

Vocabulary • Context Clues

- Sometimes you can figure out the meaning of a word by looking at the words and sentences around it.
- **Context clues** are the words around an unfamiliar word that help you figure out its meaning.

Directions Read the following passage about a garden. Then answer the questions below. Look for context clues as you read.

We used to live in the city. Then we had to move to the country. I was filled with sadness to leave my friends. But I was not unhappy for long. My excitement grew as we drove because I was thrilled to see new things.

It was night when we got to our new house. I got out of the car. It was so cold outside, I shivered. Inside the house, I stopped shaking but was shocked by how dark it was.

“Don’t look so surprised,” Mom said. “It will look better in the morning.”

The next morning, I got up early and went downstairs. Dad was standing by the back door. He raised his arm and motioned for me to follow him outside. There was a beautiful, big garden! It had trees and lots of flowers.

“Can I take care of the garden?” I asked.

“Yes,” Dad said, “you can be the family gardener.”

I smiled and knew that I would love living in the country.

1. What does *sadness* mean in this passage? What clues help you find out?

unhappy; Clues: not unhappy for long

2. What does *excitement* mean in this passage? What clues help you find out?

thrilled; Clues: I was thrilled

3. What does *shivered* mean in this passage? What clues help you find out?

shook; Clues: I stopped shaking

4. What does *shocked* mean in this passage? What clues help you find out?

surprised; Clues: “Don’t look so surprised.”

5. What does *motioned* mean in this passage? What clues help you find out?

gestured; Clues: raised his arm and motioned to me to follow him

6. What does *gardener* mean in this passage? What clues help you find out?

someone who gardens; Clues: “Can I take care of the garden?”



Home Activity Your child identified and used context clues to understand new words in a passage. Work with your child to identify unfamiliar words in an article and to find context clues to help with understanding new words. Confirm the meanings with your child.