

Name _____

Date _____

Understanding Double Meaning

Sometimes a word can mean more than one thing. This can cause misunderstandings. Below are some passages from *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll. Read the passages and then answer the questions.

A. "Mine is a long and a sad **tail!**" said the Mouse, turning to Alice, and sighing. "It is a long **tail**, certainly," said Alice, looking down with wonder at the Mouse's tail; "but why do you call it sad?"

1. What does *tail* mean? _____

2. What does *tail* mean? _____

3. What is the difference between *tail* and *tail*? _____

4. What is the same about *tail* and *tail*? _____

5. _____

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B. "That's the reason they're called **lessens**," the Gryphon remarked, "because they **lessen** from day to day."

1. What does *lessen* mean? _____

2. What does *lessen* mean? _____

3. What is the difference between *lessen* and *lessen*? _____

4. What is the same about *lessen* and *lessen*? _____

5. Do you think this passage is funny? Why or why not? _____

