

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Call of the Wild - Context Clues - Literal and Inferential

The meanings of words are reinforced and therefore communicated in part by the context they appear in. The relationship of a word and its context provides the reader with clues to the word's meaning. When an unknown word appears alone it is impossible to figure out what it means but in a sentence or paragraph its meaning can be worked out.

Below is a list of vocabulary words you may or may not be familiar with. Fit the words into the sentences below by selecting the word for each sentence that most closely fits into the meaning of the sentence and write it in the space provided. Not all the words will be used.

quest	dominant	primordial	gaunt
ferocity	nocturnal	antagonist	forlorn
solidarity	heredity	peril	instinctive
arduous	vigilant	cunning	ravenous
domesticated	callous	prohess	destiny

1. "He had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things _____." In this new life there would be no more peace, rest, nor a moment's safety. He must be ever _____ of those men and dogs who knew only the law of club and fang.
2. It was the manner of wolf fighting. As her _____ rushed forward, she met it with her chest and leaped aside. The others licked their chops and snarled with the _____ and savagery of ancient beasts.
3. As always, they pitched their camp and, eating their bit of fish, crawled to sleep in the snow. Buck was _____. The pound and a half of salmon each day seemed to go nowhere.
4. His muscles turned hard as iron and he grew _____ to all ordinary pain.
5. Sight and scent became remarkably keen, while his hearing developed such acuteness that in his sleep he heard the faintest sound and knew if it meant peace or _____.
6. And not only did he learn by experience, but instincts long dead came alive again. The _____ generations fell from him.
7. It was an _____ journey, filled with merciless weather, impossible terrain and ruthless discipline inflicted by Francois.
8. The _____ for his past was nearing an end and the primordial beast in him was taking control.