



Context clues

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

~~~~~  
**Context clues** are *hints to the meaning* of a difficult word or phrase.  
These hints can be in the same sentence or in the sentences before  
or after the sentence that uses the difficult word or phrase.  
~~~~~

As you read the story, pay attention to the underlined words, and any *hints to the meaning* of these words.

Reddy Fox Grows Bold

Reddy Fox was growing bold. Everybody said so, and when there is a general consensus such as this, why then, it must be so. The truth is, Reddy Fox had fooled Bowser the Hound and Farmer Brown's boy so frequently that he had begun to think himself very smart indeed. When anyone mentioned Bowser the Hound, Reddy would elevate his nose and say, "Pooh! It's the easiest thing in the world to fool him." Whenever Reddy saw Farmer Brown's boy he would say with ultimate scorn, "Who's afraid of him? Not I!"

Now when people think that they are very, very smart, they like to show off. You know it isn't any fun at all to feel smart unless others can see how smart you are. So Reddy Fox, just to show off, grew very bold, very bold indeed. He actually went up to Farmer Brown's hen yard in broad daylight, and almost under the nose of Bowser the Hound he nabbed the pet chicken of Farmer Brown's boy.

Yes sir, Reddy stole that plump pet chicken for no reason under the sun but to show off. Then he longed for everyone to know how bold he was. He strutted around through the Green Forest and over the Green Meadows and bragged about what he had done and what he could do.

Now, people who brag and boast and who like to show off are almost sure to come to grief. And when they do, very few people are sorry for them. None of the Forest and Meadow people liked Reddy Fox very much these days, anyway, and they were getting so tired of his boasting that they just ached to see him get into trouble. Yes, sir, they just ached to see Reddy get into trouble.

When Farmer Brown's boy found out about his pet chicken, and heard about the boldness of Reddy Fox, he shut his mouth tight in a way that was unpleasant to see and reached for his gun. "I can't afford to raise chickens to feed foxes!" said he. Then he whistled for Bowser the Hound, and together they started out. It wasn't long before Bowser found Reddy's tracks.

Will Reddy Fox be ready when Bowser the Hound and Farmer Brown's boy track him down?

Use **context clues** to select the best meaning for each underlined word or phrase.

1. Everybody said so, and when there is a general consensus such as this, why then, it must be so.

- A. a disagreement
- B. a general agreement
- C. solid proof

2. The truth is, Reddy Fox had fooled Bowser the Hound and Farmer Brown's boy so frequently that he had begun to think himself very smart indeed.

- A. often
- B. seldom
- C. cleverly

3. When anyone mentioned Bowser the Hound, Reddy would elevate his nose and say, "Pooh! It's the easiest thing in the world to fool him."

- A. lower
- B. wiggle
- C. lift up

4. Whenever Reddy saw Farmer Brown's boy he would say with ultimate scorn, "Who's afraid of him? Not I!"

- A. complete
- B. careful
- C. partial

5. ...almost under the nose of Bowser the Hound he nabbed the pet chicken of Farmer Brown's boy.

- A. teased
- B. returned
- C. stolen

6. Then he longed for everyone to know how bold he was.

- A. wanted
- B. dared
- C. didn't want

~~~~~

7. Now, people who brag and boast and who like to show off are almost sure to come to grief. And when they do, very few people are sorry for them.

Use **context clues** to find another way to say the underlined phrase.

---

## Answer Key

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. Accept any reasonable response, such as “be sorry.”