

Name/homeroom _____
Date/section _____
Homework (6th grade-20 questions)

Context Clues

The kids of Fairview Elementary were getting ready for their spring recital. For the most part, they were all very excited. They had been practicing music, plays, and dances all year, and it was finally time for them to perform them for their friends and families.

The recital was going to be the typical blend of amateur songs, dances, and acting that took place in countless towns across the country on any given night. However, the people of Fairview elementary treated it like it was a performance by Mozart or an appearance by the president. The seats were set up in perfect lines, the decorations took up every inch of available space, and the floor was polished to the point that people could see their reflections in it.

They rarely mentioned the fact that they could barely walk on the floor without slipping and falling, and why should they? People did not come to the recital to walk. They came to watch their children perform. They came to be sentimental, to let their emotions and tears flow. They came to lavish praise on their children, who could never hear that they sang, danced, or played well too many times.

1. The author writes, "They came to lavish praise on their children, who could never hear that they sang, danced, or played well too many times."

What does the word lavish mean?

Write your response here:

2. The author writes, "The recital was going to be the typical blend of amateur songs, dances, and acting that took place in countless towns across the country on any given night."

What does the word typical mean?

Write your response here:

3. What does the underlined word mean in the following sentence?

They came to be sentimental, to let their emotions and tears flow.

Write your response here:

4. What does the underlined word mean in the following sentence?

"The kids of Fairview Elementary were getting ready for their spring recital."

Write your response here:

Annie's life was filled with one catastrophe after another. She was having a very bad year. First, she lost her grandmother right before her sixteenth birthday. Next, she found out that her school did not have enough money to support the girls' softball team. After that, her mother became sick and could no longer work, so Annie had to get a part-time job in order to support her mom and her little sister. Finally, Annie had a huge fight with her best friend Jill, whom she has not spoken to since. Annie's grandmother told her life would be full of trials, but she did not think they would begin so early.

5. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"Annie's life was filled with one catastrophe after another."

What does the word catastrophe mean?

Write your response here:

6. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"Annie's grandmother told her life would be full of trials, but she did not think they would begin so early."

What does the word trials mean?

Write your response here:

Among the things that the Internet has changed is the newspaper. Even as little as fifteen years ago, a person would likely see traditional newspapers on the majority of desks in most office buildings. However, that person would not have known that the popularity of broadsheets like the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* was about to flatline.

Just fifteen years ago, those broadsheets did not have to compete with countless, free Internet news sources. Even if there were such sources, baby boomers, who made up the bulk of any given newspaper's readership, would not have used them because they had grown accustomed to getting information from their daily newspapers.

The same cannot be said for the generation that has entered the workforce in the last fifteen years. It is a generation that has grown accustomed to getting most of its information for free from the Internet. The members of this generation who do read newspapers rarely read the broadsheets

that their parents and grandparents favor. Indeed, they are more likely to pick up a free alternative newspaper in a coffee shop than to pay for a daily newspaper, something that seems practically prehistoric.

This generation prefers alternative newspapers because they are more compact than traditional newspapers, offering more information in less space. Many alternative newspapers also reproduce on paper the experience of looking at a Web site. Meanwhile, their more traditional competitors sedately share information with the reader, leaving out the endless stream of pictures, gossip, and sensationalism on which newspapers thrive.

Of course, alternative newspapers have been gaining and losing popularity for as long as there have been newspapers. Some newspaper publishers see the current popularity of nontraditional news sources as part of the same trend. Others see the popularity of nontraditional news sources as the final nail in the coffin of broadsheets. Both sides will discuss their ideas when they convene at a meeting of newspaper publishers that is being held this week in Chicago.

7. What does the underlined word mean in the following sentence?

"Indeed, they are more likely to pick up a free alternative newspaper in a coffee shop than to pay for a daily newspaper, something that seems practically prehistoric."

Write your response here:

8. What does the underlined word mean in the following sentence?

"Both sides will discuss their ideas when they convene at a meeting of newspaper publishers that is being held this week in Chicago."

Write your response here:

9. What does the underlined word mean in the following sentence?

"However, that person would not have known that the popularity of broadsheets like the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* was about to flatline."

Write your response here:

10. What does the word underlined mean in the following sentence?

"However, that person would not have known that the popularity of broadsheets like the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* was about to flatline."

Write your response here:

11. In colonial times, the man of the house made sure that the fire was carefully banked so it would burn all night. In the morning, he would blow the glowing embers into flame again with a bellows. If the fire went out, one of the children would be sent to a neighbor's for hot coals.

Using context clues from the paragraph above, what is the meaning of the word bellows?

Write your response here:

12. Pungent odors, including those from onions, garlic, and ammonia, can cause allergic reactions in some people.

Looking at the sentence above, what is the definition of pungent?

Write your response here:

The video game was supposed to be a diversion. I was just going to play for a few minutes. You know, waste a little time. Instead, I played for hours. When I say "hours," I'm not just exaggerating the amount of time I spent playing. I spent so much time playing it that, over my Thanksgiving break, I slept only four hours and missed Thanksgiving dinner. I did, however, beat the game. When it was over, my accomplishment had earned me little more than a headache and a bad case of insomnia. I felt foolish, so I immediately started playing another game.

13. The author writes, "The video game was supposed to be a diversion."

What does diversion mean?

Write your response here:

14. Adversities such as poverty, poor grades, and a weak family background can be overcome with hard work.

Looking at the sentence above, what is the meaning of adversities?

Write your response here:

15. Bart had a reputation for doing perilous activities. For instance, he loved to climb steep mountains without a safety rope, and he enjoyed diving among sharks.

Looking at the sentence above, what is the definition of perilous?

Write your response here:

Gerald looked around the room. He saw Lenny, slouched in a corner, just like he always was. He was always standing in some corner, nearly doubled-over, looking like he had no backbone to support him.

As soon as Lenny saw Gerald, he stood up straight. He knew that something was wrong. He tried to find out what was wrong without talking to Gerald. Lenny watched his face. He looked at Gerald's cold eyes, then moved his gaze south. He saw something he did not expect to see, a smile that blossomed on Gerald's face. Lenny wondered if he could have been incorrect. Maybe nothing was wrong. He was about to find out. Gerald, still wearing a smile on his face, was walking towards him.

16. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"He saw Lenny slouched in a corner, just like he always was."

What does the word slouched mean?

Write your response here:

17. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"He saw something he did not expect to see, a smile that blossomed on Gerald's face."

What does the word blossomed mean?

Write your response here:

Tidal waves are gigantic sea waves known as tsunamis. They are often devastating, destroying entire towns. Tsunamis are caused by submarine movements such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or landslides. They can reach speeds up to 450 miles per hour and a height of 100 feet.

18. Using its context, select the best definition of devastating.

Write your response here:

- 19.** Phil was very happy to learn that his tumor was benign and would not make him sick.

Looking at the sentence above, what is the definition of benign?

Write your response here:

- 20.** Hummingbirds feed on insects and the nectar of flowers. Their long, slender bills are specially adapted to suck the nectar out of the flowers.

Looking at the context, what is the definition of nectar?

Write your response here: