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Introduction

Each book in the *Power Practice* series contains dozens of ready-to-use activity pages to provide students with skill practice. Use the fun activities to supplement and enhance what you are already teaching in your classroom. Give an activity page to students as independent class work, or send the pages home as homework to reinforce skills taught in class. An answer key is provided for quick reference.

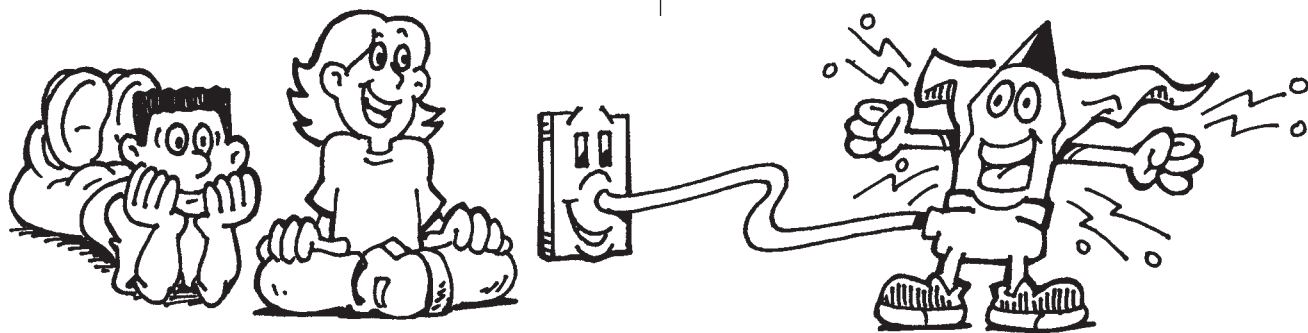
Current research indicates reading for meaning is a multi-faceted task. Literacy requires mastery of a complex set of skills, including those involved in fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, context clues, inference, summary, punctuation clues, sequencing, figures of speech, story analysis, detail recall, and drawing conclusions. Direct instruction in each of these areas provides emerging and proficient readers the practice they need to develop and sharpen literacy.

Context Clues 5–6 is designed to provide students with practice in the art of locating and interpreting context clues. A clear understanding of context clues assists students in defining vocabulary, comprehending literal meaning, and deciphering abstract tones, themes, and concepts. The first seven activities in *Context Clues 5–6* provide direct instruction

and practice in six separate context clue skill areas. The remainder of the activities combine the six skill areas to provide mixed practice. Mixed practice activities are arranged around related vocabulary from a variety of cross-curricular content areas.

The vocabulary and activities presented in *Context Clues 5–6* are based on best practices suggested by current research. The NCTE Standards for English Language Arts, Reading First, and the provisions of No Child Left Behind were all consulted in the development of these exercises. The selection of grade appropriate vocabulary was guided both by national grade level lists and the work of experts in the areas of context clues and second-tier vocabulary word selection.

Use all of the activities in this book or assign selected ones that fit into your current reading strategies curriculum. Assign them in class or as homework. Allow students to work independently or with a partner. However you use *Context Clues 5–6*, your students will be one step closer to success on standardized tests and mastery of an essential skill in the development and sharpening of literacy. Use these ready-to-go activities to “recharge” skill review and give students the power to succeed.



Word Part Clues

Knowing the individual parts of a word sometimes helps a reader identify the meaning of the entire word. In the italicized words in the sentences that follow, a word part that you should be familiar with is underlined. Use it to help you define the entire word. (Some root words drop a letter when a suffix is added.)

