

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Antonyms** – words with opposite meanings – can also be great context clues. Read the examples below. The circled words provide clues to the meanings of the harder underlined words.

[ **Antonym Clues** ]

*Beep! Beep! Beep!* In a matter of moments, your microwave can turn your cold leftovers into a delicious steamy meal. This device was invented in 1946 by Dr. Percy Spencer. About six feet tall and weighing about 750 pounds, the original microwave oven sold a costly \$5,000. The first counter-top model, which arrived in 1967, was much cheaper: \$495.

Inside the microwave, what was once cold becomes the opposite: hot. So steamy must mean 'hot.'

\$5,000 is a lot of money; the 1967 model was ten times cheaper than the first microwave! So costly has to mean 'expensive.'



**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. Karishma seemed incapable of forgiveness. Albert had accidentally stepped on her mouse's tail during Pet Day three years ago, and she was still holding a grudge.  
a. sadness  
b. feeling of dislike that lasts a long time  
c. feeling sorry for another's pain  
d. action taken to get back at someone
2. Stomping out of his cave, the Cyclops roared, "Who dares to disturb me?" In his gigantic shadow, the adventurers felt incredibly puny, like insects in a bear den.  
a. afraid  
b. small  
c. many in number  
d. ready for fun and adventure

3. As a boy, George Washington Carver became known in his community as “the Plant Doctor” for his ability to nurse ailing plants back to health.
- a. small in size
  - b. small in number
  - c. providing food, especially fruit
  - d. sick
4. Leonora forced a smile. “Really, Mamá, I’m fine. It’s just a little sprain.” As soon as Mrs. Sanchez had left the room, the teenager grimaced at her swelling ankle.
- a. showed fear
  - b. found a solution to a problem
  - c. twisted one’s face in displeasure
  - d. cried loudly
5. “Go away,” croaked the voice behind the door.  
“Please,” Agaja called. “I need your guidance and wisdom. What is clear to you is perplexing to me.”
- a. causing anger or pain
  - b. very serious
  - c. requiring hard work
  - d. confusing; hard to understand
6. In *The Prince and the Pauper*, an 1882 novel by Mark Twain, two boys with very different backgrounds swap clothing and identities to explore a new lifestyle.
- a. young person; child
  - b. trickster; dishonest person
  - c. very poor person
  - d. very rich person
7. Shinjiro held the flashlight under his chin to give his face a spooky glow. He glanced at every face around the campfire to make sure all eyes were on him. “The following story is going to sound completely bogus, but I assure you, every word is true.”
- a. fake
  - b. scary
  - c. old; long-forgotten
  - d. disgusting