

Voluminous Vocabulary:

Franny's First Dance

Read each sentence or group of sentences below. Choose the BEST meaning for the underlined word.

Example: "Frederick, did you eat all the fudge-filled frosties?" Fiona scolded, pointing to a hole in the corner of Mrs. Feldman's basket. "Err..." he said, twiddling his thumbs behind his back.

Based on the context clues above, twiddling means:

- A. Twisting
- B. Breaking
- C. Turn about or play with lightly (as in, the fingers)

Can you think of a time when you might use the word twiddling? You might see someone twiddling their thumbs behind their back if they are nervous before taking a math test or participating in a school spelling bee. Twiddling, is typically a nervous habit.

1. "That will be quite enough!" a frazzled Mrs. Fruitfly snapped, snatching the pad of paper and pen from the top of Franny's desk.

Based on the context clues above, frazzled means:

- A. Worn-out, upset
- B. Happy
- C. Terrified

2. Once she took Fabio off his pedestal, she saw that he was indeed more than just a sleek-haired crush, but rather the kind fly her mother had told her about, and his smile proved even more endearing than the hair gel she used to stare at in history class.

Based on the context clues above, pedestal means:

- A. supporting structure or base for holding a statue or vase; raised column (if you put someone on a pedestal figuratively speaking, you might think of them as super special or in some cases, better than others, or better than yourself.)
- B. A flat surface
- C. Blanket or sheet

3. Just then, she remembered the flyer from school and dug into her backpack. It read: PALM SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL FLING! FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14. 1950s SOCK HOP!

Based on the context clues above, fling means:

- A. Sporting event
- B. Graduation
- C. A dance

4. Downstairs, a flustered Fiona was digging through her kitchen cupboards. "Flutterbug! Where's my salad spinner?" she remarked.

Based on the context clues above, flustered means:

- A. Peaceful
- B. Disturbed and confused
- C. Hyper, energetic

5. Once she took Fabio off his pedestal, she saw that he was indeed more than just a sleek-haired crush, but rather the kind fly her mother had told her about, and his smile proved even more endearing than the hair gel she used to stare at in history class.

Based on the context clues above, endearing means:

- A. Beautiful
- B. Meaningful
- C. Affectionate or beloved (something you like about someone else is usually endearing)

6. Cupid is symbolic for the *friendship* that two people can share when they see each other for more than what's on the outside, and learn to love what's on the inside.

Based on the context clues above, symbolic means:

- A. The definition of
- B. Representative of
- C. A sacred or special place

7. Back upstairs, as Franny was wrapping up a productive session on her research project, she couldn't help but wish Cupid would play matchmaker, pairing her and handsome Fabio up for Valentine's Day dance.

Based on the context clues above, productive means:

- A. Able to accomplish tasks, get work done in a short period of time
- B. Boring and difficult
- C. Great

8. Mrs. Feldman who lived next door was recovering from an ankle injury and the flies had promised her a delicious, home-cooked meal to celebrate her return home from the hospital. "A chicken freezer salad won't assemble itself," Fiona added. "Now, about that dog bone for Frances..."

Based on the context clues above, assemble means:

- A. To put or piece together
- B. Take something apart
- C. Cook, bake

9. That's it!" Fonzy shouted, throwing a black heavily moussed wig onto the floor as he entered the room. "If I don't get the lead as Danny Fly in the school production of *Grease*, I'll...I'll..."

Based on the context clues above, moussed means:

- A. Curled (as in, the wig had lots of curls)
- B. covered in mousse (a foamy substance used on the hair to hold it in place)
- C. Soaked

10. "You'll what?" Fillmore taunted, hugging a large box of chocolates. "These are for Francesca," he said in a rather sing-song voice."

Based on the context clues above, taunted means:

- A. Laughed
- B. Teased (in a sarcastic or mocking tone)
- C. Yelled