- 1 We got *adjoining* rooms at the hotel.
 - A. neighboring
 - B. spacious
 - C. cheap
 - D. clean
- 2 Selling popcorn at the ballgame might be *profitable*.
 - A. wise
 - B. unwise
 - C. able to make money
 - D. easy
- 3 Carrie found the hot sun *intolerable*.
 - A. pleasant
 - B. unbearable
 - C. bearable
 - D. bright
- 4 Tom is an *observant* driver.
 - A. poor
 - B. excellent
 - C. slow
 - D. attentive
- 5 Kevin actually enjoyed the *deafening* sound of the band.
 - A. great
 - B. extremely loud
 - C. strange
 - D. quiet
- 6 "Mal" means "bad," so I knew it wasn't good when Dad said the car *malfunctioned*.
 - A. ran out of gas
 - B. failed to work properly
 - C. moved slowly
 - D. got dirty
- 7 He works in the *industrial* section of town.
 - A. referring to selling
 - B. referring to making of goods
 - C. residential
 - D. older
- 8 Sterling was a *towering* man.
 - A. tall
 - B. short
 - C. stout
 - D. thin
- 9 *Disregard* that last comment.
 - A. remember
 - B. think about
 - C. ignore
 - D. study
- 10 Cathy's answer was *inaccurate*.
 - A. correct
 - B. incorrect
 - C. estimated
 - D. well researched



Example Clues

Sometimes sentences include examples that help a reader define an unknown word. Use the examples in the sentences below to help you fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word box. Look for these words and phrases that often indicate an example will follow: **such as, consists of, including, for example.**

- 1 _____ energy sources include wind, solar, and water power.
- 2 The decision was _____ because it consisted of points that might anger people on either side of the issue.
- 3 _____ peoples such as the native populations in Australia and Africa have never used electricity or gas-powered vehicles.
- 4 Tim's _____ efforts, including adding illustrations and completing extra research, earned him an A on the assignment.
- 5 After his extremely disappointing day at the fair, Steven had many _____ including his complaints against long lines, misleading signs, and poor traffic control.
- 6 _____ at the amusement park sold everything including food, souvenirs, and necessities.
- 7 Susan and Megan's _____ efforts included researching together, studying class notes together, and writing the final paper together.
- 8 Your _____ for the role of Mary will consist of a scene reading, a solo number, and an interview with the director.
- 9 The school's _____ offerings include four foreign languages, three art classes, six literature offerings, and a class in horticulture.
- 10 Many of Superman's _____, for example, lifting trucks and leaping over tall buildings, are not humanly possible.
- 11 _____ to the proposal to cut down trees in the park is being heard from such groups as environmentalists, park goers, and tree lovers.
- 12 Kate saw several displays of _____ on the busiest shopping day of the year. For example, shoppers drove around parking lots for twenty minutes before finding parking just to wait in 30-minute lines to buy their treasured items.

WORD BOX

primitive
alternative
collaborative
audition
endurance
opposition
diverse
ambitious
controversial
vendors
grievances
feats

Antonym and Contrast Clues

Sometimes readers can define an unknown word by contrasting the unknown word with a known word or idea. Antonym or contrast clues often begin with words such as **unlike, as opposed to, instead of, rather,** and **not**. Use antonym and contrast clues to help you define the italicized words in the passages below. Circle the best definition for each word.

Balloons were first made from animal bladders. Unlike wood or glass, animal bladders have *elasticity*. Rubber does too. Instead of remaining the same dimensions, rubber *expands* when filled with hydrogen or air. In fact, rubber expanded by hydrogen does not become heavy by having something added to it; rather, it becomes so light that it *ascends* into the air.

- 1 elasticity
 - A. transparency
 - B. heaviness
 - C. ability to stretch
 - D. many uses
- 2 expands
 - A. grows
 - B. shrinks
 - C. explodes
 - D. floats
- 3 ascends
 - A. explodes
 - B. falls
 - C. rises
 - D. remains

Some people say technological advancements are not really *advantageous*. Instead of seeing an increase in productivity, we have actually seen a *decline*. Instead of *eliminating* paperwork, technology has created more. Critics even suggest that work done on computers simply *duplicates* work done without them, rather than replacing it.

