

NONFICTION

7TH & 8TH GRADE

RI. 7.4/8.4



960L **Meaning of Words & Phrase** Name: _____ Date: _____

can be recycled. This need to constantly check the rules of recycling makes more people wishcycle. They grow tired of trying to stay on top of current practices.

Two major things can be done to slay wishcycling like the dragon that make certain can help with this. They can educate the public on the recycling guidelines. Awareness campaigns can spread the word.

The second, and far more helpful, action is to reduce the trash in the first place. Cutting waste is the best way to keep non-recyclable items out of the recyclable pile. This action also lowers the amount of waste we generate overall. Simply swapping out that disposable coffee cup for a reusable mug or travel cup makes a big difference. Now you can recycle a coffee cup that is coated in a bin, instead of a coffee cup that is coated in a bin when you throw it away.

960L **Meaning of Words & Phrase** Name: _____ Date: _____

Recycling Gone Bad

Humans are making way too much trash. The oceans are filled with microplastics. All this garbage we produce and then try to dispose of is a huge source of greenhouse gas emissions. This contributes to global warming. It threatens our planet. While we've all learned to recycle, many of us aren't doing it properly. We are also contributing to a much better option when we deal with trash—reducing the amount of trash we produce.

What does the author use the idiom "wishcycling" to show that do can create new problems that just like a wish, it can be a problem.

Meaning of Words & Phrases Name: _____ Date: _____

4. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: What does the author compare wishcycling to in the seventh paragraph?

a. a dragon
b. a coffee cup
c. a plastic bag
d. a mountain

B: Which type of figurative language is the comparison in Part A?

1. personification
hyperbole
simile
metaphor

es the author use word choice to affect the reader in the final paragraph of the text? What is the author's purpose for writing this text?

Final paragraph, the author uses word choice to make the reader think about their actions and choices. Like "buried in a mountain of trash," "contribute to warming," and "pollute our planet" make the consequences of not being careful about waste really bad.

MEANING OF WORDS AND PHRASES



WHAT'S INSIDE?

MEANING OF WORDS & PHRASES

7th & 8th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile® leveled stories in the 7th and 8th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 7th and 8th grade is 925-1185).

1. Meaning of Words & Phrases Anchor Chart
2. Meaning of Words & Phrases Practice Work
3. The Chilean Desert Miner Rescue (940L)
4. The Grey Man of Pawleys Island (960L)
5. Hybrid Animals (980L)
6. The History of Granola (1020L)
7. Who is Misty Copeland? (1060L)
8. Will You Be Replaced? (1080L)
9. William Kamkwamba and the Wind (1150L)
10. Kitesurfing (1160L)
11. Is Reiki Right for You? (1160L)
12. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire (1160L)
13. Test
 - Recycling Gone Bad (960L)
 - Bringing Back Shop Class (1170L)



PRINTABLE PDFs covering the 7th and 8th grade text complexity band with Certified Lexile Levels.

