**Context clues**

**Context clues are hints or clues to help the reader decode unfamiliar words.**

**Look in the story The Shield of Kindness a Genuine Gift and find hints to give the meaning of the following words then fill in the blanks with the synonym. Use the context clues given.**

**busily** **awfulness** **regrettably** **money** **Kindhearted**

**real** **perfect** **destroy** **buddy-buddy** **aggravation**

**Story**

**The Shield of Kindness, a Genuine Gift**

Many people give their trust to one person but in the end they realize that the person they really trust was not that **genuine**_____. Diana and Louise were **inseparable**_____ because they did everything together. They hung out every day, lived side by side, shopped at the same store, ate at the same restaurant, and even dressed the same almost every day. People would honestly feel that they were Siamese twins sharing one brain. **Unfortunately,** _____ all this changed when Virginia moved into their neighborhood.

She was filthy rich, and recently bought the most luxurious house. Diana's and Louise's curiosity got the best of them so they went over to Virginia's house to introduce themselves knowing that they only wanted to snoop around to see this magnificent house and the person who lived there. Virginia, pleased to have visitors welcomed them with expensive gifts. She explained to them that she was in desperate need of a hired help to assist her, but she only has **finance**_____ to pay one person.

Both girls wanted this job, but who will be chosen? Diana being the **compassionate**_____ one humbly turned to Louise and said, "Girl I know that you really need this money, so take the job." Louise jumped up for joy and celebrated to herself with a dance saying, "Yes, yes, yes!!!"

Virginia seeing the humanity in Diana's face decided to give the two girls a test. Each was given a room to clean and decorate and whoever's room was cleaned the best will be given the job.

The girls walked around the house to find a room that they wanted to clean and decorate. Diana started immediately and worked **tirelessly**_____ the whole night through until morning. Meanwhile Louise relaxed at home and started the following day. In fact, Diana assisted Louise in getting her room cleaned as well.

On the third day Virginia gave the girls a chance to showcase their cleaning skills. Louise shouted in excitement, "Me first, me first!!!" She pushed open the room with both hands and then took a bow. Everything was set neatly to **complete**_____ the decorations in the room. Virginia stood there shocked and pleased. It was breathtaking.

Now it was Diana's turn. Diana slowly opened the door, but something stopped it from opening. "That's strange," she muttered to herself. She pushes and push as hard as she could, but the door was jammed. Her **frustration**_____ got the best of her as she angrily shoved her entire body against

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the door and it flew open knocking over the wet paints, trash cans, garbage bags, empty boxes and a bucket of dirty filthy water, all over the floor.

Diana, Louise and Virginia stood there speechless. Virginia was shocked to see the **monstrosity**_____ that was a mess unfolding in front of her eyes. Louise jumped up for joy, celebrating and dancing and singing with joy. Diana, disappointed yet confused gave Louise a hug congratulating her.

Virginia stood there shocked and surprise in awe. She knew that Diana worked all night and still had the energy to help her friend but lost in the end. Something was not right. In a rage Virginia shouted, "I cannot believe you would stoop so low and stab your friend in the back! She worked all night and helped you and yet you would **sabotage**_____ her work by placing the trash behind the door. What kind of a person would stoop so low and do something like that?"

Louise stood there ashamed. "Diana, I have chosen you to be my house help." Then, Virginia took off her chain from her neck. It had a medal carved out like a shield. "My grandfather gave my father this Shield of Kindness because he saved his neighbor who was a threat to our family for years, from falling off to his death while he was a sleep. Now I want to pass it unto you for you have shown the true meaning of Kindness."

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