

Formative work on Read Words in Context

Do you know these few tricks on Reading Comprehension?

I. Read the text below: The Redwood Forest's Secrets.

The redwood forest is **lush**, with green, thick, and healthy plant life. It is of **considerable** size, with almost 200 miles of walking trails. With its grand old redwood trees, rivers, streams, and hundreds of animal species, it is one of the most splendid and **magnificent** places in the world.

The **majestic** redwood tree is a grandly beautiful tree that can grow to a height of 367 feet and regularly reaches the age of 600 years. Around its roots, ferns grow, looking **flimsy** and soft, but they are actually tough and hardy.

Although the forest is quiet, it is not silent. Repeatedly throughout the day, there is a **continual** low murmur made up of the chirping of birds, creaking branches, and buzzing insects. The sound of a woodpecker rapping at a tree is enjoyable. The woodpecker is **insistent**—he taps, taps, taps, demanding attention, with a regular rhythm. Even higher up, a blue jay, happy in the bright sunlight, gives a sharp, **jubilant** cry.

Under the trees, **rowdy** squirrels play noisily in the leaves and fight over tidbits of food. Other **obscure** noises come from behind the trees. What could these faint, indistinct sounds be? Perhaps somewhere under cover, a mountain lion watches, **secretive**, out of sight of its prey, its **sinister** purpose known only to the beast itself. There is no kindness or pity in its eyes. When it pounces, it will not be **merciful**.

The redwood forest needs to be protected. It is important that people be **resolute** or determined to keep the redwood forest healthy. One way to be **supportive** of this cause is to encourage people to never leave litter behind when they visit. Protecting the forest will ensure that the redwoods will continue to grow and bring joy to the many people who visit every year from all over the world. Their presence is a gift of nature for which to be thankful.

Vocabulary Words

considerable | continual flimsy |
insistent | jubilant | lush |
magnificent | majestic merciful |
obscure | resolute | rowdy |
secretive | sinister | supportive |

Word Learning Tip!

An adjective is a word that describes a noun. It comes before the noun or after a linking verb (be, seem, etc). It gives a detail that tells more about the noun. For example, house is a noun. Reading it, you see a general mental image of a house. Red is an adjective. When you read the phrase red house, you form an exact mental image. By identifying that an unknown word is adjective, you have a clue to its meaning. Adjectives often end in -able, -al, -y, -ant, -ent, -ful, -ic, or -ive.

Vocabulary Building Strategy Use Context Clues

When a new word is an adjective, the most useful context clue to look for is the noun that the adjective describes. Also look for any other adjectives or descriptive words.

Connect More Words and Meanings

considerable	continual	flimsy	insistent	jubilant	lush	magnificent	
majestic	merciful	obscure	resolute	rowdy	secretive	sinister	supportive

Directions: In the blank by each definition, write the adjective that matches it. You may use the glossary to help you.

1. relentless; not giving up _____

2. splendid; grand _____

3. loud; noisy _____

4. tight-lipped; sly _____

5. hidden; unknown _____
6. frail; weak _____
7. steady; constant _____
8. kind; generous; _____ showing mercy or forgiveness
9. determined; firm _____
10. menacing; threatening _____

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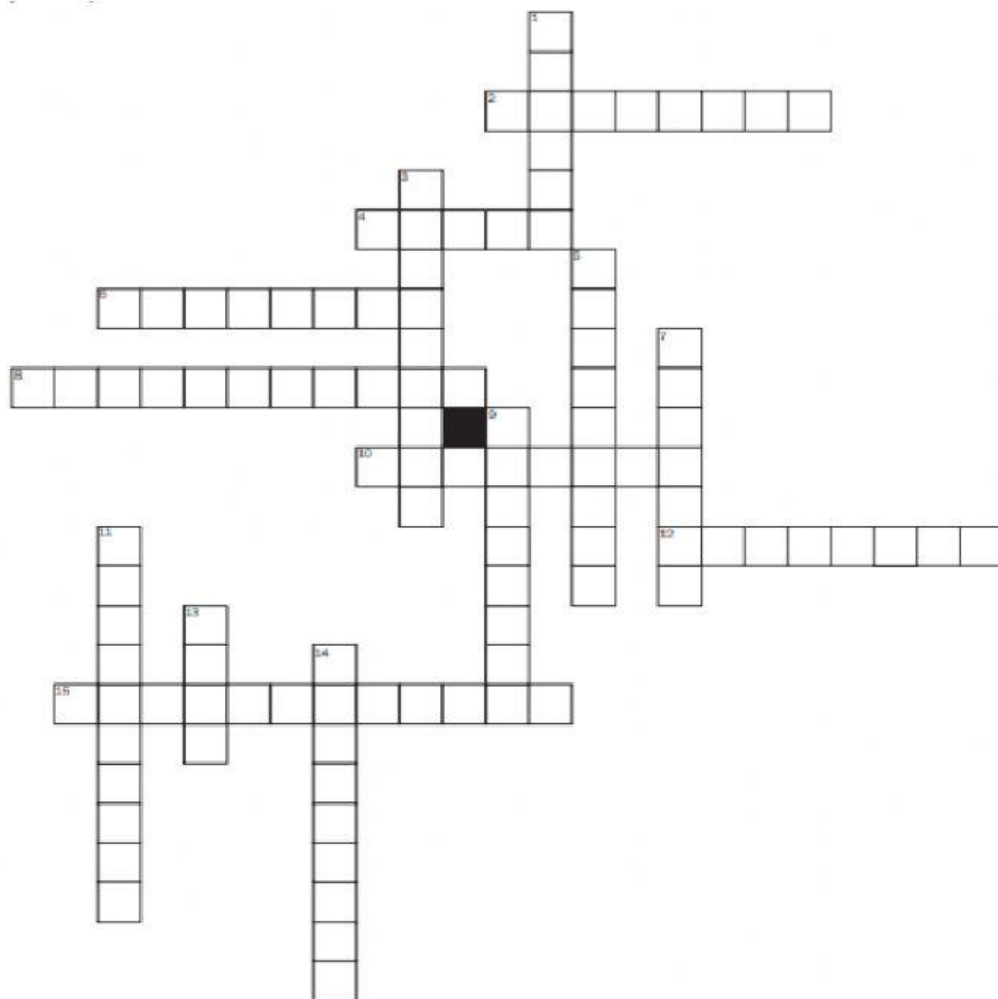
Directions: Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.

Across →

2. threatening or indicating harm
4. wild and noisy
6. happy and delighted
8. splendid or impressive in appearance
10. having great dignity, grandly beautiful
12. firm in keeping to a purpose
15. worth considering; fairly large amount

Down ↓

1. thin or weak; without much substance
3. happening repeatedly or without interruption
5. demanding attention all the time
7. not well known, not easy to understand
9. showing kindness and compassion
11. giving support; helpful
13. growing thickly and healthily
14. tending to be silent about something or to conceal things



Use Words in Context

considerable continual flimsy insistent jubilant lush magnificent
majestic merciful obscure resolute rowdy secretive sinister supportive

Directions: Write a sentence responding to each item below. Use the boldface adjective in your response.

1. Name two people or places that you think are **magnificent**. _____

2. Name two occasions that might make you **jubilant**. _____

3. Name two situations in which you are likely to be **insistent**. _____

4. Name two places where plant life would most likely be **lush**. _____

5. Name two situations in which one person can be **supportive** of another. _____

6. Name two people whom you believe are **resolute** about their goals. _____

7. Name two places that you think are **majestic**. _____

8. Name two situations in which a person or animal might be **secretive**. _____

