

Name _____

Vocabulary • Context Clues

- An unfamiliar word is a word you do not know. Sometimes you can use context clues—the words and sentences around the unfamiliar word—to help you figure out the meaning of the word.

Directions Read the following story. Then answer the questions below.

Carlos loved making airplanes. He made gliders, engineless aircrafts, out of paper. He even had hangars to store them in. Sure, they were cardboard boxes, but they looked just like the real buildings for aircrafts. One day he went outside with his friend Robin to fly his paper glider, *The High Flyer*. On the first try, *The High Flyer* could hardly go anywhere. “The drag is too strong,” said Carlos. “What do you mean?” asked Robin. “The force pushing against

the glider is too much for it. See, it has stalled, or stopped, and fallen again,” said Carlos. “I have an idea,” said Robin. Robin took the glider and refolded it to make the wings sleeker. The wings would not bend, or flex, so easily now. On the next try, the glider flew through the air with little trouble. “How did you know to do that?” asked Carlos. Robin smiled. “I might not know everything about science, but I do know how to make a good paper airplane.”

1. What kind of aircraft is a *glider*? How do you know?

It does not have an engine. The context says "engineless aircrafts".

2. What are stored in real *hangars*?

Aircrafts are stored in hangars.

3. How does the context tell you what *drag* means?

It tells you in the dialogue between the characters.

4. What does the word *stalled* mean in this story?

The word stalled means stopped.

5. Write a sentence that uses context clues to reveal the meaning of *flex*.

Possible answer: She tried to flex her wrist, but it was broken.



Home Activity Your child used context clues to identify the meanings of unfamiliar words. Challenge your child to write a paragraph that includes context clues that reveal the meanings of difficult words.