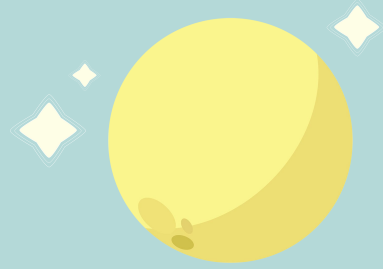


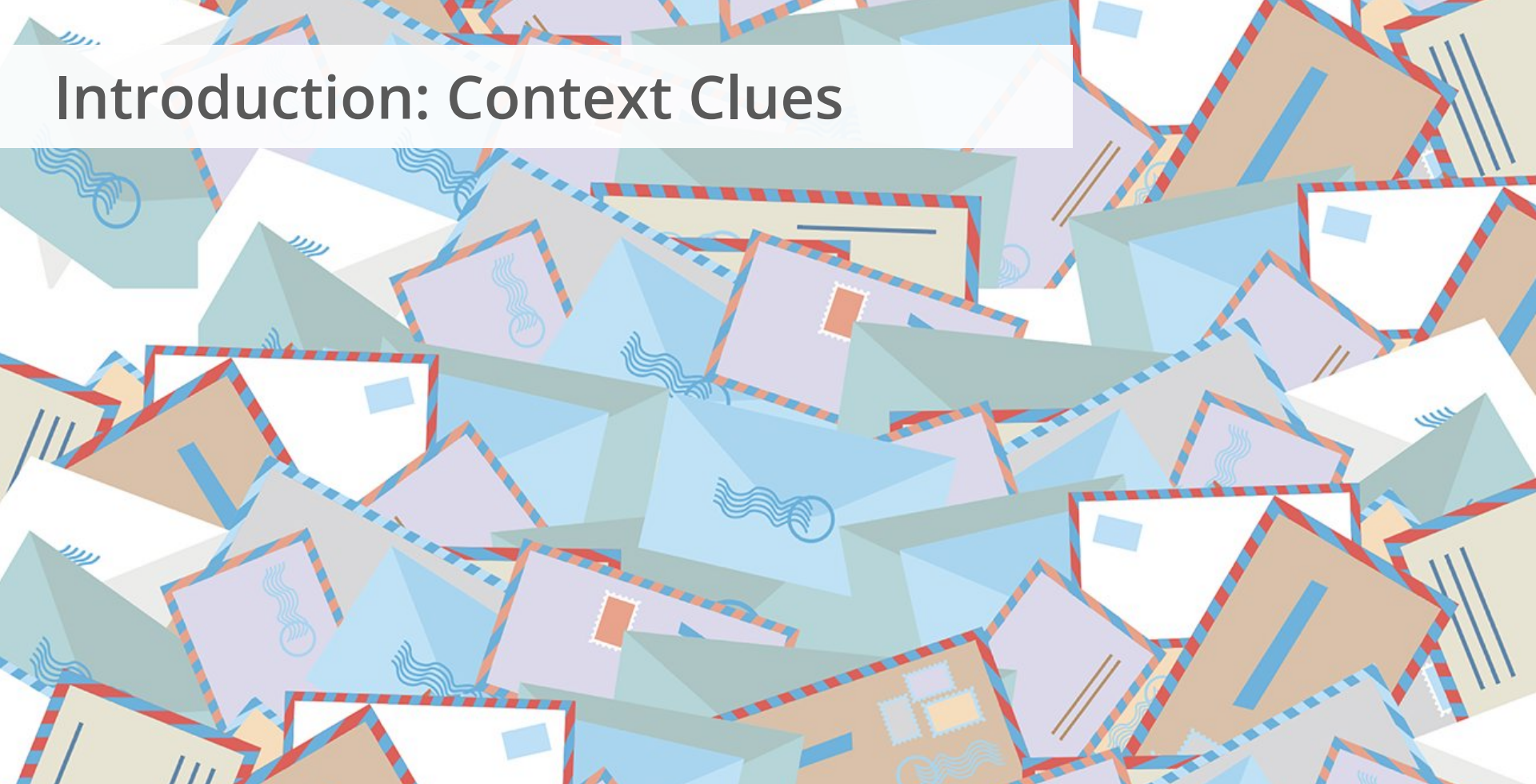
Vocabulary

Grade 4 Unit 1: Personal Narratives: My Story, My Voice



Context Clues

Introduction: Context Clues



Context clues are the other words in a sentence that help us determine the meaning of an unknown word. Images are another example of context clues.

Let's read this sentence to practice using context clues:

My sister and I wouldn't stop fighting over our new video game, so my mother grounded us and **confiscated** it until we could behave.

To determine the meaning of the word **confiscated**, we can look at other words in the sentence. These are context clues.

Let's read it again:

My sister and I wouldn't stop *fighting* over our new video game, so my mother *grounded* us and **confiscated** it until we could *behave*.

Based on our understanding of the words *fighting*, *grounded*, and *behave*, we can assume that **confiscated** means taken away.

If your parents *grounded* you because you were *fighting*, they sure didn't buy you a new video game.

Let's Try It Together!



Let's read another sentence:

I was the **beneficiary** of some extra credit points that changed my quiz grade.

To determine the meaning of the word **beneficiary**, we can look at other words in the sentence. These are context clues.

Now, let's read it again:

I was the **beneficiary** of some *extra credit points* that *changed my quiz grade*.

Based on your understanding of the phrases *extra credit points* and *changed my quiz grade* what do you think **beneficiary** means?

Does it sound like these extra points *helped* or *hurt* the person taking the quiz?

Put your thumb down if you think **beneficiary** is a person who receives *something that is hurtful*.

Put your thumb up if you think **beneficiary** is a person who receives *something that is helpful*.

Turn to a partner and discuss the context clues you used to determine that **beneficiary** means someone who receives *something that is helpful*.

Now you try one with a partner. Read the sentences from “Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio”:

“Look! I can move my left hand!” I wiggled my fingers **jubilantly**.

Based on context clues, do you think the word **jubilantly** means:

joyfully

carefully

Did you remember the steps?

1. Look at the other words in the sentence. If necessary, read sentences before or after the sentence.
2. Use your understanding of familiar words and phrases.

Look!

wiggled

3. Determine the meaning of the unknown word.

joyfully

Now Try One by Yourself!



Read the sentences from “How to Eat a Guava”:

I pick one the size of a tennis ball and finger the **prickly** stem end. It feels familiarly bumpy and firm.

Look for context clues to help determine the meaning of the word **prickly**.

Raise one finger if you think **prickly** means *smooth*.

Raise five fingers if you think **prickly** means *pointy*.

Answer



Prickly means *pointy*.

The context clues in this sentence
are *bumpy and firm*.