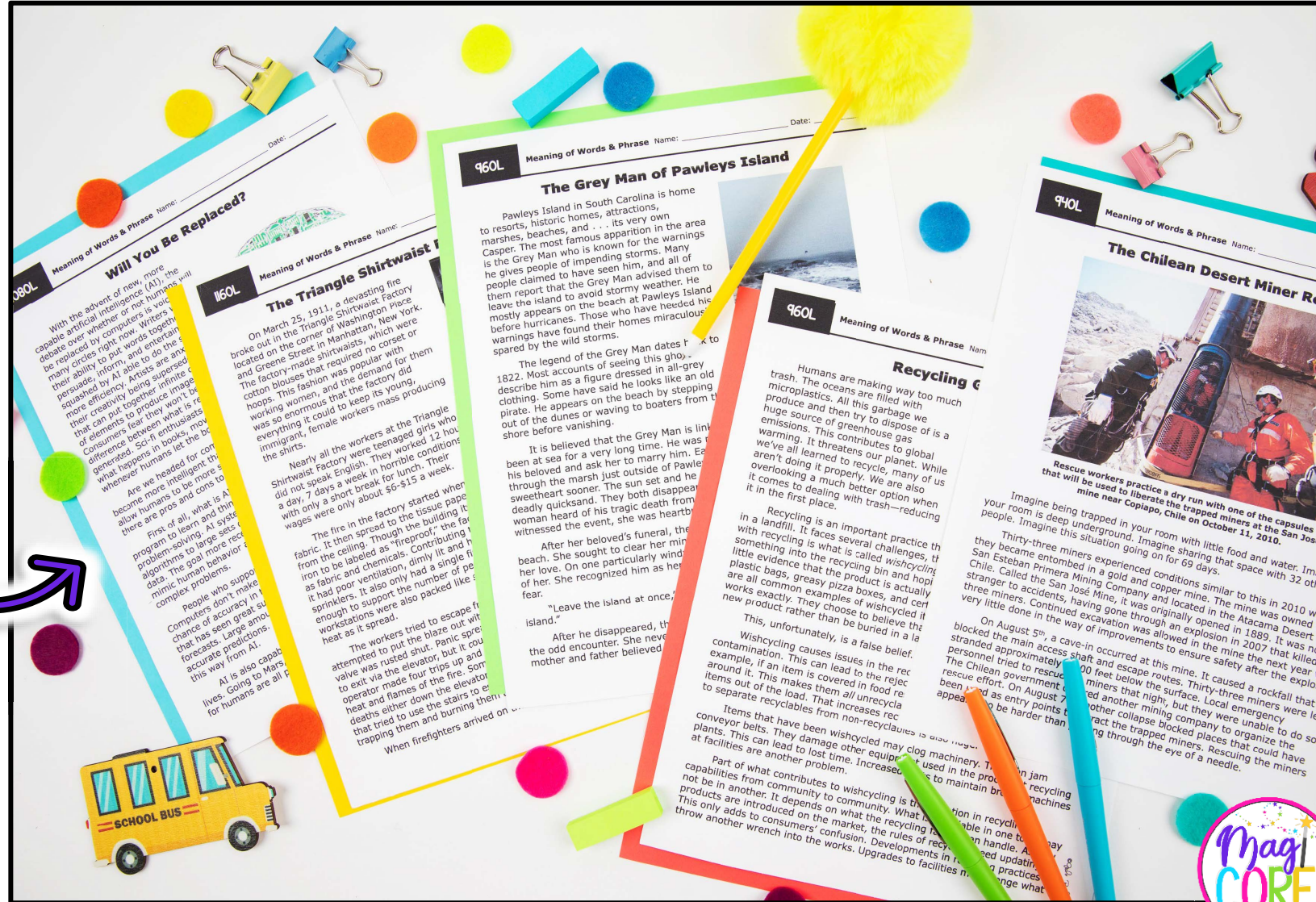
- Anchor chart and question sets
- Color coding to encourage students to use text evidence
- AND two assessments on nonfiction reading passages

