Using context clues

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Context clues *are hints that readers use to find the meaning of unknown words. There are different types of context clues, including:*

- ***Definition Clues:*** *The word is defined in the sentence or nearby sentences.*
- ***Antonym Clues:*** *The sentence or a nearby sentence gives a word that means the opposite.*
- ***Synonym Clues:*** *The sentence or a nearby sentence gives a word that means the same or almost the same.*
- ***Example Clues****: The sentence or a nearby sentence gives an example to help explain the word.*

As you read the story, look for context clues that help explain the meaning of the underlined words.

A Closer Look at Weather Forecasting

Paragraph 1

Have you ever watched the news and seen a weather person talking about the <u>forecast</u>? Instead of being surprised by the weather, the forecast helps people know what to expect.

Paragraph 2

Weather forecasts are usually given by <u>meteorologists</u>. Meteorologists are people who study the sky, the air and the seasons to help us understand the weather. They look at clouds, wind and temperature to make predictions. Without them, we wouldn't know when to bring an umbrella or when a big storm is on the way!

Meteorologists use many tools to do their jobs. A barometer helps them understand changes in the <u>atmosphere</u>, or air. A <u>hygrometer</u> tells them how much moisture is in the atmosphere. Meteorologists also use radar to track storms and find out where rain or snow is falling. A <u>satellite</u>, or space camera, takes pictures of clouds and large weather patterns. These tools help weather experts gather information so they can warn people about dangerous storms or sudden changes in temperature.

Some weather changes happen <u>rapidly</u>, like a thunderstorm appearing out of the blue on a sunny afternoon. Others happen slowly, like the seasons changing from summer to fall. Meteorologists can't be careless; they have to be <u>attentive</u> to all of these changes so they can make the best weather predictions.

The weather report is important for many people. Farmers need to know when to plant crops. Pilots need to know if it is safe to fly. Athletes and event planners check the forecast to see if they need to move activities indoors. Thanks to meteorologists, we can all be more prepared.

Then answer the following questions:

1. What is the text mostly about?

    a. Meteorologists

    b. Scientists

    c. Storms

2. What is the best definition of the word *meteorologist*?

    a. People who study the sky, the air and the seasons to help us understand the weather.

    b. People who use many tools to do their jobs.

    c. People who can't be careless.

3. What kind of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *forecast* in paragraph 1?

    a. An antonym of forecast is given in the text.

    b. A synonym of forecast is given in the text.

    c. An example of a forecast is given in the text.

4. What is the best definition for *atmosphere* in paragraph 3?

    a. Change

    b. Moisture

    c. Air

5.   What is the best definition for *hygrometer* in paragraph 3?

_____

_____

6.   What type of context clue in paragraph 3 helps you figure out the definition of *satellite*?

   a.   Synonym

   b.   Antonym

   c.   There is no context clue.

7.   Which example from the text helps you figure out the meaning of the word *rapidly* in paragraph 4?

   a.   "like the seasons changing from summer to fall"

   b.   "make the best weather predictions"

   c.   "like a thunderstorm appearing out of the blue on a sunny afternoon"

8.   What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *attentive* in paragraph 4?

   a.   Example

   b.   Antonym

   c.   Synonym

Answers

1. What is the text mostly about?

    a. Meteorologists

2. What is the best definition of the word *meteorologist*?

    a. People who study the sky, the air and the seasons to help us understand the weather.

3. What kind of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *forecast* in paragraph 1?

    c. An example of a forecast is given in the text.

4. What is the best definition for *atmosphere* in paragraph 3?

    c. Air

5. What is the best definition for *hygrometer* in paragraph 3?

    A *hygrometer* tells them how much moisture is in the atmosphere.

6. What type of context clue in paragraph 3 helps you figure out the definition of *satellite*?

    a. Synonym

7. Which example from the text helps you figure out the meaning of the word *rapidly* in paragraph 4?

    c. "like a thunderstorm appearing out of the blue on a sunny afternoon"

8. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *attentive* in paragraph 4?

    b. Antonym