

WORD DETECTIVES



Weekly Routines for Using Context Clues

WHAT GRADE DO YOU TEACH?

This vocabulary routine is highly effective in helping students learn how to use context clues to identify the meaning of unknown words. Knowing that there is a range of levels and abilities in upper elementary, I have created three different sets of this resource each one with a different word list to meet the needs of your students. (Click on each picture to learn more about that specific set.

CONTEXT CLUE OF THE WEEK

SET 1 - 3rd Grade List



INCLUDES DIGITAL VERSION

Set 1 - Includes the easiest list of words, perfect for 3rd grade.

CONTEXT CLUE OF THE WEEK

Set 2 - 4th Grade List



INCLUDES DIGITAL VERSION

Set 2 - This was the original resource and is perfect for 4th grade.

CONTEXT CLUE OF THE WEEK

SET 3 - 5th Grade List



INCLUDES DIGITAL VERSION

Set 3 - Includes more challenging words and is perfect for 5th grade.

***OR you can get [all three sets in one bundle](#) and easily create a differentiated vocabulary center regardless of the grade you teach.**

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Includes a PowerPoint Presentation or printable word cards for each of the 40 vocabulary words. Each day or week students will read the word and the short paragraph to help determine the meaning of the unknown word.



Vocabulary words can be displayed in a PowerPoint presentation for whole group practice.



Vocabulary words can be printed on cardstock for individual use or to incorporate into a center.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Student recording sheet gives students a variety of quick tasks to help them use context clues and build their vocabulary.

Word Detectives → → → → → → → → → → →

Word of the Week: _____ Word #: _____

Monday: Make a Prediction Read the context clue of the week, use the context clues to come up with a prediction for what you think the word of the week means.	Clue Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Inference <input type="checkbox"/> Definition <input type="checkbox"/> Example <input type="checkbox"/> Antonym <input type="checkbox"/> Synonym
Tuesday: Define the Word Look up the word of the week in the dictionary. Write the definition in the space below.	Wednesday: Dig Deeper Look up the word of the week in the dictionary or thesaurus. Find out the following: • Synonym: • Antonym: • Part of Speech:
Thursday: Draw a Picture Use everything you know about the word to create a visual representation of the word.	Friday: Use It Use the word of the week in a sentence of your own. Make sure you use it in the right context.

★★★★★★★

- **Monday** - Students read short paragraph, make their prediction for the word of the week and select what clue type helped them come up with their definition.
- **Tuesday** - students look up the actual definition of the word in a dictionary.
- **Wednesday** - Students dig deeper and use a thesaurus to find synonyms, antonyms and identify the part of speech.
- **Thursday** - Students internalize the word and draw a picture to show what the word means.
- **Friday** - Students use everything they know about the word to use it in a sentence or short paragraph.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Teacher guide and answer key make it really easy to provide feedback to student work.



DIGITAL VERSION INCLUDED...

You also get access to a digital version of this resource created using Google Slides.



WHAT WORDS ARE INCLUDED?

The words included in this set are listed below. This set of words could be used in any upper elementary classroom but are ideal for 3rd grade students.

- ability
- additional
- ambition
- arctic
- careless
- cling
- confess
- coward
- crumpled
- dangle
- doze
- drift
- elect
- elegant
- endangered
- fame
- flexible
- fortunate
- frail
- gist
- grasped
- imitate
- launch
- mention
- necessity
- observe
- occurred
- peer
- plunge
- remarked
- revive
- scattered
- slumber
- stumbled
- suitable
- swoop
- triumph
- unite
- wander
- wit

*If you are not a 3rd grade teacher and are looking for alternative word lists, check out [Set 2](#) and [Set 3](#) for more challenging list of words.

A LOOK INSIDE: Set 1 Words

★ Word # 1

elegant

Jenny was getting ready to go to the party when her mom told her she needed to change into something more **elegant**. Apparently, her dress was too plain and she needed something a bit more fancy.

★ Word # 2

revive

Molly was shocked by the damage of last night's storm. She saw her garden was destroyed and torn apart. She was determined to **revive** it as soon as possible.

★ Word # 3

launch

My brother and I decided we were going to have a water balloon fight this afternoon. I was ready to **launch** and shoot balloons across the yard with all my might! I even made my own sling shot to help make them go farther.

★ Word # 4

ambition

Mathew has great **ambition**. He has a strong desire to be successful in everything he does and will not let anything get in the way of him achieving his goals.

★ Word # 5

grasped

Even though Rob **grasped** the rope tightly with both his hands, he still didn't have the upper body strength to pull himself up.

★ Word # 6

dangle

Kaylee had always been the shortest one in her class. When she sat in her chair her feet never hit the ground. Her legs would just **dangle** and hang without touching the ground.

★ Word # 7

swoop

Lucy loved feeding the seagulls. She liked to throw bits of bread and watch the birds **swoop** down and grab them. She was amazed at how quickly they could dive down and grab the pieces of bread.

★ Word # 8

mention

Kendra couldn't help but overhear her mom **mention** to her dad she had booked their plane tickets to Orlando and scheduled their shuttle to Disney. Kendra was hopeful they were planning a surprise vacation.

★ Word # 9

remarked

"It's way too hot to go swimming today," Evelyn **remarked**. "Let's just stay inside and watch TV."

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