Printable Slides Included



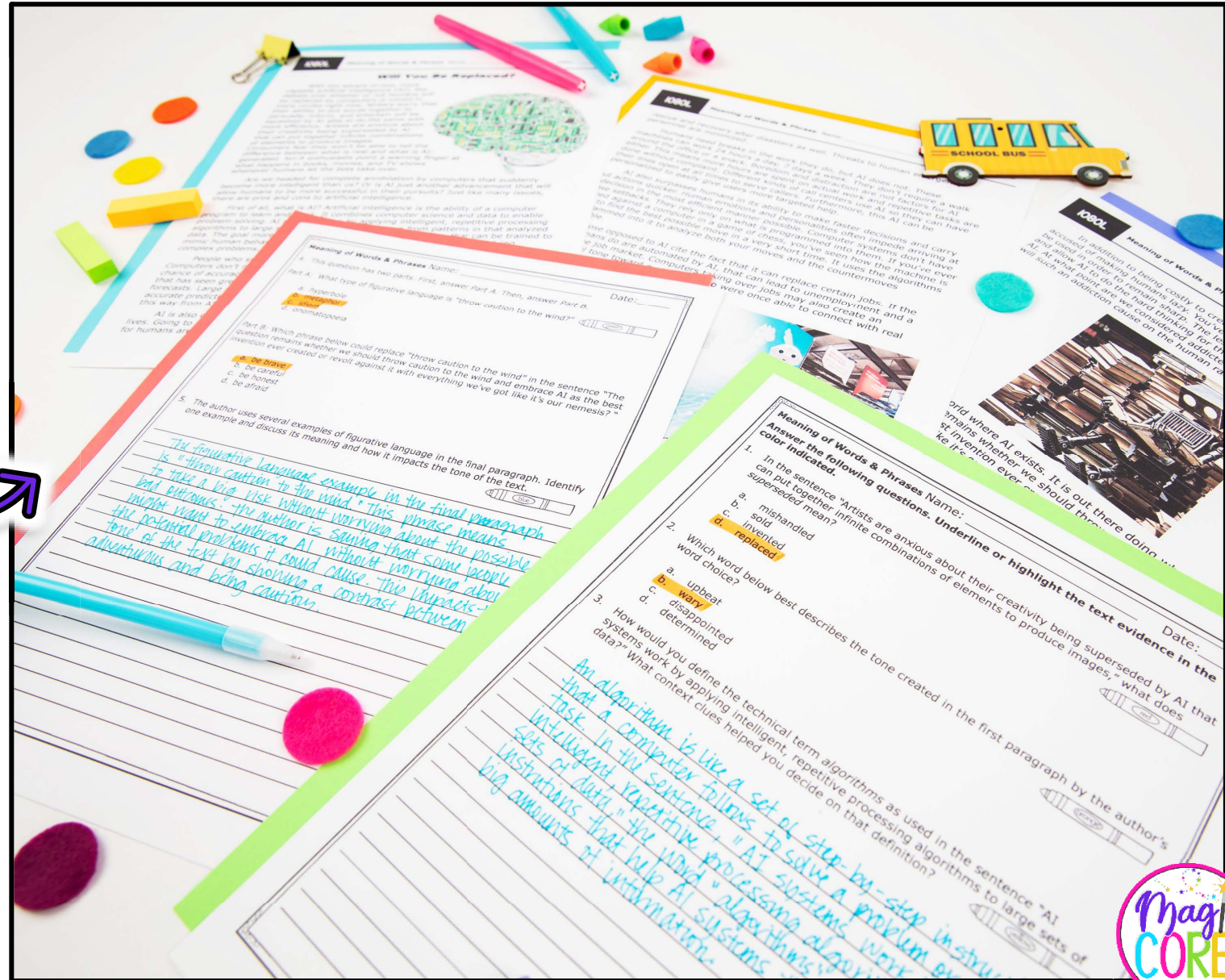
12 NONFICTION PASSAGES

- Learn in color! Visual cues reinforce text evidence.
- Teachers can quickly check student work.
- Variety of structures to spark comprehension AND curiosity.
- Dive into interesting and engaging informational texts.



QUESTIONS

- Skill-focused, scaffolded questions
- Multiple choice and short answer
- Preps students for state testing
- Rigorous and research-based approach to questioning



ANCHOR CHART

- Anchor chart breaking down words and phrases in nonfiction
- Practice passage and warmup activity sheet
- Use to introduce the skill
- Students reference throughout the unit
- Use in student journal as a reference

The anchor chart is decorated with a yellow school bus, colorful sticky notes, and a pink pom-pom. It includes a diagram for determining word meaning, a passage about a Chilean desert miner rescue, and a graphic organizer for analyzing the word 'photography'.

Meaning of Words and Phrases

Readers determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text by considering several factors. They then analyze how those factors impact the text's meaning and tone.

Context Clues
Use the surrounding text to make sense of unfamiliar words.

Connotations
Consider the cultural/emotional associations of words.

Technical Terminology
Identify vocabulary words unique to the subject matter.

Synonyms/Antonyms
Explore words with similar and opposite meanings.

Figurative Language
Identify metaphors, similes, hyperbole, personification, onomatopoeia, idioms, and alliteration.

Analogies
Recognize comparisons to explain ideas.

Allusions
Identify references to other texts or famous works.

Author's Purpose and Word Choice
Is the author writing to persuade, inform, or entertain?

Words and Phrases

To determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text:

1. Carefully read the text.
2. Consider the factors named above when encountering words and phrases in the text.
3. Ask:
 - How does this word/phrase impact the text?
 - How does this word/phrase impact the author's purpose?
 - How do word choices affect the reader's understanding?
 - What feelings does the word/phrase evoke?
 - What message is the author trying to convey?
4. Summarize your thoughts about the new word or phrase and its impact on the text overall.

The Chilean Desert Miner Rescue

Rescue workers practice a dry run with one of the capsules that will be used to liberate the trapped miners at the San Jose.

