

Name: _____

Date: _____

Context clues are the words in the sentence or paragraph that can help you figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words. **Synonyms** – words with similar meanings – can be great context clues. Read the examples below. The circled words provide clues to the meanings of the harder underlined words.

[**Synonym Clues**]

Pierce mumbled a sad hello when he came into the kitchen.

Dad quickly put down his book. “Why so glum, buddy?”

Pierce joined his father at the table and told him about his horrible day at school. Dad stood and motioned Pierce out of his chair. He embraced his son in a warm hug.

The dad is clearly worried about his son’s sadness when he asks “Why so glum, buddy?” so glum means ‘sad.’

‘In’ his father’s ‘warm hug,’ Pierce is wrapped in his father’s caring arms, so embraced is a synonym for ‘hugged.’



Directions: Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence. Circle the letter beside the correct definition for each underlined word.

1. The Jacksons’ majestic new house in Buckhead was even larger and grander than the Ansley one.

- a. far away
- b. bright; shiny
- c. very impressive
- d. right; appropriate

2. Keefer stepped before the moonlit window. His nose stretched into a snout with fangs as dark fur grew all over his body. Siegfried didn’t even flinch, which was strange. Most people half jump out of their skin the first time they see a werewolf.

- a. to step back from; to pull away
- b. to show amazement
- c. to change into
- d. to become jealous

3. The koala's dense, woolly coat is mostly gray or brown.
- a. rubber-like
 - b. full of fleas
 - c. thick
 - d. bright and colorful
4. A demolition team will be here tomorrow to tear down the old house on the corner.
- a. secret
 - b. having to do with sports
 - c. the act of cleaning something
 - d. the act of destroying something
5. In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. The aviator later served as the first president of the Ninety-Nines, an organization of women pilots.
- a. lonely person
 - b. pilot of an aircraft
 - c. historical figure
 - d. heroine
6. Uncle Joe frowned. "Please don't tell me you're afraid of that scrawny little kid."
- a. thin
 - b. big; strong
 - c. funny
 - d. serious
7. Marine biologists are scientists who study sea creatures.
- a. enjoying adventure
 - b. having to do with water
 - c. smart
 - d. friendly
8. "And no back talk," Grandma cut me off when I started to protest her order.
- a. to pout
 - b. to follow
 - c. to argue
 - d. to run away from