



Teacher Notes: Context Clues Mini-lesson

The *Cinderella* unit includes a mini-lesson on the use of context clues for determining word meaning. These teacher notes accompany the Context Clues PowerPoint and are also included in the notes section of the PowerPoint as well as the Lesson 1: Teacher Guide.

Context Clues Mini Lesson

#1. Context Clues

[Hand out the Student Charts for Lesson #1. Refer students to Student Chart 1A.]

This is a picture of a detective. He is looking for clues, or hints, to solve a problem. What is a clue?

(It's a hint you can use to help solve a problem.)

We can be detectives, too, when we are reading.

If you come across a word you don't know, you can use clues to figure out what it means. These are called context clues.

#2. Mystery Words

Now we are going to all be detectives.

Look at this list of mystery words. We are going to use context clues to figure out what the words mean.

Let's say the mystery words out loud. I will say the word first, and then you repeat it.

[Say each of the words in the list, and wait for the students to repeat them.]

#3. Rags

[Read the first sentence out loud.]

In the first sentence, the mystery word is "rags."

We will try to figure out what it means. First, underline "rags" in the first sentence.

[Click to underline it.]

Now we will figure out the context clues.

The word is about Cinderella, because it says she has to wear rags.



What else do we know about Cinderella from this sentence? (She doesn't have any nice clothes.)

Circle "doesn't have any nice clothes."

[Click to circle it.]

She doesn't have nice clothes, so what she has to wear is rags.

Partner Talk

Based on this clue, what do you think "rags" means?

(Old, ugly, bad clothes)

Write down what it means next to the word "rags."

#5 Scour

[Read the second sentence out loud.]

In the second sentence, the mystery word is "scour." We will try to figure out what it means.

First, underline "scour" in the second sentence.

[Click to underline it.]

Now we will figure out the context clues.

The word is about the dishes, because it says that Cinderella has to scour all of the dishes.

What else does Cinderella do to the dishes? (She scrubs them)

Circle "scrub."

[Click to circle it.]

What else do we know? What happens to the dishes when she scours them?

(They are clean)

Circle "clean."

[Click to circle it.]

Partner Talk

Based on these clues, what do you think "scour" means?

(Scrub something until it is clean)

Write down what it means next to the word "scour" in your chart.



#6 Mattress

[Read the third sentence out loud.]

In the last sentence, the mystery word is “mattress.” Underline “mattress” in the last sentence.

[Click to underline it.]

Now we will figure out the context clues. What does it say that Cinderella does on the mattress? (She sleeps on it)

Circle “sleep on.”

[Click to circle it.]

Partner Talk

Based on this clue, what do you think “mattress” means?

(Something you can sleep on)

Write down what it means next to the word “mattress” in your chart.