Meaning of Words and Phrases

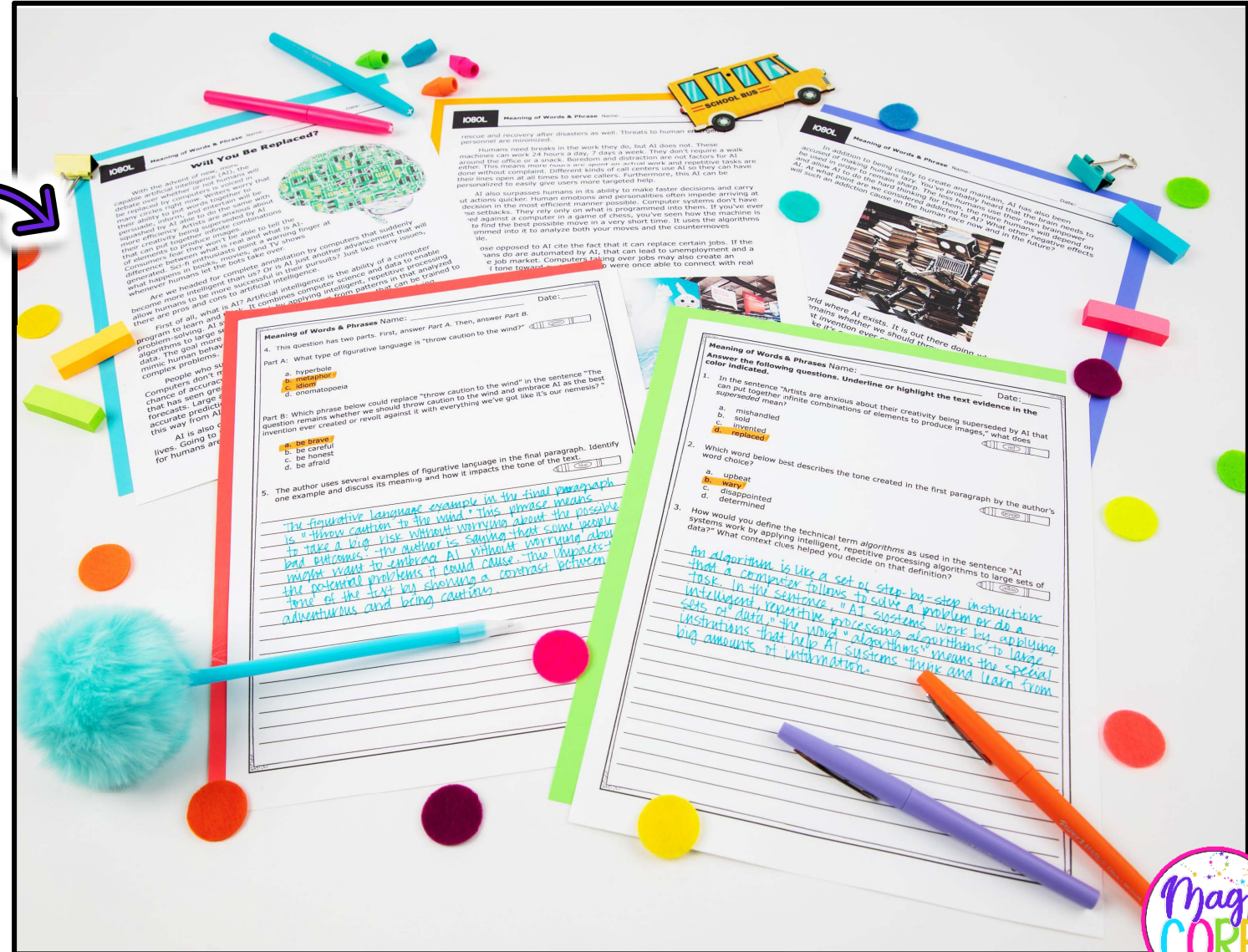
Fill in the graphic organizer to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text.

