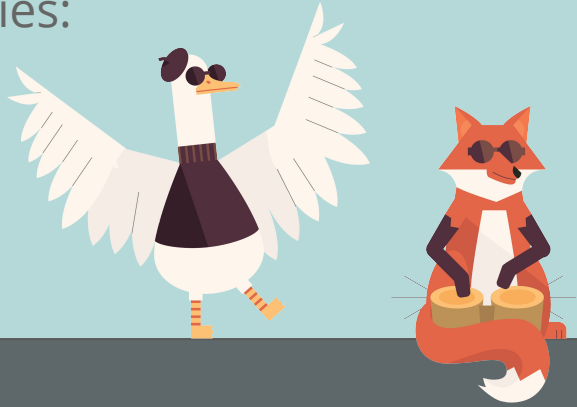


Vocabulary

Grade 1 Domain 3: Different Lands, Similar Stories:
Tales Around the World



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:

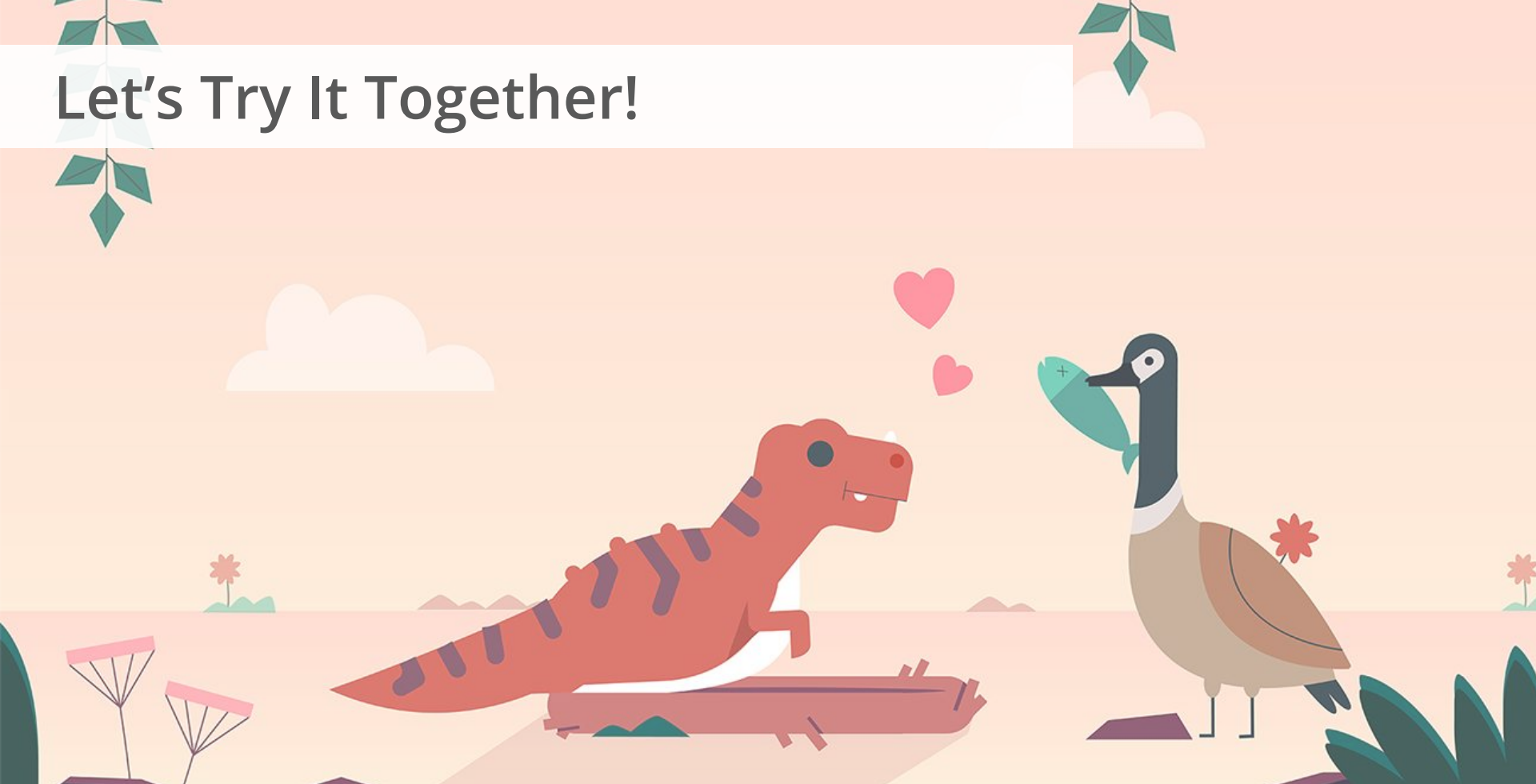
All three *ate so much* delicious grass that they were **scarcely** *able to walk* home.

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*.