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Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

What's That Word?

When you read, it's important to understand the meaning of words. But that doesn't mean you have to look everything up in the dictionary. You can often figure out the meanings of new words through context:

- Ask yourself what role the word plays in the sentence. What part of speech is it? Based on what you know from the rest of the sentence or passage, what other words could replace it in the sentence?
- Look at the word's prefix or root. Do you know what they mean? What clues can they give you? For example, in the word "antisocial," the prefix is "anti-" meaning against or opposite. To be social is to enjoy spending time with people. Therefore, to be "antisocial" must mean to dislike the company of others.

Directions: Use context clues to determine the meaning of the words in **bold** in the sentences below. (We picked really hard words on purpose!) Using context clues, circle the definition that best fits the word.

1. "Why can't they just get along?" thought Fiona, as her parents continued to **brabble** in public.
Ⓐ giggle
Ⓑ dance
Ⓒ argue
2. The other dukes and duchesses were shocked by Sir Wittingham's **inurbane** behavior, especially when he burped at the dinner table.
Ⓐ impolite
Ⓑ funny
Ⓒ boring
3. The lifeguards enforced strict rules that no beach balls were allowed in the **natatorium**.
Ⓐ sand
Ⓑ music room
Ⓒ swimming pool
4. Samantha grew tired of his constant criticism and broke up with her **querulous** boyfriend.
Ⓐ long-winded
Ⓑ given to complaining
Ⓒ simple-minded
5. After the garbage collectors had been on strike for five days, a **noisome** odor took over the city.
Ⓐ ridiculous
Ⓑ disgusting
Ⓒ pleasant
6. Like a **frugivorous** animal, Max's mouth began to water when he saw the table strewn with mangos, bananas, and pineapples.
Ⓐ domesticated
Ⓑ furry
Ⓒ fruit-eating
7. Students were forced to take turns reading the material because the school had a **paucity** of textbooks.
Ⓐ scarcity
Ⓑ strict policy
Ⓒ graffiti problem
8. Believing that her pet mouse was missing, Cindy became **feral**, ripping down curtains, slamming doors, and overturning furniture.
Ⓐ mournful
Ⓑ wild
Ⓒ nervous