Word/Phrase	photography
Context clues around the word/phrase	Taking up photography as a hobby... Smartphone camera you already have
Connotations of the word/phrase	positive, creative
Are any of the following used? If so, how? • figurative language • analogies • allusions • synonyms • antonyms	No
Is this word/phrase a technical term for the topic?	Yes
Author's purpose for using the word/phrase	☐ Persuade ☒ Inform ☐ Entertain How do you know?
What the word/phrase means in context	taking pictures with a camera to capture moments and scenes.
How the word/phrase affects the tone of the text	positive and encouraging

Mag CORE

ASSESSMENTS

- Same format as practice
- Two tests with different Lexile levels
- Color-coding
- Follows best practices for standardized assessments



WHY IT WORKS

- Certified Lexile measures
- High - interest texts to motivate readers
- Cross - curricular topics
- Scaffold approach will help your students meet grade level expectations.
- Classroom tested! Trusted by over 1,000 teachers... and counting!... To help students grow their reading skills

The collage features several educational materials:

- Meaning of Words and Phrases** worksheets with questions like "What does the technical term wishywashy mean?" and "What does the author compare wishywashy to?"
- Recycling Gone Bad** article discussing microplastics and their impact on the environment.
- The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire** article with a photograph of the factory.
- Will You Be Replaced?** article discussing artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on jobs.
- The Grey Man of Pawleys Island** article about a mysterious figure.
- The Chilean Desert Miner Rescue** article about a rescue operation in a desert mine.
- Words and Phrases** graphic organizer with sections for Context Clues, Figurative Language, Analogies, Allusions, Author's Purpose and Word Choice, Synonyms/Antonyms, Technical Terminology, and Connotations.

Handwritten notes and arrows highlight specific parts of the worksheets, such as "taking pictures with a smartphone camera" and "positive, creative".

ALIGNS TO SCIENCE OF READING

Research shows that wide reading has the biggest impact on student reading progress.

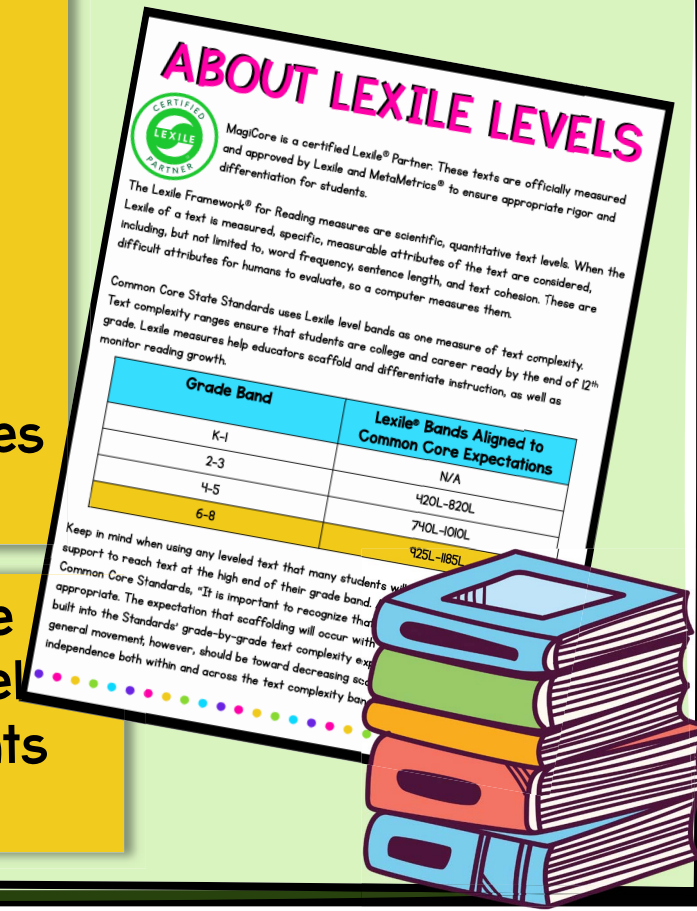
Our passages provide that essential variety of fiction structures and topics.

Students need scaffolded instruction to access grade level texts. Without it, students are not exposure to linguistic and textural features, putting them further behind.

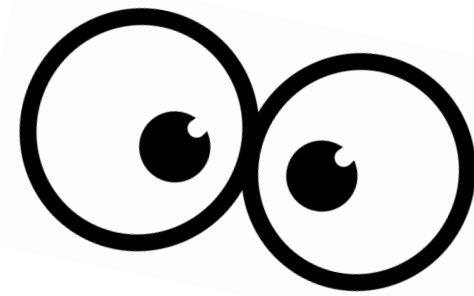
Our texts help students grow full-steam ahead. With certified Lexile levels in the Common Core text complexity band, students will 100% engage with appropriate text and sentence structures, vocabulary, and more. Plus, every passage provides teachers with opportunities to scaffold instruction.

