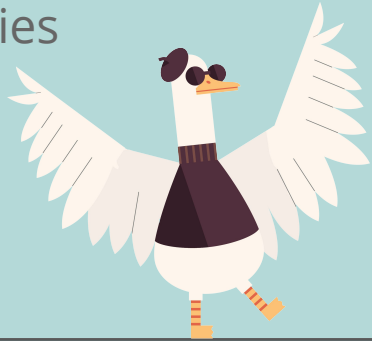


# Vocabulary

Grade 1 Domain 3: Different Lands, Similar Stories



## 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 from "The Three Billy Goats Gruff":

All three ate so much grass that they were  
**scarcely** able to walk.

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

Let's read it again:

All three *ate so much* delicious grass that they were **scarcely** *able to walk* home.

You are probably familiar with the phrases *ate so much* and *able to walk*.

How do you feel after you *eat too much* of something delicious?

Based on your understanding of the phrases *ate so much* and *able to walk*, we can determine that **scarcely** means only just or almost not.



Let's Try It Together!



Let's read this sentence from "Goldilocks and the Three Bears":

She sat and sat till **suddenly**—crack!—the  
chair broke.

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

Now, let's read it again:

She sat and sat till **suddenly**—crack!—the  
chair broke.

You are probably familiar with the meaning of the phrases *sat and sat* and *the chair broke*.

Do you think Goldilocks sat in the chair for a long time or a little time before it broke?

Based on your understanding of the phrases *sat and sat* and *the chair broke*, do you think **suddenly** describes something that happens quickly or slowly?

Put your thumb up if you think **suddenly** describes a something that happens *very quickly*.

Put your thumb down if you think **suddenly** describes something that happens *very slowly*.

Turn to a partner and discuss the context clues you used to determine that **suddenly** describes something that happens very quickly.

Now you try one with a partner. Read the sentence:

The **sly** fox knew better, but he pretended to believe the five trembling birds.



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

friendly

sneaky

Did you remember the steps?

1. Look at the other words in the sentence.
2. Use your understanding of familiar words and phrases.

*knew better*

*pretended to believe*

3. Determine the meaning of the unknown word.

sneaky

Now Try One by Yourself!



Read the sentence:

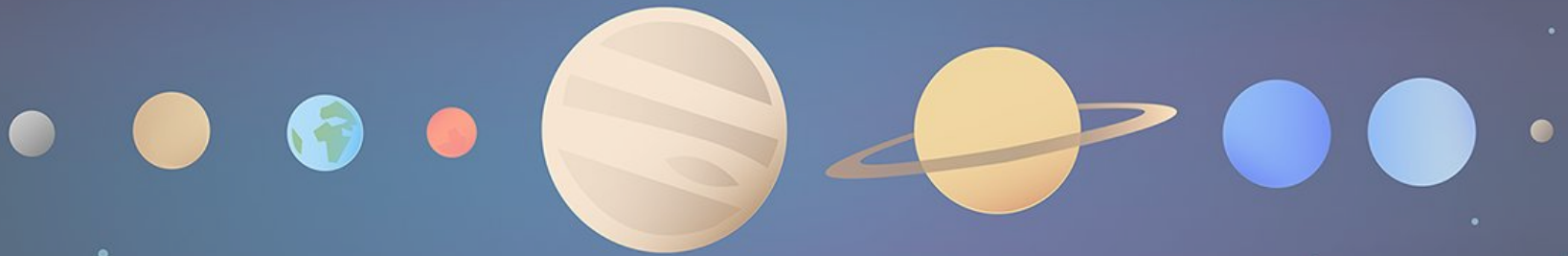
The **terrified** kids tried to hide, because they did not know that the wolf was actually nice.

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

Raise one finger if you think **terrified** means *very tired*.

Raise five fingers if you think **terrified** means *very scared*.

# Answer





**Terrified** means very scared.

The context clues in this sentence are *tried to hide* and *did not know the wolf was nice*.