Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll

Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand:
Long time the manxome foe he sought --
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.

"And, has thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.
“Stop - don’t touch that dictionary. The definition of the word you don’t know is right here in the text!”
Context Clues

Words or phrases around an unfamiliar word which can help you understand the meaning of this new word are called *context clues*. If you learn how to use these clues, you can save yourself a trip to the dictionary, increase your vocabulary, and improve your reading comprehension.
Context Clues

- Vocabulary knowledge is mandatory to achieve success.
- Often when confronted with an unfamiliar word within its context, students will skip over it and continue to read, or they will stop reading altogether.
Context Clues

- The sentence might offer an example of the word or tell what the word does. If you encounter an unfamiliar word, context clues or other words around it in the sentence or paragraph can help you figure out its meaning.
1. Context Clues
Guidelines

- After the word or that directly follow the unfamiliar word.

- Example: The **trek**, or journey, became more challenging as we approached the top of the mountain.
2. Context Clue Guideline

- Authors often use punctuation clues to help the reader. Punctuation clues might include commas, dashes, or parentheses.

- Example: In order to keep the dogs inside the yard, we built a **parapet**, a low wall or railing.
2. More Examples

- Mary *retained*, kept, the deed to her mother's house.
- I wonder if that fruit is *edible*, able to be eaten.
- The company is going through many *transitions*, changes.
- Children are often *loquacious*, very talkative and active.
- *Bigamy*, marriage to two spouses at the *same time*, is not legal in the United States.
3. Context Clue Guideline

- Before the word **called**.

- Example: The worm ate the middle layer of the peach, which is called the **mesocarp**.
4. Context Clue Guideline

- In the previous sentence.

- Example: Everyone at the dinner table cleaned their plates and asked for seconds. As the guests left, they said the dinner was delectable.
5. Context Clue Guideline

- In the **next** sentence

- Example: Jake left the waitress a **paltry** tip. She forgot to give them glasses of water, brought out cold food, and never checked on them, so she deserved a small tip.
6. Context Clue Guideline

- By replacing the unfamiliar word with a “prediction” word to see if it fits or makes sense.

- Example: He acted like a **buffoon** at the party by telling jokes and laughing too loudly and too often.  
  (prediction word: fool)
7. Context Clue Guideline

- By studying the unfamiliar word’s **prefix**, **suffix**, or **root** word and writing the meanings to figure out the meaning of the word.

Example: The only part of the city **recognizable** to Ian was the Sears Tower.

(-able=capable of being/recongnizable)
8. Context Clue Guideline

- By asking yourself if the word sounds positive or negative.

- Example: The evil queen cast a *sinister* glare at the elf when he asked her a question. (evil=negative)
9. Context Clue Guideline

- By figuring out the word’s **part of speech**, such as a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb.

- Example: He **guzzled** water rapidly after the race.

- (Guzzled is a verb. He did something to the water.)
The context clue may be a **synonym** (words with almost the same meaning) or an **antonym** (words opposite in meaning) for the unfamiliar word.

Examples: Reducing cholesterol has a number of **beneficial** results. One **positive** outcome is reducing the risk of heart disease. (synonym clue) I **despise** liver, but I **adore** steak. (antonym clue)
I have always lived in cubbyholes. After moving away from home, my first apartment was just a cubbyhole in a large building. It was no more that 8' by 12' and had a bed in one corner. My second was no more than a large walk-in closet. My current one is about 10 feet long by 12 feet wide, but it at least has two rooms.

Possible Answer:

A. Small space    B. Large Space    C. Home
The floors of the restaurant were extremely scuzzy. They were covered with spilled grease, crumbs of food, and cigarette butts.

Possible Answer:

A. Clean    B Dirty    C. Straight
The contractor was always well remunerated for his work. For example, he received $10,000 for a small addition to a house and last year he was received $5,000 for reconstructing a stairway.

Possible Answer:

A. Valued   B. Given   C. Paid
The department store carries a variety of breeches, for example they carried Levis, Wranglers, and even some plain unlabeled brands made of cotton.

Possible Answer:

A. Clothes  B. Pants  C. Socks
Josie received a **bauble** for a present from her great aunt. This she put with her others, a pair of imitation earrings, a fake emerald pendant, and a ring that looked like a ruby.

**Possible Answer:**

A. Rings  
B. Fancy eats  
C. Jewelry
NOW YOU TRY

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