Fun fact! From 2nd grade on, students make greater reading gains when taught from texts that are as much as two grade levels above their “instructional” reading level.

Lead the way! Our texts are leveled to master grade-level expectations and set students up for success.

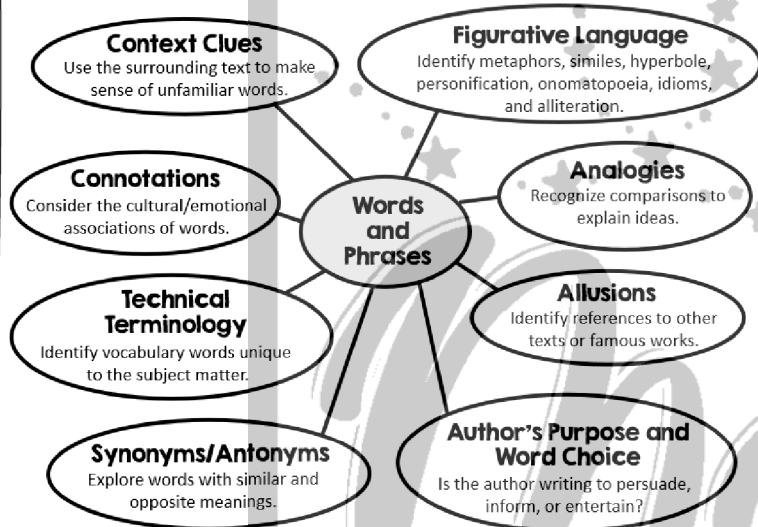


TAKE A PEEK



Meaning of Words and Phrases

Readers determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text by considering several factors. They then analyze how those factors impact the text's meaning and tone.



To determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text:

- Carefully read the text.
- Consider the factors named above when encountering unknown words and phrases in the text.
- Ask:
 - How does this word/phrase impact the meaning of the text?
 - How does this word/phrase impact the tone of the text?
 - How do word choices affect the reader's comprehension of the text?
 - What feelings does the word/phrase evoke in the reader?
 - What message is the author trying to convey to the reader?
- Summarize your thoughts about the new word or phrase and how it impacts the text overall.

© 2015 Bickel

Meaning of Words and Phrases

Let's Try! Read the passage "Picture This" below, then answer the questions on the graphic organizer.

We live in a world that is dominated by images. A scroll through social media sites delivers a cornucopia of eye candy for viewers, showing just how visual we are as a species. Taking up photography as a hobby can be rewarding and a chance to experience the world as the art that it is. The good news is that it doesn't take a Herculean effort to begin dabbling in photography with the ability to use the smartphone camera you probably already have in your pocket.

There are many benefits to getting involved in photography. First of all, it allows you to tap into your creative side. Finding subject matter to photograph, experimenting with different arrangements, and playing with lighting sources all require you to think in ways outside of the everyday routine. You can communicate ideas, feelings, and narratives through images as a form of self-expression. This new well of creativity will make you more curious as you seek out ways to expand your photography fun.

Many people find photography to be a stress-relieving, therapeutic activity. As you focus on capturing moments with your camera, you will be distracted from your daily worries and experience a more relaxed state. Doing photography as a hobby, rather than as a career, will leave the money-making aspect of taking photos out of the equation. You can use photography as a source of comfort instead of income.

Capturing memories is another feature of photography that appeals to many and is seen as a benefit. Special moments, events, and experiences will be forever preserved in photos. They become little treasures that can be enjoyed again and again. Documenting your life through photography allows those precious memories that happen in our lives to be collected for safekeeping in a tangible form.

Photography also encourages you to explore new places to find subject matter of interest. Perhaps you decide to take pictures of North American wildflowers. This sparks a road trip to investigate the fields and meadows and the natural beauty they contain. Maybe you want to capture small-town living in your photos. This prompts visiting different small towns to collect their charm on camera. Possibly you like food. Very much. You then decide to eat in every 5-star restaurant you can find and catalog your experiences with photos. The possibilities of what you can explore are endless.