- 4 advantageous
 - A. contagious
 - B. beneficial
 - C. having disadvantages
 - D. common; wide-spread
- 5 decline
 - A. increase
 - B. decrease
 - C. improvements
 - D. advancements
- 6 eliminating
 - A. simplifying
 - B. altering
 - C. getting rid of
 - D. improving
- 7 duplicates
 - A. doubles
 - B. modifies
 - C. decreases
 - D. contains

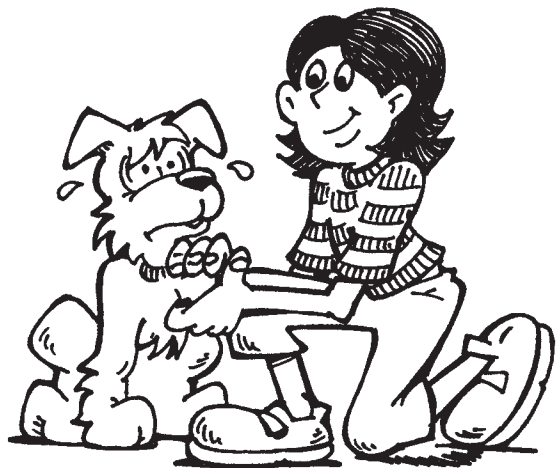
Many high schools today require advanced math credits from their graduates, even though the students have already taken basic and *intermediate* level classes. If you don't really like math, you may have to make a *deliberate* effort to take tough math classes anyway, rather than *instinctively* not signing up for them because you don't like math.

- 8 intermediate
 - A. low level
 - B. mid-range
 - C. highest level
 - D. beginning level
- 9 deliberate
 - A. on purpose
 - B. accidental
 - C. difficult
 - D. simple
- 10 instinctively
 - A. selfishly
 - B. intentionally
 - C. naturally
 - D. surprisingly

Sentence Structure Clues

Understanding sentence structure helps readers narrow down the definitions of unknown words. Consider this sentence: "The *entozoon* living inside the cow's intestines made it very sick." From its placement in the sentence, you can tell *entozoon* is a noun: a person, place, or thing. Since it is "living inside the cow's intestines" and making the cow sick, it must be a small, living thing that does damage to other living things. Indeed, an *entozoon* is a parasitical, intestinal worm. Use sentence structure clues to help you determine the part of speech and define the italicized words below. Circle the correct definitions.

- 1 It seems *equitable* that I get to go to the movies Friday night if Jan gets to go tonight.
 - A. adjective meaning fair
 - B. noun meaning event
 - C. verb meaning attend
- 2 The *antidote* for snakebite is, ironically, snake venom.
 - A. verb meaning bite
 - B. noun meaning remedy
 - C. adjective meaning dangerous
- 3 The wrecking crew will *demolish* the old building before constructing the new one.
 - A. adjective meaning broken down
 - B. adverb meaning fiercely
 - C. verb meaning destroy
- 4 My *malicious* sister likes to get me in trouble.
 - A. adverb meaning angrily
 - B. adjective meaning mean
 - C. noun meaning relative
- 5 We *synchronized* our watches so we could meet up in town at the same time.
 - A. adverb meaning together
 - B. noun meaning harmony
 - C. verb meaning matched
- 6 The medical *technician* performed my test, but a doctor had to read the results.
 - A. noun meaning skilled person
 - B. verb meaning perform
 - C. adverb meaning quickly
- 7 Twenty dollars was a great *incentive* to mow the lawn.
 - A. noun meaning motivator
 - B. verb meaning cut or trim
 - C. adverb meaning simply
- 8 Dad was *incredulous* as he read stories about aliens from outer space.
 - A. verb meaning to believe
 - B. adjective meaning skeptical
 - C. noun meaning spaceship
- 9 The crowd *boisterously* welcomed home the gold medal Olympian with shouts and cheers.
 - A. verb meaning rejoicing
 - B. adverb meaning loudly
 - C. noun meaning champion
- 10 My suffering puppy *recoiled* in pain when I tried to bandage his hurt leg.
 - A. verb meaning to draw back
 - B. noun meaning pain
 - C. adjective meaning painful



Background Knowledge Clues

Readers use their own experiences and knowledge to help them define unknown words. They may be familiar with an unknown word used in a different context, for example. Or they may know enough about a given subject matter to help them make sense of unfamiliar words within a text. Use your knowledge about Native Americans and any previous contact with the italicized words in the passage to help you define the words. Circle the correct definitions.

