew Webb was.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

This type of question will ask you to find two or more words or phrases within the text which mean or show the same thing.

The 'Multiple' Questions



The 'Multiple' Question

31 ...the 'putt-putt' of her engine was lost in the big, quiet stillness of the afternoon.

Choose the best words to match the description above. Circle both of your choices.

The boat was

along on the

This type of question will ask you to choose from one of the answers provided, circling your choice clearly.

What could you do if you accidentally circle the wrong choice?

Vocabulary



Chapter 1 Double Life

The quartz spear was nothing special. Plenty like it at the bazaar, for the right price. The spear's cloudy, white point lay on the workstation, next to the pestle and mortar. It glinted dully.

The workstation wasn't special either – a wooden worktop and a shelf of instruments that had never been used: hammers, pliers, chisels. On the right-hand side was a lever with a gleaming handle. Workstations just like this one were used throughout the White Desert and the Silken City to craft new weapons and armour.

Catanna Brittlestar stood before it. She pounded the

Double Life

pestle into the bowl beneath, until the substance within was ground to a fine powder. This substance was special: topaz.

Catanna had found the topaz gems in a chest on her last raid. In the gloom of a stronghold basement, she had scooped them into her sack without looking and had run before the enemy guild could capture her. It was only when she had reached the safety of the Brittlestar stronghold that she had taken the time to examine the unusual blue gems.

Topaz was rare. Not as rare as diamond, sunstone or fire opal, but rare enough to make powerful weapons. Rare enough to make Catanna and her Brittlestar guild almost unstoppable.

Almost.

Fire opal weapons would make her truly unstoppable. A guild leader who could equip her followers with fire opal weapons would be revered across the White Desert.

What she wouldn't give to be that leader.

Read the extract from 'Raider's Peril' and answer the questions on the following slide.

Vocabulary

1)

'The quartz spear was **nothing special**.'

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the phrase 'nothing special'?

Select **one**.

exquisite melancholy mundane rigid

2)

Find and copy a word from the second paragraph which means the same as **glimmering**.

3)

Why do you think the author chose to use the verb **pounded** in the third paragraph?

Vocabulary

4)

'...she had taken the time to examine the unusual blue gems.' Choose the best description of what Catanna did to the gems in this phrase.

- she vigorously ground them
- she looked closely at them
- she traded them in
- she recognised their value

5) *What she wouldn't give to be that leader.*

What does '*what she wouldn't give to be*' mean?

Vocabulary

6) *In the gloom of a stronghold basement, she had scooped them into a sack...*

What does '*in the gloom*' mean in this sentence? Choose one option.

-In one corner

-In the sunlight

-In the darkness

-Under a table

Vocabulary ANSWERS

1)

'The quartz spear was **nothing special**.'
Which of these words is closest in meaning to the phrase 'nothing special'?

Select **one**.

exquisite melancholy **mundane** rigid

2)

Find and copy a word from the second paragraph which means the same as **glimmering**.

gleaming

3)

Why do you think the author chose to use the verb **pounded** in the third paragraph?

To show just how hard Catanna was using the pestle to grind the substance.

Vocabulary ANSWERS

4)

'...she had taken the time to examine the unusual blue gems.' Choose the best description of what Catanna did to the gems in this phrase.

she vigorously ground them

she looked closely at them ✓

she traded them in

she recognised their value

5) *What she wouldn't give to be that leader.*

What does '*what she wouldn't give to be*' mean?

It means that she would do anything to become leader.

Vocabulary ANSWERS

6) *In the gloom of a stronghold basement, she had scooped them into a sack...*

What does '*in the gloom*' mean in this sentence? Choose one option.

-In one corner

-In the sunlight

-In the darkness ✓

-Under a table