Finally, pursuing a hobby like photography can lead to personal growth. You can take classes to master different techniques to improve your skills. You can join photography clubs where you connect with people who have the

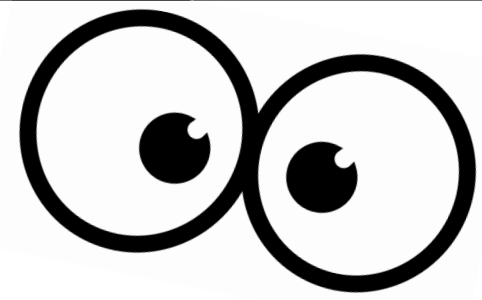
Meaning of Words and Phrases

Fill in the graphic organizer to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text.

Word/Phrase	
Context clues around the word/phrase	
Connotations of the word/phrase	
Are any of the following used? If so, how? - figurative language - analogies - allusions - synonyms - antonyms	
Is this word/phrase a technical term for the topic?	
Author's purpose for using the word/phrase	☐ Persuade ☐ Inform ☐ Entertain How do you know?
What the word/phrase means in context	
How the word/phrase affects the tone of the text	



AND ANOTHER PEEK



980L

Meaning of Words & Phrase Name: _____ Date: _____

Hybrid Animals

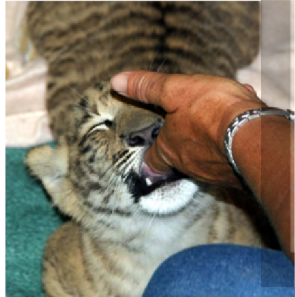
Hybrid animals are born when two different species or subspecies of animals breed. This can occur in the wild. More often than not, however, it is the result of intentional or accidental breeding by humans. Hybrid animals may be created in zoos and breeding facilities. Often conservation or preservation are the main goals, but this practice raises ethical concerns. Many times, the animals that are created have physical aspects that make them unable to thrive outside of captivity. Most hybrid animals are sterile. They can't produce offspring of their own.



A full-grown Liger

Making hybrid animals was originally done to create a desired physical trait or behavior in an animal. A combination of physical and behavioral traits from both parent species is evident in hybrid animals. The combination can sometimes produce a stronger, faster, or smarter animal. That animal may be able to eat foods its parent species cannot. Maybe it can live in a different habitat. Hybrid animals also look different from their parents in color, shape, and size. It's like mixing ingredients in a recipe where the end product doesn't look or taste exactly like any of those original ingredients.

There are several commonly recognized hybrid animals in existence. One is the liger, which is a combination of a male lion and a female tiger. Ligers are much bigger than either parent. The largest one in the world weighs 1,000 pounds. They have light coats with faint stripes and look more like lions than tigers, though they love to swim just as tigers do. This is an example of a hybrid animal that would never be found in the wild because lions and tigers don't inhabit the same regions naturally.



A 3-month-old Tigon cub

A tigon, in contrast, is a hybrid produced by the mating of a male tiger and a female lion. They are smaller than ligers and both of their parents. Roaring and socializing are the lion traits they pick up from their lion mothers. Their physical appearance, however, is more from their tiger fathers.

Meaning of Words & Phrases Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline or highlight the text evidence in the color indicated.

- What does *sterile* mean in the sentence "Most hybrid animals are sterile" in the first paragraph of the text?
a. free from bacteria
b. thoroughly clean
c. in danger of becoming extinct
d. unable to produce children or young
- What connotation does the phrase "ethical concerns" have in the sentence "Often conservation or preservation are the main goals, but this practice raises ethical concerns?"
a. It suggests a negative side to producing hybrid animals.
b. It suggests a positive side to producing hybrid animals.
c. It suggests an exciting aspect to producing hybrid animals.
d. It suggests a money-making aspect to producing hybrid animals.
- Explain how comparing hybrid animals to a recipe in the second paragraph is an effective analogy.

Meaning of Words & Phrases Name: _____ Date: _____

4. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: What tone is created by the author's word choice in the final paragraph of the text?

While these examples of hybrid animals may seem fascinating, hybrid animals released into the wild can cause displacement of and competition with purebred species. This can have a negative effect on ecosystems. It's important to have regulations in place so that the hybridization of animals doesn't get out of hand.

