

A MODERN FABLE

Vocabulary Fun #2

Using Context Clues to Figure Out a Word's Meaning

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Directions: Choose the answer that provides the best definition for the bold-faced word.

When the fire department came they were completely **baffled**. They tried putting their big hose through the window and tying it around Oscar under his arms, but when they turned on the **retracting** device, Oscar started groaning from the pain and the machine started groaning and smoking from the strain.

1. **baffled** = A. without uniforms B. out of shape C. stumped, confused D. at ease

2. **retracting** = A. pulling back B. pushing out C. spinning D. spits out water

3. [Oscar] had developed a real fear of bathing since the horrible incident a while back, and just feeling fresh might inspire him to do something about his **deteriorating** condition.

A. getting better B. getting worse C. earning money D. foreign

4. At the clinic they were very amazed at Oscar's **girth**.

A. dirtiness B. body odor C. size, bulk D. intelligence

5. ...the hose spit out a fine spray that was perfect for **dislodging** the tiny flakes of dirt that were clinging to the surface of Oscar's skin.

A. removing B. sticking to C. finding D. spray painting

6. [Susan is struggling to work with Oscar.]

"I don't know if I can," Susan blurted, her face **contorted with dismay**.

A. twisted up because she's upset

B. improved because of her confidence

C. falling off because of a disease

D. changed because her make-up is messed up

In #7 and #8, draw lines from the words to the correct answers.

[To try to get Oscar out they] went to the kitchen and used some of Oscar's kitchen utensils, like **spatulas** and **turkey basters**...

7. **spatula** = A. a tube-like instrument that squirts liquid

8. **turkey baster** = B. a large fork

C. a large serving spoon

D. a flat cooking utensil that resembles a flat shovel

E. a round metal device used to cut pizza into slices