

Word detectives

Suggested: Years 3-5 | Pupil page

Use a short original passage to explore four words in context.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read this original passage.

The path was narrow, so the friends walked one behind another. At the gate, Asha paused to check the map. A faint sound came from the trees. She was reluctant to leave the path until she knew what had made it.

narrow: What might it mean here? Which nearby words help?

paused: What might it mean here? Which nearby words help?

faint: What might it mean here? Which nearby words help?

reluctant: What might it mean here? Which nearby words help?

Choose one word and use it in a different sentence.

Word detectives | Teacher notes

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Purpose and use

Use a short original passage to explore four words in context.

Teaching notes

Read the passage aloud if decoding would obscure the vocabulary task. Talk about possible meanings and then confirm them.

Context can help but does not always provide a complete definition. Avoid treating a plausible guess as confirmed understanding.

Answers / suggested responses

narrow: not wide; walking one behind another is a clue.

paused: stopped briefly; she checks the map before continuing.

faint: quiet or not easy to hear in this context.

reluctant: not keen or willing; she does not want to leave until she knows more.

Accept reasoned approximate meanings, then refine them using discussion or a suitable dictionary.

Print and adapt

Print the pupil page only if you do not need these notes. Use A4 paper. Provide appropriate help, access tools or a spoken response where useful. Suggested year or grade ranges are starting points, not a statement of curriculum alignment.

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