

Sheet 4: Decoding Unknown Words

Worked example:

Read this sentence: 'Pip was famished after reading all day, so he ate a large leaf for his lunch.' What does 'famished' mean? A) Very tired, B) Very hungry. Hint: If you eat lunch, you are probably hungry.

Answer: B) Very hungry

- **Read the sentences below. Circle the correct meaning for the underlined word based on the clues in the sentence.**

1. Nova felt jubilant when she finally spotted the rare owl in the tree. (Jubilant means: A) Sad, B) Very happy)
2. The heavy rain made the path muddy and treacherous to walk on. (Treacherous means: A) Safe, B) Dangerous)
3. Max tried to conceal his secret prize behind his back so no one would see it. (Conceal means: A) Hide, B) Show)

- **Read the story snippet and write what you think the bold word means.**

Finn the dolphin swam through the murky water. Because of the seaweed and sand, he could not see his fins in front of his face. Murky means: _____

- **Complete the sentence using the best word from the box: [soaring, tiny, noisy].**

The ant was so _____ that Kit needed a magnifying glass to see it clearly.

Self-check: Check your answers by looking for clues in the rest of the sentence—if you chose a meaning that makes sense in the story, you are correct!

Ready for next: Once you can spot clues to define new words, you are ready to explore why an author writes a story.