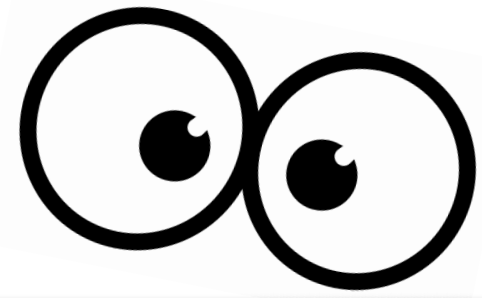
- a humorous tone
- a cautionary tone
- a curious tone
- a supportive tone

Part B: Which **TWO** examples of words/phrases support the answer to Part A?

- fascinating
- negative effect
- ecosystems
- competition with purebred species

5. How does the use of the idiom "get out of hand" in the final paragraph impact the tone of the text?

CHECK THIS OUT TOO!



1160L

Meaning of Words & Phrase Name: _____ Date: _____

Is Reiki Right For You?

Do you sometimes feel unbalanced? Are stress and anxiety parts of your everyday life? Do you need to relax? If you answered yes to any of these questions or have an existing health condition that needs additional help, you may want to try Reiki.



Mikao Usui (1865-1926)
Founder of Reiki

Reiki is a technique that is administered by laying on of hands. It was developed by Mikao Usui in the early 20th century after he recovered from a near-death experience with cholera in 1888. While he was ill, he claimed to have received visions and teachings from a higher power that moved him to change his life. He became interested in the healing methods of Buddha and wished to share these methods with everyone in order to benefit mankind. Usui studied as a Shingon Buddhist. This angered his disapproving family who ultimately disowned him and wouldn't even speak his name.

After a short retreat to contemplate all the learning he had done and the information he had acquired, Mikao Usui developed a method for bringing the Buddhist practices he'd studied to the people. It was then that he created Reiki. The term *Reiki* comes from the Japanese words *rei*, meaning "universal," and *ki*, which means "life force energy." Practitioners of Reiki believe an unseen life force energy flows through every living thing and is what causes us to be alive. When we feel sick or stressed, our life force energy is low. When we are happy and healthy, our life force energy is high. Reiki seeks to balance this energy so we can feel our best.

Reiki is considered a holistic healing method because it addresses the whole person in order to promote balance. This includes their physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. Practitioners act as a channel between their clients and the source of the universal life force energy. Treatments usually involve an hour-long session where the client lies fully clothed on a massage table. The Reiki practitioner gently places their hands, palms down, on or just above the client's body in certain energy locations. A series of 12 to 15 hand positions are used during a session. The length of time the practitioner leaves their hands in each position is determined by the flow of energy through their hands at each location. The basic premise of Reiki healing

Meaning of Words & Phrases Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline or highlight the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does the word *practitioners* mean in the sentence "Practitioners of Reiki believe an unseen life force energy flows through every living thing and is what causes us to be alive?"
a. people who are just learning a skill
b. people who blindly follow a trend
c. people who are actively engaged in a profession
d. people who believe only in scientific practices
2. What is the tone created in the first paragraph through the use of multiple questions and a call to action?
a. It produces a serious tone.
b. It creates an advertisement-like feel.
c. It causes anger.
d. It establishes authority.
3. Explain the use of the simile in the sentence "The basic premise of Reiki is that energy flows from the universal source, through the practitioner's hands, and into the client *like an electrical current*." Why is it effective?

Meaning of Words & Phrases Name: _____

Date: _____

4. This question has two parts. First, answer *Part A*. Then, answer *Part B*.

Part A: What does *subjective* mean in the sentence "Reiki is a subjective experience, and you get out of it what you put into it?"

- a. Reiki affects everyone who receives it the same way.
- b. Many different subjects are involved in using Reiki.
- c. The effects of Reiki are influenced by personal feelings and opinions.
- d. The effects of Reiki are based upon scientific experiments.

Part B: Which context clue from the text below best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "Reiki is a non-invasive treatment."
- b. "It has very few side effects..."
- c. "...you get out of it what you put into it."
- d. "There is limited scientific evidence..."

5. What does the idiom "as right as rain" in the final paragraph mean in this text? How does it contribute to the tone of the passage?

UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS!

The THEME AND CENTRAL IDEA Unit
Contains:

- 12 Printable Lexile Leveled Reading Comprehension Passages
- Anchor Charts
- Rigorous comprehension questions for each passage
- Assessment Passages and Question
- Prepares students to determine a theme or central idea of a text

Love this unit but want to focus on Literary Skills? Try the **THEME & CENTRAL IDEA** unit!

