CONTEXT CLUES

- Authors usually give clues to new or difficult words they use. These clues are called context clues.

- Context clues are words, phrases, and sentences around a word that help readers discover the meaning of unfamiliar words.

- There are five types of context clues.

The **FIRST** context clue is a **DEFINITION** clue.

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- It specifically defines the unknown word by using the definition of the word as the clue. **The clue must be phrased correctly.**

    *Example: An **indolent** person is one who is lazy.*
    *Example: My sister is an **indolent** person, which means she is one who is lazy.*

The **SECOND** context clue is the **SYNONYM** clue.

- The author provides a synonym (similar meaning) for the unknown word. **The synonym should be the same part of speech** (noun, verb, etc.) as the unknown word and **the clue must be phrased correctly**.

    **Note the usage of "or". *NEVER* use "and" in its place. *ALWAYS* use "or".

    ***Example:** After the Blackhawks won the Western Conference finals, a **brouhaha, or** uproar, exploded in Chicago's United Center.*

The **THIRD** context clue is the **ANTONYM** clue.

- The author provides an antonym (opposite meaning) for the unknown word. **The clue must be phrased correctly.**

    ***Example:** Camping in our tent was meant to be **idyllic**, but stormy weather turned it into chaos.*
    ***Example:** Camping in our tent was meant to be **idyllic**, not chaotic.*
    ***Example:** Camping was chaotic this weekend, instead of it being **idyllic**.*

The **FOURTH** context clue is an **EXAMPLE** clue.

- The author provides examples of the unknown word. The reader should be able to visualize the meaning of the word in their head.
    Use 2+ examples to stress the meaning!

    Example: *My desk was completely* **disheveled**. <u>*Papers were tossed to one side, books were stacked up on the other side, and folders were scattered in the center*</u>*.*

The **FIFTH** context clue is to use the **UNSTATED OR IMPLIED MEANING** of the unfamiliar word in a sentence or passage.

- Many times the meaning of a word becomes clear when you study the situation the word appears in or draw on your own knowledge and experience of similar situations.

    Example: John burst out of the woods and found himself at the edge of a **precipice**. <u>*Clinging to a boulder, he gazed down dizzily at the blue ribbon of river below.*</u>