The Nez Perce are *native* to the Wallowa Valley of Northeastern Oregon. With the arrival of Lewis and Clark, whites joined them there. At first, the two *cultures* lived *amiably* together. They traded goods and *socialized*. A white missionary even gave one of his native friends an English name. He called his friend "Joseph the Elder."

In 1855, troubles began. The United States government wanted to buy Nez Perce land. Joseph the Elder would not sell it. Twenty-two years later, after Joseph the Elder had died, General Howard of the United States military insisted on taking the land anyway. He gave Joseph the Elder's son, Chief Joseph, and his people thirty days to *relocate*.

Chief Joseph's people did not want to leave their homeland. But they began a long march to a *reservation*. Near the end of their travels, a Nez Perce man killed a white man in *retaliation* for the killing of his father. This ignited a war.

Chief Joseph led his people on a desperate march for freedom in Canada. Eight hundred Nez Perce traveled 1,700 miles across four states. Then the U.S. army caught up with them. A bloody battle followed. Two hundred Nez Perce were killed. It was the dead of winter, and the natives had no food or blankets. Tired of the cold and the killing, Chief Joseph surrendered just 40 miles south of the Canadian border. Those of his people who survived the fighting were marched to a reservation in Oklahoma. Further *negotiations* between Chief Joseph and President Hayes allowed the Nez Perce to move to a reservation in the Northwest, but they never saw their valley again.

1 native

- A. new to a land
- B. immigrants
- C. first to live in a land
- D. foreigners

2 culture

- A. traits of a society
- B. a country
- C. an ethnic group
- D. a family

3 amiably

- A. fighting
- B. in an angry manner
- C. in a friendly manner
- D. silently

4 socialized

- A. visited and talked
- B. yelled and fought
- C. hunted
- D. conducted business

5 relocate

- A. sell property
- B. move to a new place
- C. return to a homeland
- D. plant crops

6 reservation

- A. a hotel
- B. property granted to Native Americans
- C. the countryside
- D. a city

7 retaliation

- A. anger
- B. murder
- C. injury
- D. act done in revenge

8 negotiations

- A. meetings intending to reach agreement
- B. arguments
- C. battles
- D. laws

Context Clues Collection

Practice working with your entire collection of context clue skills to determine the meaning of unknown words. Circle the meaning of each italicized word, and write the context clue from the box below that helped you.

1 Mr. Cader's acts of *philanthropy* included donating both time and money to charities.

- A. charity B. wealthy person
C. popularity D. the study of generosity

Context Clue: _____

CONTEXT CLUES

word part clue
example clue
definition/synonym clue
antonym/contrast clue
sentence structure clue
background knowledge clue

2 The envelope's *adhesive* material was like cement; once I sealed it, I couldn't reopen it.

- A. paper B. white
C. sticky D. smooth

Context Clue: _____

3 Sue knew about *famines* from her study of all the deaths from the Potato Famine in Ireland.

- A. wars B. scarcity of food C. immigration D. food source

Context Clue: _____

4 Unlike the quarter Grandma offered, the five dollars Dad offered was real *motivation* to mow the lawn.

- A. money B. chores C. reason; cause D. punishment

Context Clue: _____

5 Yes, I'm *irritable* today; everything seems to irritate me.

- A. easy to upset B. easy to please C. sad D. happy

Context Clue: _____

6 Two hours before take off should leave you *ample* time to check in your luggage at the airport.

- A. one full day B. minutes C. plenty; enough D. insufficient

Context Clue: _____

7 Kevin made the *economical* decision of buying the reasonably priced shoes.

- A. foolish B. wasteful C. not wasteful D. painful

Context Clue: _____

8 His position was *justifiable*, backed up by both research and good reasoning.

- A. inexcusable B. unusual C. unpopular D. proven by reason

Context Clue: _____